

# The Texas Independent Party Rules

## ARTICLE I – Name and Statement of Principles

### A. Name

The name of this organization will be the “Texas Independent Party”, hereinafter referred to as the “Party”.

### B. Statement of Principles

The Texas Independent Party is founded for the purpose of supporting our democracy by empowering the citizens of Texas with the choice of electing candidates of this Party, one devoted to civic participation and volunteerism, through engaged listening, constructive debate and collaborative solutions, for a strong and healthy democracy, free of funding from individuals and entities seeking to influence the Party contrary to its principles.

## ARTICLE II - Temporary Party Organization And Bylaws

- A. All applicable provisions of the Texas Election Code are hereby made a part of and incorporated into these Rules.
- B. Until these Rules are adopted and elections held at a State Convention as provided by law, the Party shall be governed by these Temporary Rules (as they may be amended as provided herein) and by an Interim State Executive Committee as provided by law and herein.

## ARTICLE III - Rules, Duration, Purposes and Membership

### A. Rules

These Rules shall be considered the Rules of the Party.

### B. Duration

The duration of this organization shall be perpetual.

### C. Purpose

The purpose of this Party is to implement and give voice to the principles embodied in the Party’s Statement of Principles by:

1. Promoting the election of duly nominated Texas Independent Party candidates;
2. Engaging in political information activities;
3. Establishing and supporting county Texas Independent Party affiliates in Texas.

### D. Membership

#### 1. Voting Membership Eligibility

A person is eligible to become a Voting Member of the Party if the person:

- a) is a qualified registered Texas voter;
- b) affiliates with the party within the meaning of and allowed by the Texas Election Code;
- c) is not affiliated with any other political party.

#### 2. Voting Membership

At any time an eligible person may become a Voting Member:

- a) by affiliating with the Party, and meeting the Voting Membership Eligibility requirements;
- b) where upon request of a person desiring to affiliate with the Party, a member of a County Executive Committee for the county in which the person resides may administer the oath of party affiliation. In unaffiliated counties a member of the State Executive Committee, a person specially designated by that Committee, the State Chair, or person otherwise allowed by Texas law may affiliate by administering the

...

oath of party affiliation.

**3. Certificate**

After administering the oath, the person shall stamp the Party's name on the person's registration certificate or issue the person an affiliation certificate containing:

- a) the name of the person to whom the certificate is issued;
- b) the name of the Party (“Texas Independent Party”);
- c) the name and official position of the issuer;
- d) the date of affiliation.

**4. Termination of Voting Membership**

A person’s Voting Membership shall terminate if the person:

- a) ceases to be eligible for Voting Membership under subsection (III.D.1); or
- b) fails to affiliate with the Party by adjournment of the next Precinct Convention.

**5. No Dues**

No dues shall be required for a person to become a Voting Member.

**6. Membership in General**

All Voting Members shall be considered Members of the Party.

**7. Nondiscrimination**

No Voting Member shall be denied or restricted his or her rights of Membership and participation.

**ARTICLE IV - Party Organization**

**A. State Executive Committee**

The Party’s State Executive Committee is hereinafter referred to as “SEC”. The SEC shall be vested with and exercise plenary authority over the Party’s property and funds and the direction and management of the Party’s business and affairs, subject to these Rules.

- 1. A majority of the membership of the SEC shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at meetings.

**B. Interim State Executive Committee**

Until a State Executive Committee is duly elected at a State Convention as provided by law and herein, there shall be an Interim State Executive Committee appointed by the founding State Chair. The Interim SEC will:

- 1. Call all regular and special State Conventions and such other conventions as are provided for herein;
- 2. Make or cause to be made all necessary arrangements for such meetings or conventions;
- 3. Take all actions necessary to the adoption of Party Rules and Bylaws and amendments to Party Rules and Bylaws;
- 4. Establish rules and procedures for party organization of conventions, executive committees for organized counties, districts and/or regions as it deems reasonable; and otherwise,
- 5. Formulate and provide for the execution of such policies, plans, and measures (including policies and procedures for the raising and expenditure of funds) as it may deem conducive to the best interest of the Party, and in conformity with Party Rules and Bylaws and state law.

