

Bylaws of the Kentucky Party

November 5, 2024

Article I. Goals

- A. The final and full authority and control of the KYP shall reside in the registered members of the KYP.
- B. The KYP will amass political power and implement the KYP's platform through the political process.
- C. The KYP will gain and maintain ballot access for local, state, and national candidates within the Commonwealth of Kentucky.
- D. The duration of the KYP shall be perpetual.

Article II. Foundational Principles

- A. The KYP supports and upholds the rule of law.
 - 1. The KYP recognizes the primacy of the Kentucky Constitution and the laws of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.
 - 2. The KYP shall remain within full compliance of all applicable laws and statutes: international, national, state, and local. Any action outside the law shall be null and void. Any extralegal decisions or activities shall be corrected immediately, regardless of effort or expense.
- B. The KYP is nonviolent and is committed to nonviolence.
 - 1. The KYP opposes the pursuit of political goals by military, assaultive or coercive means.
 - 2. Ending Kentucky's participation in America's military empire is a core purpose of the KYP.
 - 3. The KYP generally opposes military funding and arms exports on principle.
 - 4. The KYP supports diplomacy and diplomatic solutions throughout the world.
- C. The KYP shall recruit and run candidates at all levels through the Commonwealth of Kentucky.
- D. The KYP supports equality of opportunity for everyone in the Commonwealth.
 - 1. The KYP defends the principle that all people are equal before the law.
 - 2. KYP membership is open without discrimination to all eligible voters.
 - 3. The KYP shall allow internal party participation and leadership by Kentuckians who are not eligible to vote, including youth (particularly those in state custody), those adjudged mentally incompetent, and convicted felon and non-citizen Kentuckians.

4. The KYP shall support leadership development and provide ways to remedy inequality of opportunity within the party.
5. The KYP shall provide information and education about how to run for office equally to any KYP member.

E. The KYP will actively increase public participation at every level of government and work to ensure that public representatives are fully accountable to the people of the Commonwealth.

1. Neither the KYP nor any local chapter may contribute any money or in-kind resources to, endorse, or favor any KYP candidate in any primary election in which two or more KYP members are running for the same position, unless such contributions are given equally to all of the KYP members running. See KRS 118.105(1). Inviting all of the candidates to one or more debates, holding debates, and enabling KYP members to use the KYP's domain name to host their campaign websites does not constitute a contribution or prohibited favoritism.

F. The KYP shall maintain open records to the greatest extent possible.

1. As technology changes, the KYP shall use it to grow more open, never less.
2. The names, addresses, email addresses and phone numbers of all KYP state and local EC members shall be publicized on the KYP's website and elsewhere.
3. All information and creative work produced by and for the KYP is released into the public domain to the fullest extent possible. All official communications from the KYP shall be fully released into the public domain immediately. No art or creative product may be used by the KYP if it has not been released into the public domain. Any creator may claim attribution for their portion of any work, and the KYP shall provide attribution to the greatest degree practical. Under no circumstances will the KYP, any KYP executive committee, or any individual operating in their stead act to prevent the publication or creative re-use of any product of the KYP, or to take action against any individual or organization after having republished their work. The only exception to this shall be information directly pursuant to legislation or legal actions that must be kept confidential by law, and this information shall be kept confidential no longer than legally necessary.
4. The KYP shall not keep private donor lists.

G. No political party, organization, or group other than the KYP may identify itself as any form of the name "Kentucky Party" within the Commonwealth of Kentucky, nor shall any person claim a leadership title who does not hold such a title pursuant to the bylaws.

1. The official organ of communication of the KYP shall be the KYP website.

Article III. Membership

- A. Any person who has registered to vote in Kentucky and has selected the Kentucky Party on their registration form is a member of the KYP.
- B. People who are not eligible to vote may be non-member friends of the KYP. They may be on mailing lists and chats, serve on committees and advisory groups, observe meetings as registered guests of members, and attend Annual Conventions as registered guests of members.

1. Guardian consent for participation shall be provided for friends of the KYP not in their own legal custody.
2. As friends of the KYP are likely to be more vulnerable or isolated than members, the KYP may devise policies and provide accommodations to enable their participation.

C. All members and friends of the KYP should inform the KYP Secretary of any changes of their mailing address, email address, phone number, and party affiliation.

D. No member of the KYP may be expelled from the party against their will.

E. All meetings shall be open to observation by all KYP members.

Article IV. Annual Convention

- A. The highest decision-making body of the KYP shall be the Annual Convention when it is in session.
- B. The Annual Convention shall be held on a Saturday less than twenty days after the third Monday in May. The location shall be chosen by the EC. The Convention shall be held within the bounds of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.
 1. The Annual Convention in a Presidential election year shall be held within the central region of the Commonwealth for ease of attendance.
- C. All statewide conventions shall be open to all members of the KYP and registered guests and registered reporters.
 1. Only KYP members may vote in KYP statewide conventions.
 2. In-person attendance is encouraged, but the EC shall provide for virtual attendance.

