

Libertarian Party of New Castle County Articles of Association

Article I: Name

- A) This organization shall be known as the Libertarian Party of New Castle County, Delaware, here in after referred to as the NCCLP. These articles of association will be referred to as the AoA.

Article II: Purpose

- A) Libertarianism is the view that each person has the right to live their life in any way they choose so long as he respects the equal rights of others. Libertarians defend each person's right to life, liberty, and property-rights that people have naturally. In the libertarian view, all human relationships should be voluntary; the only actions that should be forbidden by law are those that involve the initiation of force or fraud against those who have not themselves used force or fraud against another individual or group. Toward these ends the NCCLP shall work in affiliation with the Libertarian Party of Delaware to build and promote the NCCLP, its principles, and platform; to nominate candidates for public office in New Castle County who agree with our principles, to support their election; and to engage in educational, social, and fundraising activities to support and advance Libertarian goals.

- A) The goals of the NCCLP include, but are not limited to:

1. Building LP voter registration and maintaining ballot access
2. Nominating candidates for political office
3. Public education and outreach to share libertarian values

Article III: Affiliation

- A) The County Party is affiliated with the State and National Libertarian Party; however we reserve the right to act independently and develop our own by-laws and our own political platform.

Article IV: Organization and Duties of the Board

- A) The leadership of the County Party shall consist of an Executive Committee which is comprised of a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and a County Representative to the Libertarian Party of Delaware. The positions of Secretary and Treasurer may a combined role filled by a single individual.
- B) The Executive Committee may delegate itself to a County Sub-Committee under the State Party when there are not enough people to establish a full Executive Committee capable of achieving quorum.
- C) The County Membership may reestablish itself independent of the State Board when a simple majority of County Members call for a county referendum to reestablish independence with a full County Executive Committee.
- D) When established the Executive Committee shall oversee and act in respect to all matters pertaining to the Party in New Castle County except for placement of statewide candidates on the ballot.
- E) The business of the County Party between meetings shall be conducted by the Executive Committee, and shall be decided by a majority vote of those present and voting

Libertarian Party of New Castle County Articles of Association

- F) All questions coming before the Executive Committee shall be decided by a majority vote of those present and voting.
- G) Meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held regularly in person, by teleconference, or a combination of both, and minutes of the meetings shall be made available as may be required by law.
- H) A majority of the Executive Committee members present and voting, as defined above, shall constitute a quorum.
- I) The full Executive Committee shall be the custodian for all artifacts created by and for the NCCLP. The Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Treasurer are responsible to manage and maintain all NCCLP financial assets.
- J) Vacancies on the Executive Committee caused by death, resignation, or any other reason, shall be temporarily filled by the appointment of a replacement by the Chairperson (or Vice-Chairperson if the vacancy involves the Chairperson), which shall be made within 30 days of the vacancy.
- K) Removal from the Executive Committee can be completed by the following procedure: Upon receipt of a recall petition signed by twenty percent of the voting members of the Party, the Secretary shall call a special meeting of the Executive Committee which, by a three-fifths vote of those present and voting, may remove the Board member identified in the petition.

Article V Executive Committee Duties

- A) Duties of the Chairperson:** The Chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the Party and Executive Committee which they shall attend, shall serve as the principal spokesperson for the Party and shall perform such other duties as directed by the Executive Committee or the Party. They shall also serve as one of two County Representative to the State Board. If neither They nor the Vice Chairperson can attend a State Board meeting, they shall appoint someone to stand in their stead for that meeting.
- B) Duties of the Vice-Chairperson:** The Vice-Chairperson shall act as Chairperson in the absence of the Chairperson, and perform such other duties as directed by the Executive Committee and the County Party.
- C) Duties of the Secretary:** The Secretary shall have charge of all books, papers, records, and other documents of the New Castle Libertarian Party. They shall read the minutes from the previous Party meeting at all Party meetings. When the Executive Committee meets, they shall read the minutes of the prior Board meeting. At each meeting, they shall have prepared an updated list of the voting members and report the numbers to determine quorum. They shall make the minutes available as may be required by law, shall transmit the minutes to the Secretary of the Libertarian Party of Delaware when needed, and perform such other duties as may be required by the Executive Committee, the Libertarian Party of Delaware or the national LP. The Secretary shall also manage and share all online account credentials for the NCCLP with the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson.
- D) Duties of the Treasurer:** The Treasurer shall have full responsibility for all fiscal affairs throughout their term and shall perform such other duties as may be required by law, the Executive Committee, the Libertarian Party of Delaware or the national LP. The Treasurer shall

