



**Report of the Platform Committee to the  
Delegates of the Libertarian Party of  
Colorado 2021 State Convention**

**Caryn Ann Harlos, Chair**

**Wayne Harlos**

**Kat Martin**

**Michael Seebeck, Recording Secretary**

**Josh Walen**

Report prepared by Recording Secretary, for the Committee Chair

Approved by the Platform Committee

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**Legend for Proposals:** Platform text is in this font, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted.

Deletions precede insertions when possible. Other text is in this font.

Threshold Vote for Passage: Repeal requires majority vote. Adopt or amend requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote.

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## **Introduction to Recommendations**

The events of the past year, especially concerning the massive increases in statism and trampling of individual freedom while government grows out of control, demand those actions be addressed. It is those concerns that serve as the basis for the majority of the proposals in this report. Others address identified gaps in the Platform. We further surveyed the Party membership and refined our proposals based upon that extensive feedback. This Committee has been one of the most cooperative and genial that I have had the privilege of serving, and we were glad to have several less experienced members join us so that they will be trained up to serve on future committees.

This Committee was honored to serve and thanks the Delegates of the 2021 Libertarian Party Convention for their consideration of these proposals. The Chair thanks the Committee members for their diligence.

If you have any questions or input leading up to the Convention, please do not hesitate to contact me at [carynannharlos@gmail.com](mailto:carynannharlos@gmail.com) or 561.523.2250.

Respectfully Submitted,

Caryn Ann Harlos

2021 LPCO Platform Committee Chair

*\*Previously served as LPCO Platform Committee Chair for the 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019 conventions and as National Platform Committee Chair for the 2018 and 2020 National Libertarian Party conventions.*

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## Platform Proposal #0: Colorado's Bigly Wall

*Submitted by Donald Trump*

*VOTE TOTALS: What vote? It was a stolen vote! They cheated! I'll sue!*

---

**Problem:** This is a test of the Platform Proposal System. The Platform Committee of your Party in voluntary cooperation with the Convention has developed this system to keep you informed in the event of a proposal. If this had been an actual proposal, the Introduction you just heard would have been followed by official information, motions, or instructions. This Platform Committee serves the Libertarian Party of Colorado. This concludes this test of the Platform Proposal System.

**Solution:** Laugh!

**Benefits:** It's good for the soul...

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### **MOTION TO AMEND SOMETHING PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED:**

*(not divisible, 2/3 to amend or adopt, majority to delete)*

Move to laugh at:

- reading but not voting on this "proposal", that reads as follows:

EXISTING LANGUAGE	MARKED-UP PROPOSAL	FINAL IF ADOPTED
<b>Platform Proposal #0: Colorado's Bigly Wall</b>		
n/a	<u><i>Colorado's Bigly Wall</i></u>  <u>We support the building of a huge, bigly wonderful wall, the best wall ever made, on the western border of Colorado and forcing California to pay for it. California will pay for it, and it'll be terrific, just amazing.</u>	<i>Colorado's Bigly Wall</i>  We support the building of a huge, bigly wonderful wall, the best wall ever made, on the western border of Colorado and forcing California to pay for it. California will pay for it, and it'll be terrific, just amazing.

---

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Threshold Vote for Passage: Repeal requires majority vote. Adopt or amend requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote.

## **Platform Proposal #1: The Individual; Personal Responsibility**

*Submitted by Michael Seebeck*

*VOTE TOTALS: 4-0 (Chair not voting)*

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**Problem:** As currently worded, the introductory section “The Individual” can be interpreted as a person having the option of being responsible for their actions, instead of it being necessary.

**Solution:** Amend the section to move it from optional to necessary.

**Benefits:** Fixes the problem and places it in line with the national platform.

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### **MOTION TO AMEND SOMETHING PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED:**

*(not divisible, 2/3 to amend or adopt, majority to delete)*

Move to amend introductory section “The Individual”, by:

- in the third sentence, striking out “should ” and inserting “must ”, and
- in the third sentence, striking out “to ”,

that would then read as follows:

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**Legend for Proposals:** Platform text is in this font, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted.

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EXISTING LANGUAGE	MARKED-UP PROPOSAL	FINAL IF ADOPTED
<b>Platform Proposal #1: The Individual; Personal Responsibility</b>		
<p><b>The Individual</b></p> <p>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. Individuals should be free to make choices for themselves and to accept responsibility for the consequences of the choices they make, provided those choices do not violate the rights of others. Our support of an individual’s right to make choices in life does not mean that we necessarily approve or disapprove of those choices.</p>	<p><b>The Individual</b></p> <p>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. Individuals <del>should</del> <u>must</u> be free to make choices for themselves and <del>to</del> accept responsibility for the consequences of the choices they make, provided those choices do not violate the rights of others. Our support of an individual’s right to make choices in life does not mean that we necessarily approve or disapprove of those choices.</p>	<p><b>The Individual</b></p> <p>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. Individuals must be free to make choices for themselves and accept responsibility for the consequences of the choices they make, provided those choices do not violate the rights of others. Our support of an individual’s right to make choices in life does not mean that we necessarily approve or disapprove of those choices.</p>

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Threshold Vote for Passage: Repeal requires majority vote. Adopt or amend requires 2/3 vote.

## **Platform Proposal #2: Elections; Other Voting Systems**

*Submitted by Caryn Ann Harlos and Michael Seebeck*

*VOTE TOTALS: 3-0 (Acting Chair not voting, 1 member absent)*

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**Problem:** The problems of the 2020 election have shown that transparency in elections as well as alternative voting systems are necessary in order to preserve election integrity and ensure equal opportunity for third parties. This is not addressed.

**Solution:** Add language to the plank “Elections” to address these issues.

**Benefits:** Makes the plank more comprehensive.

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### **MOTION TO AMEND SOMETHING PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED:**

*(divisible, 2/3 to amend or adopt, majority to delete)*

Move to amend plank “Elections” by:

- in the first sentence, inserting “transparent and more representative ” between “support’ and “election”, and
- in the first sentence, striking out “that are more representative of the electorate at the national, state and local levels” and inserting “at all levels, including ranked-choice voting, approval voting, and proportional representation”,

that would then read as follows:

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EXISTING LANGUAGE	MARKED-UP PROPOSAL	FINAL IF ADOPTED
<b>Platform Proposal #2: Elections; Other Voting Systems</b>		
<p><i>Elections</i></p> <p>We support election systems that are more representative of the electorate at the national, state, and local levels. As private voluntary groups, political parties should be allowed to establish their own rules for nomination procedures, primaries, caucuses, 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 individual 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 support the addition of "None of the Above" as an option on all ballots. If "None of the Above" wins, the elective office for that term would remain unfilled and unfunded. We oppose all attempts to bind Colorado's Presidential Electors to the national popular vote.</p>	<p><i>Elections</i></p> <p>We support <u>transparent and more representative</u> election systems <del>that are more representative of the electorate at the national, state, and local levels</del> <u>at all levels, including ranked-choice voting, approval voting, and proportional representation</u>. As private voluntary groups, political parties should be allowed to establish their own rules for nomination procedures, primaries, caucuses, 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 individual 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 support the addition of "None of the Above" as an option on all ballots. If "None of the Above" wins, the elective office for that term would remain unfilled and unfunded. We oppose all attempts to bind Colorado's Presidential Electors to the national popular vote.</p>	<p><i>Elections</i></p> <p>We support transparent and more representative election systems at all levels, including ranked-choice voting, approval voting, and proportional representation. As private voluntary groups, political parties should be allowed to establish their own rules for nomination procedures, primaries, caucuses, 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 individual 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 support the addition of "None of the Above" as an option on all ballots. If "None of the Above" wins, the elective office for that term would remain unfilled and unfunded. We oppose all attempts to bind Colorado's Presidential Electors to the national popular vote.</p>

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### **Platform Proposal #3: Right to Self-Defense; Parts and Supplies**

*Submitted by Wayne Harlos and Caryn Ann Harlos*

*VOTE TOTALS: 3-0 (Acting Chair not voting, 1 member absent)*

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**Problem:** As currently worded, the plank “Right to Self-Defense” addresses arms themselves but not the parts and supplies that may be needed or wanted to use them. Other states have recently tried to ban firearms ammunition, for example. Additionally, the government has been conducting an end-run around the Second Amendment by not outright banning guns, but imposing onerous requirements on ownership that de facto would exclude many, particularly the poor, from gun ownership, such as mandatory storage or insurance coverage.

