

**CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS**  
**of the Charlotte County Libertarian Executive Committee**

**Article I**  
**Name and Territorial Limits**

This organization shall be known the Charlotte County Libertarian Executive Committee, hereinafter referred to as the "County Executive Committee." This organization shall be governed by the laws of the State of Florida and the Constitution and Bylaws of the Libertarian Party of Florida. The County Executive Committee shall encompass all voting precincts in Charlotte County.

**Article II**  
**Purposes**

The purpose of the County Executive Committee is to seek qualified Libertarians to become candidates and to elect those candidates to public office.

**Article III**  
**Membership**

Section 1: Membership in the County Executive Committee shall consist of a) two members of the Florida Libertarian Party(LPF)<sup>1</sup>, a man and a woman, from each precinct in Charlotte County who shall be known, respectively, as Precinct Committeemen and Precinct Committeewomen and b) all members of the Legislature who reside in Charlotte County and are affiliated with the Libertarian Party of Florida who shall be known as At-Large Committeemen and Committeewomen.

Section 2: Precinct Committeemen and Committeewomen shall serve two-year terms. Precinct Committeemen and Committeewomen representing voting precincts which, according to the precinct numbering system employed by the Charlotte County Supervisor of Elections, end in an odd number shall be selected at the County Executive Committee's Annual Organizational Meeting held in years that end in an odd number. Precinct Committeemen and Committeewomen representing voting precincts which, according to the precinct numbering system employed by the Charlotte County Supervisor of Elections, end in an even number shall

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<sup>1</sup> As a necessary condition of being a member of the LPF, a) the member's voter registration must show affiliation with the LPF and b) the member must electronically sign the LPF's non-aggression pledge.

be selected at the County Executive Committee's Annual Organizational Meeting held in years that end in an even number.

Section 3: Vacant Precinct Committeemen and Committeewomen seats may be filled with qualified persons by resolution of the County Executive Committee.

Section 4: A Precinct Committeeman's or Committeewoman's gender is that which appears on his or her state-issued driver license or identification card.

Section 5: Any Precinct Committeeman or Committeewoman who either moves his or her residence to outside the precinct he or she represents or who ceases to be member of the LPF shall be considered to have resigned his or her seat. It is the duty of each member of the County Executive Committee to keep the secretary informed of his or her current party affiliation, changes in voter registration status, changes of LPF membership status, residence address, telephone number, e-mail address and other contact information.

#### **Article IV Annual Organizational Meeting**

Section 1: At 6:30 p.m. on the third Wednesday of August, or on another date and hour prescribed by resolution of the County Executive Committee that falls within thirty days thereafter, the County Executive Committee shall hold its Annual Organizational Meeting. If the date for the Annual Organization Meeting falls within a period declared pursuant to the laws of this State or Charlotte County as a state of emergency, public health emergency, or state of local disaster emergency, then the Annual Organizational Meeting may be held by means of an Internet platform for video and audio conferencing.

Section 2: The first order of business at the Annual Organizational Meeting shall be the selection of Precinct Committeemen and Committeewomen. To be eligible, those seeking a Precinct Committeeman or Committeewoman seat, including the incumbent, if any, must file a notice of intention in accordance with the Standing Rules no earlier than the 1st and no later than the 15th of July of the year in which the Annual Organizational Meeting is being held. If the seat of a Precinct Committeeman or Committeewoman who served in office on June 30th in the year the Annual Organizational Meeting is held is being sought by one or more other eligible candidates (i.e., actual candidates, None of the Above (NOTA), the winner shall be determined by a plurality of written ballots, which shall be prepared by the Secretary in advance of the election, cast by only those who a) were members of the LPF on June 30th of the same year that the election is being held and b) whose addresses, as shown on their voter registration cards, are

within the precinct for which the election is being held. Otherwise, winners shall be determined by a plurality of written ballots, which shall be prepared by the Secretary in advance of the election, cast by incumbent Precinct Committeemen or Committeewomen and At-Large Committeemen and Committeewomen. Such ballots shall list each seat for which at least one notice of intent was filed and for each such seat the name(s) of the candidate(s) who are seeking it along with a "None of the Above (NOTA)" selection. After all Precinct Committeemen and Committeewomen selections have been made, the newly selected Precinct Committeemen and Committeewomen shall be seated. The newly comprised body shall then elect from among themselves a temporary chairperson, who shall not be a candidate for any office defined by Article V herein, to preside over the election of officers. If the leading candidates for any contested Precinct Committeeman or Committeewoman seat shall receive the same number of votes, another ballot, including all candidates and NOTA shall be cast. If this second ballot still results in a tie between the leading candidates, the winner shall be selected by a vote of the newly seated County Executive Committee.

