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Office of the
Secretary of State
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Elections Division

Constitution and Bylaws

Whig Party of Nevada

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I. Preamble

We, the citizens of Nevada and of the United States of America, in order to better serve our communities, state, and nation, put forth and create the Whig Party of Nevada. We will strive to serve Nevada and our nation with honesty, steadfastness, common sense, and open minds and hearts.

II. *Name, Purpose, Principals, and Membership*

1. The Name of this organization shall be the "Whig Party of Nevada," hereinafter referred to as the "Whigs of Nevada," the "Nevada Whigs," or as the "Party."

2. The Name of the Party as placed on the ballot shall be "Whig."

3. The duration of this organization shall be perpetual.

4. The Party bylaws and constitution shall govern the organization, operation, and functions of the Party.

5. The purpose of the Party shall be to engage in public life through the political process by nominating and supporting candidates for public office in Nevada at the federal, state, county, and local levels.

6. The Party affiliates itself with the national Modern Whig Party, and through the national Modern Whig Party, the Modern Whig Parties of sister states.

7. The members of the Whig Party of Nevada, form this party in support of, and to advance, the following principles;

A. that liberty and individual responsibility is the foundation of civilized and productive society;
B. that government is only the instrument of the citizens it serves;
C. that any action of the government must respect the principle of public accountability;
D. that constitutional liberty is based upon the principle of separation of powers;
E. that government control of the economy and private monopolies both threaten political liberty;
F. that our rights as citizens of Nevada and of the United States of America come with duty and responsibility;
G. that civil society is constituted of free citizens living within a framework of established law, with individual rights guaranteed, with the powers of government limited and subject to public accountability;
H. that an economy based on free market rules, with adequate oversight, leads to the most efficient distribution of wealth and resources, encourages innovation, and promotes flexibility;
I. that everyone should have equal access to full and varied education;
J. that the rights afforded to citizens by the U.S. Constitution are not to be infringed upon;
K. that service members and veterans shall be respected for their service; accordingly, government has a responsibility to provide reasonable care for those who are wounded in battle, for their widow or widower, and for their orphans;
L. that government works better when it is at a closer level to the citizens it serves;
M. that no government or private entity shall favor one person over another based on race, sex, creed, religion, national origin, age, sexual orientation, or handicap; and
N. that all areas of government should be transparent and that elected officials are held to a higher standard of accountability.

8. Membership is open to anyone who:

A. is a qualified Nevada voter;
B. supports the Party; and
C. is not a member of another political party.

III. State Executive Committee

1. The State Executive Committee shall hereinafter be referred as the "Executive Committee."

2. Until the first State Party convention, members of the Executive committee will be appointed by the Party Chairperson. Also until the first convention, the members of the Executive Committee will serve at the Chairperson's discretion. Any provisions below that conflict with this provision will not take effect until after the first State Party convention.

3. The Executive Committee shall be elected at the State Party Convention and shall be the administrative body of the party. The Executive Committee shall have the responsibility to manage and conduct the business of the Party between conventions. Until the first convention is held, all members of the Executive Committee shall be appointed by the party chairperson.

A. Executive Committee members must be members of the Party or members of the national Executive Committee.
B. The Executive Committee must meet twice a year. Special meetings may be called by the Chairperson or by one-third of the members of the Executive Committee. All members must be given 14 days notice of any meeting.
C. If the Executive Committee cannot meet in person, it may meet by teleconference or by Internet.
D. A majority of the members of the current Executive Committee, excluding vacancies, shall constitute a quorum.
E. A simple majority vote of the members present is required for the adoption of any proposal.
F. Proxy voting is prohibited.

4. The Executive Committee shall:

A. coordinate statewide actions;
B. carry out all responsibilities required by Nevada Election Code;
C. issue statements regarding the positions of the Party;
D. respond to inquiries from the media and the public;
E. prepare for state conventions;
F. create standing and *ad hoc* committees;
G. maintain the records of the Party;
H. assume the duties of district, county, and local Party organizations if such are not in existence;
I. prepare and enact an annual budget for the State Party;
J. conduct such further activities in the promotion of the Party, its positions, and its principles;
K. shall function as the organization and rules committee for the State Convention;
L. appoint, elect or employ any such officers and assistants as may be deemed necessary to assist the Executive Committee in its functions and in making arrangements for the State Convention;

M. decide whether to hold a primary election or make appropriate arrangements and notifications thereof in accordance with Nevada state law;
N. maintain and publish to the best of its ability the voting record of any elected official nominated or endorsed by the Party; and
O. act as the day-to-day leadership of the Party between conventions.