**Solution:** Add language to address the omissions.

**Benefits:** Strengthens the plank.

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#### **MOTION TO AMEND SOMETHING PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED:**

*(not divisible, 2/3 to amend or adopt, majority to delete)*

Move to amend plank “Right to Self-Defense” by:

- inserting at the end of the last sentence “, along with any related accessories, parts, or supplies”, and
- adding the sentence “Further, we oppose all laws that de facto restrict arms ownership by adding additional burdens such as mandatory storage and insurance requirements.”,

that would then read as follows:

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EXISTING LANGUAGE	MARKED-UP PROPOSAL	FINAL IF ADOPTED
<b>Platform Proposal #3: Right to Self-Defense; Parts and Supplies</b>		
<p><i>Right to Self-Defense</i></p> <p>The only legitimate use of force is in the defense of individual rights—life, liberty, and justly-acquired property—against aggression. This right inheres in the individual, who may seek to be, or agree to be aided by any other individual or group in the exercise of the right to self-defense. Maintaining our belief in the inviolability of the right to keep and bear arms, we reject all laws at any level of government restricting, registering, or monitoring the ownership, manufacture, transport, or transfer of any item or tool that could be used for self-defense.</p>	<p><i>Right to Self-Defense</i></p> <p>The only legitimate use of force is in the defense of individual rights—life, liberty, and justly-acquired property—against aggression. This right inheres in the individual, who may seek to be, or agree to be aided by any other individual or group in the exercise of the right to self-defense. Maintaining our belief in the inviolability of the right to keep and bear arms, we reject all laws at any level of government restricting, registering, or monitoring the ownership, manufacture, transport, or transfer of any item or tool that could be used for self-defense, <u>along with any related accessories, parts, or supplies. Further, we oppose all laws that de facto restrict arms ownership by adding additional burdens such as mandatory storage and insurance requirements.</u></p>	<p><i>Right to Self-Defense</i></p> <p>The only legitimate use of force is in the defense of individual rights—life, liberty, and justly-acquired property—against aggression. This right inheres in the individual, who may seek to be, or agree to be aided by any other individual or group in the exercise of the right to self-defense. Maintaining our belief in the inviolability of the right to keep and bear arms, we reject all laws at any level of government restricting, registering, or monitoring the ownership, manufacture, transport, or transfer of any item or tool that could be used for self-defense, along with any related accessories, parts, or supplies. Further, we oppose all laws that de facto restrict arms ownership by adding additional burdens such as mandatory storage and insurance requirements.</p>

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## **Platform Proposal #4: Free Enterprise (new plank)**

*Submitted by Caryn Ann Harlos and Wayne Harlos*

*VOTE TOTALS: 3-0 (Chair not voting, 1 member absent)*

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**Problem:** Governments should not be in competition in the marketplace, nor should they interfere with it by granting preferential treatment to some businesses and punitive treatment to others, including the chartering of corporations, which confers limited liability for their actions.

**Solution:** Add a new plank “Free Enterprise” to “The Market” section to address these concerns and to call for true free enterprise.

**Benefits:** Strengthens “The Market” section of the Platform with a strong statement about free markets and free enterprise.

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### **MOTION TO AMEND SOMETHING PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED:**

*(divisible, 2/3 to amend or adopt)*

Move to add a new plank “Free Enterprise” under the section “The Market”, that would read as follows:

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Threshold Vote for Passage: Repeal requires majority vote. Adopt or amend requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote.

EXISTING LANGUAGE	MARKED-UP PROPOSAL	FINAL IF ADOPTED
<b>Platform Proposal #4: Free Enterprise (new plank)</b>		
n/a	<p data-bbox="646 281 1029 312"><u><i>Free Enterprise</i></u></p> <p data-bbox="646 365 1029 1123"><u>We defend the rights of individuals to form any type of business entity based on voluntary association and investment. We oppose all forms of government subsidies, bailouts, or any other preferential or punitive treatment to businesses, labor, or any other special interest. Government should not compete with private enterprise. We reject government charter of corporations. Corporations, like all businesses, are not individuals. We call for a separation of business and state.</u></p>	<p data-bbox="1052 281 1235 312"><i>Free Enterprise</i></p> <p data-bbox="1052 365 1435 1123">We defend the rights of individuals to form any type of business entity based on voluntary association and investment. We oppose all forms of government subsidies, bailouts, or any other preferential or punitive treatment to businesses, labor, or any other special interest. Government should not compete with private enterprise. We reject government charter of corporations. Corporations, like all businesses, are not individuals. We call for a separation of business and state.</p>

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## **Platform Proposal #5: The Government; Individual Liberties**

*Submitted by Caryn Ann Harlos*

*VOTE TOTALS: 3-0 (Acting Chair not voting, 1 member absent)*

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**Problem:** COVID-19 has exposed the pure contempt of government for individual rights and liberties, destroying businesses and lives, and in general using the disease to drastically and improperly curtail freedom. That is not addressed. It needs to be addressed.

**Solution:** Address it in the introductory section “The Government.”

**Benefits:** Adds a strong statement to the section regarding individual freedoms.

---

### **MOTION TO AMEND SOMETHING PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED:**

*(not divisible, 2/3 to amend or adopt, majority to delete)*

Move to amend introductory section “The Government” by:

- adding the sentence “Individual liberties must never be suspended or curtailed, whether based on circumstances of war, contagion, natural disaster, or any other pretense.”,

that would then read as follows:

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EXISTING LANGUAGE	MARKED-UP PROPOSAL	FINAL IF ADOPTED
<b>Platform Proposal #5: The Government; Individual Liberties</b>		
<p><b>The Government</b></p> <p>The principle of non-initiation of force should guide governments and individuals. We call for a non-interventionist foreign policy and recognize the rights to unrestricted travel, trade, and immigration while reserving the right to defend against specific and credible threats.</p>	<p><b>The Government</b></p> <p>The principle of non-initiation of force should guide governments and individuals. We call for a non-interventionist foreign policy and recognize the rights to unrestricted travel, trade, and immigration while reserving the right to defend against specific and credible threats. <u>Individual liberties must never be suspended or curtailed, whether based on circumstances of war, contagion, natural disaster, or any other pretense.</u></p>	<p><b>The Government</b></p> <p>The principle of non-initiation of force should guide governments and individuals. We call for a non-interventionist foreign policy and recognize the rights to unrestricted travel, trade, and immigration while reserving the right to defend against specific and credible threats. Individual liberties must never be suspended or curtailed, whether based on circumstances of war, contagion, natural disaster, or any other pretense.</p>

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Threshold Vote for Passage: Repeal requires majority vote. Adopt or amend requires 2/3 vote.

