



Libertarian Party of Washington

CONVENTION

2023

Event Agenda

Friday, 24 March

7 pm – Robert Dome Mixer

Featuring: The Philosopher and Jack V. Lloyd

Saturday, 25 March

8 am – Light Breakfast & Coffee

9 am – 5 pm – Convention Business

See page 3-4 for Business Agenda

12 pm – Lunch

Featuring: Free Speech Panel w/ Stuart Reges and Huskies for Liberty

6:30 pm – Dinner

Featuring: Keynote w/ Clint Russell

Awards

9 pm – Late Night VIP Event

Debate w/Clint Russell and Miguel Duque vs Ari Hoffman and John Carlson

Sunday, 26 March

9 am – Light Breakfast & Coffee

10 am – Presidential Candidate Town Hall

Featuring: Chase Oliver & Mike Ter Maat

11 am – 2nd Amendment Issues

Featuring: Cody Wisniewski of Firearms Policy Coalition

12:00 pm – Fungi Medicine Freedom

Featuring: Leo Russell from the Entheo Society

12:30 pm – Lunch

Featuring: Food Freedom w/Jeremey Weeks

State Convention Rules

1) Rules of Procedure

- a) Unless specified explicitly by the Constitution or Bylaws, rules of procedure shall be governed by Roberts Rules Newly Revised.
- 2) Upon being recognized by the Chair, the person recognized shall state name and county of residence for the record.
- 3) The Lead Teller will announce the total number of voting delegates attending the Convention after the Call to Order and after each recess if members announce their vacancy for the remainder of the session. The Lead Teller will decide all disputes regarding Credentials. The Convention may override a decision of the Lead Teller by a 2/3 vote.
- 4) Amendments to the Constitution, Bylaws, Program/Platform and Resolutions shall take effect immediately.
- 5) Discussion of all Constitution, Bylaws, and Resolution issues shall be in the following format: the Chair will recognize the Committee Chair or Resolution author for a period of not more than five minutes and then shall recognize one person in opposition. The Chair will continue to recognize speakers, alternating between pro and con positions for three minutes each up to a count of three in opposition and three in favor. Speakers must be recognized by the chair and then approach the microphone. Any speaker who takes a pro or con position on an item may not call the question immediately after speaking.
- 6) Delegates may nominate themselves for elected positions. Each nominee may address the delegation for up to five minutes with an additional five minutes for questions from the floor.

Recommendations for Debate Etiquette

It is recommended as good form when referring to other members of the convention to use the preferred style of address. While this is not required, it is encouraged to ensure mutual respect and provide a heightened experience for everyone.

a) Officers and Board members

- i) Officers and board members are referred to by their gendered or gender neutral title.

(1) Examples: "Madam Vice-Chair", in a discussion "The Vice-Chair stated that passing the motion would increase the cost associated with our monthly service fee."

b) Delegates

- i) Delegates may be referred to by their gendered or gender-neutral title and accompanying home county if known.

(1) Examples: "The chair recognizes the Delegate from Stevens County," in a discussion "Unlike what my fellow delegate from Jefferson County argues, this motion doesn't go far enough..."

2023 Convention of the Libertarian Party of Washington State

Convening on 25 March 2023, in Woodinville, WA

Call to Order – 9:00 am

Teller's Report

Quorum and voting thresholds set.

Approval of the Agenda

Submitted by the Chair

Chair's Report

State of the Party Address

Vice-Chair's Report

Review of party activities in the state.

Secretary's Report

Review of membership report.

Treasurer's Report

Review of financial summary report.

Business Agenda – 10:00 am

While election results are being counted, the next item for consideration under the Constitution and Bylaws or any other portion of the agenda may be taken up by the Chair until results are ready to be presented. Additionally, after Change 5 of the Constitution and Bylaws review, depending on time, elections may be held at the discretion of the Chair.

Constitution and Bylaws Review

In the event that the delegation is at ease during elections, amendments that had not yet been heard shall be brought to the floor.

