

Roanoke Valley Libertarians

Bylaws: as amended February 8, 2012

Article I: Name and Affiliation

The name of this organization will be “Roanoke Valley Libertarians”, hereinafter referred to as “RVL” or “the Party”. The RVL is affiliated as a “Local Committee” with the Libertarian Party of Virginia (LPVA), in accordance with the LPVA Constitution and Bylaws.

Article II: Principles

The Statement of Principles, within the Libertarian Party (LP) platform, affirms that philosophy upon which the Libertarian Party is founded, upon which it shall be sustained, and through which liberty shall prevail. That Statement is incorporated herein by reference.

Article III: Purposes

The purpose of the RVL is to proclaim and implement its Statement of Principles, by:

1. Raising awareness of libertarianism through education and outreach activities
2. Recruiting new members
3. Nominating and running candidates for office in the region

Article IV: Controlling Documents

The controlling documents of the RVL will be these Bylaws. Authority for all matters not specifically addressed by the Bylaws will be Robert’s Rules of Order.

Article V: Officers

1. There will be four Party officers, as follows: Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. The powers and duties of the officers are specified in Section 3 of this article.
2. The officers will be elected by a majority of the RVL Voting Members present and registered at the annual RVL convention. Officers will be elected individually, on separate ballots, in the order designated in Section 1 of this Article. Terms will commence immediately upon adjournment of the annual convention and will terminate at the end of the following annual convention. Only members of the RVL will be eligible to serve as officers. There shall be no term limits and officers shall be eligible for immediate reelection.
3. The duties of each officer shall be as follows:
 - a. The Chair shall preside at all RVL meetings and act as CEO of the RVL. The Chair may appoint non-officer positions such as Office Manager, Database Manager, Archives Manager, or Committee Chairs for such functions as Membership, Campaigns, Fundraising, Convention, etc. In the event of a vacancy in an officer or non-officer position, including positions newly created by the Chair, the Chair shall appoint someone to fill said vacancy *Pro Tem*.
 - b. The Vice-Chair shall preside at RVL meetings in the absence of the Chair. If the office of the Chair becomes vacant, the Vice-Chair shall automatically become Chair. The Vice-Chair shall also be responsible for keeping abreast of, and fulfilling, current requirements to maintain certification by the State Party – as defined in the LPVA Constitution and Bylaws.
 - c. The Secretary shall record and maintain Minutes of RVL meetings and conventions, and be a signing officer for Party documents.

- d. The Treasurer shall maintain the Party's bank accounts, deposit all revenues, and pay all bills. A formal Treasurer's Report shall be presented at least once per calendar quarter. The Treasurer shall maintain the Party's financial records in accordance with the law and accepted accounting principles.
4. Any officer of the RVL may be removed from office upon a vote of two thirds (2/3) of the Voting Members at a Special Convention called for such purpose in accordance with Article VII-4 below. Written notice of any such Special Convention must also include notice that if such motion for removal should carry, the vacancy so created may be filled at the same Special Convention by a simple majority vote.

Article VI: Representative to District Committee or State Central Committee

The Chair (or his/her designee) shall serve as the RVL Representative:

1. to the LP Congressional District Committee; and/or
2. to the State Central Committee; and/or
3. to the LPVA Committee on Local Affiliates

In any of these capacities, the RVL Representative shall report to the RVL Secretary all of the Representative's votes on all issues before any meetings of those bodies, as well as a review of actions taken by the body, for inclusion in the RVL official records. Such report shall be filed in writing with the Secretary within five days of the close of the meeting.

Article VII: Conventions, Annual and Special

1. The RVL shall hold a Convention each year, by no later than the end of June, for the purpose of electing officers, amending bylaws, endorsing candidates, and amending the program or platform. The Chair may appoint a Convention Chair.
2. All RVL members shall be notified of the annual convention date and location at least 14 days in advance.
3. Voting delegates shall have been Voting Members of the RVL for at least 30 days prior to the Convention date.
4. A Special Convention may be called by presenting to the Chair a petition signed by 10% of all Voting Members or 5, whichever is greater, clearly stating the purpose(s) of such Convention and the date and location. The Chair shall cause notice of same to be distributed to the entire membership at least 21 days in advance of the requested date.

Article VIII: Committee Meetings

1. $\frac{3}{4}$ of the officers shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of normal business.
2. All measures shall be carried by a simple majority vote unless otherwise specified in these bylaws.
3. Meetings shall be held at such time and place as the officers may by act decide.

Article IX: Membership

1. All members of the Libertarian Party (LP) or the Libertarian Party of Virginia (LPVA) who reside in Roanoke or Franklin counties shall be deemed members of the RVL. Residents of adjacent counties are also eligible for membership.
2. Any member may become a Voting Member by submitting a Voting Member Registration Form to the RVL. Voting Members must have attended two RVL meetings within the previous six months to be eligible to vote on RVL business.
3. Dues and other payments to the RVL shall be determined by majority vote of the Voting Members.

4. Any member has the right to contact the general membership. The Chair shall establish procedures for so contacting the membership.

Article X: Amendments

These bylaws may be amended by two thirds (2/3) majority vote at any RVL Convention.

Libertarian Party Statement of Principles

We, the members of the Libertarian Party, challenge the cult of the omnipotent state and defend the rights of the individual.

We hold that all individuals have the right to exercise sole dominion over their own lives, and have the right to live in whatever manner they choose, so long as they do not forcibly interfere with the equal right of others to live in whatever manner they choose.

Governments throughout history have regularly operated on the opposite principle, that the State has the right to dispose of the lives of individuals and the fruits of their labor. Even within the United States, all political parties other than our own grant to government the right to regulate the lives of individuals and seize the fruits of their labor without their consent.

We, on the contrary, deny the right of any government to do these things, and hold that where governments exist, they must not violate the rights of any individual: namely, (1) the right to life -- accordingly we support the prohibition of the initiation of physical force against others; (2) the right to liberty of speech and action -- accordingly we oppose all attempts by government to abridge the freedom of speech and press, as well as government censorship in any form; and (3) the right to property -- accordingly we oppose all government interference with private property, such as confiscation, nationalization, and eminent domain, and support the prohibition of robbery, trespass, fraud, and misrepresentation.

Since governments, when instituted, must not violate individual rights, we oppose all interference by government in the areas of voluntary and contractual relations among individuals. People should not be forced to sacrifice their lives and property for the benefit of others. They should be left free by government to deal with one another as free traders; and the resultant economic system, the only one compatible with the protection of individual rights, is the free market.