



T LIBERTARIAN

2024

PLATFORM COMMITTEE

REPORT



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NOTE:

This report is subject to amendment at any time prior to its presentation at the 2024 convention. The entire current platform can be found [HERE](#). This report merely shows the portions for which the committee is recommending changes.

Additions are in **blue bold underline** (when printed in color).
Strike-outs are in **~~red bold strikethrough~~** (when printed in color).
Where possible, strikeouts precede additions.
Changes or addition of new planks require a 2/3 vote. Plank deletions require a majority vote.

Platform Committee Report—2024 Libertarian National Convention

Committee Members

Michael Seebeck – Committee Chair (*LNC*)
 Marc Montoni – Committee Secretary
 (*LNC*)
 John Thompson – Committee Secretary (*FL*)
 Dave Benner (*LNC*)
 Russell Brooksbank (*LNC*)
 Carrie Eiler (*LNC*)
 Joshua McHoes (*AK*)
 Gary Alvstad (*CA*)
 Rees LaBree (*CO*)
 Jeffrey Shull (*GA*)
 Bill Bergman (*IL*)
 Scotty Boman (*MI*)
 Charles Melchin (*NV*)
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Alternates

Albert Veldhuyzen (*LNC 1st and VA 1st*)
 Caryn Ann Harlos (*LNC 2nd*)
 Carolyn Clift (*AK*)
 Shawn Osborne (*CA*)
 Jordan Marinovich (*CO 1st*)
 Mattias Goodley (*CO 2nd*)
 Eliseo Gonzalez (*CO 3rd*)
 Justin Edwards (*GA*)
 Ken Mattes (*IL*)
 Andrew Chadderdon (*MI*)
 Michael Rebmann (*NY*)
 Nathan Romig (*PA*)
 Dean Rodgers (*VA 2nd*)

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Chair's Note

I am honored and thankful to serve as the Platform Committee Chair for 2024, having been on this Committee in 2018 and 2022. I thank the Committee Members and Alternates for their diligence and their measured and thoughtful debate on all of these proposals, including the ones that did not make it into this report.

Michael Seebeck, Chair

Interpretative Note

Each proposal stands on its own, and there may be several proposals on the same plank. The language reflected in the report is the language as it currently exists in the Platform and does not account for other proposed changes that might take place prior to the introduction of any particular proposal.

Supplements to Committee Report

Any changes to this report, including additional proposals and Minority Reports, if any, will be provided to the Convention in the form of a supplement.

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Proposal #1: Update Preamble**Preamble (AMEND)**

Problem: The Preamble still references “pages,” which is out-of-date for the modern electronic world.

Solution: Amend the Preamble to update the wording to reference the document, not its pages.

Benefits: Updates the wording by removing old terminology.

Amend something previously adopted as follows:

PREAMBLE

As Libertarians, we seek a world of liberty: a world in which all individuals are sovereign over their own lives and are not forced to sacrifice their values for the benefit of others. We believe that respect for individual rights is the essential precondition for a free and prosperous world, that force and fraud must be banished from human relationships, and that only through freedom can peace and prosperity be realized. Consequently, we defend each person’s right to engage in any activity that is peaceful and honest, and welcome the diversity that freedom brings. The world we seek to build is one where individuals are free to follow their own dreams in their own ways, without interference from government or any authoritarian power. ~~In the following pages~~ **In this Platform,** we set forth our basic principles and enumerate various policy stands derived from those principles. These specific policies are not our goal, however. Our goal is nothing more nor less than a world set free in our lifetime, and it is to this end that we take these stands.

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Proposal #2: Repudiate Government Debt

2.5 Government Debt (AMEND)

Problem: The platform's current prescription for dealing with government debt (saying it “burdens future generations without their consent” and calling for a Balanced Budget Amendment) is indistinguishable from a mainstream “fiscal conservative” pipe dream which went out the window decades ago, as well as focusing on the federal level, and implying that people currently living consented to the debt. As the problem of government debt continues to grow out of control, Libertarians should have a solution that is neither moderate nor laughably unachievable (nor exclusive to the federal level), as well as make clear that the people don't consent to government debt like they do private debt.

Solution: Replace the current “fiscal conservative” denouncement of burdening future generations and calling for a Balanced Budget Amendment with a Rothbardian denouncement of all government debt as illegitimate, all people as non-consenting, and call to default on it at all levels.