For a list of proposed amendments, see page 6 of this booklet.

Officer Elections

Chair

Vice-Chair

Secretary

Treasurer

State Executive Committee At-Large Representative Elections

All 8 positions up for re-election

Judicial Committee Elections

Associate Justice Position 1A - 3 year term

Associate Justice Position 1B - 3 year term

Associate Justice Position 1C - 3 year term

Endorsements

Ryan Searcy - Senate Candidate for 2024

Lifetime Achievement Award Ratification

Bill McCord

Platform Review

No Platform changes have been submitted.

Adjournment – 5:00 pm

Proposed Changes
[Amendments]
to the
Constitution and Bylaws
of the
Libertarian Party of
Washington State
for Mar2023 Convention
Consideration

(Removals indicated by ~~strike text~~. Additions indicated by underline text.)

Change 1 – no longer use score voting - Pg 7

Change 2 – change from ranked choice voting to approval voting in multi-winner races - Pg 8

Change 3 – codify NOTA in the Constitution - Pg 9

Change 4 – Change the number of Representatives - Pg 10

Change 5 – Change to the Way Representatives are Elected and SEC is Constituted Even More Fundamentally - Pg 10-11

Change 6 – put barriers into place to distancing ourselves from Libertarian Party national - Pg 12

Change 7 – make changes to governing documents a bit more controlled- Pg 13

Change 8 – harder removal of audit committee members - Pg 13

Change 9 – more time to stand up convention committees - Pg 14

Change 10 – make clear that endorsement limitations also fall on Reps, employees, committee chairs, etc - Pg 14

Change 11 – make clear that a notice of hearing must include idea of charges - Pg 15

Change 12 – clarify accounting practice - Pg 15

Change 13 – clarify language around voting rights at convention - Pg 16

Change 14 – absentee denoted voting for elections at conventions - Pg 16-17

Change 1 – no longer use score voting

Impact to LPWA:

The party has not ever chosen to use score voting as currently structured in the Constitution, even when allowed. This change will further eliminate that option and save the membership time selecting between ranked voting and score voting.

Changes:

Constitution Article XVII, sections D, E2c, and G – removes references to score voting systems

~~D. Multi-Winner Races with a required set of winners [in which the number of possible candidates exceeds the number of possible winners] shall be performed using a the proportional voting system, usually either of a single transferable vote with a finish line (also called Single Transferable Vote or STV) or apportioned score voting.~~

~~E.2.c. If time or resources doesn't allow for enough rounds of voting to get a clear winner by normal parliamentary rules, then the vote shall be performed using either a Condorcet voting system or a score voting system, as the participants shall decide.~~

~~G. Score voting is a voting method wherein all voters may cast votes for any candidates they choose, with each candidate being scored independently. Generally, when score voting is used by this Party to determine a single winner it shall be done as follows:~~

- ~~1. Valid votes shall be integers in the range of 0-9, inclusive.~~
- ~~2. The winner of the score election shall be the candidate with the highest score.~~
- ~~3. The scores for each candidate shall be calculated by summing the valid votes for that candidate and then be dividing by the greater of:
 - ~~a. — the number of valid votes cast for that candidate in that race~~
 - ~~b. — the number of the ballots that contain a valid score for that race~~~~

Change 2 – change from ranked choice voting to approval voting in multi-winner races

Impact to LPWA:

For multi-winner races, like election of representatives and delegates and judicial committee members, this would shift the party from ranked choice voting (STV) to approval voting (AV). As may be argued by different sides to this, STV tends to allow more minority candidates to win (especially in cases in which the number of possible candidates is small compared to the number of possible winners), and is a bit harder to tally, but provides an answer in a single round – while AV tends to get winners that are more representative of the body as a whole (especially when there is a majority requirement like proposed here), and is easier to tally, but might lead to the need for more rounds of voting.