**C. Composition**

1. A State Chair;
2. A State Vice Chair;
3. A State Secretary;
4. State Member At-Large;
5. State Member At-Large.

**D. Terms of Office**

The term of office of all members of the SEC shall be from the final adjournment of the State Convention at which they are elected until the final adjournment of the next Texas Independent Party State Convention.

**E. Qualifications for State Executive Committee Members**

1. All members of the SEC must be Voting Members of the Party.
2. All members of the SEC must be residents of the State of Texas, and the moving of his or her residence by a Party official out of the State of Texas shall mean an automatic vacancy of his or her office.
3. No person shall hold more than one membership on the SEC at the same time.
4. No person shall be elected to the SEC without having submitted to the Party Secretary an application to fill the position.

**F. Method of Selection**

The State Chair, State Vice Chair, State Secretary, and two State Members At-Large shall be elected by majority vote of all the delegates at each State Convention.

**G. Duties**

1. The State Chair shall be the principal and presiding officer of the SEC and the Party. The State Chair is chief executive officer of the Party with full authority to direct its business and affairs, subject to these Rules and the policies and directives adopted or issued by the SEC in the exercise of its plenary control and management of the Party's business and affairs.
2. The State Vice Chair shall perform the duties of State Chair whenever the State Chair is unable to do so, and shall assist the State Chair.
3. The State Secretary shall keep such minutes and records as are necessary; shall conduct mail balloting; shall give all notices required by these rules; shall maintain and certify the official copies of the Bylaws; shall maintain a roster of names, addresses and telephone numbers of members of the SEC, of County Chairs and of candidates for the Party's nomination for public office; shall cause the minutes or transcripts of meetings of the SEC to be furnished to the members of the SEC as specified in these rules; and perform such other duties as the Chair directs.
4. The Members-at-Large shall actively work to further the growth of the Party. This includes, but is not limited to, communicating current organizational status within their districts to the Party, communicating Party information to their districts, assisting with candidate recruitment efforts, developing county affiliates, oversight of Party administration, and assisting to ensure proper function of official Party events.
5. All members of the SEC shall further have all other authority and duties implied by their title and expressed or implied by these Rules, or assigned by the Chair or the SEC, and shall perform all other duties required of his or her office by applicable federal or state law, or by action of the SEC or by these rules.

**Article V - Removal**

**A. Removal from Office for Absences**

1. If an officer or member-at-large is absent from two successive meetings of the SEC, at the call to order of the second meeting that position may be declared to be vacant by a majority of the SEC members present provided there is a quorum.

2. An absence shall be counted against any meeting for the purpose of business of the SEC that requires a quorum, and for which two (2) weeks-notice was given.
3. Whenever the SEC removes a member from the SEC, the State Secretary shall officially notify that member of his or her removal.

**B. Removal from Office for Cause**

1. A member of the SEC may be removed for cause, other than repeated absences, by a three-fourths vote of the other four members of the SEC. "Cause" for purposes of removal includes, but is not limited to, unexcused failure to perform official duties, conduct inconsistent with Party principles, unauthorized use of Party resources, endorsing a candidate for another political party in Texas for which the Party has a candidate for the same office in the same election cycle, or any other reason the SEC believes is in the best interest of the Party.
2. Procedures for disciplinary action shall be followed to protect the rights of both the accused and the Party, including:
  - a) the appointment of an investigative committee;
  - b) the adoption of a resolution defining specific charges;
  - c) setting a special SEC meeting for a trial; and
  - d) the holding of a trial of the accused.

**Article VI – Vacancies**

- A. Should a vacancy exist in the office of Chair, Vice Chair, or Secretary, the SEC may fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term by a majority vote.
- B. Should a vacancy exist in a Member At-Large seat, the seat may be filled pursuant to the following procedures:
  1. Every County Executive Committee may nominate one Voting Member from their own county for the position and send the appointment to the State Chair.
  2. From these nominees, the SEC shall appoint, by majority vote, the Voting Member who fills the vacancy for the remainder of the term.
  3. The State Chair shall notify all County Chairs and the SEC of the appointment.