Libertarian Party of New Castle County Articles of Association

also manage and share all financial account credentials for the NCCLP with the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson.

- E) Duties of the County Representative:** The County Representative shall attend each meeting of the State Board of the Libertarian Party of Delaware as one of two members of said Board from New Castle County as a spokesperson for the NCCLP membership. (The other County Representative shall be the Chairperson, or their designee.) If the Representative is unable to attend, they shall appoint a proxy to stand in their stead from New Castle County. They shall also be responsible for a functional area in the County, such as (but not limited to) membership, outreach, or media relations, or such other duties as they may be asked to perform by the Executive Committee in their field of expertise.

Article VI: NCCLP Committee Elections

- A) Elections for all County Committee positions are conducted at the Annual meeting of the County Party in odd calendar years, a separate vote shall be held for the Chairperson and each of the remaining members of the Executive Committee. The vote for the Chairperson shall be held first. Nominations may be made by any member, including the person seeking the office. The Chairperson and members of the Executive Committee shall be elected to two-year terms. The terms of office shall expire at the close of the Annual Meeting in the next odd calendar year.
- B) Election of party officers shall require a majority of those voting. If There is not a majority, the candidate with the least number of votes shall be dropped and a new vote shall be taken. If there is a tie vote for the last two candidates, there shall be a ten minute recess and the vote shall be repeated. This procedure shall continue until the tie is broken.

Article VII: Committees

- A) The Party shall have three standing committees with workgroups under those committees as needed. The three standing committees are the Ways and Means Committee, the County Bylaws Committee and the Outreach Committee, Standing Committee membership shall be appointed by the Chairperson.

The standing Committees shall be defined as follows:

- B) Ways and Means Committee:**
1. The Treasurer, one At-Large member of the Executive Committee, and three or more members of the County Party (not an officer) whom the Chairperson of the County Party may appoint (subject to the disapproval of the voting membership) shall constitute the Ways and Means Committee. The treasurer shall serve as Chairperson of the Committee.
 2. The Ways and Means Committee shall propose ways to raise funds for the benefit of the Party. The committee shall present any such proposals to the voting membership and shall be responsible for bringing any such proposals to completion.
 3. All officers shall submit budgetary requests to the Ways and Means Committee. Should the Committee disapprove any such request, a vote of three-fifths of the Executive Committee shall be required for its authorization. The occurrence of such a vote in contravention of the

Libertarian Party of New Castle County Articles of Association

opinion of the Committee shall be communicated to the Chairperson of the Committees within two business days by telephone or electronic mail sent to their last known address.

C) **County Bylaws Committee:**

1. The Bylaws Committee must be a minimum of three County Party Members all approved by the County Executive Committee.
2. The Chair of the Bylaws Committee will be elected among the Bylaw committee members themselves.
3. The Bylaws Committee shall be responsible for accepting any request for bylaws changes, approving the requested change amongst themselves with a simple majority vote and providing the approved change requests to the county members.

D) **Outreach Committee:**

1. The Outreach Committee shall be responsible for researching possible outreach events, procure contact information for the event as well as pricing for tables, and make recommendations to the Board for events at which the Party should appear. The Committee will also be responsible for maintenance of the website and social media (SM) accounts. The NCCLP board, Outreach Committee, and up to two (2) designees of the Outreach Committee will have access to provide content for the website and post on the social media accounts.
2. Make an effort to secure sufficient volunteers to cover the table for the event, from setup to pull-down.
3. Keep an inventory of supply stock, such as brochure holders, brochures, and other materials, and advise the Board when stocks need to be replenished.
4. The website shall be kept up to date with information and events maintaining a professional appearance. Social media posts should adhere to the guidelines with members representing the NCCLP in social media outlets attesting via signature to abide by the principles and guidelines in by-law 5 of the AoA. Events should be planned in a monthly calendar to the extent possible.