## **Platform Proposal #6: Victimless Crimes**

*Submitted by Michael Seebeck*

*VOTE TOTALS: 4-0 (Chair not voting)*

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**Problem:** In the plank “Victimless Crimes,” the statement of criminal and civil laws being limited to rights violations is not strong enough.

**Solution:** Amend the first sentence to make it stronger. One technical cleanup.

**Benefits:** Better worded, stronger language.

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### **MOTION TO AMEND SOMETHING PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED:**

*(divisible, 2/3 to amend or adopt, majority to delete)*

Move to amend plank “Victimless Crimes” by:

- in the first sentence, striking out “should ” and inserting “must ”, and
- in the second sentence, striking out the comma (**highlighted**) after “victims” as unnecessary,

that would then read as follows:

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Threshold Vote for Passage: Repeal requires majority vote. Adopt or amend requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote.

EXISTING LANGUAGE	MARKED-UP PROPOSAL	FINAL IF ADOPTED
<b>Platform Proposal #6: Victimless Crimes</b>		
<p><i>Victimless Crimes</i></p> <p>Criminal and civil laws should be limited to violations of the rights of others through fraud, force, or deliberate and credible threats of imminent force. We therefore reject all laws that create “crimes” without victims, for voluntary and consensual activities such as, but not limited to, the use of drugs for medicinal or recreational purposes, prostitution, and gambling. We also reject government placing itself as a proxy victim of alleged “crimes.”</p>	<p><i>Victimless Crimes</i></p> <p>Criminal and civil laws <del>should</del> <b>must</b> be limited to violations of the rights of others through fraud, force, or deliberate and credible threats of imminent force. We therefore reject all laws that create “crimes” without victims; for voluntary and consensual activities such as, but not limited to, the use of drugs for medicinal or recreational purposes, prostitution, and gambling. We also reject government placing itself as a proxy victim of alleged “crimes.”</p>	<p><i>Victimless Crimes</i></p> <p>Criminal and civil laws must be limited to violations of the rights of others through fraud, force, or deliberate and credible threats of imminent force. We therefore reject all laws that create “crimes” without victims for voluntary and consensual activities such as, but not limited to, the use of drugs for medicinal or recreational purposes, prostitution, and gambling. We also reject government placing itself as a proxy victim of alleged “crimes.”</p>

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Threshold Vote for Passage: Repeal requires majority vote. Adopt or amend requires 2/3 vote.

## **Platform Proposal #7: Localization of Powers (new plank)**

*Submitted by Michael Seebeck*

*VOTE TOTALS: 3-0 (Acting Chair not voting, 1 member absent)*

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**Problem:** One of the largest, most fundamental, and unrecognized hurdles to shrinking government is the tangling and intertwining of the various levels of government, from the federal to the local, through regulations and funding—the “strings attached.” This is rarely addressed if at all, and it is necessary to understand this problem in order to shrink government at all.

**Solution:** Add a plank to the “Government” section to acknowledge the problem and call for the untangling of the levels (“cutting the strings”) as a needed step towards shrinking government.

**Benefits:** Addresses a major omission that few people are talking or thinking about.

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### **MOTION TO AMEND SOMETHING PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED:**

*(not divisible, 2/3 to amend or adopt)*

Move to add a new plank “Localization of Powers” under the section “The Government”, that would read as follows:

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**Legend for Proposals:** Platform text is in this font, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted.

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Threshold Vote for Passage: Repeal requires majority vote. Adopt or amend requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote.

EXISTING LANGUAGE	MARKED-UP PROPOSAL	FINAL IF ADOPTED
<b>Platform Proposal #7: Localization of Powers (new plank)</b>		
n/a	<p data-bbox="634 281 1029 310"><u><i>Localization of Powers</i></u></p> <p data-bbox="634 363 1029 705"><u>We support the untangling of the layers of government from each other, such that federal, state, county, municipal, and district governments are separate and independent from each other, in both function and funding, in order to facilitate their reduction or repeal.</u></p>	<p data-bbox="1052 281 1321 310"><i>Localization of Powers</i></p> <p data-bbox="1052 363 1442 720">We support the untangling of the layers of government from each other, such that federal, state, county, municipal, and district governments are separate and independent from each other, in both function and funding, in order to facilitate their reduction or repeal.</p>

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Threshold Vote for Passage: Repeal requires majority vote. Adopt or amend requires 2/3 vote.

## **Platform Proposal #8: Labor Markets; Government Employee Unions**

*Submitted by Wayne Harlos*

*VOTE TOTALS: 3-0 (Chair not voting, 1 member absent)*

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**Problem:** The plank “Labor Market” addresses unions when dealing with private businesses but not when dealing with governments. Public employee unions have been destructive to taxpayers and liberty because they entrench government employees and waste taxpayer money. Further, public sector services are a state-enforced monopoly and thus are not subject to free market forces and competition that would drive costs down if unionization artificially inflates costs.

**Solution:** Add language to address government/public employee unions.

**Benefits:** Addresses an omission in the plank.

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### **MOTION TO AMEND SOMETHING PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED:**

*(not divisible, 2/3 to amend or adopt, majority to delete)*

Move to amend plank “Labor Markets” by:

- in the first sentence, striking out “an ” and inserting “a private ”,
- in the second sentence, inserting “private ” between “right of” and “employers”, and
- adding the sentence “We oppose all public employee unions.”,

that would then read as follows:

---

**Legend for Proposals:** Platform text is in this font, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted.

Deletions precede insertions when possible. Other text is in this font.

Threshold Vote for Passage: Repeal requires majority vote. Adopt or amend requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote.

EXISTING LANGUAGE	MARKED-UP PROPOSAL	FINAL IF ADOPTED
<b>Platform Proposal #8: Labor Markets; Government Employee Unions</b>		
<p><i>Labor Markets</i></p> <p>The contract between an employer and employee is a voluntary relationship which both sides choose to enter into, and whose terms can only be fairly negotiated without interference by government. We support the right of employers and employees to freely choose whether or not to bargain with each other through a third party, such as a labor union. There is no inherent “right to work” nor a “right to unionize” but merely the freedom for all to negotiate conditions of employment.</p>	<p><i>Labor Markets</i></p> <p>The contract between <del>an</del> <b>a private</b> employer and employee is a voluntary relationship which both sides choose to enter into, and whose terms can only be fairly negotiated without interference by government. We support the right of <b>private</b> employers and employees to freely choose whether or not to bargain with each other through a third party, such as a labor union. There is no inherent “right to work” nor a “right to unionize” but merely the freedom for all to negotiate conditions of employment. <b>We oppose all public employee unions.</b></p>	<p><i>Labor Markets</i></p> <p>The contract between a private employer and employee is a voluntary relationship which both sides choose to enter into, and whose terms can only be fairly negotiated without interference by government. We support the right of private employers and employees to freely choose whether or not to bargain with each other through a third party, such as a labor union. There is no inherent “right to work” nor a “right to unionize” but merely the freedom for all to negotiate conditions of employment. We oppose all public employee unions.</p>

**Legend for Proposals:** Platform text is in this font, ~~text to be deleted~~, **text to be inserted**.

Deletions precede insertions when possible. Other text is in this font.