Article V. The KYP Executive Committee (hereinafter referred to as the EC)

- A. When no statewide convention is in session, the affairs of the KYP shall be administered by an EC that shall have seven members. The EC is a permanent political body.
- B. The statewide EC shall be elected at the Annual Convention. The terms of EC members shall end when the EC election occurs at the next Annual Convention.
 1. There is no limit to how many terms an individual may serve on the EC.
- C. Any registered member of the KYP may serve on the EC.
- D. Vacancies on the EC that arise between Annual Conventions shall be filled by the remaining members of the EC. The EC shall develop a process to notify the members of vacancies and allow any KYP member to self-nominate for the vacant seat.
- E. The EC shall set the agenda of all statewide conventions and shall publicize the agenda in advance.
 1. The Secretary shall contact all KYP members who are candidates and invite them to the convention.
- F. The EC shall choose a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer from among its members.
 1. The Chairperson shall serve as the chief executive officer of the KYP with all necessary and implied powers to carry out their duties.

- 2. The Vice-Chairperson shall have all the duties and authorities of the State Chairperson during the absence or disability of the State Chairperson.
- 3. The Secretary shall keep and be responsible for the membership records of the KYP and the minutes and other records of the EC.
- 4. The Treasurer is the lead officer responsible for the financial compliance of the KYP and shall ensure proper adherence to all reporting rules and regulations. The Treasurer shall oversee all KYP receipts and disbursements and shall keep careful records according to normal and accepted accounting procedures for all transactions. The Treasurer shall be bonded in an appropriate amount.

G. The EC shall meet at least once every calendar month. The EC may establish a procedure for declaring an EC member's seat vacant if they miss too many meetings without a reasonable excuse.

H. A quorum of the EC shall be 4 of its 7 members (in person or virtually).

I. The EC may establish and interact with (a) committees and may interact with (b) advisory groups as necessary and appropriate in order to help the EC get its work done, to get input and advice from as many Kentuckians as possible, and to give many people an opportunity to develop leadership and political skills.

- 1. Committees shall be given assignments by the EC, may have a budget set by the EC, may have a sunset date, and shall report on their accomplishments to the EC. Committees shall be chaired by a KYP member selected by the EC.
- 2. Advisory groups may be formed by anyone in Kentucky and shall not be considered to be part of the KYP. The EC may ask an advisory group to work on something, but it is not obligated to do so. Advisory groups should send a report on their activities to the EC at least once every three months but are not required to do so.

(Example: An advisory group composed entirely of Republicans may form, send a 12-page email to the EC every three months urging the KYP to amend its bylaws and to place itself under the control of the Republican Party of Kentucky, and the EC may reply to them every three months and say that it received their advice but "that will not be happening any time soon.")

J. A member of the EC may be censured and asked to resign from the EC by a vote of at least 5 of the 7 EC members.

K. Amendments to the bylaws or platform of the statewide KYP may be made by the EC at any time by a vote of at least 5 of the 7 EC members.

Article VI. Process

A. The KYP shall decide issues and choose candidates by voting.

- 1. The KYP shall use ranked choice voting whenever possible and shall promote it statewide for all parties in all primary, special, and general elections. When a question is called to a vote or during the election or nomination of KYP candidates, if there are more than two options, then preferential voting, also known as instant-runoff voting, shall be used to determine the winning choice.
- 2. Proxy voting is prohibited at all levels of the KYP.
- 3. The "unit rule," or any rule or practice whereby all members of a KYP unit or delegation are required to cast their votes in accordance with the will of a majority of the

body, shall not be imposed upon any meeting, committee, assembly, convention, or caucus of members of the KYP.

- B. The statewide EC and all local executive committees shall maintain some kind of on-line meeting capacity for their members. Once instituted, this capacity shall be made available to all KYP members and this access may not be revoked for anything but the most severe reasons (such as someone misusing the online meeting capacity to commit crimes).
- C. The KYP and/or local chapters shall sponsor pre-primary debates—virtual, in-person, or hybrid—in all primary races in which one or more KYP members are on the ballot. The KYP may sponsor presidential primary debates for all of the candidates for President or their designated representatives, regardless of party, even if no KYP member is on the ballot for the presidential primary in Kentucky.
 - 1. In primary races where one or more KYP members and one or more other candidates are on the ballot for the same office, the KYP shall invite all of the candidates on the ballot to all of the pre-primary debates. All sponsored debates shall be recorded and posted on the KYP website. Debates will be promoted and broadcast to the best of the KYP's ability.
- D. Unless otherwise specified, Robert's Rules of Order shall be used for all internal deliberations of the KY

Article VII. Local Chapters

- A. The smallest subdivision of the KYP shall be one county.
- B. If at least 100 members of the KYP in a given area in Kentucky want to form a local chapter, they may petition the statewide EC to do so. The statewide EC may establish a procedure for setting the boundaries of two or more local chapters that are near each other. The EC may adjust the boundaries if changing circumstances make that necessary.