5. The Executive Committee shall consist of four officers: a Chairperson; a Vice Chairperson; a Treasurer; and a Secretary, and five directors or at-large members.

A. The members of the Executive Committee shall be elected separately for four-year terms at conventions held in state gubernatorial years starting in 2014. There shall be an initial ballot among those nominated and if no candidate receives a majority on the first ballot, there shall be a run-off from among the two candidates with the most votes.
B. The term of office of all members of the Executive Committee shall be from the final adjournment of the Convention at which they are elected until the adjournment of the next Convention at which members are elected.
C. Any party member attending the Convention may be nominated to serve, so long as they have presented in writing their desire to serve and have submitted a position statement to the Accountability Committee.
D. When a vacancy on the Executive Committee exists, the Chairperson shall nominate a party member to fill the vacancy.

    1. If this nomination is declined by the majority of the Executive Committee, or if the vacancy is the post of Chairperson, the Executive Committee shall immediately vote to fill the post.
    2. There shall be an initial ballot among those nominated, and if no candidate receives a majority, there shall be a run-off among the two candidates with the most votes.
    3. When filling a vacancy, the term shall begin immediately upon confirmation or election by the Executive Committee, and shall continue until the vacant term would have expired.
    4. If there is not a qualified member of the party to fill the vacancy, the post maybe left open until a qualified member can be found or until the next convention.

E. No person shall hold more than one position on the Executive Committee at the same time, unless a vote of the Executive Committee deems it necessary.
F. At least one member of the Executive Committee must be a military veteran, Reservist/Guardsman, or active duty member of the armed forces, or the spouse of a military veteran, Reservist/Guardsman, or active duty member of the armed forces.

6. The duties of the officers are established as follows:

A. The Chairperson shall be the principal and presiding officer of the Executive Committee and the chief executive officer of the party.
B. The Vice Chairperson will perform the duties of the Chairperson in his absence, and shall assist the Chairperson. The Vice Chairperson will assist in fund-raising, organizing volunteers and increasing membership.
C. The Treasurer shall be the chief financial officer of the Party; shall maintain the Party bank accounts and other financial assets; shall report to the Executive Committee the financial condition of the Party; shall prepare regular financial statements to the Executive Committee; shall ensure that Party funds are disbursed only according to these bylaws, and state and federal law; and shall perform all other duties required by this office by state or federal law; or by resolution of the Executive Committee.
D. The Secretary shall keep such minutes and records as are necessary; shall give all notices required by these bylaws; shall maintain and certify the official copies of these bylaws and the party platform; shall maintain a roster of the contact information of the members of the Executive Committee, other party leaders, and party candidates; shall cause the minutes and transcripts of the Executive Committee to be furnished to the members of the Executive Committee; and shall perform such other duties as the Chairperson directs.
E. Other directors and at-large members shall actively further the growth of the party, shall make efforts to establish and promote local party organizations, and shall perform specific duties to their position as directed by the Chairperson or the Executive Committee.

7. The upcoming agenda, the minutes and the decisions made by the Executive Committee shall be made freely available to all party members in an open and transparent manner as is practical. The agenda, minutes and decisions of the Executive Committee shall be posted on the Party website, shall be emailed to County Chairpersons, and shall be emailed or mailed to members as requested.

8. Any member of the Executive Committee who is absent from two successive meetings of the Executive Committee, becomes unreachable or unresponsive after attempts at contact, or does not take on any responsibility of the Executive Committee, can be replaced by the Executive Committee with a call to the state membership for candidates.

9. A member of the Executive Committee may be replaced for cause. Such removal shall require a three-fourths vote of the Executive Committee, an opportunity for the member to be removed to respond to the allegations, and shall also require concurrent passage of a resolution adopted by a three-fourths vote specifying the reasons for the removal. The member to be removed may not vote in this process.

IV. State Convention

1. The dates of the State Convention shall be decided by the Executive Committee.

2. The Executive Committee can decide to hold the State Convention as an online forum or a live event at the discretion of the Committee, depending on the needs and resources of the Party.