Threshold Vote for Passage: Repeal requires majority vote. Adopt or amend requires 2/3 vote.

## **Platform Proposal #9: Taxation; Vice and Punitive Taxes**

*Submitted by Caryn Ann Harlos*

*VOTE TOTALS: 3-0 (Acting Chair not voting, 1 member absent)*

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**Problem:** The plank “Taxation” does not address using taxation as a measure to punish or manipulate behaviors, or disfavor certain products or services, including imports and vices.

**Solution:** Add language to address those omissions.

**Benefits:** Adds to the plank and makes it more comprehensive.

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### **MOTION TO AMEND SOMETHING PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED:**

*(not divisible, 2/3 to amend or adopt, majority to delete)*

Move to amend plank “Taxation” by:

- adding a sentence stating, “We oppose the use of taxation as a punitive measure against certain goods or services, such as tariffs or “vice” taxes.”,

that would then read as follows:

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**Legend for Proposals:** Platform text is in this font, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted.

Deletions precede insertions when possible. Other text is in this font.

Threshold Vote for Passage: Repeal requires majority vote. Adopt or amend requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote.

EXISTING LANGUAGE	MARKED-UP PROPOSAL	FINAL IF ADOPTED
<b>Platform Proposal #9: Taxation, Vice and Punitive Taxes</b>		
<p><i>Taxation</i></p> <p>Taxation is government confiscation of the property of its citizens through the use of force. Because of its non-voluntary nature, it cannot be justified, regardless of the purpose. Therefore, we oppose coercive taxation, and we support any and all initiatives to reduce or abolish any tax, and oppose any initiatives to increase any tax or add new ones. We advocate that all public services be funded in a voluntary manner such as through contributions, lotteries, subscriptions, and user fees. We contend that a tax by any other name, including a fee, excise, or assessment, is still a tax.</p>	<p><i>Taxation</i></p> <p>Taxation is government confiscation of the property of its citizens through the use of force. Because of its non-voluntary nature, it cannot be justified, regardless of the purpose. Therefore, we oppose coercive taxation, and we support any and all initiatives to reduce or abolish any tax, and oppose any initiatives to increase any tax or add new ones. We advocate that all public services be funded in a voluntary manner such as through contributions, lotteries, subscriptions, and user fees. We contend that a tax by any other name, including a fee, excise, or assessment, is still a tax. <u>We oppose the use of taxation as a punitive measure against certain goods or services, such as tariffs or “vice” taxes.</u></p>	<p><i>Taxation</i></p> <p>Taxation is government confiscation of the property of its citizens through the use of force. Because of its non-voluntary nature, it cannot be justified, regardless of the purpose. Therefore, we oppose coercive taxation, and we support any and all initiatives to reduce or abolish any tax, and oppose any initiatives to increase any tax or add new ones. We advocate that all public services be funded in a voluntary manner such as through contributions, lotteries, subscriptions, and user fees. We contend that a tax by any other name, including a fee, excise, or assessment, is still a tax. We oppose the use of taxation as a punitive measure against certain goods or services, such as tariffs or “vice” taxes.</p>

**Legend for Proposals:** Platform text is in this font, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted.

Deletions precede insertions when possible. Other text is in this font.

Threshold Vote for Passage: Repeal requires majority vote. Adopt or amend requires 2/3 vote.

## **Platform Proposal #10: Healthcare; Vaccines and Presumption of Healthiness**

*Submitted by Caryn Ann Harlos and Michael Seebeck*

*VOTE TOTALS: 3-0 (Acting Chair not voting, 1 member absent)*

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**Problem:** Current public discourse due to COVID-19 has brought forth the absurd idea of requiring someone to prove they are vaccinated in order to conduct business or even venture out of their home. This rhetoric has also included inflammatory speech accusing people of harming others by merely existing, effectively creating a presumption of sickness instead of a presumption of health. Personal autonomy in health care decisions must be upheld at all times.

**Solution:** Add language to the plank “Healthcare” condemning such mandates and language.

**Benefits:** Improves the plank to include more treatments and oppose government using health as an excuse to deny liberty. (NOTE: The vaccine sentence is similar to a proposal by the National Platform Committee that was not heard at the last national convention.)

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### **MOTION TO AMEND SOMETHING PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED:**

*(divisible, 2/3 to amend or adopt, majority to delete)*

Move to amend the plank “Healthcare” by:

- adding the sentences “We oppose any government mandating or denying treatments or vaccines. Individuals have a presumption of health and should not have to prove they are healthy to avoid forced quarantine, isolation, or other restrictions of their rights and freedoms.”,

that would then read as follows:

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**Legend for Proposals:** Platform text is in this font, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted.

Deletions precede insertions when possible. Other text is in this font.

Threshold Vote for Passage: Repeal requires majority vote. Adopt or amend requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote.

EXISTING LANGUAGE	MARKED-UP PROPOSAL	FINAL IF ADOPTED
<b>Platform Proposal #10: Healthcare; Vaccines and Presumption of Healthiness</b>		
<p><i>Healthcare</i></p> <p>We support a free-market health care system and oppose government mandates in insurance and health care. We recognize the freedom of individuals to determine the services they want (if any) and all other aspects of their medical care, including end-of-life decisions. People should be free to purchase health insurance across state lines.</p>	<p><i>Healthcare</i></p> <p>We support a free-market health care system and oppose government mandates in insurance and health care. We recognize the freedom of individuals to determine the services they want (if any) 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 any government mandating or denying treatments or vaccines. Individuals have a presumption of health and should not have to prove they are healthy to avoid forced quarantine, isolation, or other restrictions of their rights and freedoms.</u></p>	<p><i>Healthcare</i></p> <p>We support a free-market health care system and oppose government mandates in insurance and health care. We recognize the freedom of individuals to determine the services they want (if any) 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 any government mandating or denying treatments or vaccines. Individuals have a presumption of health and should not have to prove they are healthy to avoid forced quarantine, isolation, or other restrictions of their rights and freedoms.</p>

**Legend for Proposals:** Platform text is in this font, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted.

Deletions precede insertions when possible. Other text is in this font.

Threshold Vote for Passage: Repeal requires majority vote. Adopt or amend requires 2/3 vote.

## **Platform Proposal #11: Freedom of Expression; Anti-censorship**

*Submitted by Caryn Ann Harlos*

*VOTE TOTALS: 3-1 (Chair not voting)*

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**Problem:** The recent events on social media have exposed the anti-free-speech leanings and actions of the many in our country, including the censoring of the Party and its affiliates. (For example, the Boulder County affiliate was “de-platformed” on Facebook on 1/11/21.) These issues need to be addressed. There is further a troubling tendency amongst some Libertarians to condone undesirable actions on the part of private actors because those actors undoubtedly have the right to act in that manner. However, simply because there is a right to do something doesn’t make it proper to do it. We must recognize that open and full expression of all ideas is the cornerstone to a peaceful society as once words are taken away, all that is left to those so silenced is violence. A healthy and flourishing society is willing and able to defeat bad ideas openly rather than force them underground where they do not go away, but merely fester. It is often rightly said that when you silence a man, you do not prove him wrong, but rather, you prove yourself a coward and a tyrant.

