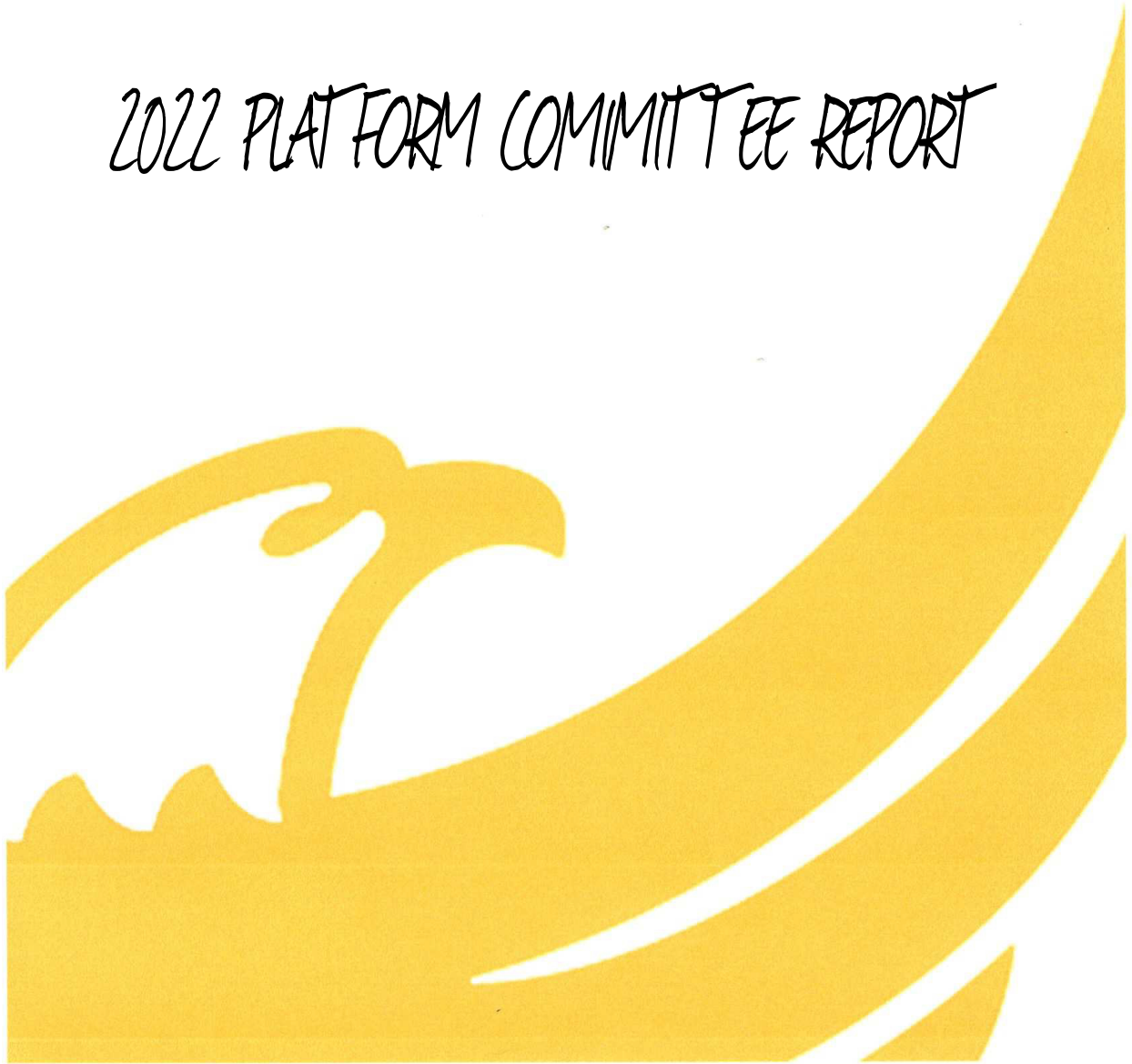




# T LIBERTARIAN

2022 PLATFORM COMMITTEE REPORT



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## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Caryn Ann Harlos – Committee Chair (*LNC*)  
Omar Recuero – Committee Secretary (*FL*)  
Ted Brown – Committee Vice-Chair (*TX*)  
Gary Alvstad (*CA*)  
Mark Braiman (*NY*)  
Joe Brungardt (*MI*)  
Matt Cholko (*VA*)  
Josh Chappell (*NM*)  
Cobi Clark (*WA*)  
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Dustin Nanna (*OH*)  
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Ashley Shade (*LNC*)  
Mary Swim (*LNC*)  
Curry Taylor (*LNC*)  
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### Alternates:

Carolyn Clift (*AK Alt*)  
Rachel Nyx (*CA Alt*)  
Clayton Casciato and Kat Martin (*CO Alts*)  
Starchild (*LNC Alt*)  
Daniel Muehl-Miller and Tim Yow (*MI Alts*)  
Chris Luchini (*NM Alt*)  
Paul Grindle (*NY Alt*)  
Jim Cavoli (*OH Alt*)  
Jenay LeBlanc (*TX Alt*)  
Shawn Hickman and Caleb Newbill (*WA Alts*)

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## **Table of Contents**

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<i><b>Proposal 1 Amend current Plank 1.7 “Crime and Justice”</b></i>	<i><b>3</b></i>
<i><b>Proposal 2 Amend current Plank 1.9 “Self-Defense”</b></i>	<i><b>5</b></i>
<i><b>Proposal 3 Amend current Plank 2.13 “Health Care”</b></i>	<i><b>6</b></i>
<i><b>Proposal 4 Amend current Plank 3.2 “Internal Security and Individual Rights”</b></i>	<i><b>8</b></i>
<i><b>Proposal 5 Amend Current Plank 4.0 “Representative Government”</b></i>	<i><b>9</b></i>
<i><b>Proposal 6 Amend Current Plank 4.0 “Omissions”</b></i>	<i><b>11</b></i>
<i><b>Proposal 7 Amend current Plank 2.8 “Marketplace Freedom”</b></i>	<i><b>12</b></i>
<i><b>Proposal 8 Amend current Plank 3.3 “International Affairs”</b></i>	<i><b>13</b></i>
<i><b>Proposal 9 Amend current Plank 3.0 “Securing Liberty”</b></i>	<i><b>14</b></i>
<i><b>Proposal 10 Add new Plank “Adult Rights and Responsibilities” to Section 1 after current Plank 1.6 “Parental Rights”</b></i>	<i><b>15</b></i>
<i><b>Proposal 11 Amend Current Plank 3.7 “Self-Determination”</b></i>	<i><b>17</b></i>
<i><b>Proposal 12 Amend current Plank 2.4 “Government Finance and Spending”</b></i>	<i><b>18</b></i>
<i><b>Proposal 13 Amend current Plank 1.2 “Expression and Communication”</b></i>	<i><b>20</b></i>
<i><b>Proposal 14 Add new Plank 1.10 “Space Exploration” to the end of Section 1</b></i>	<i><b>21</b></i>
<i><b>Proposal 15 Add new Plank 2.15 “Agorism”</b></i>	<i><b>22</b></i>
<i><b>Proposal 16 Amend current Planks 3.4 “Free Trade and Migration” and 2.8 “Marketplace Freedom”</b></i>	<i><b>23</b></i>
<i><b>Proposal 17 Amend current Plank 3.4 “Free Trade and Migration” if proposal 16 does not pass; alternatively, amend current Plank 1.2 if proposal 16 does pass</b></i>	<i><b>25</b></i>
<i><b>Proposal 18 Amend Current Plank 1.6 “Parental Rights”</b></i>	<i><b>27</b></i>
<i><b>Proposal 19 Amend Current Plank 1.4 “Personal Relationships”</b></i>	<i><b>28</b></i>
<i><b>Supplements to Committee Report</b></i>	<i><b>29</b></i>
<i><b>Interpretative Notes</b></i>	<i><b>29</b></i>
<i><b>APPENDIX A - Marked-Up Copy of Platform With Proposals</b></i>	<i><b>30</b></i>

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## Proposal 1

### Amend current Plank 1.7 “Crime and Justice”

Adopted Without Objection 1/30/22

CURRENT WORDING	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	IF ADOPTED, WILL READ
<p><b>1.7 Crime and Justice</b></p> <p>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.</p>	<p><b>1.7 Crime and Justice</b></p> <p>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. <u>Additionally, we support the abolition of qualified immunity so that law enforcement and</u></p>	<p><b>1.7 Crime and Justice</b></p> <p>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</p>

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CURRENT WORDING	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	IF ADOPTED, WILL READ
	<u>prosecutors would be held legally accountable for misconduct that leads to wrongful convictions or other acts of injustice.</u>	would be held legally accountable for misconduct that leads to wrongful convictions or other acts of injustice.

### *Rationale for Proposal 1*

Our Platform currently lacks any statement on the topic of holding police or prosecutors legally accountable for wrongful convictions or other acts of injustice which creates a class of people that can violate the rights of others with impunity.

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## Proposal 2

### Amend current Plank 1.9 “Self-Defense”

Adopted Without Objection 1/30/22

CURRENT WORDING	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	IF ADOPTED, WILL READ
<p><b>1.9 Self-Defense</b></p> <p>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 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 or ammunition.</p>	<p><b>1.9 Self-Defense</b></p> <p>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 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, <del>or</del> <u>ammunition, or firearm accessories.</u></p>	<p><b>1.9 Self-Defense</b></p> <p>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 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.</p>

### *Rationale for Proposal 2*

Current plank omits “firearm accessories” from the list of things we oppose restricting, and we have seen government prohibition expand into this area. A notable example is “bump stocks.”