3. The State convention shall be composed of all delegates who were duly elected by the County Conventions.

4. Publicly elected officials who are members of the Party are automatically delegates to the convention.

5. County Chairpersons are automatically delegates to the convention.

6. At the same meeting of the Executive Committee at which the time and place of the next State Convention are determined, the Executive Committee shall determine the ratio which will be used by the County Conventions to determine the number of delegates they shall elect to the State Convention. Such ratio, if established, shall be in the form of one delegate per a certain number of qualified voters within each county who affiliate with the Party before the election of delegates to the State Convention by the County Conventions.

7. At the State Convention, the Order of Business shall be as follows:

A. Call to order and opening statement by the State Chairperson.
B. Nomination and approval of candidates for public office.
C. Nomination of State Executive Committee.
D. Election of State Executive Committee.
E. Presiding Officer announces district caucuses.
F. Recess while district caucuses meet.
G. Convention called back to order, receives and approves report of district caucuses.
H. Report on Party platform, and approval of Party Platform.
I. If necessary, nomination and election of delegates to national convention.
J. If necessary, nomination and election of presidential electors.
K. Other pending business.
L. Acceptance speeches.
M. Adjournment

8. The officers of the Executive Committee will be the officers of the Convention.

9. The Executive Committee shall be empowered to designate rules relating to District Caucuses should the need arise. The proposed rules will be presented to the next State Convention for adoption.

10. The Executive Committee shall be empowered to designate rules relating to the selection of presidential electors should the need arise. The proposed rules will be presented to the next State Convention for adoption.

11. The total number of delegates to the National Convention shall be that number assigned by the National Executive Committee in the call to the National Convention. The Executive Committee shall be empowered to designate rules relating to the national convention should the need arise. The proposed rules will be presented to the next State Convention for adoption.

12. All delegates who have been approved at the County Conventions shall be eligible to vote on all matters presented to the Convention, unless such matter is before a District or County caucus.

A. To vote, the delegate must be present in person
B. Each delegate shall have one vote.

13. A quorum shall consist of a majority of delegates at the Convention registered as attending

14. Voting at a live convention shall be by voice unless any participant calls for a division, in which case voting shall be by a show of hands or by standing division of the Convention.

A. At the request of one-fifth of the delegates, a roll call vote shall be held.
B. When voting for a contested race for officers of the Party, or on issues of nomination for public office, the voting shall be held by secret ballot.
C. All votes shall be counted by the presiding officer and the Secretary.
D. Proxy voting or voting by proxy is prohibited.
E. Binding instructions on delegates is not permitted, unless required by National Party rules, state law, or federal law.

V. Nomination of Candidates for Political Office

1. In order to comply with the requirements of state law, these procedures are adopted by the Whig Party of Nevada for the nomination of candidates for partisan political office. They shall apply only to nominations for political office.

2. Candidates for President and Vice President shall hereafter be nominated by a national convention.

3. Candidates for U.S. Senator, U.S. Representative in Congress and all statewide offices shall be nominated by the State Convention of the Whig Party of Nevada for any office in which one or more candidates have declared their intention to run. Declared candidates must be members of and have voter registration affiliation with the Whig Party of Nevada to receive the Party's nomination.

4. Candidates for offices other than national or statewide offices shall be nominated by the Whig Party of Nevada affiliate(s) in the district the office represents. The State Executive Committee may nominate candidates for offices where no affiliate has been established.

5. The name "None of the above" (NOTA) shall appear on all nomination ballots. If NOTA should be the winner of a nomination, then nominations for the office in question shall be re-opened, and a second ballot shall be taken. If NOTA wins a second time, no candidate shall be selected for the office. The Executive Committee cannot nominate a candidate for an office when the responsible affiliate(s) has declared NOTA to be the winner of a nomination ballot.

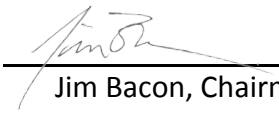
6. A list of the nominated candidates shall be delivered to the Nevada Secretary of State by the person designated in the "certificate of existence" of the Whig Party of Nevada or by the person designated by the state chairman on or before the day required by state law.

Under no circumstances shall more than one person be nominated for any particular office.

VI. Amendments

1. Amendments to this constitution and bylaws will be undertaken by methods already prescribed to in this document or by a method to be chosen at a later date by the Executive Committee or delegates to a State Convention.

This constitution and bylaws are hereby adopted by the Founder and Chairman of Whig Party of Nevada on the date indicated below.



Jim Bacon, Chairman, Whig Party of Nevada

November 19, 2012

Date