**Solution:** Add language to the “Freedom of Expression” plank to address it.

**Benefits:** Makes the plank more comprehensive regarding censorship and free speech.

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### **MOTION TO AMEND SOMETHING PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED:**

*(not divisible, 2/3 to amend or adopt, majority to delete)*

Move to amend plank “Freedom of Expression,” by:

- after the second sentence, inserting “ While private entities have the right to exclude speech, we believe that the practice of “de-platforming” harms the free and open exchange of ideas, and freedom of speech is valuable in its own right and should be strongly advocated in both public and private spheres.”,

that would then read as follows:

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**Legend for Proposals:** Platform text is in this font, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted.

Deletions precede insertions when possible. Other text is in this font.

Threshold Vote for Passage: Repeal requires majority vote. Adopt or amend requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote.

EXISTING LANGUAGE	MARKED-UP PROPOSAL	FINAL IF ADOPTED
<b>Platform Proposal #11: Freedom of Expression; Anti-censorship</b>		
<p><i>Freedom of Expression</i></p> <p>We support full freedom of expression and oppose government censorship, regulation, control of technology, or collusion with communications media.</p> <p>Language that is perceived to be offensive to certain groups or individuals is not a cause for any legal action. 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 attack any religion.</p>	<p><i>Freedom of Expression</i></p> <p>We support full freedom of expression and oppose government censorship, regulation, control of technology, or collusion with communications media.</p> <p>Language that is perceived to be offensive to certain groups or individuals is not a cause for any legal action. <u>While private entities have the right to exclude speech, we believe that the practice of “de-platforming” harms the free and open exchange of ideas, and freedom of speech is valuable in its own right and should be strongly advocated in both public and private spheres.</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 which either aid or attack any religion.</p>	<p><i>Freedom of Expression</i></p> <p>We support full freedom of expression and oppose government censorship, regulation, control of technology, or collusion with communications media.</p> <p>Language that is perceived to be offensive to certain groups or individuals is not a cause for any legal action. While private entities have the right to exclude speech, we believe that the practice of “de-platforming” harms the free and open exchange of ideas, and freedom of speech is valuable in its own right and should be strongly advocated in both public and private spheres. 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 attack any religion.</p>

**Legend for Proposals:** Platform text is in this font, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted.

Deletions precede insertions when possible. Other text is in this font.

Threshold Vote for Passage: Repeal requires majority vote. Adopt or amend requires 2/3 vote.

## **Platform Proposal #12: Sexual and Gender Self-Determination (new plank)**

*Submitted by Kat Martin*

*VOTE TOTALS: 3-0 (Acting Chair not voting)*

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**Problem:** Sexual and gender self-determination is not addressed in the platform, and it is a decisive issue for many voters. As a Party that upholds individualism, we must uphold the right of the individual to define and determine the most intimate details of their existence.

**Solution:** Separate individual\_sexual and gender self-determination from personal relationships.

**Benefits:** Allows individuals to be able to clearly see the Party's position on self-identification and sexual self-determination.

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### **MOTION TO AMEND SOMETHING PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED:**

*(not divisible, 2/3 to amend or adopt, majority to delete)*

Move to add a new plank "Sexual and Gender Self-Determination" under the section "The Individual", that would read as follows:

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**Legend for Proposals:** Platform text is in this font, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted.

Deletions precede insertions when possible. Other text is in this font.

Threshold Vote for Passage: Repeal requires majority vote. Adopt or amend requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote.

EXISTING LANGUAGE	MARKED-UP PROPOSAL	FINAL IF ADOPTED
<b>Platform Proposal #11: Freedom of Expression; Anti-censorship</b>		
n/a	<p><u><i>Sexual and Gender Self-Determination</i></u></p> <p><u>We believe that government should be kept out of the matter of sexual and gender self-determination and control, leaving the question to each person for their conscientious consideration.</u></p>	<p><i>Sexual and Gender Self-Determination</i></p> <p>We believe that government should be kept out of the matter of sexual and gender self-determination and control, leaving the question to each person for their conscientious consideration.</p>

**Legend for Proposals:** Platform text is in this font, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted.

Deletions precede insertions when possible. Other text is in this font.

Threshold Vote for Passage: Repeal requires majority vote. Adopt or amend requires <sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> vote.

## **Platform Proposal #13: Intellectual Monopolies (new plank)**

*Submitted by Caryn Ann Harlos*

*VOTE TOTALS: 3-0-1 (Chair voted, 1 abstention, 1 member absent)*

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**Problem:** The Platform lacks a plank regarding government-created "intellectual property" monopolies such as copyright and patent law, which attempt to extent property rights protections to non-rivalrous resources (ideas, patterns, information). The Libertarian doctrine of property rights deals with the allocation of property rights in rivalrous resources to enable peace and cooperation in the use of these resources. IP laws that attempt to assign rights in non-rivalrous resources such as information patterns--resources that can be used by anyone at any time without depriving anyone else of their simultaneous use--conflict with and undercut real property rights. Thus, "intellectual property" is a misnomer because intangible ideas are not property in a libertarian legal sense, and IP laws actually redistribute and weaken real property rights.

**Solution:** Add a plank addressing this issue.

**Benefits:** Fixes a deficiency in the Platform.

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### **MOTION TO AMEND SOMETHING PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED:**

*(divisible, 2/3 to amend or adopt)*

Move to add anew plank "Intellectual Monopolies" under the section "The Market", that would read as follows:

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**Legend for Proposals:** Platform text is in this font, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted.

Deletions precede insertions when possible. Other text is in this font.

Threshold Vote for Passage: Repeal requires majority vote. Adopt or amend requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote.

EXISTING LANGUAGE	MARKED-UP PROPOSAL	FINAL IF ADOPTED
<b>Platform Proposal #13: Intellectual Monopolies (new plank)</b>		
n/a	<p data-bbox="636 323 1031 352"><u><i>Intellectual Monopolies</i></u></p> <p data-bbox="636 407 1031 802"><u>As we oppose all government intervention in the marketplace, we favor the repeal of intellectual property laws. Disputes between inventors, creators, authors, artists, businesses, and other such entities should be resolved without government intervention.</u></p>	<p data-bbox="1053 323 1338 352"><i>Intellectual Monopolies</i></p> <p data-bbox="1053 407 1450 802">As we oppose all government intervention in the marketplace, we favor the repeal of intellectual property laws. Disputes between inventors, creators, authors, artists, businesses, and other such entities should be resolved without government intervention.</p>

**Legend for Proposals:** Platform text is in this font, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted.

Deletions precede insertions when possible. Other text is in this font.

Threshold Vote for Passage: Repeal requires majority vote. Adopt or amend requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote.

## **Appendix A: Current Platform**

### **Platform of the Libertarian Party of Colorado**

[Adopted in Convention, April 27, 2019]

#### **Preamble**

As Libertarians, we seek a world of liberty: a world in which all individuals are sovereign over their own lives, and no one is forced to sacrifice his or her 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 we 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.

We hold that individuals have inherent sovereign rights to their own bodies and property, including their labor and the fruits thereof. As such, we support the prohibition of the initiation of physical force and fraud against other people and their property by anyone. These principles guide Libertarian policy positions in every area.

Our goal is nothing less than a world set free in our lifetime, and it is to this end that we take these stands.

#### **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,

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Threshold Vote for Passage: Repeal requires majority vote. Adopt or amend requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote.

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.