Benefits: This will radically differentiate Libertarians from “conservative Republicans” as it will make clear that it's not just future generations who are being burdened without their consent, and it will provide a solution to uncontrolled government spending which is radical yet can be adopted at any level at any time.

Amend something previously adopted as follows:

2.5 Government Debt

~~**Government should not incur debt, which burdens future generations without their consent. We support the passage of a “Balanced Budget Amendment” to the U.S. Constitution, provided that the budget is balanced exclusively by cutting expenditures, and not by raising taxes.**~~

Government debt is wholly illegitimate, as it burdens the people without their consent. We support repudiating all government debts at all levels as a means of both relieving unjust financial burdens and limiting the growth of government.

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Proposal #3: Presumption of Health

2.13 Health Care (AMEND)

Problem: The plank is out of date post-COVID. People were assumed to be sick instead of healthy and treated terribly because of that bad assumption. The Party was inexcusably silent on this issue and should not be if it is truly respectful of the individual. This is especially relevant considering recent events in New York, where the Governor is attempting to implement Rule 2.13 to forcibly quarantine people in “sick camps” solely on the whim of the government.

Solution: Add language to presume health instead of sickness.

Benefits: Declares support for people by presuming health over sickness in the same way innocence is presumed over guilt.

Amend something previously adopted as follows:

2.13 Health Care

We favor a free market health care system. Medical facilities, medical providers, and medical products (including drugs) must be freely available in the marketplace without government restrictions or licenses. We recognize the freedom of individuals to determine the level of health insurance they want (if any), the level of health care they want, the care providers they want, the medicines and treatments they will use and all other aspects of their medical care, including end-of-life decisions. People should be free to purchase health insurance across state lines. We oppose governments either mandating, or restricting voluntary access to, medical treatments or procedures including vaccines. **Individuals have a presumption of health and should not be subjected to forced quarantine, isolation, or other restrictions of their rights and freedoms.**

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Proposal #4: Agorism

(Note: This is similar to Proposal 15 from the 2022 Platform Committee.)

2.X Agorism (ADD)

Problem: The Platform lacks a plank on Agorism. Agorism is a political philosophy that advocates creating a society in which all relations between people are voluntary exchanges while diminishing the state's economic control.

Solution: Add one.

Benefits: Strengthens the Platform in a bold and radical way to separate exercise of individual rights from permission to do so under the law (which makes it the exercise of a privilege, not the exercise of a right!), with the proper limitation of such exercise being that it does not violate the rights of others.

Amend something previously adopted as follows:

2.X Agorism

We affirm the right of individuals and businesses to peacefully subvert government regulation, taxation, and restrictions through black and gray market activity.

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Proposal #5: Taxes are Still Theft, by Any Name

2.4 Government Finance and Spending (AMEND)

Problem: The plank neglects to address new taxes and taxes that have other names applied to them. This is especially important given recent discussions by the statists to add wealth taxes and taxes on unrealized capital gains. It also does not address use of taxes as behavior and economic influencers.

Solution: Add language to address new taxes and taxes that have other names, and to address behavior taxes.

Benefits: Fills gaps in the plank and strengthens it. Calls out that taxes of any name or vintage are still theft, er, taxes. Opposes vice and sin taxes. Opposes new taxes.

Amend something previously adopted as follows:

2.4 Government Finance and Spending

Since all persons are entitled to keep the fruits of their labor, we oppose all government activity that consists of the forcible collection of money or goods from individuals in violation of their individual rights. **We contend that a tax by any other name is still a tax** and strive for the eventual repeal of all taxation. To further that end, we call for the repeal of the income tax, the abolishment of the Internal Revenue Service and all federal programs and services not required under the U.S. Constitution. We **oppose the use of taxation as a punitive measure against certain goods or services, such as “vice” taxes, and** oppose forcing employers to serve as tax collectors. We support any initiative to reduce or abolish any tax, and oppose any increase on any tax **or creation of any new tax** for any reason. To the extent possible, we advocate that all public services be funded or allowed to be provided in a voluntary manner.

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Proposal #6: Stand Your Ground and Shoot Back

1.9 Self-Defense (AMEND)

Problem: The self-defense plank does not mention support of castle doctrines or similar affirmative defenses against aggression and prosecution for defending oneself and others and property. Not every state has these self-defense laws. They should.

Solution: Add language for those specific instances.

Benefits: Closes a gap in the plank and shows stronger support for the right to self-defense against aggression in all places.