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**Proposal 3**  
**Amend current Plank 2.13 “Health Care”**  
 Adopted Separately – Without Objection and 7-3-1 3/13/22

CURRENT WORDING	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	IF ADOPTED, WILL READ
<b>2.13 Health Care</b>  We favor a free market health care system. 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.	<b>2.13 Health Care</b>  We favor a free market health care system. <u>Medical facilities, medical providers, and medical products (including drugs) must be freely available in the marketplace without government restrictions or licenses.</u> 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. <u>We oppose governments either mandating, or restricting voluntary access to, medical treatments or procedures including vaccines.</u>	<b>2.13 Health Care</b>  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.

### ***Rationale for Proposal 3***

The state already mandates vaccines to use services it force-funds. That is tantamount to mandatory vaccines in order to exercise state-created privileges which, while they exist, should not be used to create a de facto system of state-approved discrimination. In the age of COVID-19, we can expect to see this reach further. It also addresses the issues involved in “Medicare for All” or any similar scheme in that the state will inevitably deny services to some and be the arbiter of life and death, such as the situation we saw in England with the NHS and baby Alfie Evans.

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Further, at present, this plank is very “Obamacare-centric” in that it is all about insurance. However, the current state of insurance is itself part of the problem in health care. Health care costs are so high because of government regulation and subsidies that most Americans can only speak about insurance, rather than imagining a world where they could actually purchase health care as the need arises.

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## Proposal 4

### Amend current Plank 3.2 “Internal Security and Individual Rights”

Adopted 9-3-1 3/3/22

CURRENT WORDING	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	IF ADOPTED, WILL READ
<p><b>3.2 Internal Security and Individual Rights</b></p> <p>The defense of the country requires that we have adequate intelligence to detect and to counter threats to domestic security. This requirement must not take priority over maintaining the civil liberties of our citizens. The Constitution and Bill of Rights shall not be suspended even during time of war. 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 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.</p>	<p><b>3.2 Internal Security and Individual Rights</b></p> <p><del>The defense of the country requires that we have adequate intelligence to detect and to counter threats to domestic security. This requirement must not take priority over maintaining the civil liberties of our citizens. The Constitution and Bill of Rights shall not be suspended even during time of war.</del> <u>Individual rights shall not be curtailed, whether based on circumstances of war, epidemic, natural disaster or emergency, or any other pretense.</u> 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 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.</p>	<p><b>3.2 Internal Security and Individual Rights</b></p> <p>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 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.</p>

### *Rationale for Proposal 4*

More than any other time in our lifetimes, including 9/11, we have seen the state using any excuse it can to grossly violate individual rights. We cannot be unclear or merely implicit about our strong opposition.

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## Proposal 5

### Amend Current Plank 4.0 “Representative Government”

Adopted Without Objection 4/12/12

CURRENT WORDING	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	IF ADOPTED, WILL READ
<p><b>3.5 Representative Government</b></p> <p>We support election systems that are more representative of the electorate at the federal, state, and local levels. 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 legitimate alternatives. We advocate initiative, referendum, recall, and repeal when used as popular checks on government.</p>	<p><b>3.5 Representative Government</b></p> <p><u>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.</u> We support election systems that are more representative of the electorate at the federal, state, and local levels, <u>such as proportional representation, alternative voting systems, and explicit inclusion of “none of the above” on all ballots.</u> 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 <del>legitimate</del> alternatives. We advocate initiative, referendum, recall, <del>and</del> repeal <u>and oppose any effort to deny these options</u> when used as popular checks on government.</p>	<p><b>3.5 Representative Government</b></p> <p>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.</p>

#### NOTES:

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### *Rationale for Proposal 5*

During the height of COVID-19, many state and local governments passed unconstitutional mandates and handed down heavy penalties for non-compliance. Often overlooked was the fact that many governments closed city hall and legislative offices while operating behind closed doors with voicemail as the only way to contact officials. The First Amendment does not say that there is a right to “petition the Government for a redress of grievances *only if not sick*”?

These obstacles added additional difficulties to collect signatures for ballot access and recall attempts. In fact, signature requirements were almost impossible to achieve during this time when many people did not want to be close to one another. It was also extremely challenging to get any of these cases before a judge to challenge.