**Article VII - County Affiliates**

**A. County Governing Authority**

1. No person, group or organization may use the name "Texas Independent Party" or any confusingly similar designation except the Party or an organization to which the Party grants affiliate party status or as otherwise provided in these Rules.
2. The SEC may charter county-level affiliate parties from any qualifying organization requesting such status. Organizations that want to become county-level affiliate parties shall apply for such status on a standard petition form as adopted by the SEC, which petition shall be signed by no fewer than three (3) members of the Party residing in the appropriate county. Affiliate party status shall be granted only to those organizations which adopt the Statement of Principles and file a copy of their Constitution and/or Rules with the State Party Secretary.
3. There shall be no more than one county-level affiliate party in any one county. Each county-level affiliate party shall, in accordance with its own Rules and these Rules, determine who shall be its delegates to all Regular Conventions.
4. No affiliate party shall endorse any candidate who is a member of another party for public office in any partisan election. No affiliate party shall take any action inconsistent

with the Statement of Principles or these Rules.

5. The SEC shall have the power to revoke the status of any affiliate party, for cause, by a vote of 3/4 of the entire SEC. A motion to revoke the status of an affiliate party for cause must specify the nature of the cause for revocation.
6. Each county-level affiliate party shall have a County Executive Committee (“CEC”), composed of a County Chair and such other Party officials of that county as the rules of that county may designate. Any Party officials to serve on a CEC (except for a Temporary County Chair) must be appointed or elected according to a set of rules, to be drafted and ratified by the Voting Members of that county.
7. County bylaws shall designate a procedure for filling vacancies on the CEC.
8. County Chairs are required to provide a copy of the county rules to the State Secretary upon any adoption or alteration of said county rules. In the absence of county bylaws being on file, the SEC has the authority to recognize a qualified individual. All CEC members must be Voting Members of the Party.

#### **A. Appointment of Temporary County Chairs**

1. The State Chair or his designates may appoint a Temporary County Chair for any county which is not yet organized.
2. The SEC may establish a reasonable vetting policy governing the appointment of Temporary County Chairs. Such Temporary Chairs shall serve only until their County Party elects its own Chair at the next County Convention.
3. The SEC may remove such Temporary Chairs from office for cause.

#### **B. Automatic Removal**

1. Any County Chair who fails to hold a County Convention in accordance with these Rules, or who fails to report in a timely manner the results of such a Convention to the State Chair or such officer designated to receive such reports, shall thereby vacate the office of County Chair.
2. Any vacancy thus created may be filled by appointment of a Temporary County Chair by the State Chair, unless and until said County Party’s Rules provide for filling vacancies.

### **Article VIII - Precinct Chairs**

In counties without local rules specifying a procedure for selecting Precinct Chairs, the County Executive Committee shall select the Precinct Chairs. Within three (3) days of the election or appointment of a Precinct Chair, the name, address, phone number and email address of said Chair shall be sent to the State Chair.

### **Article IX - District Executive Committees**

Whenever these Rules or the actions of the SEC require action by a District Executive Committee (“DEC”), the members of any such DEC shall consist of the County Chairs for counties wholly or partially contained within that district.

- A. If at the time a DEC is required, there is no District Chair, the State Chair shall appoint one of the DEC members to be the District Chair.
- B. The DEC may, by majority vote of the entire DEC, replace the current District Chair with another member of the DEC.
- C. On the day following the date of district conventions, all District Chair positions shall be considered vacant.

### **Article X - General Rules for the State Executive Committee**

#### **A. Governing Authority**

1. These rules shall govern the conduct of all meetings and proceedings of the SEC of the Party.
2. The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised are hereby adopted by reference to govern all meetings and proceedings of the Party in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with state law, these Rules, or any special rules of order the SEC may adopt.
3. SEC may maintain Bylaws that govern its own action. Bylaws of the SEC may be amended by a 3/4ths vote of SEC or by a 2/3rds vote of the state convention. Where Bylaws of the SEC conflict with these Rules, state law, or federal law, the Bylaws of the SEC shall yield.
4. The SEC may make additional policies for its conduct so long as said additional policies do not conflict with these Rules.