Section 3: The second order of business at the Annual Organizational Meeting shall be the election of officers, who shall be elected to one-year terms by written ballot and whose terms shall commence immediately upon election. To be eligible, those seeking to be an officer, including the incumbent, if any, must be a member of the LPF and file a notice of intention in accordance with the Standing Rules no earlier than the 1st and no later than the 15th of July of the year in which the Annual Organizational Meeting is being held. Officers shall be elected on separate ballots cast by LPF members who reside in and are registered to vote in Charlotte County, which shall be prepared, to the extent possible, by the Secretary in advance of the election, in the order in which they appear in Article V herein and each ballot shall contain the names of each person who filed a timely notice of intention along with a "None of the Above (NOTA)" selection. No nominations from the floor shall be in order. If the leading candidates for any office receive the same number of votes, another ballot, including all candidates for the office shall be cast. If this second ballot still results in a tie between the two leading candidates, the winner shall be determined by a coin toss. After elections of officers has concluded, the temporary chairman shall be discharged and the gavel passed to the newly elected Chair.

Section 4: The third order of business at the Annual Organizational Meeting shall be establishing the dates, hours, and locations of all County Executive Committee regular meetings through to the next Annual Organizational Meeting.

Section 5: The fourth order of business at the Annual Organizational Meeting shall be establishing committees and determining the number of members on each committee. The Chair, at the Organizational Meeting and throughout the year, shall endeavor to fill the

committees so established. Only registered voters affiliated with the LPF may serve on a committee. Appointees to each committee shall select from among themselves the committee's chairperson. Throughout the year, the Executive Committee Chair shall notify the Executive Committee immediately of all committee appointments and all appointments shall be recorded in the minutes of the next Executive Committee meeting.

## **Article V Officers**

The County Executive Committee shall have the following officers: Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. These officers shall perform the duties prescribed by these Constitution & Bylaws and by the parliamentary authority adopted herein. No person shall hold more than one office simultaneously except that the Secretary and Treasurer positions may be held by one person. Only members of the County Executive Committee are eligible to hold office.

## **Article VI Meetings and Quorum**

Section 1. The dates, hours, and locations, as well as the agendas, to the extent known, of all County Executive Committee meetings shall be continuously maintained by the secretary on the County Executive Committee's Internet site. Special meetings of the County Executive Committee may be called by the Chair, any two officers or upon written request of ten Precinct Committeemen or Committeewomen. The purpose of the special meeting shall be stated in the call. Except in cases of emergency, at least three days' notice shall be given. Notice of special meetings shall be made by e-mail to all LPF members residing in Charlotte County to the e-mail addresses on file.

Section 2. If the total number of Committeemen and Committeewomen, both Precinct and At-Large, is ten (10) or less, fifty (50) percent of them shall constitute a quorum except that in no event shall the quorum be fewer than two (2). If the total number of Committeemen and Committeewomen, both Precinct and At-Large, is fifty (50) or less, thirty (30) percent of them shall constitute a quorum. If the total number of Committeemen and Committeewomen, both Precinct and At-Large, is greater than fifty (50) but less than one hundred (100), then twenty (20) percent of them shall constitute a quorum. If the total number of Committeemen and Committeewomen, both Precinct and At-Large, is one hundred (100) or more, then ten (10) percent of them shall constitute a quorum.

Section 3. No person shall participate in or vote at any meeting of the County Executive Committee unless he or she is personally present at the meeting. If, however, a meeting falls within a period declared pursuant to the laws of this State or Charlotte County as a state of emergency, public health emergency, or state of local disaster emergency, then the meeting may be held by means of an Internet platform for video and audio conferencing.