Further, these proposed changes make our position much more clear, that government, where it exists, must serve the people it represents, must act in open session, and must be accessible at all times, especially during an “emergency.” It also strengthens our position on ballot access, voter choice, and other actions that can be taken by a sole individual or groups of individuals in order to change something in their government or potentially put a question before the people of that locality or the state

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## Proposal 6

### Amend Current Plank 4.0 “Omissions”

Adopted 10-1-1 3/8/22

CURRENT WORDING	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	IF ADOPTED, WILL READ
<b>4.0 Omissions</b>  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.	<b>4.0 Omissions</b>  <u>In every matter, we advocate the consistent application of the principle of the non-initiation of coercion, physical force, or fraud.</u> 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.	<b>4.0 Omissions</b>  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.

### *Rationale for Proposal 6*

The overriding philosophy of the Libertarian Party envisions a world free from force and fraud. While the current language tells readers what not to assume from silence, it gives no guidance on how to come to what might be the Party position on issues for which it is currently silent. By reminding readers of this overarching principle, it gives guidance on how other issues might be viewed and which options would not be possible. It also serves as a satisfying literary bookend.

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## Proposal 7

### Amend current Plank 2.8 “Marketplace Freedom”

Adopted 10-0-2 3/10/22

CURRENT WORDING	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	IF ADOPTED, WILL READ
<b>2.8 Marketplace Freedom</b>  Libertarians support free markets. We defend the right of individuals to form corporations, cooperatives and other types of entities 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.	<b>2.8 Marketplace Freedom</b>  Libertarians support free markets. We defend the right of individuals to form <del>corporations,</del> <del>cooperatives and other types of entities</del> <u>commercial enterprises</u> 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. <u>We call for a separation of business and state.</u>	<b>2.8 Marketplace Freedom</b>  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.

### *Rationale for Proposal 7*

Corporations, at least as presently envisioned, are businesses that are granted special privileges by virtue of their state charter. Some Libertarians support the concept as it exists, others don't, and many have a hybrid view. As such, it is problematic to make a statement that seems to support the current laws that grant special privileges to one form of enterprise, but rather to just say that Libertarians support commercial enterprises and leave it to each Libertarian's conscience as to acceptable forms. The last sentence would make explicit our belief that the state should not entangle itself with private enterprise.

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## Proposal 8

### Amend current Plank 3.3 “International Affairs”

Adopted 10-2-1 3/26/22

CURRENT WORDING	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	IF ADOPTED, WILL READ
<b>3.3 International Affairs</b>  American foreign policy should seek an America at peace with the world. Our foreign policy should emphasize defense against attack from abroad and enhance the likelihood of peace by avoiding foreign entanglements. We would end the current U.S. government policy of foreign intervention, including military and economic aid. 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.	<b>3.3 International Affairs</b>  American foreign <del>policy should seek an America at peace with the world. Our foreign</del> policy should emphasize <del>defense against attack from abroad and enhance the likelihood of</del> peace <u>with all nations, entangling alliances with none by avoiding foreign entanglements</u> . We would end the current U.S. government policies of foreign intervention including military and economic aid; <u>tariffs; economic sanctions; and regime change</u> . 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.	<b>3.3 International Affairs</b>  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; 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.

### *Rationale for Proposal 8*

The current verbiage is not sufficiently clear about Foreign Policy techniques that we are opposed to that are all too common today. Further, the introductory language can be tightened up and clearly reference the description of the Washington Doctrine of Unstable Alliances by Thomas Jefferson. In the last 4-5 years the US has seen much more active rulemaking in support of tariffs than it has in years prior and mercantilism has been debunked over a century ago by economists from all camps.

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## Proposal 9

### Amend current Plank 3.0 “Securing Liberty”

Adopted 13-0-1 2/20/22

CURRENT WORDING	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	IF ADOPTED, WILL READ
<b>3.0 Securing Liberty</b>  The protection of individual rights is the only proper purpose of government. Government is constitutionally limited so as to prevent the infringement of individual rights by the government itself. The principle of non-initiation of force should guide the relationships between governments.	<b>3.0 Securing Liberty</b>  <u>In the United States, constitutional limits on government were intended to prevent the infringement of individual rights by those in power. The protection of individual rights is t</u> The only proper purpose of government, <u>should it exist, is the protection of individual rights. Government is</u> <del>constitutionally limited so as to prevent the infringement of individual rights by the government itself.</del> The principle of non-initiation of force should guide <del>the</del> relationships between governments.	<b>3.0 Securing Liberty</b>  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.

### *Rationale for Proposal 9*

Re-arranging some wording makes the plank flow more consistently, and the change regarding the purpose of government makes the plank consistent with the Statement of Principles (particularly the Dallas Accord amendments to the Statement of Principles made in 1974) so that there is no confusion on the official position of the Party: agnosticism on the necessity of the existence of government while keeping the clarity that should government exist, it must be limited and concerned only with the protection of individual rights. It also makes it clear that although the Constitution was intended to protect rights, it has not done so.