Amend something previously adopted as follows:

1.9 Self-Defense

The only legitimate use of force is in defense of individual rights — life, liberty, and justly acquired property — against aggression. This right inheres in the individual, who may agree to be aided by any other individual or group. **We support stand-your-ground and castle doctrines.** We affirm the individual right recognized by the Second Amendment to keep and bear arms, and oppose the prosecution of individuals for exercising their rights of self-defense. Private property owners should be free to establish their own conditions regarding the presence of personal defense weapons on their own property. We oppose all laws at any level of government restricting, registering, or monitoring the ownership, manufacture, or transfer of firearms, ammunition, or firearm accessories.

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Proposal #7: Space, the Final Frontier...of Freedom*(This was Proposal 14 from the 2022 Platform Committee.)***1.X Space Exploration (ADD)**

Problem: The Platform doesn't address state control of space exploration and use. Private space service has supplanted government-sponsored space service in several key areas. What was once a matter of science fiction has become reality. New innovations from private companies include better, reusable, rocket designs and efficient cost-savings measures. These advances by the private sector have injected new interest into space exploration and made possible missions which were not possible a decade earlier. Increasingly, it appears that many space services and exploration will in the future be driven by private industry rather than by NASA. NASA may always have a role in space investigations, but in the near future private industry and/or organizations may set the pace for exploratory as well as routine space missions.

Solution: Add a plank to address it.

Benefits: This new plank would allow the Party to communicate to the public that Libertarians welcome a new space age for private organizations and individuals, one which is unencumbered by burdensome government regulations.

Amend something previously adopted as follows:

1.X Space Exploration**We oppose all government restrictions upon voluntary, peaceful use of outer space.**

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Proposal #8: Intellectual Property

2.X Intellectual Property (ADD)

Problem: No matter what position any person takes on intellectual property, it is nearly universally acknowledged that the government’s handling of this has been stifling and ham-handed. There are better free market solutions that can be allowed to flourish if the government would stay out. The market has already pioneered the way with the creation of items such as creative commons licensing.

Solution: Create a new platform plank that makes clear that Libertarians do not view ideas as property, and do not believe disputes between parties should be resolved by government. In addition, also makes clear that Libertarians view fraudulent misrepresentation as immoral aggression against others.

Benefits: This would solidify the Libertarian Party position on IP. It would also differentiate the Party both from Republicans—who have a platform with rigid intellectual property protections and considers it a “national security issue,” and Democrats—who have a platform that also embraces government safeguards on intellectual property and opposes the theft of intellectual property only by foreign governments.

Add new plank:

2.X Intellectual Property

As we believe that ideas are not property, we favor the repeal of intellectual property laws but oppose fraudulent misrepresentation about goods and services. Disputes between inventors, creators, authors, artists, businesses and other such entities should be resolved according to principles of any contractual obligations between the parties involved.

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Proposal #9: War, Invasion, and Occupation

3.3 International Affairs (AMEND)

Problem: The plank mentions peace but forgets about ending war, invasion, and occupation of other nations.

Solution: Add those into the plank.

Benefits: Fills a major gap in the plank and strengthens it.

Amend something previously adopted as follows:

3.3 International Affairs

American foreign policy should emphasize peace with all nations, entangling alliances with none. We would end the current U.S. government policies of foreign intervention including military and economic aid; tariffs; economic sanctions; **aggressive war, invasion, and occupation**; and regime change. We recognize the right of all people to resist tyranny and defend themselves and their rights. We condemn the use of force, and especially the use of terrorism, against the innocent, regardless of whether such acts are committed by governments or by political or revolutionary groups.

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Proposal #10: No Standing Army

3.1 National Defense (AMEND)

Problem: The current platform arguably endorses a standing government military, which has long been used to carry out aggressive wars of imperialism that undermine American (and global) security and increase tyranny at home. Libertarians ought to expressly support the de-monopolization/de-socialization of defense services.

Solution: Amend the national defense plank to oppose a standing government military rather than vaguely endorse one; endorse a transitory policy of armed neutrality and opposition to military deployment outside United States territory.

Benefits: This would hold up the radical ideal of non-governmental defense forces while also endorsing transitory policies which would minimize if not end American imperialism in the meantime.

Amend something previously adopted as follows:

3.1 National Defense

~~**We support the maintenance of a sufficient military to defend the United States against aggression.**~~ **We oppose the existence of a standing government military as a threat to peace and security. In the meantime, we support a policy of armed neutrality and oppose the stationing of military assets inside foreign territory.** The United States should both avoid entangling alliances and abandon its attempts to act as policeman for the world. We oppose any form of compulsory national service.

