BEFORE THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF GEORGIA ARBITRATION PANEL

In re Appeal of the Suspension of Gerred Bell, Chairman (2026)

Gerred Bell, Appellant
v.
Libertarian Party of Georgia Executive Committee, Respondent

RESPONDENT'S MOTION FOR PROCEDURAL ORDER AUTHORIZING DETERMINATION BY THE PARTICIPATING PANEL MEMBERS

The Respondent, the Libertarian Party of Georgia Executive Committee, respectfully moves the Arbitration Panel to issue a procedural order clarifying that the two participating members of the Panel may conclude this arbitration and issue a binding final disposition if one panel member continues to fail or refuses to participate in the deliberative process or cast a vote or engage in writing a final disposition.

In support of this motion, the Respondent states as follows:

I. Background

1. The Arbitration Panel was appointed pursuant to Article IX of the Libertarian Party of Georgia Bylaws to consider the appeal of the suspension of Gerred Bell, Chairman of the Libertarian Party of Georgia.
2. The Panel consists of three members: Zane Placie, appointed by the Appellant; Sergio Ortega, appointed by mutual agreement of the parties; and Ryan Graham, appointed by the Respondent.
3. Article IX of the LPGa Bylaws provides that the final disposition of an arbitration case shall be decided by a simple majority vote of the Panel, with the decision binding on all parties.
4. The parties have submitted their respective briefs, and the matter has been pending before the Panel for an extended period of time.
5. Despite the completion of briefing and the passage of substantial time, the Panel has not issued a final disposition.
6. The continued inability or failure of one panel member to participate in reaching a final determination threatens to prevent the Panel from fulfilling its responsibility to provide a fair and speedy disposition of the case.

7. The Respondent seeks a procedural resolution that permits the arbitration to conclude without unnecessarily replacing panel members or otherwise altering the composition of the originally appointed Panel.

II. Authority

8. Article IX of the LPGa bylaws expressly provides that the final disposition of an arbitration case shall be decided by a simple majority vote of the Panel.
9. A three-member panel requires two affirmative votes to constitute a simple majority.
10. Article IX does not require unanimity for a final disposition, nor does it expressly provide that every panel member must participate in order for the remaining members to reach a decision.
11. The Arbitration Panel's Rules of Procedure, adopted August 10, 2026, provide under General Provision #2 that the Panel may publish orders *sua sponte* or upon a motion of a party by simple majority.
12. General Provision #3 of the Panel's Rules of Procedure establishes Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, 12th edition, as the Panel's parliamentary authority, except where conflicting with or superseded by the bylaws or other organizational policy.
13. The Respondent submits that the simple-majority requirement in Article IX should not be rendered ineffective merely because one panel member fails or refuses to participate in the deliberative process or cast a vote.
14. Allowing two participating panel members to reach a determination by a simple majority vote would preserve the voting threshold established by the bylaws while avoiding an indefinite delay in the resolution of the appeal.
15. The Respondent further submits that permitting the two participating members to conclude the matter does not constitute removal or replacement of the third panel member. Rather, it allows the Panel to fulfill its adjudicative responsibility in accordance with the voting requirement established by Article IX.

III. Relief Requested

WHEREFORE, the Respondent respectfully requests that the Arbitration Panel:

A. Issue a procedural order confirming that a final disposition may be reached by two affirmative votes, constituting a simple majority of the three-member Panel, notwithstanding the failure or refusal of one panel member to participate in deliberations or cast a vote.

B. Establish a reasonable and definite deadline by which all panel members must participate in deliberations and cast their votes on the final disposition of this matter.

C. Provide that if a panel member fails or refuses to participate in deliberations or cast a vote by the established deadline, the remaining two panel members may proceed to determine the matter and issue a binding final disposition by their unanimous agreement, which constitutes a simple majority of the originally appointed three-member Panel.

D. Confirm that the failure or refusal of one panel member to participate shall not indefinitely prevent the remaining panel members from exercising their authority to reach a final disposition under Article IX of the LPGa Bylaws.

E. Grant any other procedural relief the Panel considers appropriate to ensure a fair and speedy disposition of this arbitration.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Holt Amber Howell Kevin Mandarini

On behalf of the Libertarian Party of Georgia Executive Committee, Respondent