#### **B. Powers of the State Executive Committee**

1. In compliance with these Rules and the directives of Conventions, the SEC of the Party shall carry on the activities of the Party at its level between Conventions and shall have the control and management of all Party affairs, properties, and funds at its level.
2. The Chair of the SEC shall appoint a Treasurer. The Treasurer shall maintain Party bank accounts and other financial assets, shall ensure that the SEC is aware of the financial condition of the Party, shall issue financial statements to the SEC at least quarterly, shall ensure that Party funds are disbursed only according to these rules and state or federal law.
3. The Chair of the SEC, subject to the approval of that Committee, or the SEC itself, may appoint, elect or employ any such officers and assistants as may be deemed necessary to assist the Committee in its function and in making arrangements for Conventions at that level.
4. The SEC shall decide whether to hold a Primary Election, and make appropriate notification thereof.
5. The SEC may add an online location for the convention to the physical location.
6. The SEC may reject a County Party's Rules

### **Article XI - Party Conventions**

#### **A. Precinct Conventions**

1. If, as, when and where the SEC deems it advisable, or as otherwise required by law, the SEC shall call for Precinct Conventions to be held in accordance with these Rules.
2. To be eligible to participate in a precinct convention, a person must be a
3. registered voter of the precinct, and a Voting Member of the Party.
4. Each Precinct Convention shall elect a Precinct Convention Chair, and shall elect up to five (5) delegates and five (5) alternates thereof to the County convention.
5. Attendees for the convention may be pre-registered for the convention by electronic or paper registration.
6. The Precinct Convention Chair may electronically scan and electronically submit convention documents to the County Chair and State Chair.

#### **B. County Conventions**

1. If, as, when and where the SEC deems it advisable, or as otherwise required by law, the SEC shall call for County Conventions to be held in accordance with these Rules.
2. Within twenty (20) days following the deadline for making applications for the nomination of the Party in a general election, the Secretary shall notify each County Chair of any candidates who have filed with the State Chair that are required to be nominated at a County Convention.

3. The County Convention shall be composed of all delegates, thereto, who were duly elected by their Precinct Conventions that year, and are Voting Members of the Party.
4. The County Convention shall elect delegates to the State Convention.
5. County Conventions may elect a number of alternates to the State Convention not to exceed the total number of delegates allocated to that county.
  - a) All delegates and alternates elected by a county convention must be registered voters of that county, and Voting Members of the Party.
  - b) A person otherwise qualified need not be present at the County Convention to be elected a delegate or alternate to the State Convention.
  - c) Alternate delegates to the State Convention shall be assigned a number corresponding to the precedence of seating in the event that a delegate is not seated. The number assigned shall be a whole number between 1 and the total number of alternate delegates. If the order of precedence for seating alternate delegates at State Convention is not included in its convention report to the State Chair, then the assignment of precedence number shall be chosen by random lottery by the State Chair.

**C. District Conventions**

1. Alternatively, if, as, when and where the Executive Committee deems it advisable, or as otherwise required by law, the SEC shall call a District Convention, rather than a County Convention, to be held in accordance with these Rules.
2. The District Convention shall be composed of all delegates, thereto, who were duly elected by their Precinct Conventions that year, and are Voting Members of the Party.
3. Within twenty (20) days following the deadline for making applications for the nomination of the Party in a general election, the Secretary shall send each County Chair correspondence informing the County Chair that they are a member of a District Executive Committee (as specified in these bylaws) for each district for which at least one (1) person has filed an application for nomination.
4. The District Convention shall elect delegates to the State Convention.
5. District Conventions may elect a number of alternates to the State Convention not to exceed the total number of delegates allocated to that county.
  - a) All delegates and alternates elected by a district convention must be registered voters of that district, and Voting Members of the Party.
  - b) A person otherwise qualified need not be present at the District Convention to be elected a delegate or alternate to the State Convention.
  - c) Alternate delegates to the State Convention shall be assigned a number corresponding to the precedence of seating in the case that a delegate is not currently seated. The number assigned shall be a whole number between 1 and the total number of alternate delegates. If the order of precedence for seating alternate delegates at State Convention is not included in its convention report to the State Chair, then the assignment of precedence number shall be chosen by random lottery by the State Chair.

**D. State Conventions**

1. The Party shall hold a State Convention in even numbered years in accordance with these Rules.
2. The State Convention shall be composed of all delegates thereto who were duly elected by their County Conventions or District Conventions of that year.
3. **Apportionment of Delegates**
  - a) The SEC may limit the number of delegates that each county or district may elect to the State Convention to a fraction of the total number of votes cast in that county for the Governor in the most recent gubernatorial election. Such a fraction, if established,

shall be uniform for all counties.

