

## **2019-2021 South Carolina Libertarian Party Platform**

This Platform was ordained and established by the South Carolina Libertarian Party State Convention in Florence, South Carolina, on November 2, 2019

### **1. Our Constitutional Republic**

Our Constitutional Republic was established to protect our rights to life, liberty, and property. The only legitimate purpose of Government is to preserve and protect our individual rights.

### **2. Free Market Economy**

The SCLP supports a free market economy. Government should be restrained from redistributing income, subsidizing businesses, individuals or groups. Taxes, regulation and government spending should be reduced significantly and immediately and done openly.

### **3. In a free society**

In a free society, it is not the government's purpose to tell its citizens what to do for their health, safety, or lifestyle, nor should the government or any other individual be held responsible for the choices of others.

The government must not enact laws that infringe on the free choice of citizens. We hold that individuals are entitled to live their own lifestyles, as long as they do not impose their values on others. Each individual is solely responsible for accepting the consequences of their own actions.

### **4. Property Rights**

The SCLP supports the elimination of all property tax, both real and personal. One of the basic principles of the Libertarian Party is the right to own property. When taxes are levied on property, ownership is only temporary and subject to seizure by government agencies.

### **5. Civil Asset Forfeiture and Eminent Domain**

The SCLP condemns civil asset forfeiture and eminent domain. Since it is an inherent right to own property, the government cannot infringe upon that right without first having just cause to acquire a legal warrant, and then following the full course of due process before the legal ownership of personal or real property may be subject to surrender. This due process must include a separate court proceeding that definitively determines if the property was gained by virtue of criminal behavior.

### **6. Procedural changes via constitutional amendment**

The SCLP believes that the South Carolina constitution should be amended so that any bill or ordinance, without regard to how it is introduced, must pertain to one subject only and that subject shall be expressed in the title. Additionally, the SCLP supports the right of citizens to recall elected officials, the right of citizens to place binding referendums on ballots, and the inclusion of a "None Of The Above" option on all ballots for elected offices.

### **7. On-The-Record Voting**

The SCLP supports a state constitutional amendment that would prohibit voice votes in the General Assembly and require a recorded vote from each of its members on all matters.

#### 8. Ethics

The SCLP supports a state constitutional amendment that would permanently place the members of the General Assembly under the authority of the State Ethics Commission and require all elected officials to report their income sources.

#### 9. Citizen participation in the SC Ethics Commission

There is no benefit to be had from government employees investigating and adjudicating alleged misconduct by government employees or elected officials as it presents a clear conflict of interest. The SCLP believes that at least 51% of every ethics commission investigative panel should be composed of registered voters chosen from the appropriate jury pool.

#### 10. Restoration of Federalism

The SCLP supports the repeal of the 17th Amendment to the United States Constitution, thereby restoring to the state legislatures the power of appointment of United States Senators. By so doing, senators will be directly accountable to their state legislatures and remove any benefit to be had from trading favors for votes. Senators, as per the founding fathers' intent, must be the representatives of their respective States and not the individual voters. We further affirm our support for the 9th and 10th amendments to the constitution of United States, the rights of the citizen to perform jury nullification, and the power of local governments to nullify state laws.

#### 11. Judicial Independence

The public deserves confidence that judges rule independently of the legislature whose laws they judge. South Carolina is the only state in the nation in which the legislature unilaterally appoints judges even when vacancies arise. The SCLP supports a constitutional amendment that would have the governor nominate judges, with advice and consent from the Senate.

#### 12. Executive Branch

The SCLP supports a constitutional amendment that would make the Governor fully accountable for the Executive Branch.

The state's boards and commissions should be under the Governor so that there will be someone to hold directly accountable for the successes and failures of those organizations. This will ensure accountability to the governor as opposed to miscellaneous legislators. The Attorney General and the Comptroller General should remain independent constitutional offices as a control on the Governor's power.

#### 13. Change the state law that mandates an open budget process to a State Constitutional Amendment

State law requires that the Governor, not the Legislature, write the first draft of the budget, and that the Legislature make revisions to the Governor's budget in "joint open hearings" – a requirement that is routinely ignored. The SCLP believes that making this law into a state constitutional amendment will keep the Legislature from changing it [or ignoring it] at its whim.

#### 14. Forbidding the General Assembly from exempting themselves from laws that they pass

The SCLP believes that there should not be a ruling class that can exempt itself from the laws that they impose on the citizenry of South Carolina. Therefore, the SCLP supports a constitutional amendment that would keep lawmakers from granting themselves any exemptions or favors.

#### 15. Government Accountability

The SCLP believes that in order to have good government, the government must allow its citizens access to its records without prohibitive rates for things like photocopying and “labor.”

In this modern digital age, all government records should be digitally archived and made available to the public at no cost. By implementing prohibitive costs and bureaucratic red tape, government agencies have effectively denied access to essential records. All government records must be made available to the public at no cost.

#### 16. Reduce Legislative Sessions

South Carolina has one of the longest legislative sessions in the country. Long sessions create more demand for lobbyists, more special interest legislation and they favor career politicians over citizen-legislators. Therefore, the SCLP supports changing the state constitution to set the session to occur bi-annually [January through June] and require all legislation to be passed and signed by the Governor prior to the end of session in order to be enacted into law.