Changes:

Constitution Article XVII, section D, E2c, and G – removes references to score voting systems

D. Multi-Winner Races with a required set of winners [in which the number of possible candidates exceeds the number of possible winners] shall be performed using an Approval Voting (AV) system

1. Voters may indicate any number of “approval votes” as they would like on their ballots.
2. Candidates are elected if they meet both of the following criteria:
 - a. Rank in the top number of candidates for the number of open seats in in terms of most approval votes received.
 - b. Receive an approval vote on a majority of valid ballots cast.
3. In the event of a tie where there are fewer remaining seats than tied candidates, the body shall add one additional round of voting for the remaining candidates where voters may vote for as many candidates as there are remaining possible seats.
4. In the event that seats remain open after a ballot, the body may open a process for new nominees and hold another round of approval voting to fill the remaining seats. If no further election rounds are held, these positions are deemed vacant.

Change 3 – codify NOTA in the Constitution

Impact to LPWA:

The party has a standing belief in the power of not having to choose a leader from a list of inadequate options.

This process should be codified in the section of the Constitution that discusses voting.

Changes:

Constitution Article XVII Voting – adds new section around G

In all elections and votes, the write-in candidate of None Of The Above (NOTA) is allowed – even in cases in which nominations are closed and no other write-ins are allowed.

1. In single-winner races, Voters who choose NOTA may not express a vote for anyone else. Ballots that list NOTA and anyone else will be considered invalid. If NOTA wins a race or election, then the position or choice shall be left vacant or blank – and none of the candidates from that ballot will be allowed to fill that position or choice until at least the next Annual Convention.

2. In multi-winner races, NOTA can win a position, but not necessarily all of them. In this sense, in multi-winner races, NOTA stands not so much for “None Of The Above” and more like “None Of The Additional Options” or “None Of Those Below”.

a. In Approval Voting, Ballots that list NOTA and anyone else will be considered invalid.

b. In Ranked Voting, voters may select NOTA as one of their options and not just the one-and-only option they place on their ballot. In ranked ballots, if a voter lists NOTA in a numbered position, then none of their votes past that number will be counted, but the ballot themselves will not be automatically considered invalid.

c. If NOTA wins a spot in a multi-winner race or election, then the position or choice shall only be filled with those candidates, if any, that came out ahead of NOTA in the race (and met other criteria such as majority votes). No further candidates coming in behind NOTA in the counting will be allowed to fill that position or choice until at least the next Annual Convention (even in further rounds of voting done at the present convention).

Change 4 – Change the number of Representatives

Impact to LPWA:

Smaller SEC. This proposal changes the number of Reps from 8 to 5. With 4 officers, the overall SEC would change from 12 to 9. Fewer seats will tend to lead to more competition and fewer people needed to fill seats and perform Representative duties. This will also tend to allow (or force) party members to be more selective about who represents them (without having to rely upon NOTA).

Changes:

Constitution Article VII, section A1 – removes set amount of Reps, leaving details to the Bylaws

There shall be ~~eight (8)~~ a number of Representatives allocated to the State Executive Committee, elected from the Party sustaining membership at the annual State Convention in the manner determined in the Party Bylaws.

Bylaws Article II, section F – changes the number of Representatives

There shall be ~~eight (8)~~ five (5) Representatives upon the State Executive Committee elected at the annual convention. All ~~eight (8)~~ five (5) Representative shall be elected at the same time on a single ballot.

The State Executive Committee may temporarily fill vacancies. If a vacancy occurs, whether filled with a temporary replacement or not, all ~~eight (8)~~ five (5) Representatives shall have their term end at the next Party Convention and all of the positions shall be open to reelection by the convention.

Change 5 – Change to the Way Representatives are Elected and SEC is Constituted Even More Fundamentally

Impact to LPWA:

The idea behind this change is to generally have some SEC members that are committed to longer terms of 2 years, while still allowing turnover each year and not having to re-elect all of the SEC more regularly. It also allows for some flexibility for the convention to actually decide how many Reps to elected, partially to control the size of the SEC, but also to control the number of nominees that have to be elected (which will tend to give the convention body some ability to deny minorities to the SEC without having to rely on NOTA to do so).