### **Implementation**

We support any measure that actually reduces, and does not increase, illegitimate governmental action or violations of the rights of the individual, as put forth in our Preamble and the Statement of Principles. While recognizing that change often takes the form of increments and transitions, the policies in the planks that follow are to be taken as quickly as possible.

### **The Individual**

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. Individuals should be free to make choices for themselves and to accept responsibility for the consequences of the choices they make, provided those choices do not violate the rights of others. Our support of an individual's right to make choices in life does not mean that we necessarily approve or disapprove of those choices.

#### *Victimless Crimes*

Criminal and civil laws should be limited to violations of the rights of others through fraud, force, or deliberate and credible threats of imminent force. We therefore reject all laws that create "crimes" without victims, for voluntary and consensual activities such as, but not limited to, the use of drugs

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Threshold Vote for Passage: Repeal requires majority vote. Adopt or amend requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote.

for medicinal or recreational purposes, prostitution, and gambling. We also reject government placing itself as a proxy victim of alleged “crimes.”

### *Freedom of Expression*

We support full freedom of expression and oppose government censorship, regulation, control of technology, or collusion with communications media. Language that is perceived to be offensive to certain groups or individuals is not a cause for any legal action. 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 attack any religion.

### *Protection of Privacy*

Libertarians advocate individual privacy and call for government transparency. We condemn government’s practice of spying on individuals without probable cause and due process. We support the rights recognized by the Fourth Amendment to be secure in our persons, property, communications, and other effects, including data held by third parties, such as, but not limited to, email, library, medical, and phone records.

### *Freedom of Association*

Libertarians embrace the concept that all people are born with certain inherent rights and reject the idea that those rights can impose an obligation upon any other person or non-government organization to fulfill any right. The right to trade includes the right not to trade—for any reason. The right of association includes the right not to associate—for any reason. The right to contract includes the right not to contract—for any reason. Individuals and business owners retain their rights and privileges to set their own standards of association and terms of voluntary interaction. Other individuals and business owners are free to respond with ostracism, boycotts, and other free-market solutions. We therefore favor the repeal of any governmental attempts to regulate any private association, including public accommodations laws.

### *Personal Relationships*

Sexual orientation, preference, gender, or gender identity should have no impact on the government's treatment of individuals—such as in marriage, child custody, adoption, immigration, or military service laws. Government does not have the authority to define, license, or restrict personal relationships. Consenting adults should be free to choose their own sexual practices and personal relationships, regardless of the number of participants. We favor the complete extrication of government from private consensual relationships.

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**Legend for Proposals:** Platform text is in this font, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted.

Deletions precede insertions when possible. Other text is in this font.

Threshold Vote for Passage: Repeal requires majority vote. Adopt or amend requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote.

### *Right to Self-Defense*

The only legitimate use of force is in the defense of individual rights—life, liberty, and justly-acquired property—against aggression. This right inheres in the individual, who may seek to be, or agree to be aided by any other individual or group in the exercise of the right to self-defense. Maintaining our belief in the inviolability of the right to keep and bear arms, we reject all laws at any level of government restricting, registering, or monitoring the ownership, manufacture, transport, or transfer of any item or tool that could be used for self-defense.

### **The Market**

We believe that each person has the right to offer goods and services to others on the free market. Private entities should be free to choose with whom they trade and set whatever trade terms are mutually agreeable. Therefore, we oppose all intervention by government into the area of economics. The only proper role, if any, of existing governments in the economic realm is to protect property rights, adjudicate disputes, and provide a legal framework in which voluntary trade is protected. Efforts to forcibly redistribute wealth or forcibly manage, regulate, or impede trade violate individual rights. We believe that all individuals have the right to dispose of the fruits of their labor as they see fit.

### *Taxation*

Taxation is government confiscation of the property of its citizens through the use of force. Because of its non-voluntary nature, it cannot be justified, regardless of the purpose. Therefore, we oppose coercive taxation, and we support any and all initiatives to reduce or abolish any tax, and oppose any initiatives to increase any tax or add new ones. We advocate that all public services be funded in a voluntary manner such as through contributions, lotteries, subscriptions, and user fees. We contend that a tax by any other name, including a fee, excise, or assessment, is still a tax.

### *Healthcare*

We support a free-market health care system and oppose government mandates in insurance and health care. We recognize the freedom of individuals to determine the services they want (if any) and all other aspects of their medical care, including end-of-life decisions. People should be free to purchase health insurance across state lines.

### *Money*

Individuals engaged in voluntary exchange should be free to use any mutually agreeable commodity or item as currency. We oppose inflationary monetary policies and unconstitutional legal tender laws. We oppose government use of debt to conceal or cover the cost of their expenditures.

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**Legend for Proposals:** Platform text is in this font, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted.

Deletions precede insertions when possible. Other text is in this font.

Threshold Vote for Passage: Repeal requires majority vote. Adopt or amend requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote.

### *Licensing*

Licensing is a method for government to convert a natural right into a privilege, then require one to pay fees to the government to exercise that right. Privileges can be and often are revoked by government and allow for stifling of competition to create government-mandated monopolies. Rights must be held inviolate, and no one should be forced to pay to exercise a right. We encourage certifications by voluntary associations of professionals.

### *Property*

We hold that rights to property, including real property, are individual rights and, as such, are entitled to the same protections as all other individual rights. The owners of property have the full right to acquire, trade, control, use, dispose of, rent, collateralize, or enjoy their property in any manner, without interference, unless the exercise of their control infringes upon the valid 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 fundamental rights. We support ending taxation of real property, because taxation makes the government the de facto owner of all lands and forces individuals to rent their homes and places of business from the government.

### *Labor Markets*

The contract between an employer and employee is a voluntary relationship which both sides choose to enter into, and whose terms can only be fairly negotiated without interference by government. We support the right of employers and employees to freely choose whether or not to bargain with each other through a third party, such as a labor union. There is no inherent “right to work” nor a “right to unionize” but merely the freedom for all to negotiate conditions of employment.

## **The Community**

Free and voluntary societies provide the best potential for all members of society to succeed and flourish. A free and competitive market for all services allocates resources in the most efficient manner. Voluntary cooperation and charity between people meets the needs of others without violating rights through coercion and force. Current problems in many societal areas such as energy, pollution, public services, and poverty are not solved, but instead are caused or exacerbated by government.

### *Education*

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**Legend for Proposals:** Platform text is in this font, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted.

Deletions precede insertions when possible. Other text is in this font.

Threshold Vote for Passage: Repeal requires majority vote. Adopt or amend requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote.

Education is a matter of conscience, values, and free expression—as much as assembly, press, religion, or speech. Accordingly, we advocate the complete separation of school and state, ending government ownership, operation, regulation, and subsidy of schools, colleges, and universities. Until that time, any government funds for education should be put entirely under parental and student control, for use in schools of choice (including, but not limited to, private, parochial, and home schools) or to carry forward for education in a future year.

#### *Environment*

Pollution of air, water, and land violates rights. Polluters, including government, should have strict liability for harms caused by pollution. Strict liability should regulate pollution, not government agencies nor arbitrary government standards.

#### *Welfare*

The forced taking of property from an individual for the benefit of others is a violation of individual rights. The most effective source of assistance for others is the voluntary efforts of private groups and individuals.

#### *Utilities*

We advocate the termination of government-regulated franchise privileges and governmental monopolies for public services. The right to offer such services on the market should not be curtailed by the government.

