

Libertarian Party of Georgia

Annual Convention – January 28, 2024

The Annual Convention of the Libertarian Party of Georgia was held at VFW Post 5290 in Conyers, Georgia on Sunday, January 28, 2024. Chair Gerred Bell called the Convention to order at 8:36 AM. Secretary Zane Placie recorded the minutes.

Introductory Business

Zane Placie presented the Credentials Committee Report. There were 42 delegates who met the seasoning requirement, and 3 alternates who did not.

Chase Oliver moved to suspend the rules to allow alternates to vote, which was adopted.

David Barker moved to adopt the agenda, which was adopted.

Gerred Bell presented the Chair's report.

Elizabeth Melton presented the Executive Director's report.

Alex Moldenhawer presented the Treasurer's report.

Committee Reports

Zane Placie, on behalf of the Bylaws Committee, moved to adopt Proposal 1 (see Appendix A). The motion was lost after debate.

Zane Placie, on behalf of the Bylaws Committee, moved to adopt Proposal 2 (see Appendix A). The motion was adopted after debate.

Zane Placie, on behalf of the Bylaws Committee, moved to adopt Proposal 3 (see Appendix A). During debate, Danny Dolan moved to postpone the rest of the report (except Proposal 4) to the next Annual Convention, which was adopted after debate.

Zane Placie, on behalf of the Bylaws Committee, moved to adopt Proposal 4 (see Appendix A). The motion was adopted.

The agenda was amended to allow Spike Cohen to speak for three minutes.

Christine Austin, on behalf of the Platform Committee, moved to adopt Proposal 1 (see Appendix B). During debate, Danny Dolan moved to postpone the report to the next Annual Convention, which was adopted after debate.

Elections

Zane Placie moved to amend the agenda to put lunch after the election of party officers, which was adopted. Zane Placie moved to suspend the rules to not require written nominating petitions, which was adopted.

Jack Aiken moved to nominate Tom Blooming for Public Service Commissioner, District 5 and he accepted. Brian Allen moved to nominate Victoria Salvia for Public Service Commissioner, District 3 and she accepted. Danny Dolan moved to nominate Colin McKinney for Public Service Commissioner, District 2 and he accepted. The candidates gave speeches, and all were nominated.

Zane Placie nominated Brian Allen for Vice Chair and he accepted. He gave a speech and was elected.

Amber Howell nominated Zane Placie for Secretary and he accepted. He gave a speech and was elected.

Zane Placie moved to amend the agenda to put lunch after the election of at-large Executive Committee members, which was adopted.

The district caucuses met to elect their members of the Executive Committee.

No members were elected from District 1.

Warren Cunningham, Doug Craig, and Colin McKinney were elected from District 2.

Ryan Graham, Laura Williams, and Jim Sheehan were elected from District 3.

Scott Boykin, David Barker, and William Richards were elected from District 4.

Danny Dolan, Andrea Holt, and Mitchell Johnson were elected from District 5.

For At-Large members of the Executive Committee, Brian Allen nominated Zach Varnell, Elizabeth Gallimore nominated Victoria Salvia, Ted Metz nominated Mark Mosley, and Christine Austin nominated herself. All accepted and some gave speeches.

Zane Placie moved to suspend the rules to elect the At-Large members of the Executive Committee by slate, which was adopted. All four candidates were then elected.

The Convention recessed for lunch.

The Convention caucused and cast ballots to elect delegates to the National Convention. For the Teller's report, which was presented by Zane Placie after the consideration of resolutions, see in Appendix C.

Resolutions

Brian Allen moved adoption of *A Resolution to Call for Defend the Guard Legislation* (see Appendix D). The resolution was adopted.

Chase Oliver moved adoption of *A Resolution to Condemn "Swatting"* (see Appendix E). The resolution was adopted after debate and amendment.

Christine Austin moved adoption of *A Resolution for a Directive to the 2025 LPGa Convention Committee and the 2024-25 Executive Committee to do with Creating the 2025 LPGa Annual Convention* (see Appendix F). The resolution was adopted after debate and amendment.

Christine Austin moved adoption of *A Resolution to Direct the Executive Committee to Acknowledge and Act in Accordance with the Stated Purpose of the Libertarian Party of Georgia* (see Appendix G). The resolution was adopted after debate.

The Convention stood at ease until the presentation of the Teller's report for the election of delegates to the National Convention.