Changes:

Constitution Article VII, section A1 – removes set amount of Reps, if not already done above by change 4, leaving details to the Bylaws

There shall be ~~eight (8)~~ a number of Representatives allocated to the State Executive Committee, elected from the Party sustaining membership at the annual State Convention in the manner determined in the Party Bylaws.

Bylaws Article II, section F – changes the way Representatives are selected

1. There shall be eight (8) Representatives upon the State Executive Committee elected at the annual convention. All eight (8) Representative shall be elected at the same time on a single ballot.
2. The State Executive Committee may temporarily fill vacancies. If a vacancy occurs, whether filled with a temporary replacement or not, all eight (8) Representatives shall have their term end at the next Party Convention and all of the positions shall be open to reelection by the convention.
3. Representatives will be elected in odd numbered years to serve for two (2) year terms (except that if there are vacancies as discussed above, in which case there will be an election in even numbered years for a one (1) year term).

1. To round out the State Executive Committee and give it more depth, there shall be at-large Representatives allocated to it by election at the annual convention. Each annual convention should elect at least two (2) Representatives and may elected as many as they desire, as long as the number of members of the State Executive Committee does not exceed sixteen (16). The convention body itself will be allowed to determine the number of Representatives to elect – after the nominations for Representative are closed and before voting begins – by the method of “fill in the blank” in which case lower numbers are voted on first before higher numbers.

2. Representatives elected at the Annual Convention will normally have a two-year term of office, much like the officers, although with likely staggered terms since officers are only elected in odd-numbered years and at least some Representatives will be elected each year. Still, it is desired that, when possible, at least half of the State Executive Committee shall have terms expiring each annual convention. Therefore, if, at the Annual Convention, right after the election of new Representatives, it is such that more than half of the State Executive Committee would have two (2) years left on their terms versus one (1), then:

a) there shall be a call for volunteers from among the State Executive Committee members to willingly change their term from two (2) years to one (1)

and, if that shall not adequately fix the problem, then

b) a number of just-elected Representatives (up to and including all of them) shall have their terms shortened from two (2) years to one (1) – this being done in the order of whichever one was selected latest during the internal rounds of elections

3. The State Executive Committee may, with at least 2/3 agreement, select new Representative(s) to the SEC at any time, as long as this action does not cause the State Executive Committee membership to exceed ten (10). Any Representative selected by the State Executive Committee will serve for a term that will expire at the next Annual Convention.

Change 6 – put barriers into place to distancing ourselves from Libertarian Party national

Impact to LPWA:

Attempts to make it more clear what our relationship is with Libertarian Party national and put some barriers to any small subset of the Party taking actions to distance us from national without membership approval.

Note: this change itself technically requires 7/8 approval

Changes:

Constitution – adds new language to Article I

Article I: Name and Affiliation

1. ____ The name of this organization will be the Libertarian Party of Washington State Incorporated, hereinafter referred to as “the Party” or “LPWA”.

2. ____ We, the sustaining members of the Party, desire to clearly state that we want the Libertarian Party of Washington to remain affiliated with and supportive of the national Libertarian Party by default.

Any move to disaffiliate the state party from national – or to disband the state party entirely – must have support of a seven-eighths (7/8) majority vote of all delegates at an annual convention in which notice has been included that this topic will be voted on.

Constitution Article VIII: Amendments – incorporates this new Article I language into higher amendment threshold

The enduring importance of the Statement of Principles requires that it (and Article I and this paragraph) may be amended only by a seven-eighths (7/8) majority vote of all delegates at an annual convention in which notice has been included that this topic will be voted on.