### **The Government**

The principle of non-initiation of force should guide governments and individuals. We call for a non-interventionist foreign policy and recognize the rights to unrestricted travel, trade, and immigration while reserving the right to defend against specific and credible threats.

#### *Equal Treatment*

Government should not deny, abridge, or enhance any individual's human right based upon sex, wealth, ethnicity, creed, age, national origin, personal habits and preferences, political affiliation, gender, gender identity, or sexual orientation. Any laws which currently do so should be repealed rather than extended to all groups. However, freedom of association and contracts should not be denied or restricted in private consensual arrangements or agreements.

#### *Sovereign Immunity*

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**Legend for Proposals:** Platform text is in this font, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted.

Deletions precede insertions when possible. Other text is in this font.

Threshold Vote for Passage: Repeal requires majority vote. Adopt or amend requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote.

Neither government agencies nor their representatives should be exempted from laws, statutes, and regulations applicable to everyone else. We favor an immediate end to the doctrine of Sovereign Immunity which ignores the primacy of the individual over the abstraction of the State, and holds that the State, contrary to the tradition of redress of grievances, may not be sued without its permission or held accountable for its actions under civil law. Government agents should be subject to civil and criminal liability for any injuries caused by their actions, without regard to whether those actions occurred during the course of their duties.

### *Judicial*

The only real crimes are crimes of violence or threat of violence, property loss, and fraud where an individual is a victim. The judicial process should be an earnest attempt, through due process of law, to extract reasonable restitution from a person convicted of a crime and to convey that restitution to the victim, to imprison or exclude criminals from society when necessary, to hold persons liable for damage they do, and to fairly settle contract disputes in which the parties have not voluntarily opted for private dispute resolution. A criminal, having paid for the crime, should be accorded full restoration of liberty. We assert the common-law right of juries to judge not only the facts but also the justice of the law.

### *Death Penalty*

The death penalty is irreversible, and no recompense for a violation of an individual's right to life can be made for an execution later found to be in error. Given the fallibility of any judicial system, punishments that cannot be reversed or compensated for should not be levied. Even if the death penalty were morally appropriate, it cannot be implemented without risking the execution of innocents. Since it is impossible to trust any state with this kind of power, we reject all state-sanctioned death penalty laws.

### *Elections*

We support election systems that are more representative of the electorate at the national, state, and local levels. As private voluntary groups, political parties should be allowed to establish their own rules for nomination procedures, primaries, caucuses, 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 individual 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 support the addition of "None of the Above" as an option on all ballots. If "None of the Above" wins, the elective office for that term would remain unfilled and

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unfunded. We oppose all attempts to bind Colorado’s Presidential Electors to the national popular vote.

#### *Safety Clause*

We adamantly oppose the attachment of a “Safety Clause” to any bill approved by the legislature. Use of the “Safety Clause” limits the ability of the electorate to reject improper bills.

#### *Self-Determination*

We recognize the right to political and personal self-determination, including—if necessary—secession. Exercise of this right, like the exercise of all other rights, does not remove legal and moral obligations not to violate the rights of others.

#### *Colorado State Sovereignty*

In a free society, any existing governments are established of, by, and for the people. The United States Constitution specifies which powers the federal government may exercise, and explicitly forbids any others. We oppose unfunded Federal mandates and coercion of state legislatures by threats to withhold Federal funds. We support full enforcement of all anti-commandeering laws.

#### **Omissions**

Our silence about any other particular government law, regulation, ordinance, directive, edict, control, regulatory agency, activity, or machination, including the existence of any particular governmental system, should not be construed to imply approval or disapproval. In every matter, we adhere to the consistent application of the principle of the non-initiation of physical force or fraud.

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## **Appendix B: Proposed Platform with All Proposals, Mark-up Copy**

### **Platform of the Libertarian Party of Colorado**

[Adopted in Convention, April 27, 2019]

#### **Preamble**

As Libertarians, we seek a world of liberty: a world in which all individuals are sovereign over their own lives, and no one is forced to sacrifice his or her 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 we 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.

We hold that individuals have inherent sovereign rights to their own bodies and property, including their labor and the fruits thereof. As such, we support the prohibition of the initiation of physical force and fraud against other people and their property by anyone. These principles guide Libertarian policy positions in every area.

Our goal is nothing less than a world set free in our lifetime, and it is to this end that we take these stands.

#### **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,

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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.

### Implementation

We support any measure that actually reduces, and does not increase, illegitimate governmental action or violations of the rights of the individual, as put forth in our Preamble and the Statement of Principles. While recognizing that change often takes the form of increments and transitions, the policies in the planks that follow are to be taken as quickly as possible.

### The Individual

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. Individuals ~~should~~ **must** be free to make choices for themselves and ~~to~~ accept responsibility for the consequences of the choices they make, provided those choices do not violate the rights of others. Our support of an individual's right to make choices in life does not mean that we necessarily approve or disapprove of those choices.

#### *Victimless Crimes*

Criminal and civil laws ~~should~~ **must** be limited to violations of the rights of others through fraud, force, or deliberate and credible threats of imminent force. We therefore reject all laws that create

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“crimes” without victims, for voluntary and consensual activities such as, but not limited to, the use of drugs for medicinal or recreational purposes, prostitution, and gambling. We also reject government placing itself as a proxy victim of alleged “crimes.”

### *Freedom of Expression*

We support full freedom of expression and oppose government censorship, regulation, control of technology, or collusion with communications media. Language that is perceived to be offensive to certain groups or individuals is not a cause for any legal action. While private entities have the right to exclude speech, we believe that the practice of “de-platforming” harms the free and open exchange of ideas, and freedom of speech is valuable in its own right and should be strongly advocated in both public and private spheres. 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 attack any religion.

### *Protection of Privacy*

Libertarians advocate individual privacy and call for government transparency. We condemn government’s practice of spying on individuals without probable cause and due process. We support the rights recognized by the Fourth Amendment to be secure in our persons, property, communications, and other effects, including data held by third parties, such as, but not limited to, email, library, medical, and phone records.

### *Freedom of Association*

Libertarians embrace the concept that all people are born with certain inherent rights and reject the idea that those rights can impose an obligation upon any other person or non-government organization to fulfill any right. The right to trade includes the right not to trade—for any reason. The right of association includes the right not to associate—for any reason. The right to contract includes the right not to contract—for any reason. Individuals and business owners retain their rights and privileges to set their own standards of association and terms of voluntary interaction. Other individuals and business owners are free to respond with ostracism, boycotts, and other free-market solutions. We therefore favor the repeal of any governmental attempts to regulate any private association, including public accommodations laws.

### *Personal Relationships*

Sexual orientation, preference, gender, or gender identity should have no impact on the government's treatment of individuals—such as in marriage, child custody, adoption, immigration,

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or military service laws. Government does not have the authority to define, license, or restrict personal relationships. Consenting adults should be free to choose their own sexual practices and personal relationships, regardless of the number of participants. We favor the complete extrication of government from private consensual relationships.