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Proposal #11: Separation of Family and State

(Note: This contains language that was part of Proposal 18 from the 2022 Platform Committee.)

1.5 Parental Rights (AMEND)

Problem: The parental rights plank refers to “other guardians” without referring to them as not being state guardians ad litem. The Platform itself is silent on the role that families should have in lieu of the state in raising children and supporting each other outside of the state.

Solution: Add language that puts emphasis back on the family unit and away from the state.

Benefits: Stronger pro-family language with an emphasis on people and away from the state.

Amend something previously adopted as follows:

1.5 Parental Rights

We support the separation of family and state. Parents, or other guardians, have the right to raise their children according to their own standards and beliefs, provided that the rights of children to be free from abuse and neglect are also protected. **We reject state ownership or guardianship of children and we support families choosing to support each other regardless of their composition. Permanent separation of family members must be adjudicated by true due process, not in administrative hearings.**

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Proposal #12: Veterans

3.1 National Defense (AMEND)

Problem: There is a tendency to conflate government policy and its implementers, especially when it comes to the military, and that dates back to Vietnam. The Platform does not acknowledge that there is a difference between objecting to government policy that puts these people in harm's way for no good reason and the people themselves; the government through its bad policy choices is the problem. Veterans are people who implement military policy, not the policy itself, and that difference needs to be clearly acknowledged.

Solution: Amend the plank to address veterans separate from policy.

Benefits: Differentiates between person and policy in government. Offers appeal to the veteran constituency that has been effectively abandoned by the duopoly.

Amend something previously adopted as follows:

3.1 National Defense

We support the maintenance of a sufficient military to defend the United States against aggression. The United States should both avoid entangling alliances and abandon its attempts to act as policeman for the world. We oppose any form of compulsory national service. **We believe in honoring our veterans by crafting and implementing policies to end aggression, undeclared wars, invasions, and occupations, while recognizing the difference between veterans and the policies they are sent out to implement.**

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Proposal #13: Separation of State and State

3.X Separation of Federal, State, and Local Governments (ADD)

Problem: An important yet neglected concept of shrinking and abolishing government is the necessity to also separate the various layers of government from each other. Currently the federal government funds and mandates state and local governments, and state governments fund and mandate local governments, and all of them infringe upon the people. To roll back this mess, it also needs to be separated out into its component parts so that they can be addressed individually. The platform does not address this essential concept.

Solution: Add a plank to address it.

Benefits: Fills in a huge gap in the platform and illustrates that the Party understands the real scope of the problem of mixed and tangled levels of governance, beyond pure rhetoric, and what is needed to be done with it to achieve its goals.

Amend something previously adopted as follows:

3.X Separation of Federal, State, and Local Governments

We support the untangling of the layers of government from each other, including removal of mandates, subsidies, and commandeering, such that federal, state, county, municipal, and district governments are separate and independent from each other, in both function and funding, in order to facilitate their reduction or repeal. We support the nullification of unjust laws.

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Proposal #14: Gender Identities and Self-Expression

(Note: This was Proposal 19 from the 2022 Platform Committee.)

1.4 Personal Relationships (AMEND)

Problem: The current wording of this plank remains somewhat ambiguous on rights to transgender expression. It proclaims that the government should not be able to interfere with such rights but makes no statement about whether educational institutions or employers or merchants might be able to decide what a person’s gender is, in contradiction of the person’s own view.

Solution: Add language to address it.

Benefits: Removes the state from the equation and strengthens free expression while offering support to the transgender community.

Amend something previously adopted as follows:

1.4 Personal Relationships

Sexual orientation, preference, gender, or gender identity should have no impact on the government’s treatment of individuals, such as in current marriage, child custody, adoption, immigration, or military service laws. **Individuals have the sole authority to determine and express their own gender identities.** Government does not have the authority to define, promote, license, or restrict **self-expression or** personal relationships, regardless of the number of participants. Consenting adults should be free to choose their own sexual practices and personal relationships. Until such time as the government stops its illegitimate practice of marriage licensing, such licenses must be granted to all consenting adults who apply.

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Proposal #15: Delete Sex Work Plank

2.10 Sex Work (DELETE)

Problem: The Platform already addresses victimless crimes—including sexual services—in Plank 1.7. Giving sex work its own plank unnecessarily inflates its importance in the Platform.

Solution: Delete it.

Benefits: Removes the false impression that plays into the worst stereotypes of Libertarians as being primarily concerned with libertinism.