E) **Workgroups:**

1. From time to time, a workgroup may be necessary to perform functions for the Party. Rather than constituting a new standing committee, the Chairperson or the Executive Committee may form workgroups at any time following the guideline in by-law 4 to do such tasks for the Party, and the *workgroup* shall expire at the end of the term of the Executive Committee, or sooner if the task for the committee has been completed. These workgroups may, at the discretion of the Executive Committee, be extended for another term.

Article VIII: Meetings

- A) The Party shall hold regular meetings on a monthly schedule, whenever possible, although meetings may be skipped during July and August of years when the Party has no candidates on the ballot. Decisions to skip the late summer meetings may be made by the Executive Committee, or by a vote of the Party at any regular meeting up until the close of business of the June meeting.
- B) Meeting notices will be communicated following the guidelines in Article IX of this document.

Libertarian Party of New Castle County Articles of Association

- C) A quorum shall be required to transact all Party business. A quorum shall consist of twenty (20%) percent of the total number of voting members, with at least five such members present in person.
- D) When not inconsistent with the provisions of the Articles of Association of the Libertarian Party of Delaware or the laws of the state of Delaware, the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the conduct of all meetings.
- E) One scheduled meeting of the Party per year shall be set as the Annual Meeting conducted in the spring. The purpose of this meeting shall be to elect members of the Executive Committee in odd calendar years for the following two years, to make changes to these Articles and By-laws, and to perform any other functions of regular meetings.
- F) All meetings of the County Party shall be open to the public. Except for voting for contested candidates for Executive Committee, no votes of meetings of the County Party, the Executive Committee, or any other official Party committee, commission, or body shall be taken by secret ballot.
- G) Each voting member of the County Party shall be entitled to one vote.

Article IX: Membership and Voting

- A) Any person who is currently registered to vote in Delaware as a Libertarian is a member of the LPD. For any member to exercise voting privileges in any official forum (i.e., State Board meetings or State Conventions), that member must have been registered as a Libertarian for at least 60 days prior to that voting forum.
- B) The County Party Secretary shall be responsible for verifying the voting credentials of all attendee's at NCCLP meetings. Non credentialed individuals may attend as guests but will not be permitted to vote at meetings to ensure the integrity of membership voting eligibility.
- C) Voting shall be conferred to any Delaware registered Libertarian voter or member of the National Libertarian Party who is also a resident of New Castle County and who attends at least two consecutive regular monthly meetings.
- D) A voting member may lose their conferred status if they have not attended at least 3 of the previous 5 immediate prior monthly meetings.

Article X: Nominations for Public Offices

- A) By state law, the County Chair and Secretary must sign the certificates of nomination for all state and local candidates in the county. The Chair and Secretary are required to sign all certificates for candidates nominated and approved by majority vote at the LPD state convention.
- B) The State Board may, at the state convention, ask for the ability to nominate candidates after the state convention has adjourned to allow additional candidates the opportunity to run for office.
- C) Any person seeking the nomination must meet the State of Delaware requirements for age, residency, and registration as provided by the laws for the offices they seek before applying for the nomination. Additionally, the person seeking nomination to run for office must at the time of filing, and continuously through the date of the corresponding General Election be member in

Libertarian Party of New Castle County Articles of Association

good standing of Libertarian Party of Delaware and a registered Libertarian as defined in the qualifications for voting membership stated in these articles.

