

Statement of Principles and
Platform Preamble for the
Libertarian Party.

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revision

We, the members of the Libertarian Party, in opposition to the philosophies of government prevailing in the world today, recognize that every human individual must, by nature as a reasoning being, have absolute sovereignty over his or her life, but none over the life of any other, in order that each may attain the greatest happiness and realization of human potential possible.

We therefore maintain and defend the absolute and inalienable right of every individual to his or her life, liberty, and property: the right to speak and act, and specifically to keep and control all the fruits of one's labor and all inheritance, according to one's sovereign judgment, insofar as such action does not violate the same rights of others. We maintain consequently the right of every individual to enter freely into associations and contracts by mutual consent.

Because the initiation of physical force is the sole ultimate means of violating the individual's rights, and is in every case a violation of rights, we oppose all such action by any individual, group, or government for any purpose whatever; we maintain the right of every individual to defend against such action, and to associate in the institution of government for that purpose according to the necessity for objective law to govern the defensive use of force among individuals.

We hold all these rights to be inseparable from the right to life, and from each other.

We therefore maintain that the sole legitimate and necessary function of government is the protection of the individual's rights, within defined territorial limits, against violators foreign and domestic; and that the only political-economic system consistent with man's rational nature and individual rights is laissez-faire capitalism under a constitutionally limited republic, commissioned by its citizens solely to guarantee equal protection of their rights under law.

In order, then, to defend the freedom and dignity of the human individual according to these principles, against all those who bring incalculable misery and destruction upon mankind now, as throughout history, by regulating and disposing of individuals' lives and property against their rights and consent; and to make possible thereby a society in which free men and women may live unafraid and prosperous in justice and happiness, each pursuing his or her own dream and goal, we now advocate and seek to implement our positions and policies of government.