(NOTE: If this plank is moved to be deleted by tokens, then this proposal will not be presented.)

Amend something previously adopted as follows:

~~2.10 — Sex Work~~

~~The Libertarian Party supports the decriminalization of prostitution. We assert the right of consenting adults to provide sexual services to clients for compensation, and the right of clients to purchase sexual services from consenting sex workers.~~

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APPENDIX A - Marked-Up Copy of Platform with Proposals

PREAMBLE

As Libertarians, we seek a world of liberty: a world in which all individuals are sovereign over their own lives and are not forced to sacrifice their values for the benefit of others. We believe that respect for individual rights is the essential precondition for a free and prosperous world, that force and fraud must be banished from human relationships, and that only through freedom can peace and prosperity be realized. Consequently, we defend each person's right to engage in any activity that is peaceful and honest, and welcome the diversity that freedom brings. The world we seek to build is one where individuals are free to follow their own dreams in their own ways, without interference from government or any authoritarian power. ~~In the following pages~~ **In this Platform**, we set forth our basic principles and enumerate various policy stands derived from those principles. These specific policies are not our goal, however. Our goal is nothing more nor less than a world set free in our lifetime, and it is to this end that we take these stands.

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

We, the members of the Libertarian Party, challenge the cult of the omnipotent state and defend the rights of the individual. We hold that all individuals have the right to exercise sole dominion over their own lives, and have the right to live in whatever manner they choose, so long as they do not forcibly interfere with the equal right of others to live in whatever manner they choose. Governments throughout history have regularly operated on the opposite principle, that the State has the right to dispose of the lives of individuals and the fruits of their labor. Even within the United States, all political parties other than our own grant to government the right to regulate the lives of individuals and seize the fruits of their labor without their consent. We, on the contrary, deny the right of any government to do these things, and hold that where governments exist, they must not violate the rights of any individual: namely, (1) the right to life — accordingly we support the prohibition of the initiation of physical force against others; (2) the right to liberty of speech and action — accordingly we oppose all attempts by government to abridge the freedom of speech and press, as well as government censorship in any form; and (3) the right to property — accordingly we oppose all government interference with private property, such as confiscation, nationalization, and eminent domain, and support the prohibition of robbery, trespass, fraud, and misrepresentation. Since governments, when instituted, must not violate individual rights, we oppose all interference by government in the areas of voluntary and contractual relations among individuals. People should not be forced to sacrifice their lives and property for the benefit of others. They should be left free by government to deal with one another as free traders; and the resultant economic system, the only one compatible with the protection of individual rights, is the free market.

1.0 PERSONAL LIBERTY

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Individuals are inherently free to make choices for themselves and must accept responsibility for the consequences of the choices they make. Our support of an individual’s right to make choices in life does not mean that we necessarily approve or disapprove of those choices. No individual, group, or government may rightly initiate force against any other individual, group, or government. Libertarians reject the notion that groups have inherent rights. We support the rights of the smallest minority, the individual.

1.1 Self-Ownership

Individuals own their bodies and have rights over them that other individuals, groups, and governments may not violate. Individuals have the freedom and responsibility to decide what they knowingly and voluntarily consume, and what risks they accept to their own health, finances, safety, or life.

1.2 Expression and Communication

We support full freedom of expression and oppose government censorship, regulation, or control of communications media and technology. Language that is perceived to be offensive to certain groups or individuals is not a cause for any legal action. Speech that is not literally a threat of aggression or violence is not in itself aggression or violence and can never be used to justify aggression or violence. Individuals are responsible for their own reactions to speech. We favor the freedom to engage in or abstain from any religious activities that do not violate the rights of others. We oppose government actions that either aid or attack any religion.

1.3 Privacy

Libertarians advocate individual privacy and government transparency. We are committed to ending government’s practice of spying on everyone. We support the rights recognized by the Fourth Amendment to be secure in our persons, homes, property, and communications. Protection from unreasonable search and seizure should include records held by third parties, such as email, medical, and library records.

1.4 Personal Relationships

Sexual orientation, preference, gender, or gender identity should have no impact on the government’s treatment of individuals, such as in current marriage, child custody, adoption, immigration, or military service laws. **Individuals have the sole authority to determine and express their own gender identities.** Government does not have the authority to define, promote, license, or restrict **self-expression or** personal relationships, regardless of the number of participants. Consenting adults should be free to choose their own sexual practices and personal relationships. Until such time as the government stops its illegitimate practice of marriage licensing, such licenses must be granted to all consenting adults who apply.

1.5 Parental Rights

We support the separation of family and state. Parents, or other guardians, have the right to raise their children according to their own standards and beliefs, provided that the rights of

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children to be free from abuse and neglect are also protected. **We reject state ownership or guardianship of children and we support families choosing to support each other regardless of their composition. Permanent separation of family members must be adjudicated by true due process, not in administrative hearings.**

1.6 Adult Rights and Responsibilities

Once individuals are presumed to have adequate judgment to vote and serve on a jury or in the military, they should also be presumed to have sufficient judgment to decide their own purchase and use of alcohol, tobacco, firearms, cannabis, and engage in other activities currently restricted by government due to age.

1.7 Crime and Justice

Government force must be limited to the protection of the rights of individuals to life, liberty, and property, and governments must never be permitted to violate these rights. Laws should be limited in their application to violations of the rights of others through force or fraud, or to deliberate actions that place others involuntarily at significant risk of harm. Therefore, we favor the repeal of all laws creating “crimes” without victims, such as gambling, the use of drugs for medicinal or recreational purposes, and consensual transactions involving sexual services. We support restitution to the victim to the fullest degree possible at the expense of the criminal or the negligent wrongdoer. The constitutional rights of the criminally accused, including due process, a speedy trial, legal counsel, trial by jury, and the legal presumption of innocence until proven guilty, must be preserved. We assert the common-law right of juries to judge not only the facts but also the justice of the law. We oppose the prosecutorial practice of “over-charging” in criminal prosecutions so as to avoid jury trials by intimidating defendants into accepting plea bargains. Additionally, we support the abolition of qualified immunity so that law enforcement and prosecutors would be held legally accountable for misconduct that leads to wrongful convictions or other acts of injustice.

1.8 Death Penalty

We oppose the administration of the death penalty by the state.

1.9 Self-Defense

The only legitimate use of force is in defense of individual rights — life, liberty, and justly acquired property — against aggression. This right inheres in the individual, who may agree to be aided by any other individual or group. **We support stand-your-ground and castle doctrines.** We affirm the individual right recognized by the Second Amendment to keep and bear arms, and oppose the prosecution of individuals for exercising their rights of self-defense. Private property owners should be free to establish their own conditions regarding the presence of personal defense weapons on their own property. We oppose all laws at any level of government restricting, registering, or monitoring the ownership, manufacture, or transfer of firearms, ammunition, or firearm accessories.

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1.X Space Exploration**We oppose all government restrictions upon voluntary, peaceful use of outer space.****2.0 ECONOMIC LIBERTY**

Libertarians want all members of society to have abundant opportunities to achieve economic success. A free and competitive market allocates resources in the most efficient manner. Each person has the right to offer goods and services to others on the free market. The only proper role of government in the economic realm is to protect property rights, adjudicate disputes, and provide a legal framework in which voluntary trade is protected. All efforts by government to redistribute wealth, or to control or manage trade, are improper in a free society.

2.1 Aggression, Property, and Contract

Aggression is the use, trespass against, or invasion of the borders of another person's owned resource (property) without the owner's consent; or the threat thereof. We oppose all acts of aggression as illegitimate and unjust, whether committed by private actors or the state. Each person is the presumptive owner of his or her own body (self-ownership), which right may be forfeited only as a consequence of committing an act of aggression. Property rights in external, scarce resources are determined in accordance with the principles of original appropriation or homesteading (whereby a person becomes an owner of an unowned resource by first use and transformation), contract (whereby the owner consensually transfers ownership to another person), and rectification (whereby an owner's property rights in certain resources are transferred to a victim of the owner's tort, trespass, or aggression to compensate the victim). As respect for property rights is fundamental to maintaining a free and prosperous society, it follows that the freedom to contract to obtain, retain, profit from, manage, or dispose of one's property must also be upheld. Libertarians would free property owners from government restrictions on their rights to control and enjoy their property, as long as their choices do not harm or infringe on the rights of others. Eminent domain, civil asset forfeiture, governmental limits on profits, governmental production mandates, and governmental controls on prices of goods and services (including wages, rents, and interest) are abridgements of such fundamental rights. For voluntary dealings among private entities, parties should be free to choose with whom they trade and set whatever trade terms are mutually agreeable.

2.2 Environment

Competitive free markets and property rights stimulate the technological innovations and behavioral changes required to protect our environment and ecosystems. Private landowners and conservation groups have a vested interest in maintaining natural resources. Governments are unaccountable for damage done to our environment and have a terrible track record when it comes to environmental protection. Protecting the environment requires a clear definition and enforcement of individual rights and responsibilities regarding resources like land, water, air, and wildlife. Where damages can be proven and quantified in a court of law, restitution to the injured parties must be required.

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2.3 Energy and Resources

While energy is needed to fuel a modern society, government should not be subsidizing any particular form of energy. We oppose all government control of energy pricing, allocation, and production.

2.4 Government Finance and Spending

Since all persons are entitled to keep the fruits of their labor, we oppose all government activity that consists of the forcible collection of money or goods from individuals in violation of their individual rights. We contend that a tax by any other name is still a tax and strive for the eventual repeal of all taxation. To further that end, we call for the repeal of the income tax, the abolishment of the Internal Revenue Service and all federal programs and services not required under the U.S. Constitution. We oppose the use of taxation as a punitive measure against certain goods or services, such as “vice” taxes, and oppose forcing employers to serve as tax collectors. We support any initiative to reduce or abolish any tax, and oppose any increase on any tax or creation of any new tax for any reason. To the extent possible, we advocate that all public services be funded or allowed to be provided in a voluntary manner.

2.5 Government Debt

~~Government should not incur debt, which burdens future generations without their consent. We support the passage of a “Balanced Budget Amendment” to the U.S. Constitution, provided that the budget is balanced exclusively by cutting expenditures, and not by raising taxes.~~ Government debt is wholly illegitimate, as it burdens the people without their consent. We support repudiating all government debts at all levels as a means of both relieving unjust financial burdens and limiting the growth of government.

2.6 Government Employees

We favor repealing any requirement that one must join or pay dues to a union as a condition of government employment. We advocate replacing defined-benefit pensions with defined-contribution plans, as are commonly offered in the private sector, so as not to impose debt on future generations without their consent.

2.7 Money and Financial Markets

We favor free-market banking, with unrestricted competition among banks and depository institutions of all types. Markets are not actually free unless fraud is vigorously combated. Those who enjoy the possibility of profits must not impose risks of losses upon others, such as through government guarantees or bailouts. We support ending federal student loan guarantees and special treatment of student loan debt in bankruptcy proceedings. Individuals engaged in voluntary exchange should be free to use as money any mutually agreeable commodity or item. We support a halt to inflationary monetary policies and unconstitutional legal tender laws.

2.8 Marketplace Freedom

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Libertarians support free markets. We defend the right of individuals to form commercial enterprises based on voluntary association. We oppose all forms of government subsidies and bailouts to business, labor, or any other special interest. Government should not compete with private enterprise. We reject government charter of corporations. We call for a separation of business and state.

2.9 Licensing

Libertarians support the right of every person to earn an honest and peaceful living through the free and voluntary exchange of goods and services. Accordingly, we oppose occupational and other licensing laws that infringe on this right or treat it as a state-granted privilege. We encourage certifications by voluntary associations of professionals.

~~2.10—Sex Work~~

~~The Libertarian Party supports the decriminalization of prostitution. We assert the right of consenting adults to provide sexual services to clients for compensation, and the right of clients to purchase sexual services from consenting sex workers.~~

2.11 Labor Markets

Employment and compensation agreements between private employers and employees are outside the scope of government, and these contracts should not be encumbered by government-mandated benefits or social engineering. We support the right of private employers and employees to choose whether or not to bargain with each other through a labor union. Bargaining should be free of government interference, such as compulsory arbitration or imposing an obligation to bargain.

2.12 Education

Education is best provided by the free market, achieving greater quality, accountability, and efficiency with more diversity of choice. Recognizing that the education of children is a parental responsibility, we would restore authority to parents to determine the education of their children, without interference from government. Parents should have control of and responsibility for all funds expended for their children's education.

2.13 Health Care

We favor a free market health care system. Medical facilities, medical providers, and medical products (including drugs) must be freely available in the marketplace without government restrictions or licenses. We recognize the freedom of individuals to determine the level of health insurance they want (if any), the level of health care they want, the care providers they want, the medicines and treatments they will use and all other aspects of their medical care, including end-of-life decisions. People should be free to purchase health insurance across state lines. We oppose governments either mandating, or restricting voluntary access to, medical treatments or procedures including vaccines. Individuals have a presumption of health and

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should not be subjected to forced quarantine, isolation, or other restrictions of their rights and freedoms.