Change 7 – make changes to governing documents a bit more controlled

Impact to LPWA:

Currently, absolutely any sustaining party member may propose an amendment to fundamental party governing documents such as the Constitution, Bylaws, or Platform, and that proposal will be on the agenda at convention – without any further review being able to stop it – even if it is clearly not a good idea or if it violates the Statement of Principles. Now, obviously, in such a case, the convention body will dispense of the nonsense appropriately. But an argument can be made for why should we waste the time of the convention body? This change allows the SEC and committees to have some control over what makes it to the convention agenda.

Changes:

Bylaws, Article VIII: Party Conventions, section A6 – removes requirement for all proposals to get into the agenda and adds time

Written submittal of Platform/Plank changes, Constitution Changes, or Bylaw changes shall be delivered to Party Chair and/or Secretary and received no later than ~~thirty (30)~~ forty (40) days prior to convention.

~~Party Officers shall not refuse written submittals timely delivered from the agenda.~~

Proposed changes or amendments made after the deadline must be germane to ones made before the deadline. No new proposals on a new topic may be made after the deadline. Nor shall new proposals or amendments be taken up at the convention itself if not germane to one already announced.

US Mail, hand-delivery, or e-mail are considered acceptable forms of written submittal.

Change 8 – harder removal of audit committee members

Impact to LPWA:

Makes it harder for SEC to remove audit committee members they disagree with during the term.

Changes:

Bylaws Article III, section B5 – adds language that restricts how the SEC can control the audit committee

The State Executive Committee shall elect an Audit Committee consisting of at least three Party sustaining members (who are not members of the State Executive Committee) whose terms shall last two years. The terms should generally not coincide with the party officers, when possible, and (because of the sensitive nature of the audit committee), audit committee members and chair may only be removed by the SEC before their term has expired by a 2/3rds vote. The purposes of the Audit Committee shall be to:....

Change 9 – more time to stand up convention committees

Impact to LPWA:

Gives a bit more leeway in when to stand up committees. This has often been hard to meet in practice and the new language matches reality better.

Changes:

Bylaws Article VIII, section B2 – changes timing from 1st meeting, to within 1st quarter

Convention Committee Chairs will be appointed or terminated by the State Chair, with the approval of the State Executive Committee. The State Chair will ~~announce at the State Party convention that the State Chair will~~ appoint the Convention Organizing Committee Chair and the chairs of the convention committees at ~~the first scheduled~~ a State Executive Committee meeting to occur ~~fifteen (15) days or more~~ within four (4) months after the State Party convention. In addition to a Committee Chair, each committee may consist of up to twelve (12) Party sustaining members, selected by appointed committee chair. After that State Executive Committee meeting any unfilled positions may be filled by either the State Executive Committee or by the respective convention committee chairs. Committees and Committee membership contact information shall be made publicly available for sustaining members of the Party via the Party website and/or regular communication.

Change 10 – make clear that endorsement limitations also fall on Reps, employees, committee chairs, etc

Impact to LPWA:

The restriction on who can be endorsed should apply to more than just officers, such as Representatives and committee chairs, etc.

Changes:

Bylaws Article VIII, section E6b – make the restriction more encompassing

The Party or ~~Officers~~ anyone of authority who holds an elected or appointed position within the Party may not endorse or publicly support, nor shall the use of the name “Libertarian Party” be used in any such manner so as to imply endorsement of any candidate who prefers any party other than the Libertarian Party.

Change 11 – make clear that a notice of hearing must include idea of charges

Impact to LPWA:

Notice of an upcoming hearing should include the idea of the charges so that the accused has the ability to prepare a defense.

Changes:

Constitution Article VI, section 6B2 – adds language to clarify the nature of the required notice

The person under consideration for disciplinary action shall be notified no less than seven (7) days before the next meeting of the State Executive Committee. The notice shall include a list of charges so that the person may prepare their defense.

Change 12 – clarify accounting practice

Impact to LPWA:

In practice, the Party has been using cash basis accounting standards. GAAP nominally mentions using accrual-based accounting, though that kind of accounting is generally for larger organizations. LPWA would have to grow significantly in size and operations before GAAP would be needed. The proposed change aligns Bylaws with current practice, though also possibly making it slightly harder to shift to accrual-based accounting in the future when we grow.