## **Article VII Parliamentary Authority**

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised shall govern the County Executive Committee in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the Constitution & Bylaws and any special rules of order the County Executive Committee may adopt.

## **Article VIII Discipline of Officers and Members**

Section 1. The Chair, upon receipt of written charges filed by any member of the County Executive Committee against any other member or officer shall appoint an ad hoc Grievance Committee consisting of, in the Chair's discretion, three, five or seven County Executive Committee members to investigate the charges. If the Chair is either the complainant or the accused, then the Vice-Chair shall appoint the Grievance Committee. The complainant, the accused and all witnesses shall be ineligible to serve on the Grievance Committee. The complainant and the accused shall be invited to attend, testify, and submit any pertinent documents to the Grievance Committee and the Grievance Committee shall make its findings and recommendations not more than sixty days from its receipt of the complaint. If the Grievance Committee finds that a complaint was frivolous or filed in bad faith, it may recommend that the complainant be disciplined.

The Grievance Committee shall forthwith forward its findings and recommendations to the secretary who shall promptly forward them, by certified mail and simultaneous e-mail, to the complainant and the accused member or officer together with at least ten days' notice of the date, hour and location of the meeting at which the findings and recommendations will be considered and acted upon by the County Executive Committee. Discipline imposed may be censure, removal from office, a fixed term of suspension or expulsion from the County Executive Committee.

Section 2. Precinct Committeemen and Committeewomen who, without excuse, miss four (4) consecutive regular meetings shall automatically be removed from office effective at the adjournment of the second meeting missed. Excuses shall be granted or denied by a majority vote of the County Executive Committee.

### **Article IX Amendment of Constitution & Bylaws**

This Constitution & Bylaws may be amended at any annual business meeting at which one-hundred fifty (150) percent of the required quorum of the County Executive Committee is in attendance and where the amendment receives a two-thirds vote, provided that the proposed amendment had been posted on the County Executive Committee's website at least thirty (30) days prior to the annual business meetings.

### **Article X Appeal to Libertarian Party of Florida Executive Committee**

Any LPF affiliated voter residing in Charlotte County who believes that this Constitution and Bylaws deprives him or her of an ability to meaningfully participate in the organization's affairs may file a written appeal with the LPF's Executive Committee whose decision on the appeal shall be final and binding on the Charlotte County Libertarian Executive Committee.


### **Article XI Statutory Compliance**

**Section 1.** In accordance with F.S.103.095(2), each person residing in Charlotte County whose election affiliation is LPF has a fundamental right to fully and meaningfully participate in the business and affairs of the Charlotte County Executive Committee without any monetary encumbrance. The Charlotte County Executive Committee acknowledges that this Constitution must reflect this fundamental right and must provide for and contain reasonable provisions that, at a minimum, prescribe procedures to: prescribe its membership; conduct its meetings according to generally accepted parliamentary practices; timely notify its members as to the time, date, and place of all of its meetings; timely publish notice on its public and functioning website as to the time, date, and place of all of its meetings; elect its officers; remove its officers; make party nominations when required by law; conduct campaigns for party nominees; raise and expend party funds; select delegates to its national convention, if applicable; select presidential electors, if applicable; and alter or amend all of its governing documents.

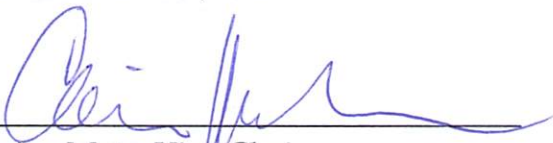
Section 2. In accordance with F.S. 103.121(1)(a), the Charlotte County Executive Committee acknowledges that it has a duty "to adopt such bylaws as it may deem necessary by majority vote of the full committee." The Charlotte County Executive Committee, after considering RONR (12th Ed.) 2:8, deems it unnecessary to have a separate set of bylaws because it accepts RONR's recommended practice of having all its rules set forth within a single instrument.

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Adopted 09/25/23



Matthew Cankar, Chair



Corina Metz, Vice-Chair



John Paff, Secretary/Treasurer