2.14 Retirement and Income Security

Retirement planning is the responsibility of the individual, not the government. Libertarians would phase out the current government-sponsored Social Security system and transition to a private voluntary system. The proper and most effective source of help for the poor is the voluntary efforts of private groups and individuals. We believe members of society will become even more charitable and civil society will be strengthened as government reduces its activity in this realm.

2.X Agorism

We affirm the right of individuals and businesses to peacefully subvert government regulation, taxation, and restrictions through black and gray market activity.

2.X Intellectual Property

As we believe that ideas are not property, we favor the repeal of intellectual property laws but oppose fraudulent misrepresentation about goods and services. Disputes between inventors, creators, authors, artists, businesses and other such entities should be resolved according to principles of any contractual obligations between the parties involved.

3.0 SECURING LIBERTY

In the United States, constitutional limits on government were intended to prevent the infringement of individual rights by those in power. The only proper purpose of government, should it exist, is the protection of individual rights. The principle of non-initiation of force should guide relationships between governments.

3.1 National Defense

~~**We support the maintenance of a sufficient military to defend the United States against aggression.**~~ **We oppose the existence of a standing government military as a threat to peace and security. In the meantime, we support a policy of armed neutrality and oppose the stationing of military assets inside foreign territory.** The United States should both avoid entangling alliances and abandon its attempts to act as policeman for the world. We oppose any form of compulsory national service. **We believe in honoring our veterans by crafting and implementing policies to end aggression, undeclared wars, invasions, and occupations, while recognizing the difference between veterans and the policies they are sent out to implement.**

3.2 Internal Security and Individual Rights

Individual rights shall not be curtailed, whether based on circumstances of war, epidemic, natural disaster or emergency, or any other pretense. Intelligence agencies that legitimately seek to preserve the security of the nation must be subject to oversight and transparency. We oppose the government's use of secret classifications to keep from the public information that

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it should have, especially that which shows that the government has violated the law. We oppose the use of torture and other cruel and unusual punishments, without exception.

3.3 International Affairs

American foreign policy should emphasize peace with all nations, entangling alliances with none. We would end the current U.S. government policies of foreign intervention including military and economic aid; tariffs; economic sanctions; **aggressive war, invasion, and occupation**; and regime change. We recognize the right of all people to resist tyranny and defend themselves and their rights. We condemn the use of force, and especially the use of terrorism, against the innocent, regardless of whether such acts are committed by governments or by political or revolutionary groups.

3.4 Free Trade and Migration

We support the removal of governmental impediments to free trade. Political freedom and escape from tyranny demand that individuals not be unreasonably constrained by government in the crossing of political boundaries. Economic freedom demands the unrestricted movement of human as well as financial capital across national borders.

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 abridge any individual’s human right based upon sex, wealth, ethnicity, creed, age, national origin, personal habits, political preference, 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.

3.6 Representative Government

We staunchly defend the rights to petition the government for redress of grievances and to express dissent. These rights are thwarted when government acts behind closed doors. We support election systems that are more representative of the electorate at the federal, state, and local levels, such as proportional representation, alternative voting systems, and explicit inclusion of “none of the above” on all ballots. As private voluntary groups, political parties should be free to establish their own rules for nomination procedures, primaries and conventions. We call for an end to any tax-financed subsidies to candidates or parties and the repeal of all laws that restrict voluntary financing of election campaigns. We oppose laws that effectively exclude alternative candidates and parties, deny ballot access, gerrymander districts, or deny the voters their right to consider all alternatives. We advocate initiative, referendum, recall, repeal, and oppose any effort to deny these options when used as popular checks on government.

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3.7 Self-Determination

Whenever any form of government becomes destructive of individual liberty, it is the right of the people to alter, abolish, or withdraw from it, and to agree to such new governance, or none, as to them shall seem most likely to protect their liberty. We recognize the right to political self-determination, including secession. Exercise of this right does not require permission from others.

3.X Separation of Federal, State, and Local Governments

We support the untangling of the layers of government from each other, including removal of mandates, subsidies, and commandeering, such that federal, state, county, municipal, and district governments are separate and independent from each other, in both function and funding, in order to facilitate their reduction or repeal. We support the nullification of unjust laws.

4.0 OMISSIONS

In every matter, we advocate the consistent application of the principle of the non-initiation of coercion, physical force, or fraud. Our silence about any other particular government law, regulation, ordinance, directive, edict, control, regulatory agency, activity, or machination should not be construed to imply approval.

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