(Example: Suppose that the first three local chapters that form are Eastern, Central and Western Kentucky chapters and that those three chapters cover all of Kentucky. Suppose the KYP members in Boone, Kenton, Campbell and Pendleton Counties want to form a Northern Kentucky local chapter. They could propose adjustments in the existing boundary lines, and the EC would decide whether to approve, reject or alter the proposed new boundaries.)

- C. Each local chapter may have its own bylaws and its own platform or it may adopt the bylaws and/or platform of the statewide KYP. Before a local chapter may be established, the statewide EC shall ensure that the proposed local chapter's bylaws and platform are consistent with the bylaws and platform of the KYP.
- D. A local chapter shall have a chapter EC of seven members, a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. The EC of any local chapter may develop and propose amendments of the chapter's bylaws at any time and send them to the statewide EC for approval, revision or rejection.
- E. If a local chapter repeatedly acts in violation of these bylaws, its own bylaws, Kentucky law, or the Kentucky Constitution, the statewide EC, after giving the issue one or more open hearings, may overrule the improper decisions of the local EC, remove one or more members of the local EC from their positions, or if necessary, abolish the local chapter and change its former boundaries accordingly.

F. A decision by the statewide EC may be appealed by a local chapter if the chapter determines that decision is unlawful or severely violates the foundational principles of the KYP as expressed in these bylaws. The EC shall provide for an open hearing of the local party's grievance. Local chapters should not file an appeal unless other methods of resolving the grievance have been used first without success. In all appeals, the decision of the statewide EC shall be final.

Article VIII. Platform

A. The KYP shall produce a platform every year. The platform shall be named for the year in which it is produced (for example, the KYP Platform of 2025). Each year's platform shall contain the provisions of the platforms of the three years previous, including such amendments and modifications as may have been properly instituted.

B. The KYP shall establish a Vision Committee, hereafter referred to as the VC, to produce the platform. The VC shall be named after the year in which it is constituted (for example, the VC of 2028). The EC shall appoint the Chairperson and Secretary of the VC for each year. The VC shall meet until the platform is produced, then disband.

1. The VC shall meet during the Annual Convention but its deliberations may continue past the end of the convention. In-person meetings are preferred but online and hybrid meetings are allowable.

C. An item shall be proposed for the platform through individual nomination and a petition signed by at least five KYP members. No individual may nominate more than one platform item per year. The signed petition must be provided to the EC no later than the last EC monthly meeting before the Annual Convention, and the proposed platform item must be phrased in the form of a ballot question, such as "Shall the KYP Platform of [current year] contain the following provision:". The Secretary of the EC shall confirm the receipt of the ballot question in its proper form, add it to the agenda, and keep the sponsor informed of this activity.

1. In the absence of any other platform, the platform of the KYP shall consist of Article II sections A through F of these bylaws.

D. Quorum for the VC shall be five if both the Chair and the Secretary are present, seven if only the Chair or the Secretary are present, and 12 if neither the Chair nor the Secretary are present. Non-members of the KYP may attend VC meetings but do not count towards quorum and may not vote. Individuals may be removed from a VC meeting, following a properly constituted motion and group vote, for openly disruptive activity.

1. The Secretary of the VC shall compile and maintain a contact list of all those wishing to participate in the VC. The Chair shall publicize VC meetings and appropriately notify all interested parties.

E. The VC shall produce the platform by approving, amending, or rejecting each proposed platform item in the order determined by the agenda.

1. The VC should consider all proposed platform items in the context of Article II of these bylaws.
2. The Secretary of the VC shall maintain a public record of the deliberations of the VC and the current status of the platform.

F. The EC shall review all platform proposals submitted by the VC promptly. The EC may accept, reject, or amend all platform proposals submitted by the VC. If the EC

votes to amend a platform proposal, it shall send the EC-amended platform proposal back to the VC, which may agree to the EC's suggested amendment, reject it, or propose new wording. If the VC returns a platform proposal to the EC without amendment three times, then it shall be accepted into the platform with no alterations.