Changes:

Bylaws Article II, section D – changes normal accounting practice

The Treasurer shall be responsible for establishing and maintaining a system of accounts in accordance with ~~Generally Accepted~~ Cash Basis Accounting Practices.

Change 13 – clarify language around voting rights at convention

Impact to LPWA:

Removes two ways of being a voting member at convention that we have never used, plus reorders the wording of the sustaining member requirement to try and be more clear.

Changes:

Constitution Article XII, section 2A – removes some options and changes words for clarity

Any Party sustaining member is eligible to be a Delegate and when in attendance may vote at convention; provided that they have:

Been a sustaining member of either the Party or the national Libertarian Party on or before the date thirty (30) days before the convention and their membership didn't lapse during the ~~Paid current dues at least~~ fifteen (15) calendar days prior to the convention as determined by the State Executive Committee or Credentials Chair; or

- ~~b. Been selected as a Delegate by a regional organization recognized under Article X of this Constitution at least thirty (30) days prior to the convention; or~~
- ~~e. Upon application for appointment, been appointed as a Delegate by the State Executive Committee or a designated subcommittee thereof;~~
- d. Provided further, that the eligible Delegates under this section who are at any particular convention may, upon a two-thirds (2/3) vote, waive the requirements of subsections ~~a., b., and e.~~ for other Party sustaining members who are present but not otherwise eligible to vote at that convention.

Change 14 – absentee denoted voting for elections at conventions

Impact to LPWA:

This change specifically allows absentee denoted voting for elections at conventions. This allows more of the party members to have a say in elections at convention if they desire, even if they are not able to participate in the convention itself in person. They would still not be able to participate in other convention business (such as amendments or resolutions), just the elections.

Changes:

Constitution Article III, section 2e – adds reference to absentee denoted voting for elections of officers at convention

Absentee voting will be allowed within the corporation for all meetings except most of the annual convention. Most of the annual convention will be ran without any absentee voting allowed; however, specifically absentee denoted voting only is allowed and only for election of officers. See Article XVII, section H. Absentee voting,

when used, does not affect quorum requirements; quorum requirements must still be met without counting any absentee votes that members hold.

Constitution Article VI: Officers, section A2 – adds reference to absentee denoted votes being allowed when voting for officers

Party Officers will be elected individually, on separate ballots, in the order set forth above, at the annual Party Convention. No offices shall be combined. All Party sustaining members may vote in the officer elections at convention, whether in person or my absentee denoted vote.

Constitution Article XII: Annual Party Conventions – changes to allow absentee denoted voting for elections, but not for other things at convention

Eligible sustaining members who are not able to attend the convention may still participate in elections by absentee denoted vote as detailed in Article XVII, section H1.

Bylaws Article VIII: Party Conventions, section A5 – changes to allow absentee denoted voting for election of officers (though not for other items)

Proxy voting is not allowed. All forms of absentee voting is not allowed for most of the convention. However, absentee denoted voting is allowed only for the election of officers.

CBTW, as a reminder, the Constitution Article XVII, section H – already contains language about denoted voting that will not be changing here, but will now be applied to convention elections and not just SEC meetings, etc

H. Absentee Voting. When allowed in specific situations mentioned in these controlling documents, members with voting power shall be allowed to have their voice heard in votes even if they cannot be physically or electronically present for the vote itself. In any situation in which a member would have voting power if they were present, then that member will be allowed to submit their vote in any number of ways. All absentee votes will need to be verifiable in some way, whether by voice mail or email or signed note or letter or other.

1. Denoted Vote. If the item up for vote is known in detail by the voter—in that the voter has the full word-for-word motion to consider ahead of time—then the voter may just send in their vote on that motion. This would apply to elections as well, as long as the voter knew what position was being voted on and could send in ahead of time their vote for candidate(s) for that position.

Notes:
