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# Constitution of the Labor Party of the United States: Adopted by the 1st National Convention: Chicago, IL — Nov. 22-25, 1919.

Published in *The New Majority* [Chicago], v. 2, no. 23 (Dec. 6, 1919), pg. 13.

## Section I. — [Name.]

The name of this party shall be the Labor Party of the United States.

## Section II. — Object.

The object of this party shall be to organize all hand and brain workers of the United States in support of the principles of political, social, and industrial democracy.

## Section III. — Membership.

All workers over 16 years of age, without regard to race, color, sex, or creed, who subscribe to the principles and purposes of the Labor Party, are eligible to membership.

(a) Trade unions, farmer organizations, co-operative societies, and other organizations subscribing to the principles of the Labor Party may affiliate with the state or county Labor Party by paying the required per capita tax.

## Section IV. — Management.

The affairs of the Labor Party shall be administered by the National Committee, its Sub-Committees and officials, the National Convention, and by the general vote of the party.

## Section V. — National Committee.

The National Committee shall consist of at least 2 members, 1 man and 1 woman, from each organized state and territory, each of whom shall be elected by a majority vote.

The National Committee shall elect from among its own membership or the membership of the party, 7 persons, no 2 of whom shall be from the same state, to be the National Executive Committee of the party. Such members of the Executive Committee shall be subject to recall by the membership of the National Committee and of the membership of the party.

## Section VI. — Duties of National Committee.

The duties of the National Committee shall be to supervise and direct the work of the National Secretary-Treasurer, to organize the states and territories, to receive and pass upon the reports of the National Secretary-Treasurer, and to transact all current business of the National Office.

The National Committee shall formulate rules and order of business of the National Conventions of the party not otherwise provided for by this constitution, subject to the adoption or annulment of the convention.

**Section VII. — Secretary-Treasurer.**

The National Committee shall elect a National Secretary-Treasurer, fix his compensation, and direct his work. He shall be required to furnish adequate bond, and may be removed at any time by the committee or by referendum vote of the membership.

**Section VIII. — Conventions.**

The regular National Convention of the party shall be held in all years in which elections of President and Vice President of the United States are to be held.

Special conventions of the party may be held at any time if decided upon by a general vote of the party membership, or by majority vote of the National Committee.

The date and place of the regular convention shall be decided upon by the National Committee.

**Section IX. — Basis of Representation.**

The basis of representation in any National Convention shall be by states. Each organized state and territory shall be entitled to 1 delegate-at-large, and 1 additional delegate for every 400 members or major fraction thereof.

Each local union or other society paying per capita tax to the labor Party shall be entitled to 1 delegate.

The election of delegates to the National Convention shall whenever possible be completed no later than 60 days preceding the convention, and the respective State Secretaries shall furnish the National Secretary-Treasurer a list of the accredited delegates immediately after said election.

Each organized state or territory shall in addition to the National Convention delegates heretofore provided for, be entitled to 1 or more women delegates to the National Convention on

the following basis: One for the first 500 women members or less, and 1 for each additional 500 or fraction thereof.

**Section X. — State Organizations.**

Organizations of the Labor Party in the states and territories shall be established in conformity with the Constitution of the Labor Party of the United States, with the aid and under the supervision of the National Committee. The State Secretaries shall make quarterly reports to the National Secretary-Treasurer concerning the membership, financial condition, and general standing of the party.

**Section XI. — [Charters.]**

A state charter shall be issued upon the application of 5 or more local branches, representing 5 or more cities or counties.

**Section XII. — Revenue.**

The revenue of the National Committee of the Labor Party shall be a per capita tax from all affiliated branches, and members at large.

State organizations shall pay to the National Committee 5 cents per month per member. Where no state organizations exist local branches shall pay to the National Committee 5 cents per month per member. Where neither state nor local organizations exist, members at large shall pay to the National Office 25 cents per month.

State organizations shall be empowered to fix their own per capita tax for local branches, and individual members.

The National Committee shall issue uniform membership cards and dues stamps, cards to be supplied to state organizations at 25 cents each, as an initiation fee; to local branches where no state organizations exist at 35 cents each; and to members at large at 50 cents each.

Internationals affiliating with the Labor Party shall pay 2 cents a year per member, and shall be entitled to 1 delegate to the National Convention and to a vote therein.

The National Committee shall issue, and party members may, at their option, purchase at the established per capita, dual stamps; one-half of said stamp shall be affixed to the membership card of male members and the remaining half to the membership card of the wife and shall constitute payment of the monthly per capita for both.

**Section XIII. — Initiative, Referendum, and Recall.**

Whenever 5 or more State Labor Party organizations request that any nationwide policy, amendment to constitution, or recall of officers be submitted by referendum to the affiliated membership of the entire nation, it shall be the duty of the National Committee to direct each state organization to hold an election for members, and return a certified statement of the result by a given date. On referendum each affiliated union within

the state shall have only 1 vote.

**Section XIV. — Obligation of Members.**

No member of the Labor Party shall permit his name to be placed in nomination by any political party other than the Labor Party, and no branch of the Labor Party shall endorse the nominee of any other party. Provided that nothing herein contained shall prevent a working alliance between any branch of the Labor Party and any organized farmers' group which shall endorse the principles and platform of the Labor Party, or other progressive organization or party which shall subscribe to and support the principles and platform of the Labor Party. The National Committee shall expel any member or organization offending against the foregoing provisions.

**Section XV. — Amendments.**

This Constitution may be amended by a majority vote at the National Convention, or by referendum vote as above provided.

*Edited by Tim Davenport.*

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