- b) The number of delegates for each county or district calculated under subsection (a) shall be rounded up to the nearest whole number and shall not be fewer than three.
- c) An additional delegate shall be allocated for each ten percentage points received, up to fifty percentage points, in the highest performing county or district race as measured by percentage in the most recent general election. A county or district race for purposes of this section shall be defined as a race for public office nominated at its county or district convention, respectively.

**4. Seating of Delegates and Alternates**

- a) Delegates shall be seated together by County at the State Convention.
- b) Alternates shall be seated in order of precedence to fill any vacancies up to the maximum allotment for the County they represent.
- c) Non-voting alternates shall remain in a designated alternate seating area until such time as they are called to fill a vacancy.

**5. Committees of the Convention**

- a) A Rules Committee, which shall consider and report to the Convention on recommendations for amendments to the permanent Rules of the Party;
- b) A Credentials Committee, which shall consider and report to the Convention on recommendations for resolution of any challenges to the credentials of delegates to the convention;
- c) Any other committees which the SEC may deem it proper to establish.

**6. Membership of Committees**

- a) The members of all committees at State Conventions shall be appointed by the SEC no later than four (4) months prior to the Convention.
- b) Those persons chosen to be members of committees must be notified of their selection within thirty (30) days after the SEC meeting at which they are selected

**7. Order of Business**

- a) Temporary Chair of Convention calls the State Convention to order;
- b) Credentials Committee Chair reports on the temporary roll;
- c) Temporary State Chair introduces the temporary officers of the Convention;
- d) Opening ceremonies, if any;
- e) Credentials Committee issues report, and Convention delegates act on report to establish the permanent roll;
- f) Nomination and election of permanent officers of the Convention;
- g) Permanent Chair of the Convention takes the chair;
- h) Rules Committee issues report, and Convention delegates act on report to establish the rules;
- i) Nomination of candidates for public office;
- j) Nomination and election of State Party officers;
- k) Other business;
- l) Acceptance speeches (if any) by nominees for public office;
- m) Adjournment.

**8. Functionaries of the State Convention**

- a) The State Chair may designate such temporary officers and assistants as he or she deems necessary to plan, arrange, and conduct the necessary work of the Convention until it elects its own permanent officers. Such temporary officers and assistants shall have those duties which are assigned to them.
- b) The permanent officers of the Convention shall be a Chair, Secretary, and any additional officers who may be elected.
- c) The Parliamentarian shall be chosen before the Convention by the SEC. The



permanent officers shall be elected separately and not as a slate.

## **9. Election of Presidential Electors**

- a) The State Convention in a Presidential election year shall elect a number of Presidential Elector candidates equal to that which the state is entitled to at that time.
- b) Per state law, a qualified voter of this state, who does not hold the office of United States Senator, United States Representative, or any other federal office of profit or trust, and is affiliated with the Party, is eligible to serve as a Presidential Elector for the Party.
- c) The Presidential candidate(s) shall submit the names and residence addresses of the Presidential Elector candidates he or she has selected, along with written affidavits from each Presidential Elector candidate, attesting to his or her intention to support the Party's Presidential and Vice Presidential nominees at least ten (10) days prior to the State Convention.
- d) Per state rules, the set of Elector candidates that is elected is the one that corresponds to the candidates for President and Vice President that receive the most votes.
- e) If for any reason the State Convention cannot or does not select Presidential Elector candidates, Presidential Elector candidates shall be chosen by the SEC.

## **E. General Rules Governing Party Conventions**

### **1. Governing Authority**

- a) These Rules shall govern all proceedings and the conduct of all meetings of all Conventions and caucuses and committees at Conventions at all levels.
- b) The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised are hereby adopted by reference to govern all proceedings and the conduct of all meetings of all Conventions and Caucuses and committees at Convention of the Party at all levels in all cases to which they are applicable, and in which they are not in conflict with state law, these Rules, or any special rules of order which may be adopted.
- c) Any Convention may make any additional rules for its conduct and proceedings, which do not conflict with state law or these Rules.
- d) It shall be the duty of the presiding officer at the opening of each Convention to provide a summary explanation of the special rules, which will govern that convention and the ways in which the action of that Convention may influence important Party actions and decisions at subsequent levels of the Convention process.

### **2. Location of Conventions**

- a) All Party Conventions shall be held at places with public access to all participants who have expressed their intention to participate to the appropriate affiliate County, District or State Executive Chair at least seventy five (75) days before the scheduled date of the convention. Except, this timeline is reduced to twenty-eight (28) days before the initial conventions held at the county, district and state level in their founding year of organization.
- b) All Party Conventions shall be held in a place that is large enough to accommodate the greater of:
  - (1) The number of participants who participated in the same convention two years prior; or
  - (2) The number, who have expressed to the appropriate County, District or State Chairs, their intention to participate, at least seventy five (75) days before the scheduled date of the convention. Except, this timeline is reduced to twenty-eight (28) days before the initial conventions held at the county, district or state level in their founding year of organization.

### **3. Eligibility to Vote at Conventions**

- a) All qualified participants at any convention shall be eligible to vote on all matters before the floor of that Convention, except for regional caucuses at State Conventions.
- b) The list of delegates submitted by the County Chair may be amended by the CEC.
- c) In order to vote on any given matter, a delegate must be present on the floor at the time the vote is taken.
- d) Each delegate present shall have one vote.
- e) A person must be a Voting Member of the Party to participate in procedures at a Convention or serve as a delegate.

#### **4. Quorum**

- a) The quorum at any Convention shall be a majority of the delegates registered as attending.
- b) Delegates and alternates may permanently leave the State Convention by submitting signed notification to the Credentials Committee at which point they will be removed from the permanent roll and such delegates or alternates shall not be counted for purposes of determining a quorum.

#### **5. Voting Procedures**

- a) Unless otherwise provided elsewhere in these Rules, the method of voting at all Conventions, and caucuses and committees at Conventions of the Party may be:
  - (1) Voice vote;
  - (2) Show of hands;
  - (3) Standing division of the house;
  - (4) Written secret ballot; or
  - (5) Roll call vote.
- b) Unless otherwise specified in these Rules, the method used shall be left to the discretion of the presiding officer, provided that a roll call vote must be taken when requested by one-fifth ( $\frac{1}{5}$ ) of the participants.
- c) All votes taken shall be counted by the presiding officer and secretary or their designees.
- d) Elections must be held by written secret ballot when there is a contested race for any Party office or offices (including delegate and alternate) or for the Party nomination for any public office.
- e) If a roll call vote is taken, polling shall be by alphabetical call of all delegates registered as attending.
- f) Proxy voting or voting by proxies is prohibited in all conventions and caucuses and committees at Conventions of the Party.

#### **6. Limits on Discussion**

- a) No delegate shall speak for more than five (5) minutes on any one motion at any Convention; provided, however, that the delegates making the majority and minority reports of any committees may speak on such reports for not exceeding ten (10) minutes each and then may answer legitimate questions relating to such reports from any delegate.
- b) The discussion on any motion shall not exceed a total of twenty (20) minutes time unless time is extended by the presiding officer.

#### **7. Petition to Place Item on Agenda**

A petition signed by ten (10) percent of the delegates attending any Convention shall be sufficient to automatically place any legitimate item of business on the agenda of that Convention for its consideration.

#### **8. Committee Procedures**

- a) The Chair of each committee of the Convention shall be the presiding officer of that

committee.

- b) The vote of a majority of those committee members present shall be necessary to recommend to the floor the passage of any proposal.
- c) A committee member must be present in order to vote.
- d) A majority of the voting membership of each committee, excluding vacancies, shall constitute a quorum for that committee.

**9. Right of Delegates to Appear before Committees**

- a) Any delegate to a Convention shall have the right to appear before any committee of that Convention, and make recommendations for the committee's consideration.
- b) A committee may make reasonable rules governing the time and manner of such presentations, which may include a requirement for submission of the proposal in writing to the Chair of the committee.
  - (1) Such submission in writing may not be required to be more than three days prior to the first official convening of the committee.
  - (2) No requirement may be adopted after it is too late to meet the requirement.

**10. Convening of committees**

All committees shall first convene officially no later than the first day immediately preceding the Convention to which they shall report, but such committees may meet informally any time at their discretion.

**11. Committee Reports**

- a) The Chair of each committee, or the Chair's designees, shall report the committee's recommendations to the floor of the Convention. Recommendations on the report may be made individually or as a whole. The convention chair or, at the convention chair's discretion, the committee chair shall preside over any discussion and any votes on recommendations.
- b) A committee may also issue a minority report or reports which shall have priority of consideration as proposed amendments to the majority recommendations of the committee.
- c) After minority reports have been addressed, any delegate may move to amend the recommendation, providing the substance of such a proposal shall have been considered by the committee or shall have been presented to the committee for its consideration.
- d) Each proposed amendment to a recommendation shall be debated and voted upon separately.

**12. Statement of Principles and Platform Amendments**

- a) The initial Statement of Principles adopted by the SEC shall be the interim Statement of Principles of the Party, until a permanent Statement of Principles is adopted by the Party's State Convention. Aside from the Statement of Principles, the Party shall have no Platform, until a Platform Committee is formed by the SEC in an off year of General Elections to draft an interim Platform consistent with the Statement of Principles.
- b) The permanent Statement of Principles, the permanent Platform and any proposed amendments to the Statement of Principles or the Platform must receive the votes of two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) of the voting delegates for adoption by the State Convention.

**F. Nominations for Public and Party Office**

**1. Filing Procedures**

- a) A person seeking the Party's nomination for any public office must file an application with the Party to be nominated for that office if such application is required by state law.
- b) Anyone seeking the Party's Presidential nomination must file an application with the Party at least thirty (30) days prior to the State Convention.

.....

- c) If a candidate who has made an application to be nominated withdraws, dies, or is declared ineligible, the filing deadline for applications and nomination for that office is reopened and extended until 11:59 PM of the day before the date of the Convention at which the nominee for that office will be chosen, or until 11:59 PM of the day before the date of the primary election if the Party nominates by primary election.

## **2. Nominating Procedures**

- a) All nominations for Party office or for the Party nomination for public office shall be made at the Convention, separately for each candidate who submitted an application for nomination with the Party as required by state law, and not as a slate of candidates.
- b) The motion to close nominations at Convention shall require a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote, and such motion shall not be in order until a reasonable time has passed.
- c) Nominations of candidates for public office at the State level may be made only at the State Convention held in the year of the election for which the nominations are made, unless the Party nominates by primary election.

## **G. Exclusions from Eligibility for Nomination to Public and Party Office**

1. No Convention or Executive Committee of the Party may nominate or endorse any candidates who affiliate with another party in Texas for which the Texas Independent Party has a candidate in the same election cycle.
2. No person may be the nominee of the Party for any public or Party office who is ineligible to serve in that office.

## **Article XII - Balloting for Candidates for Public and Party Office**

### **A. Single Seat Balloting Procedures**

1. The method for voting by ballot shall be Approval Voting.
2. Each ballot shall contain the full list of all nominees. Each delegate shall have the option to vote “for” each nominee.
3. Total votes “for” a nominee shall be recorded along with the number of ballots cast.
4. The eligible nominee receiving the plurality of “for” votes is the winner. If multiple eligible nominees have an equal number of “for” votes, then the body shall choose how to decide the election between the tied nominees.
5. Order of nominations. In voting on the nomination of candidates for Public Office, the offices shall be considered in the reverse of the order in which they appear on the general election ballot.
6. The delegates of the convention may decide by a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote to use whatever balloting method they prefer to elect candidates for Public or Party Offices.

### **B. Multiple Seat Balloting Procedures**

1. Each ballot shall contain the full list of all nominees. Each delegate shall have the option to vote “for” each nominee.
2. Total votes “for” a nominee shall be recorded along with the number of ballots cast.
3. Eligible nominees will be ranked in order of highest “for” count to lowest “for” count. If a tie occurs when eligible nominees have the same “for” votes, then the body may choose how to decide the election between the tied nominees.
4. Nominees will be seated in ranked order until all seats are filled or until there are no longer eligible nominees.
5. If all positions are not filled, the body may, by majority vote, open nominations to fill more positions.
6. The delegates of the convention may decide by a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote to use any voting method they prefer, listed herein under Section E.5.a) Voting Methods, to elect

candidates.

**C. Procedures for Election to Party Office**

1. The vote of a majority of the delegates voting at the relevant Convention shall be necessary and sufficient for election to Party office.
2. **Multiple Ballot Procedure**
  - a) Except as provided elsewhere in these Rules, in cases where no candidate receives a majority on the first ballot, the candidate receiving the lowest number of votes on that ballot shall be stricken from all subsequent ballots and this process shall be repeated for as many ballots as necessary for some candidate to secure election.
  - b) After each ballot from which no candidate receives a majority, the Chair shall announce the total vote received by each candidate, including those to be stricken from subsequent ballots.

**Article XIII - Adoption, Status, Amendment and Publication of Rules**

**A. Effective Date of Original Rules**

These Rules shall be finally effective upon the final adjournment of the SEC meeting at which they are adopted.

**B. Permanent Amendments**

1. These Rules may be permanently amended, altered or repealed only by a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote of a State Convention.
2. The SEC, by four-fifths ( $\frac{4}{5}$ ) vote, may renumber, modify spacing, and formatting of these rules as long as it does not change wording, grammar, or intent in any way. Notification of these changes must be sent to all county affiliates within a week of a successful vote.

**C. Temporary Amendment**

1. Between State Conventions these rules may be temporarily amended for good cause by a vote of four-fifths ( $\frac{4}{5}$ ) of the entire membership of the SEC, provided:
  - a) Each member of the SEC shall receive written notice including the full text of any proposed amendment at least two weeks prior to any meeting held to consider temporary amendments to the Rules; or
  - b) If the vote on the proposal is by mail ballot, then the ballot shall contain the full text of any proposed amendment.
2. All such temporary amendments shall remain in effect only until the final adjournment of the next State Convention after their adoption, and they must be presented to that Convention for approval in the form of proposed amendments to the Rules.
3. If any temporary amendment is rejected by a State Convention following its temporary adoption, neither that amendment nor any other having substantially the same effect, may be considered again until the next State Convention thereafter.

**D. Amendments to Statement of Principles of the Party**

Whenever the Party by two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote at the State Convention amends the permanent Statement of Principles of the Party, such vote shall also constitute automatic amendment to the Preamble to these Rules to comply with the amended Statement of Principles.

**E. Effective Date of Permanent Amendments**

1. Permanent amendments to these Rules shall become effective upon the final adjournment of the State Convention at which they are adopted.
2. A State Convention, by two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote, may make any permanent amendments effective immediately upon adoption.

**F. Permanence and Superiority of Rules**

**1. Superiority**

- a) These Rules, as permanently amended by State Conventions, shall constitute the

- permanent and continuing Rules of the Texas Independent Party, wholly superseding, amending, nullifying and rescinding all previous rules, Constitutions, and resolutions.
- b) The Rules of SEC shall be permanent and continuing.
  - c) The SEC may establish a permanent and continuing set of policies that govern Party organization and procedures. These policies shall be created, maintained, or dissolved by the SEC. No policies may supersede these Rules. Any policies found to contradict or conflict with these Rules are void. Any Voting Member may bring such contradictions or conflicts to the attention of the SEC for amendment to the Rules.
  - d) On subjects not covered by these Rules, the State Chair may specify a temporary rule to take effect at the adjournment of the next meeting of the SEC, if the rule is approved by that body by a four-fifths (4/5) vote. This temporary rule, once approved, is treated as a temporary amendment as described herein.

## **2. Permanence**

These Rules shall continue in force until rescinded or permanently changed by action of a State Convention or as temporarily amended by the SEC as provided herein.

## **3. Publication of Rules and Amendments**

- a) County Chairs shall be notified of amendments to these rules (whether permanent or temporary) within thirty days following the adoption of such amendments.
- b) The SEC shall have copies of these Rules made and shall furnish such copies to any person on request, provided, however, that persons to whom copies of the Rules are furnished may be required to pay the expenses incurred in making and mailing their copies.
- c) The State Chair shall ensure that updated rules are sent to the Texas Secretary of State for review within thirty (30) days following the adoption of any temporary or permanent amendments.

## **4. Certification**

It is hereby certified that this is a true and correct copy of the Rules of the Texas Independent Party currently in effect as adopted by the State Executive Committee, February 9th, 2024, and as amended and corrected below:

amended by the SEC, February 12, 2024.  
corrected by the SEC, February 14, 2024.