For more information on the Dallas Accord see: [https://lpedia.org/wiki/Dallas\\_Accord](https://lpedia.org/wiki/Dallas_Accord)

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## Proposal 10

### Add new Plank “Adult Rights and Responsibilities” to Section 1 after current Plank 1.6 “Parental Rights”

Adopted 10-2-0 4/6/22

CURRENT WORDING	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	IF ADOPTED, WILL READ
N/A	<p><b><u>1.7 Adult Rights and Responsibilities</u></b></p> <p><u>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.</u></p>	<p><b>1.7 Adult Rights and Responsibilities</b></p> <p>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.</p>

### *Rationale for Proposal 10*

Our Platform currently asserts opposition to age discrimination but is silent on what range of ages should not be discriminated against. For decades, the duopoly has increasingly accepted pseudoscience arguments that brains of 18-year-olds are not adequately developed for full rights. But they evidently have no qualms about giving presidents in their 70s the nuclear football, although the vast majority of 70-year-olds have clearly detectable decreases in brain function. Do we accept these pseudoscience ideas as a substitute for our principles? We Libertarians would clearly not stand for age discrimination at the upper end of the age spectrum—for example, outlawing alcohol or gun sales to those over 70 or 80 or even 90. It makes no sense that soldiers who at the age of 19 fought in the battle of Tora-Bora in Afghanistan in December 2001, one of the deadliest battles for American soldiers in the past 100 years, could not upon their return to Ft. Drum NY obtain their own personal handgun license, nor buy cigarettes nor alcohol. At the same time, our plank on parental rights clearly and appropriately envisions that children do not have the full rights that adults do. But at what age do we view full adult rights as beginning, and age discrimination by government and/or parental control being illegitimate? Is it 35, when the Constitution allows an individual to be President? Is it 30, the age at which an individual is qualified to be a Senator? Our current silence on this question is deafening.

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Rather than naming a particular number (18), this proposal ties full adult rights to other key adult responsibilities that are currently tied to the age of 18: voting, serving on juries, and enlisting in the military, because these define an age at which young people are presumed to understand the nature of life-altering or life-ending risks. .

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## Proposal 11

### Amend Current Plank 3.7 “Self-Determination”

Adopted 8-2-2 3/17/22

CUURRENT WORDING	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	IF ADOPTED, WILL READ
<b>3.7 Self-Determination</b>  Whenever any form of government becomes destructive of individual liberty, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to agree to such new governance as to them shall seem most likely to protect their liberty.	<b>3.7 Self-Determination</b>  Whenever any form of government becomes destructive of individual liberty, it is the right of the people to alter, <del>or to</del> abolish <del>it</del> , <u>or withdraw from it</u> , and to agree to such new governance, <u>or none</u> , as to them shall seem most likely to protect their liberty. <u>We recognize the right to political self-determination, including secession. Exercise of this right does not require permission from others.</u>	<b>3.7 Self-Determination</b>  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.

### *Rationale for Proposal 11*

Currently, the Platform does not specifically mention secession as a form of voluntary (dis)association. Seeing as part of freedom is the ability to disassociate, secession is a legitimate aspect of Self-Determination. In passing these amendments, we would be embracing freedom in all aspects, not just altering or abolishing the status quo, but the right to remove one’s political association altogether when it no longer becomes conducive to liberty. Let people decide for themselves with whom they want to associate, if any. This would also bring the plank in conformity with our Statement of Principles and the Dallas Accord. The current language seems to imply that a new government must be created if a former one is abolished rather than having complete voluntaryism as an option. No voluntary options should be foreclosed to free people. Culture is just beginning to catch up with Libertarians and their strong sense of consent. Consent does not simply apply to romantic or business relationships, but also equally to political arraignments. “No means no” just as clearly when it comes to political association as it does in personal association. Secession down to the level of the individual is a fundamental human right.

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## Proposal 12

### Amend current Plank 2.4 “Government Finance and Spending”

Adopted 7-4-1 4/12/22

CURRENT WORDING	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	IF ADOPTED, WILL READ
<p><b>2.4 Government Finance and Spending</b></p> <p>All persons are entitled to keep the fruits of their labor. 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 any legal requirements forcing employers to serve as tax collectors. We support any initiative to reduce or abolish any tax, and oppose any increase on any tax for any reason. To the extent possible, we advocate that all public services be funded in a voluntary manner.</p>	<p><b>2.4 Government Finance and Spending</b></p> <p><u>Since a</u>All persons are entitled to keep the fruits of their labor, <u>we oppose all government activity which consists of the forcible collection of money or goods from individuals in violation of their individual rights and strive for the eventual repeal of all taxation. To further that end, w</u> <del>We</del> 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 <del>any legal requirements</del> forcing employers to serve as tax collectors. We support any initiative to reduce or abolish any tax, and oppose any increase on any tax for any reason. To the extent possible, we advocate that all public services be funded <u>or allowed to be provided</u> in a voluntary manner.</p>	<p><b>2.4 Government Finance and Spending</b></p> <p>Since all persons are entitled to keep the fruits of their labor, we oppose all government activity which consists of the forcible collection of money or goods from individuals in violation of their individual rights 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 forcing employers to serve as tax collectors. We support any initiative to reduce or abolish any tax, and oppose any increase on any 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.</p>