- D) A nomination to run for office requires an approval of 3/5th of the Executive Committee. If the candidate/s receives the majority needed for nomination, the Chair and Secretary will sign the certificate/s and follow state law procedures to submit the documents to the State Committee of Elections.
- E) If the Chair and/or the Secretary refuse to sign certificates that are approved by the Executive Committee or sign the certificates of nominations that are not approved, the Chair and/or Secretary shall be immediately removed from their board positions. A member of the remaining board shall assume the role of Chair and/or Secretary. Unsigned approved nomination certificates shall be signed and submitted under state law and regulations. If an unapproved candidate is placed on the ballot, the county chair has the right to take all legal means to have that candidate removed from the ballot.
- F) The County Executive Committee shall advise the State Board of its recommendations for nominees in New Castle County.

Article XI: Notice

- A) Many actions described in these Articles of Association and the accompanying By-Laws require notice of pending actions be provided to members. To facilitate communications between the NCCLP and its members notices may be sent via social media, email, text or voice as deemed appropriate by the Executive Committee.
- B) If members have no electronic communications available to them, they may contact the Secretary and request postal notifications for party meetings. The Secretary shall send notice of the time and place of the Executive Committee meeting at least one week in advance for regular meetings or seventy-two hours for emergency meetings using the communications methods outlined in this section.

Article XII: Amendments to the Articles of Association

- A) Amendments to these Articles of Association may be proposed at any regular party meeting. Following receipt of the proposed amendment Bylaws Committee will review of the proposed amendment in a in a time frame not to exceed 30 days.
- B) Upon approval of the Bylaws Committee there will be a notification to the full membership containing the proposed amendment and the committee recommendations about the amendment.
- C) The full membership will have a 30-day notification period of the proposed amendment before the vote to adopt or reject the amendment occurs.
- D) Ratification shall be by an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the votes cast (whether by letter, social media post, in person, or by proxy) provided that such affirmative votes number at least twenty percent of the total voting membership of the

Party.

Article XIII History of Changes to the AoA

Libertarian Party of New Castle County Articles of Association

- A) The change history for this AoA will be maintained in the change appendix as the last section of the AoA, the change history entry will start with the date the change was approved and include a brief description of the change adopted, no additional vote will be necessary to make these appendix additions as they are only noting approved changes for historical purposes.

By-Laws

By-Law 1: Proxy Use

A proxy is an action by which one member of the County Party, as principal, exercises his voting powers through another member of the County Party, as agent. To be valid a proxy must satisfy all the following criteria:

- a) It must be in writing.
- b) It must be confirmed and dated by the principal member.
- c) The proxy must name the agent.
- d) The proxy must clearly indicate that the principal gave them power to vote in the County Party to the agent. It is not enough that it expresses the principal's opinion.

Limitations

- a) A proxy cannot be voted if one or more of the following occurs:
- b) It is revoked by the principal.
- c) The principal is present.
- d) (Another agent casts the vote of the principal with a subsequent proxy. Prior to the start of the meeting, the most recent proxy shall supersede any and all prior proxies.
- e) All proxies shall expire after at the conclusion of the meeting for which they are granted. Unless limitations are specified in the proxy, it shall be unlimited. If a proxy may be voted on a motion, then unless otherwise specified in the proxy, it may be voted on any subsidiary motion.

Procedure

- a) If an agent wishes to cast his principal's vote at a meeting of the County Party, they must present the proxy to the Secretary for examination.
- b) The Board shall make an initial determination of whether the proxy is valid. c) A simple majority of the Executive Board members present may overrule the Secretary's determination.
- c) The County Party may overrule the Secretary and/or Executive Committee, subject to the following conditions:
 - (i) Challenges to the determinations made must be voted on one alleged proxy at a time.
 - (ii) The proxies which may be voted on a challenge are those which are currently allowed, except that the challenged proxy may not be voted even if otherwise allowed.
 - (iii) Motions to challenge a ruling on an alleged proxy and motions to cutoff consideration of further challenges are both questions of privilege which take

Libertarian Party of New Castle County Articles of Association

priority over all other motions except to fix a time to adjourn to; to adjourn; to recess; and to close debate.

(iv) The vote on them must be by roll call.

By-Law 2: Tribal Memory

A copy of the minutes of each meeting of the Executive Board and the State Central Committee will be sent to all past Chairmen. The Chairperson shall appoint one or more past Chairmen and/or Secretaries to serve as a Committee of Organizational Memory and consult with them on all matters in which

a knowledge of past experience will benefit the activities of the Party. The Executive Board shall arrange for the preparation and maintenance of documentation on past experiences and activities as may be of benefit to the Party.

By-Law 3: Data Custodianship

The NCCLP Executive Committee shall maintain and protect all data related to operation of the party including all personally identifiable information including voter records and party contact lists as well as meeting minutes, NCCLP event records, historical artifacts and financial records recognized as 'The Data'. All members of the Executive Committee and volunteers that may have cause to interact with data including the items listed above must sign a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA).

To this end the Executive Committee shall ensure the following guidelines are applied:

- a. Access to the data is authorized and controlled
- b. Data stewards are identified for each data set
- c. Technical processes sustain data integrity
- d. Processes exist for data quality issue resolution in partnership with Data Stewards
- e. Technical controls safeguard data
- f. Data added to data sets are consistent with the common data model
- g. Versions of Master Data are maintained along with the history of changes
- h. Change management practices are applied in maintenance of the database
- i. Data content and changes can be audited

By-Law 4: Workgroup Creation Guidance

Workgroups for any purpose deemed necessary for the NCCLP (the Party) work efforts can be proposed at any regular monthly or weekly board business meeting. The workgroup must be created abiding by the following rules:

- a) Before a workgroup can be created a clear and measurable goal must be established for the workgroup.
- b) The workgroup must be composed of a minimum of (3) three people. The three or more people in the workgroup will elect a chairperson.
- c) The workgroup chairperson will be responsible for reporting workgroup activities to the Standing Committee.

Libertarian Party of New Castle County Articles of Association

- d) In the event the Workgroup chairperson is not able or available to report in the workgroup activities, the workgroup will elect a temporary Chairperson who will communicate the workgroup status in their place.
- e) The Standing Committee will report the workgroups progress to the Party membership.
- f) The Standing Committees have the option to direct the workgroup to report progress to the Committee or directly to the Party members
- g) If the Party leadership or a membership majority declares the Workgroup is not making progress towards the defined goal, the workgroup leadership can be adjusted via a simple majority vote at a regular monthly meeting.
- h) One person cannot participate in more than three (3) ad-hoc Workgroups unless the board agrees to suspend this rule by a simple majority vote.
- i) Change the language in the AoA to reflect the name change from ad-hoc committees to ad-hoc-workgroups and follow this guidance.

Bylaw-5 Representing the NCCLP Online

Every day, people discuss, debate and embrace The Libertarian Party and our principles in thousands of online conversations. We recognize the vital importance of participating in these online conversations and are committed to ensuring that we participate in online social media the right way. These Online Social Media Principles have been developed to help empower our members to participate in social media, represent our party, and share the optimistic and positive spirits of our principles.

The vision of the County Party to achieve sustainable growth online and offline is guided by certain shared values that we live by as an organization and as individuals:

- LEADERSHIP: The courage to shape a better future.
- COLLABORATION: Leveraging our collective genius.
- INTEGRITY: Being real.
- ACCOUNTABILITY: Recognizing that if it is to be, it's up to me.
- PASSION: Showing commitment in heart and mind.
- DIVERSITY: Being as inclusive as our brands; and
- QUALITY: Ensuring what we do, we do well.

These Online Social Media Principles are intended to outline how these values should be demonstrated in the online social media space and to guide your participation in this area when you are acting on behalf of the County Party. It is critical that we always remember who we are (a political movement) and what our role is in the social media community (to build our brands). The same rules that apply to our messaging and communications in traditional media still apply in the online social media space. The County Party encourages all its members to explore and engage in social media communities at a level at which they feel comfortable. Have fun but be smart. The best advice is to approach online worlds in the same way we do the physical one – by using sound judgment and common sense, by adhering to the Libertarian Party's values.

The Five Core Values of the Country Party in the Online Social Media Community

Libertarian Party of New Castle County Articles of Association

1. Transparency in every social media engagement. The Country Party does not condone the use of puppet accounts or intentionally misleading information in social media conversations.
2. Protection of our members' privacy. This means that we should be conscientious regarding any Personally Identifiable Information (PII) that we collect, including how we collect, store, use, or share that PII, all of which should be done pursuant to applicable Privacy Policies, laws and IT policies.
3. Respect of copyrights, trademarks, rights of publicity, and other third-party rights in the online social media space, including regarding user-generated content (UGC).
4. Responsibility in our use of technology. We will not purposefully direct anyone to an organization that maliciously uses data.
5. Utilization of best practices, listening to the online community, and compliance with applicable regulations to ensure that these Online Social Media Principles remain current and reflect the most up- to-date and appropriate standards of behavior. To effectively manage the NCCLP's reputation online and to selectively engage and participate in the online conversations that mention us every day.

The following 7 principles guide how our Board and Outreach Committee should represent the party in an online, official capacity when they are speaking "on behalf of the County Party."

Online Social Media Principles

- 1) All members who wish to officially represent the Country Party online must agree to follow the Online Social Media principles prior to beginning or continuing these activities.
- 2) Be mindful that you are representing the Country Party. As a Country Party representative, it is important that your posts convey the same positive, optimistic spirit that the Country Party instills in all of its communications.
- 3) Be respectful of all individuals, races, religions, and cultures; how you conduct yourself in the online social media space not only reflects on you – it is a direct reflection on the Country Party.
- 4) Keep records. It is critical that we keep records of our interactions in the online social media space and monitor the activities of those with whom we engage if any adverse action is taken. Because online conversations are often fleeting and immediate, it is important for you to keep track of them when you're officially representing the Country Party. Remember that online Country Party statements can be held to the same legal standards as traditional media communications.
- 5) When in doubt, do not post. Members are personally responsible for their words and actions, wherever they are. As online spokespeople, you must ensure that your posts are completely accurate and not misleading. Exercise sound judgment and common sense, and if there is any doubt, DO NOT POST IT. In any circumstance in which you are uncertain about how to respond to a post, send the link to the Outreach Committee.
- 6) Give credit where credit is due and don't violate others' rights. DO NOT claim authorship of something that is not yours. If you are using another party's content, make certain that they are credited for it in your post and that they approve of you utilizing their content. Do not use the copyrights, trademarks, publicity rights, or other rights of others without the necessary permissions of the rightsholder(s). Public posts are assumed to convey permission to utilize others' content, assuming credit is given.

Libertarian Party of New Castle County Articles of Association

- 7) Know that the Internet is permanent. Once information is published online, it is essentially part of a permanent record, even if you “remove/delete” it later or attempt to make it anonymous. If your complete thought, along with its context, cannot be squeezed into a character-restricted space (such as Twitter), provide a link to an online space where the message can be expressed completely and accurately.

Change Appendix

Date-----Description

2021-04-05 Added reference to AoA in Article I

2021-04-05 Added to the description to duties of the County Representative that was omitted when the Constitution changed to the AoA.

2021-04-05 Changed language of Article VI membership committee paragraph 1 to include social media. Strike paragraph 4 and replace the text with to provide clarity.

2021-04-05 Removed reference to Article VI ad-hoc committees and replaced with work groups

2021-04-05 Added Article XII to track changes to the AoA

2021-04-05 Updated Bylaw 3 for additional data protections and NDA for sensitive information.

2021-04-05 Added Bylaw 4 Workgroup Creation Guidance

2021-04-05 Added Bylaw 5 Representing the NCCLP Online

2024 -07-01 Updated formatting throughout the document, renumbered several sections and added sub-section enumeration.

2024-07-01 Renamed the ‘County Board’ to ‘County Executive Committee’

2024-07-01 Added Article IV subsection B to allow the County Executive Committee to relegate itself to State Party Sub-Committee when all Executive roles cannot be filled.

2024-07-01 Added Article IV subsection C. to allow the county membership to dissolve the County Sub-Committee to re-establish an Independent County Executive Committee.

2024-07-31 Amended Bylaw-1 to change proxy language for item b. from signed to confirmed