

Statement of Principles and
Platform Preamble for the
Libertarian Party

We, the members of the Libertarian Party, in opposition to the philosophies of government prevailing in the world today, recognize that all human individuals must, by their nature as reasoning beings, have absolute sovereignty over their own lives, but none over the life of any other, in order that each individual may attain the greatest happiness and realization of human potential possible to him.

We therefore maintain and defend the absolute and inalienable right of all individuals to their own life, liberty and property; the right to speak and act and, specifically, to keep and control all the fruits of their labor, and all inheritance, according to the sovereign judgment of each of them, 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 rights of individuals and is in every case a violation of such rights, we oppose the ini-

tiation of force by any individual, group or government for any purpose whatever and we maintain the right of every individual to defend against such action, and to associate in the institution of government in order to establish objective laws 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 rights under law.

In order, then, to defend the freedom and dignity of the human individual against all those who bring incalculable misery and destruction upon mankind now as throughout history by regulating and disposing of the individual's life and property in violation of the rights of individuals and without their consent, and to make possible 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 set forth the political program necessary to achieve these objectives.