### *Rationale for Proposal 12*

Our Party’s actual position on taxation is not clearly spelled out in the Platform as it had been in the past leading some people to feel misled into believing that we were only in favor of the abolition of the income tax and not all taxation. This follows our historic Platform in stating we envision a truly force free world which includes no forcible collection of money or goods which is the point of the quote from the Statement of Principles that only the Libertarian Party believes that people should not have the fruits of their labor taken without their consent and that the abolition of the income tax is the most immediate target. This amendment makes the causal link between our Statement of Principles which requires no forcible collection from persons to the short-term goal of

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abolishing the income tax and recognizes that our ultimate goal isn't likely to happen in one fell swoop.

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## Proposal 13

### Amend current Plank 1.2 “Expression and Communication”

Adopted 7-1-4 3/31/22

CURRENT WORDING	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	IF ADOPTED, WILL READ
<b>1.2 Expression and Communication</b>  We support full freedom of expression and oppose government censorship, regulation, or control of communications media and technology. 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.	<b>1.2 Expression and Communication</b>  We support full freedom of expression and oppose government censorship, regulation, or control of communications media and technology. <u>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.</u> 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.	<b>1.2 Expression and Communication</b>  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.

### *Rationale for Proposal 13*

Current events in the news and in the Party have been interpreted in a way that is a perversion of the Non-Aggression Principle and our Statement of Principles to make mere speech and criticism into aggression. For example, the federal government’s attempts in Virginia and elsewhere to label dissenting speech as “domestic terrorism,” as well as other repeated attempts to criminalize dissenting speech. That’s simply wrong, was neither what the Party’s Founders nor the nation’s Founding Fathers ever intended and undermines the entire foundation of the political activism, the purpose of the Party, and the entire foundation of free speech in our nation. These amendments would make a clear statement that aggressive force is physical action and threats and not mere non-threatening words.

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**Proposal 14**  
**Add new Plank 1.10 “Space Exploration” to the end of Section 1**  
 Adopted 6-1-11 2/18/22

CURRENT WORDING	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	IF ADOPTED, WILL READ
N/A	<u>1.X Space Exploration</u>  <u>We oppose all government restrictions upon voluntary, peaceful use of outer space.</u>	<b>1.X Space Exploration</b>  We oppose all government restrictions upon voluntary, peaceful use of outer space.

### ***Rationale for Proposal 14***

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

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## Proposal 15

### Add new Plank 2.15 “Agorism”

Adopted 10-2-0 4/7/22

CURRENT WORDING	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	IF ADOPTED, WILL READ
N/A	<p><u><b>2.15 Agorism</b></u></p> <p><u><b>We affirm the right to subvert state controls through black and gray market activity, so long as such activity does not violate individual rights and liberties through theft, fraud, or violence.</b></u></p>	<p><b>2.15 Agorism</b></p> <p>We affirm the right to subvert state controls through black and gray market activity, so long as such activity does not violate individual rights and liberties through theft, fraud, or violence.</p>

### *Rationale for Proposal 15*

This addition would fill a gap in our Platform to advocate for peaceful civil disobedience in the economic realm. Nowhere else do we explicitly make clear that individuals have no obligation to obey unjust – and often unconstitutional – laws and regulations.

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## Proposal 16

### Amend current Planks 3.4 “Free Trade and Migration” and 2.8 “Marketplace Freedom”

Adopted Without Objection, 8-4-1, and Without Objection 1/30/22, 2/20/22, 5/3/22

CURRENT WORDING	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	IF ADOPTED, WILL READ
<p><b>3.4 Free Trade and Migration</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p><b>2.8 Marketplace Freedom</b></p> <p>Libertarians support free markets. We defend the right of individuals to form corporations, cooperatives, and other types of entities 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.</p>	<p><del>3.4</del> <u>1.2</u> Free <del>Trade and</del> Migration</p> <p>We support the removal of governmental impediments to free <del>trade-migration</del>. Political freedom, <u>economic opportunity</u>, and escape from tyranny demand that individuals not be unreasonably constrained by government in the crossing of political boundaries. <del>Economic freedom demands the unrestricted movement of human as well as financial capital across national borders.</del></p> <p><b>2.8 Marketplace Freedom</b></p> <p>Libertarians support free markets. We defend the right of individuals to form corporations, cooperatives, and other types of entities 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. <u>Economic freedom demands the unrestricted movement of goods, labor, and capital across international borders.</u></p>	<p><b>1.2 Free Migration</b></p> <p>We support the removal of governmental impediments to free migration. Political freedom, economic opportunity, and escape from tyranny demand that individuals not be unreasonably constrained by government in the crossing of political boundaries.</p> <p><b>2.8 Marketplace Freedom</b></p> <p>Libertarians support free markets. We defend the right of individuals to form corporations, cooperatives, and other types of entities 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. Economic freedom demands the unrestricted movement of goods, labor, and capital across international borders.</p>

### *Rationale for Proposal 16*

The Free Trade and Migration plank is not worded well and brings two separate yet related issues (Migration and Trade) together into a “franken-plank.” These amendments would separate the migration and trade issues so as to not treat people as

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a tradeable good while their labor can be and places the issue of the movement of people in the section under Individual Rights. Lastly, once these issues are separated, it is clear that free movement would belong in section one having to do with individual liberty.

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### Proposal 17

**Amend current Plank 3.4 “Free Trade and Migration” if proposal 16 does not pass; alternatively, amend current Plank 1.2 if proposal 16 does pass**

Adopted 11-4-1 2/10/22

#### IF PROPOSAL 16 DOES NOT PASS

CURRENT WORDING	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	IF ADOPTED, WILL READ
<b>3.4 Free Trade and Migration</b>  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.	<b>3.4 Free Trade and Migration</b>  We support the removal of governmental impediments to free trade. Political freedom and escape from tyranny demand that individuals not be <b>unreasonably</b> 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.	<b>3.4 Free Trade and Migration</b>  We support the removal of governmental impediments to free trade. Political freedom and escape from tyranny demand that individuals not be 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.

#### IF PROPOSAL 16 PASSES

CURRENT WORDING	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	IF ADOPTED, WILL READ
<b>1.2 Free Migration</b>  We support the removal of governmental impediments to free migration. Political freedom, economic opportunity, and escape from tyranny demand that individuals not be unreasonably constrained by government in the crossing of political boundaries.	<b>1.2 Free Migration</b>  We support the removal of governmental impediments to free migration. Political freedom, economic opportunity, and escape from tyranny demand that individuals not be <b>unreasonably</b> constrained by government in the crossing of political boundaries.	<b>1.2 Free Migration</b>  We support the removal of governmental impediments to free migration. Political freedom, economic opportunity, and escape from tyranny demand that individuals not be constrained by government in the crossing of political boundaries.

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### ***Rationale for Proposal 17***

This broader terminology acknowledges that reality. The phrase "unreasonably constrained" has been used to imply that our platform supports government restrictions on the free movement of peoples into and out of our country. By deleting this one simple word, our delegates will send a clear message to this country's immigrant community that our party is the only party that truly supports their rights and treats them as equals

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## Proposal 18

### Amend Current Plank 1.6 “Parental Rights”

Adopted 6-1-0 4/2/22

CURRENT WORDING	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	IF ADOPTED, WILL READ
<b>1.6 Parental Rights</b>  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.	<b>1.6 Parental Rights</b>  <u>We support the separation of family and state. We encourage private arbitration and mediation of family issues such as marriage, cohabitation, adoption, custody disputes, divorce, annulment, and spousal as well as child support.</u> Parents, or other guardians, have the right to raise their children according to their own standards and beliefs, provided that the rights of children <del>to be free from abuse and neglect</del> are <del>also</del> protected. <u>Permanent separation of family members must be adjudicated by due process, not in administrative court.</u>	<b>1.6 Parental Rights</b>  We support the separation of family and state. We encourage private arbitration and mediation of family issues such as marriage, cohabitation, adoption, custody disputes, divorce, annulment, and spousal as well as child support. Parents, or other guardians, have the right to raise their children according to their own standards and beliefs, provided that the rights of children are protected. Permanent separation of family members must be adjudicated by due process, not in administrative court.

### *Rationale for Proposal 18*

This proposal addresses separation of state and family and advocates market forces and voluntary cooperation as well as the stark reality of familial separation by the hands of the state in a manner that protects parental and child rights. These amendments remove ambiguous language from the plank and make it very distinct so that the clarifying clause states that the rights of the children must be and are protected.

