



The Libertarian Party of Arkansas

Platform adopted by Convention on April 13, 2019

Preamble

Libertarians believe that all people have the unalienable right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Governments should only exist, through the consent of the governed, to protect those individual rights. So long as they are not infringing on the rights of others, people should retain the rights and responsibilities of self rule free from government interference and initiation of force. Regnat Populus.

1.0 Agriculture

1.1 Farmers and members of the agricultural industry in this State should be free to operate in markets without burdensome or unnecessary regulation and taxation.

1.2 There should be no restrictions or limitations on interstate and international trade of agricultural products, including the application of tariffs on food products between nations.

1.3 The regulatory and tax burdens on farmers and agricultural industry members at the local, state, and federal levels should be reduced or eliminated, including the reduction or abolition of the property and inheritance taxes.

1.4 Subsidies to farmers and agricultural industries should be phased out, including and especially those subsidies which are the result of market manipulation by local, state, federal, or international governments or regulatory bodies. The Federal Department of Agriculture should be phased out.

1.5 Farmers and members of the agricultural industry shall be responsible and liable for any damages they might cause.

2.0 Defense/Security

2.1 Personal Defense: The defense of individual rights—life, liberty, and justly acquired property—against aggression is a legitimate use of force. 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. 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, taxing, or monitoring the ownership, manufacture, or transfer of firearms or ammunition.

2.2 National Defense: We support the maintenance of a sufficient military to defend Arkansas and the United States against aggression. The United States should both avoid entangling alliances and abandon its attempts to act as policeman for the world. The military should not be deployed without a formal declaration of war by Congress, as required in the US Constitution. The national guard should not be deployed outside our borders. We oppose any form of compulsory national service.

2.3 Intelligence: 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.

2.4 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 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.

3.0 Education

3.1 Education is best provided by the free market; achieving greater quality, accountability, and efficiency with more diversity of choice. Competition from private schools and cooperatives free from government interference should be allowed and encouraged. Voucher or subsidy programs using tax dollars should not be used. The Federal Department of Education should be eliminated.

3.2 Parents should have control of and responsibility for their children's education. Compulsory education laws should be repealed. We oppose government interference or punishment for home schooling.

4.0 Fiscal Issues

4.1 Debt: No level of government should incur debt, which burdens future generations without their consent. A balanced budget should be required.

4.2 Taxes: 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.

4.3 Spending: All federal and state programs and services not required under the U.S. Or Arkansas Constitution should be abolished. The government at every level should provide only those required programs and services that private enterprise can not adequately provide.

4.4 Legal Tender: 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.

5.0 Free Market

5.1 Markets: Libertarians support free markets. We defend the right of individuals to form corporations, cooperatives and other types of entities based on voluntary association. Each person has the right to offer goods and services to others on a free and competitive market, and should be free to choose with whom they trade and set whatever trade terms are mutually agreeable. 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.

5.2 Assistance: Libertarians oppose all forms of government subsidies, bailouts, and corporate welfare to business, labor, or any other special interest. All efforts by government to redistribute wealth, or to control or manage trade, are improper in a free society.

5.3 Licensing: Libertarians oppose occupational and other licensing laws that treat rights as a state-granted privilege. We encourage certifications by voluntary associations.

5.4 Private Property: Respect for property rights is fundamental to maintaining a free and prosperous society. Freedom to contract to obtain, retain, profit from, manage, or dispose of one's property must 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.

5.5 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.

5.6 Government Employment: Where government employment is necessary, Libertarians 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. No government employee or official should receive more compensation in pay or benefits than a comparable worker in the private sector.

5.7 Health Insurance: 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.

6.0 Personal/Social Issues

6.1 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; what risks they accept to their own health, finances, safety, or life; 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.

6.2 Non-Aggression: No individual, group, government, or nation may rightly initiate force against any other individual, group, government, or nation.

6.3 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. Sexual orientation, preference, gender, or personal choices should have no impact on the government's treatment of individuals. Government does not have the authority to define, promote, license, tax, restrict, regulate, or otherwise participate in personal relationships. Consenting adults should be free to choose their own practices and personal relationships.

6.4 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.

6.5 Expression/Religion: 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 which either aid or prohibit free exercise of any religion.

6.6 Crime/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. 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.

7.0 Political/Government

7.1 Political Parties: Libertarians 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.

7.2 Election Laws: All laws which restrict voluntary financing of election campaigns should be repealed. Libertarians 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.

8.0 Omissions

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.



The foregoing platform was adopted by the Libertarian Party of Arkansas at Convention on April 13, 2019.

Dr. Michael Pakko, Chair

Mr. Ken Duck, Convention Secretary