Platform Committee Report Revisited

Alex Moldenhawer moved to reconsider the postponement of the Platform Committee report, which was adopted after debate. During the reconsideration, Christine Austin moved to hear the report for 45 minutes, which was adopted.

Christine Austin, on behalf of the Platform Committee, moved to adopt Proposal 1 (see Appendix B). The motion was lost after debate, but amendments were considered. After amendment, Christine Austin, on behalf of the Platform Committee, moved to amend Plank 3.5 of the Platform to read:

3.5 Rights and Discrimination

Libertarians embrace the concept that all people are born with certain inherent rights. We reject the idea that a natural right can ever impose an obligation upon others to fulfill that "right." We uphold and defend the rights of every person, regardless of their race, ethnicity, or any other aspect of their identity. Government should neither deny nor preference any individual's human rights based upon sex, wealth, ethnicity, creed, age, national origin, personal habits, political preference, gender expression, sexual orientation, or any other aspect of their identity. Members of private organizations retain their rights to set whatever standards of association they deem appropriate, and individuals are free to respond with ostracism, boycotts, and other free market solutions.

The motion was adopted.

Christine Austin, on behalf of the Platform Committee, moved to adopt Proposal 2 (see Appendix B). The motion was adopted.

Christine Austin, on behalf of the Platform Committee, moved to adopt Proposal 3 (see Appendix B). The motion was adopted.

Christine Austin, on behalf of the Platform Committee, moved to adopt Proposal 4 (as recorded in Appendix B). The motion was lost after debate, but amendments were considered. After amendment, Christine Austin, on behalf of the Platform Committee, moved to amend Plank 1.3 of the Platform to read:

1.3 Privacy

Libertarians advocate individual privacy and government transparency. We are committed to ending government's practice of domestic spying. We support the rights recognized by the Fourth Amendment to be secure in our persons, homes, and property, including but not limited to devices, digital records, and communications, including data held by third parties.

The motion was adopted.

The Convention adjourned sine die at 3:30 PM.

Appendix A

Proposal 1

To amend Article IV, Section A, Subsection 1 to read:

1. The Executive Committee of the LPGa shall be composed of the following:
 - a. The elected officers of the LPGa;
 - b. Members-at-large elected by the delegates at an Annual Convention;
 - c. One committee member from each State District containing at least one LPGa member; and additional committee members from each State District for every fifteen percent of the LPGa's members as of January 1st living in that district.

To amend Article, IV, Section A, Subsection 3 to read:

The delegates to the Annual Convention will elect Members-at-large to serve on the Executive Committee who shall perform duties as assigned by the Executive Committee. There will be three at-large members. The at-large members of the Executive Committee shall begin their tenure at the close of the convention at which they are elected and serve until the close of the next Annual Convention.

Proposal 2

To amend Article III, Section A to read:

A. Requirements

Membership in the Libertarian Party of Georgia, Inc. (LPGa) shall not be denied to any individual who shall:

1. certify in writing that they oppose the initiation of force to achieve political or social goals and
2. submit such signed application form as may be required by the Executive Committee and
3. pay such dues as may be required by the Executive Committee and
4. reside in the state of Georgia. Lifetime members who purchased a lifetime membership before January 29, 2024, will maintain voting rights regardless of residency. Lifetime members who purchase a lifetime membership on or after January 29, 2024, will maintain voting rights whenever they reside in the state of Georgia.

Proposal 3

To amend Article IX to read:

ARTICLE IX - JUDICIAL COMMITTEE

A. Formation

The Judicial Committee shall be composed of five members. If a committee member expresses a conflict of interest or is otherwise unable to fulfill their responsibilities, the committee may elect a temporary replacement to fulfill the role of the recused member. No member of the Executive Committee may be a member of the Judicial Committee. The Judicial Committee shall be elected at the Annual Convention in even-numbered

years and take office immediately upon the close of the Annual Convention at which elected. In the event of a vacancy, the remaining Judicial Committee members shall appoint a replacement to serve until the end of the Judicial Committee term. The Judicial Committee shall appoint one of the elected members as chair of the Judicial Committee. A quorum shall consist of four members.

B. Jurisdiction

The subject matter jurisdiction of the Judicial Committee is limited to consideration of only those matters expressly identified as follows:

1. Suspension or revocation of county or affiliate charters under Article VI, Section D. Voiding of a charter under Article VI, Section C shall not be reviewable, unless the charter was voided in violation of the Bylaws.
2. Suspension of Officers and Executive Committee members under Article IV, Section J. Removal of Officers and Executive Committee members under Article IV, Section A, Subsection 2(c) shall not be reviewable, unless the removal was in violation of the Bylaws.
3. Voiding of Executive Committee decisions, when petitioned by at least two members of the Executive Committee or 20% of the current LPGa membership.
4. Suspension of memberships.
5. Challenges to platform planks.
6. Challenges to resolutions.
7. Censure of candidates.
8. Interpretation of LPGa Bylaws.

C. Rules

Within ninety days following the Annual Convention at which it was elected, the Judicial Committee shall establish Rules of Appellate Procedure to govern its consideration of matters within its jurisdiction. Rules shall include hearing procedures, time limits to appeal to the Judicial Committee, conflicts of interest, appointment of alternates, Chair selection, filling of vacancies, and decision thresholds. The Rules shall make the Judicial Committee's processes as transparent as possible. Existing Rules shall remain in effect until and unless the Judicial Committee submits new proposed rules to the Executive Committee for approval, which shall be deemed given unless denied by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Executive Committee within sixty days of submission. A copy of the current Rules shall be maintained by the Secretary and shall be available to any LPGa member.

D. Appeals

The Judicial Committee shall set a date for hearing an appeal that is between twenty and forty days after receipt of the appeal and shall notify all interested persons. These persons shall have the right to appear and present evidence and arguments. At the hearing, the burden of persuasion shall rest upon the appellant. The Judicial Committee shall issue a ruling within thirty days of the hearing. Failure of the Judicial Committee to rule within thirty days shall constitute a ruling in favor of the appellant.

Proposal 4

To amend Article VIII to read:

A. Amendments

These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the delegates present and voting at the Annual Convention.

B. Amendments to Article II

ARTICLE II- Principles and Objectives shall require a seven-eighths (7/8) majority vote of the delegates present and voting at the Annual Convention. This threshold also applies to amending Article VIII, Section B.

C. Provisional Amendments

Bylaws may be provisionally amended, but only for the purpose of complying with state or federal law by a three-fourths (3/4) majority vote of the entire Executive Committee at any other time and shall take effect upon adoption. However, provisional amendments shall automatically be placed on the agenda of the next Annual Convention and are nullified if they fail to receive a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the delegates present and voting. The Secretary may fix numbering, spelling, grammar, style, or other syntax errors. These changes shall not change any meaning or potential interpretation to the understanding of the Bylaws. These changes shall be submitted to the Executive Committee to certify, by a three-fourths (3/4) majority vote, that nothing substantive has changed in the edits. Any bylaw changes proposed by the Executive Committee, at a time other than at the Annual Convention, other than those for the purpose of meeting state or federal law, shall be approved at a special convention of the general membership. Each member in good standing shall be notified by email or first-class mail, U.S. postmarked not less than twenty-one (21) calendar days prior to said convention.

Appendix B

Proposal 1

To amend Plank 3.5 of the Platform to read:

3.5 Rights and Discrimination

Libertarians embrace the concept that all people are born with certain inherent rights. We reject the idea that a natural right can ever impose an obligation upon others to fulfill that "right." We uphold and defend the rights of every person, regardless of their race, ethnicity, or any other aspect of their identity. Government should neither deny nor promote any individual's human rights based upon sex, wealth, ethnicity, creed, age, national origin, personal habits, political preference, gender expression, or sexual orientation. Members of private organizations retain their rights to set whatever standards of association they deem appropriate, and individuals are free to respond with ostracism, boycotts, and other free market solutions.

Proposal 2

To add Plank 2.15 to the Platform, to read:

2.15 Welfare

We believe that all charity should be voluntary. Individuals have a natural right to the fruits of their labor and to determine how that will be used or shared with others. We oppose corporate and individual welfare in all forms. We oppose any attempt by government, either via taxation or via the issuance of new money, to redistribute justly acquired wealth to or from any individual or entity.

Proposal 3

To amend Plank 3.2 of the Platform to read:

3.2 Internal Security and Individual Rights

The Georgia Constitution, the US Constitution, or the Bill of Rights shall not be suspended under any circumstances. We oppose the government's use of secret classifications to keep from the public information that it should have, especially that which shows that the government has violated the law. We support whistleblower protection. We categorically oppose the use of torture and other cruel and unusual punishments.

Proposal 4

To amend Plank 1.3 of the Platform to read:

1.3 Privacy

Libertarians advocate individual privacy and government transparency. We are committed to ending government's practice of spying on citizens. We support the rights recognized by the Fourth Amendment to be secure in our persons, homes, and property, including but not limited to devices, digital records, and communications, including data held by third parties.

Appendix C

48 votes were cast (as additional delegates were seated after the Credentials Committee report). The following 30 candidates were elected as delegates (in addition to Chairman Gerred Bell).

Name	Votes
Brian Allen	40
Christine Austin	39
Mark Mosley	39
Zach Varnell	39
Warren Cunningham	37
Victoria Salvia	36
Martin Cowen	34
William Richards	33
Zane Placie	32
Chase Oliver	31
Jake Green	28
Tom Blooming	27
Doug Craig	27
Ryan Graham	27
Mitchell Johnson	27
Colin McKinney	27
Jack Aiken	26
Gretchen Brocard	25
Alex Moldenhawer	25
Erica White	25
Danny Dolan	24
Brad Lindborg	24
John Turpish	24
Laura Williams	24
Amber Howell	23
Brian Slowinski	23
Jeremiah "Buddy" Cantrell	22
Andrea Holt	21
Laura Owens	21
Nicole Tomlinson	21

The following candidates were assigned ranked alternate positions, according to the number of votes received.

Name	Votes
Joseph Langham	20
Andrew Brasuell	19
Blake Rogers	19
Walker Chandler	17
David Barker	15
Richard James	13
Ramon Miller	12
Nelson Barnhouse	9
Stephen Burr	5
Brad Goodchild	5
Ryan Ralston	3
Elizabeth Gallimore	3
Jonathan Weaver	2
Daniel McGee	2
Cindy Baggett	1

Appendix D

A Resolution to Call for Defend the Guard Legislation

Whereas under the Constitution of the United States, each state's National Guard is a defensive force controlled by the governor, but can be called up for federal duty by the federal government, provided that said duty is pursuant to the Constitution of the United States; and,

Whereas Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States vests in the United States Congress the exclusive power to declare war; and,

Whereas Article I, Section 8, Clause 15 of the Constitution of the United States delegates to the Congress the power to provide for "calling forth the militia" in three situations only: to "execute the Laws of the Union," to suppress insurrections, and to repel invasions; and,

Whereas the Tenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States states that the powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people; and,

Whereas Article III, Section VI, Paragraph II of the Constitution of the State of Georgia states that the General Assembly shall have the power to provide by law for a militia and the General Assembly has exercised said power as described in Title 38, Chapter 2 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated; and,

Whereas Article V, Section II, Paragraph III of the Constitution of the State of Georgia states that the Governor shall be the commander in chief of the military forces of this state; and,

Whereas the Father of the Constitution, James Madison, wrote, "The Constitution supposes, what the History of all Governments demonstrates, that the Executive is the branch of power most interested in war, and most prone to it. It has accordingly with studied care vested the question of war to the Legislature."; and,

Whereas although the U.S. Congress has not declared war since 1942, the nation has since gone to war repeatedly at the whim of the Executive Branch; and,

Whereas when such unconstitutional actions are taken by the federal government, it is the proper role of the states themselves to take action to remedy such situations, as outlined in the Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions of 1798; and,

Whereas on May 29, 2022 the Libertarian National Committee adopted a resolution which calls upon the state legislatures to enact legislation to prohibit the states' National Guard and any member thereof to be released from the state into active duty combat unless the U.S. Congress has declared war pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 15 of the U.S. Constitution, and only for the express and explicit purposes enumerated in the Constitution: to "execute the Laws of the Union," repel an invasion, or suppress an insurrection; and,

Whereas the resolution further calls upon the legislatures and governors of the states not to comply with any order from the federal government to release the state's National Guard into federal service unless the U.S. Congress has declared war pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 15 of the U.S. Constitution, and only for the express and explicit purposes enumerated in the Constitution: to "execute the Laws of the Union," repel an invasion, or suppress an insurrection; and,

Whereas the resolution further calls upon the states to bring home said National Guard troops already so deployed to foreign conflicts immediately;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Libertarian Party of Georgia:

1. calls upon the Georgia General Assembly to enact legislation to prohibit the Georgia National Guard and any member thereof to be released from the state into active duty combat unless the U.S. Congress has declared war pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 15 of the U.S. Constitution, and only for the express and explicit purposes enumerated in the Constitution: to "execute the Laws of the Union," repel an invasion, or suppress an insurrection; and,
2. calls upon the Georgia General Assembly and the Governor not to comply with any order from the federal government to release the Georgia National Guard into federal service unless the U.S. Congress has declared war pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 15 of the U.S. Constitution, and only for the express and explicit purposes enumerated in the Constitution: to "execute the Laws of the Union," repel an invasion, or suppress an insurrection; and,
3. calls upon Georgia to bring home said National Guard troops already so deployed to foreign conflicts immediately.

Appendix E

A Resolution to Condemn "Swatting"

Whereas the Libertarian Party of GA opposes the use of force to initiate political change;
and,

Whereas the Libertarian Party of GA believes that illegitimate use of police and agents
of the state must be opposed; and,

Whereas the Libertarian Party of GA members agree to the Non-Aggression Principle;

Therefore, be it resolved that we, the LPGa categorically condemn the use of "swatting."

Appendix F

A Resolution for a Directive to the 2025 LPGa Convention Committee and the 2024-25 Executive Committee to do with Creating the 2025 LPGa Annual Convention

Whereas the existential reason for LPGa Annual Convention is to conduct annual business for the LPGa; and

Whereas the creation and design of the LPGa Annual Convention is for the benefit and convenience of the membership of the LPGa to conduct its annual Business;

Therefore, be it resolved:

1. that the 2024 Convention body does hereby direct the 2025 Convention committee to schedule the 2025 LPGa Annual convention during a non-Federal holiday weekend with Business scheduled on Saturday during regular business hours; and
2. that all other intentions for the Convention weekend, fundraising, outreach, or otherwise, must be scheduled so as not to interfere with the Business of the Party; and
3. that only the most exigent of circumstances are acceptable reasons for variance from this directive.

Appendix G

A Resolution to Direct the Executive Committee to Acknowledge and Act in Accordance with the Stated Purpose of the Libertarian Party of Georgia

Whereas the stated purpose of the Libertarian Party of Georgia, according to the Articles of Incorporation (dated August 24, 1972, and restated on January 10, 1994), is to extend individual human freedom by nominating and endorsing political candidates for both national and state offices; promoting, chartering, and coordinating Affiliate Clubs throughout the state of Georgia; and entering into political information activities; and,

Whereas the Executive Committee, as the governing board of the Libertarian Party of Georgia, has an obligation to fulfill the stated purpose to the best of its ability and a fiduciary responsibility on behalf of the membership of the Libertarian Party of Georgia according to the statutory requirements for board members of a non-profit organization; and,

Whereas in order to fulfill its obligations according to the stated purpose of the Party, it is incumbent upon the Executive Committee to act as custodial trustees of the assets and resources of the Party, to actively recruit and support candidates, and to promote and support affiliates; and

Whereas objectives are rarely accomplished without appropriate plans and goals;

Therefore, be it resolved,

1. that the 2024 Convention body does hereby direct the Executive Committee of the Libertarian Party of Georgia to acknowledge their obligations according to the stated purpose of the Party and to execute those responsibilities to the best of their ability, explicitly recognizing their fiduciary responsibility on behalf of the membership of the Libertarian Party of Georgia according to the statutory requirements for board members of a non-profit organization;
2. that the 2024 Convention body does hereby direct the Executive Committee of the Libertarian Party of Georgia to safeguard physical and intangible assets (including such intangible assets as ballot access, membership databases, and membership goodwill), increase the number of affiliates and support the growth of existing affiliates, continually work to expand the membership and reach of the Party, communicate regularly with the membership, hold annual conventions at a time and place that maximizes membership participation, act in accordance with membership wishes to maintain their goodwill, keep accurate records, keep legal filings up to date, and recruit and support candidates to ensure the Party meets the minimum requirements to maintain state-wide ballot access; and
3. that the 2024 Convention body does hereby direct the Executive Committee of the Libertarian Party of Georgia to establish clear goals and plans for fulfilling each of the above stated objectives and report on the success of each goal at the 2025 State Convention.