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## Proposal 19

### Amend Current Plank 1.4 “Personal Relationships”

Adopted 8-4-0 3/24/22

CURRENT WORDING	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	IF ADOPTED, WILL READ
<p><b>1.4 Personal Relationships</b></p> <p>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. Government does not have the authority to define, promote, license, or restrict 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.</p>	<p><b>1.4 Personal Relationships</b></p> <p>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. <u>Individuals have the sole authority to determine and express their own gender identities.</u> Government does not have the authority to define, promote, license, or <u>restrict self-expression and</u> 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.</p>	<p><b>1.4 Personal Relationships</b></p> <p>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 and 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.</p>

### *Rationale for Proposal 19*

The current wording of this plank remains somewhat ambiguous on rights to transgender expression. It proclaims that 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.

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## 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.

## Interpretative Notes

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 and does not take into account other changes that might take place prior to the introduction of any particular proposal.

**Honoured to be serving as the national Platform Committee Chair for the 2022 national Libertarian Party Convention, having previously held this honour for the 2018 and 2020 national conventions,**

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### NOTES:

This report is subject to amendment at any time prior to its presentation at the 2022 convention. The entire current platform can be found at: [www.lp.org/platform](http://www.lp.org/platform). This report merely shows the portions for which the committee is recommending changes.

Additions as in **blue** (when printed in color), bold, and underline formatting. Strike-outs are in ~~red~~ (when printed in color), bold, and strike-through formatting. Changes or addition of new planks require a 2/3 votes. Plank deletions require a majority vote.

## APPENDIX A - Marked-Up Copy of Platform With Proposals

# ***MARK-UP COPY LIBERTARIAN PARTY PLATFORM 2022 NATIONAL PLATFORM COMMITTEE***

## ***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.

## ***PREAMBLE***

### **NOTES:**

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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 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.

## ***1.0 PERSONAL LIBERTY***

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 Free Migration***

We support the removal of governmental impediments to free ~~trade-migration~~. Political freedom, economic opportunity, 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.~~

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### **1.23 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.

### **1.34 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.

### **1.45 Personal Relationships and Expression**

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 and 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.

### **1.56 Abortion**

Recognizing that abortion is a sensitive issue and that people can hold good-faith views on all sides, we believe that government should be kept out of the matter, leaving the question to each person for their conscientious consideration.

### **1.67 Parental Rights**

We support the separation of family and state. We encourage private arbitration and mediation of family issues such as marriage, cohabitation, adoption, custody disputes, divorce, annulment, and spousal as well as child support. 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. Permanent separation of family members must be adjudicated by due process, not in administrative court.

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### 1.8 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.

### **1.79 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 accountable for misconduct that leads to wrongful convictions, or other acts of injustice.

### **1.810 Death Penalty**

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

### **1.911 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 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, ~~or~~ ammunition, or firearm accessories.

### 1.12 Space Exploration

We oppose all government restrictions upon voluntary, peaceful use of outer space.

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## **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 Property and Contract**

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.

### **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 aAll persons are entitled to keep the fruits of their labor, we oppose all government activity which consists of the forcible collection of money or goods from individuals in violation of their individual rights and strive for the eventual repeal of all taxation. To further that end, w ~~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.

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We oppose ~~any legal requirements~~ forcing employers to serve as tax collectors. We support any initiative to reduce or abolish any tax, and oppose any increase on any 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.

## ***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***

Libertarians support free markets. We defend the right of individuals to form ~~corporations, cooperatives and other types of entities~~ 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 call for a separation of business and state. Economic freedom demands the unrestricted movement of goods, labor, and capital across international borders.

## ***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.

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## 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.

## 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.

## 2.15 Agorism

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We affirm the right to subvert state controls through black and gray market activity, so long as such activity does not violate individual rights and liberties through theft, fraud, or violence.

### 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 protection of individual rights is~~ ~~†The only proper purpose of government, should it exist, is the protection of individual rights.~~ ~~Government is constitutionally limited so as to prevent the infringement of individual rights by the government itself.~~ The principle of non-initiation of force should guide the relationships between governments.

#### 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

#### 3.2 Internal Security and Individual Rights

~~The defense of the country requires that we have adequate intelligence to detect and to counter threats to domestic security. This requirement must not take priority over maintaining the civil liberties of our citizens. The Constitution and Bill of Rights shall not be suspended even during time of war.~~ 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, 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 seek an America at peace with the world. Our foreign~~ policy should emphasize ~~defense against attack from abroad and enhance the likelihood of~~ peace with all nations, entangling alliances with none ~~by avoiding foreign entanglements.~~ We would end the current U.S. government policies of foreign intervention including military and economic aid; tariffs; economic sanctions; 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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### **3.54 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 condemn bigotry as irrational and repugnant. 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.

### **3.65 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 express 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 which 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 **legitimate** alternatives. We advocate initiative, referendum, recall, **and** repeal, and oppose any effort to deny these options when used as popular checks on government.

### **3.76 Self-Determination**

Whenever any form of government becomes destructive of individual liberty, it is the right of the people to alter, ~~or to~~ abolish **it**, 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.

## **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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