### **Sexual and Gender Self-Determination**

**We believe that government should be kept out of the matter of sexual and gender self-determination and control, leaving the question to each person for their conscientious consideration.**

#### *Right to Self-Defense*

The only legitimate use of force is in the defense of individual rights—life, liberty, and justly-acquired property—against aggression. This right inheres in the individual, who may seek to be, or agree to be aided by any other individual or group in the exercise of the right to self-defense. Maintaining our belief in the inviolability of the right to keep and bear arms, we reject all laws at any level of government restricting, registering, or monitoring the ownership, manufacture, transport, or transfer of any item or tool that could be used for self-defense, **along with any related accessories, parts, or supplies. Further, we oppose all laws that de facto restrict arms ownership by adding additional burdens such as mandatory storage and insurance requirements.**

#### **The Market**

We believe that each person has the right to offer goods and services to others on the free market. Private entities should be free to choose with whom they trade and set whatever trade terms are mutually agreeable. Therefore, we oppose all intervention by government into the area of economics. The only proper role, if any, of existing governments in the economic realm is to protect property rights, adjudicate disputes, and provide a legal framework in which voluntary trade is protected. Efforts to forcibly redistribute wealth or forcibly manage, regulate, or impede trade violate individual rights. We believe that all individuals have the right to dispose of the fruits of their labor as they see fit.

#### *Taxation*

Taxation is government confiscation of the property of its citizens through the use of force. Because of its non-voluntary nature, it cannot be justified, regardless of the purpose. Therefore, we oppose coercive taxation, and we support any and all initiatives to reduce or abolish any tax, and oppose any initiatives to increase any tax or add new ones. We advocate that all public services be funded in

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a voluntary manner such as through contributions, lotteries, subscriptions, and user fees. We contend that a tax by any other name, including a fee, excise, or assessment, is still a tax. **We oppose the use of taxation as a punitive measure against certain goods or services, such as “vice” taxes.**

#### *Healthcare*

We support a free-market health care system and oppose government mandates in insurance and health care. We recognize the freedom of individuals to determine the services they want (if any) 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 any government mandating or denying treatments or vaccines. Individuals have a presumption of health and should not have to prove they are healthy to avoid forced quarantine, isolation, or other restrictions of their rights and freedoms.**

#### *Money*

Individuals engaged in voluntary exchange should be free to use any mutually agreeable commodity or item as currency. We oppose inflationary monetary policies and unconstitutional legal tender laws. We oppose government use of debt to conceal or cover the cost of their expenditures.

#### *Licensing*

Licensing is a method for government to convert a natural right into a privilege, then require one to pay fees to the government to exercise that right. Privileges can be and often are revoked by government and allow for stifling of competition to create government-mandated monopolies. Rights must be held inviolate, and no one should be forced to pay to exercise a right. We encourage certifications by voluntary associations of professionals.

#### *Property*

We hold that rights to property, including real property, are individual rights and, as such, are entitled to the same protections as all other individual rights. The owners of property have the full right to acquire, trade, control, use, dispose of, rent, collateralize, or enjoy their property in any manner, without interference, unless the exercise of their control infringes upon the valid 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 fundamental rights. We support ending taxation of real

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property, because taxation makes the government the de facto owner of all lands and forces individuals to rent their homes and places of business from the government.

### **Intellectual Monopolies**

**As we oppose all government intervention in the marketplace, we favor the repeal of intellectual property laws. Disputes between inventors, creators, authors, artists, businesses, and other such entities should be resolved without government intervention.**

### *Labor Markets*

The contract between ~~an~~ **a private** employer and employee is a voluntary relationship which both sides choose to enter into, and whose terms can only be fairly negotiated without interference by government. We support the right of **private** employers and employees to freely choose whether or not to bargain with each other through a third party, such as a labor union. There is no inherent “right to work” nor a “right to unionize” but merely the freedom for all to negotiate conditions of employment. **We oppose all public employee unions.**

### **Free Enterprise**

**We defend the rights of individuals to form any type of business entity based on voluntary association and investment. We oppose all forms of government subsidies, bailouts, or any other preferential or punitive treatment to businesses, labor, or any other special interest. Government should not compete with private enterprise. We reject government charter of corporations. Corporations are not individuals. We call for a separation of business and state.**

## **The Community**

Free and voluntary societies provide the best potential for all members of society to succeed and flourish. A free and competitive market for all services allocates resources in the most efficient manner. Voluntary cooperation and charity between people meets the needs of others without violating rights through coercion and force. Current problems in many societal areas such as energy, pollution, public services, and poverty are not solved, but instead are caused or exacerbated by government.

### *Education*

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Education is a matter of conscience, values, and free expression—as much as assembly, press, religion, or speech. Accordingly, we advocate the complete separation of school and state, ending government ownership, operation, regulation, and subsidy of schools, colleges, and universities. Until that time, any government funds for education should be put entirely under parental and student control, for use in schools of choice (including, but not limited to, private, parochial, and home schools) or to carry forward for education in a future year.

#### *Environment*

Pollution of air, water, and land violates rights. Polluters, including government, should have strict liability for harms caused by pollution. Strict liability should regulate pollution, not government agencies nor arbitrary government standards.

#### *Welfare*

The forced taking of property from an individual for the benefit of others is a violation of individual rights. The most effective source of assistance for others is the voluntary efforts of private groups and individuals.

#### *Utilities*

We advocate the termination of government-regulated franchise privileges and governmental monopolies for public services. The right to offer such services on the market should not be curtailed by the government.

### **The Government**

The principle of non-initiation of force should guide governments and individuals. We call for a non-interventionist foreign policy and recognize the rights to unrestricted travel, trade, and immigration while reserving the right to defend against specific and credible threats. **Individual liberties must never be suspended or curtailed, whether based on circumstances of war, contagion, natural disaster, or any other pretense.**

#### *Equal Treatment*

Government should not deny, abridge, or enhance any individual's human right based upon sex, wealth, ethnicity, creed, age, national origin, personal habits and preferences, political affiliation, gender, gender identity, or sexual orientation. Any laws which currently do so should be repealed

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rather than extended to all groups. However, freedom of association and contracts should not be denied or restricted in private consensual arrangements or agreements.

### *Sovereign Immunity*

Neither government agencies nor their representatives should be exempted from laws, statutes, and regulations applicable to everyone else. We favor an immediate end to the doctrine of Sovereign Immunity which ignores the primacy of the individual over the abstraction of the State, and holds that the State, contrary to the tradition of redress of grievances, may not be sued without its permission or held accountable for its actions under civil law. Government agents should be subject to civil and criminal liability for any injuries caused by their actions, without regard to whether those actions occurred during the course of their duties.

### *Judicial*

The only real crimes are crimes of violence or threat of violence, property loss, and fraud where an individual is a victim. The judicial process should be an earnest attempt, through due process of law, to extract reasonable restitution from a person convicted of a crime and to convey that restitution to the victim, to imprison or exclude criminals from society when necessary, to hold persons liable for damage they do, and to fairly settle contract disputes in which the parties have not voluntarily opted for private dispute resolution. A criminal, having paid for the crime, should be accorded full restoration of liberty. We assert the common-law right of juries to judge not only the facts but also the justice of the law.

### *Death Penalty*

The death penalty is irreversible, and no recompense for a violation of an individual's right to life can be made for an execution later found to be in error. Given the fallibility of any judicial system, punishments that cannot be reversed or compensated for should not be levied. Even if the death penalty were morally appropriate, it cannot be implemented without risking the execution of innocents. Since it is impossible to trust any state with this kind of power, we reject all state-sanctioned death penalty laws.

### *Elections*

We support transparent and more representative election systems ~~that are more representative of the electorate at the national, state, and local levels~~ at all levels, including ranked-choice voting, approval voting, and proportional representation. As private voluntary groups, political parties should be allowed to establish their own rules for

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nomination procedures, primaries, caucuses, 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 individual 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 support the addition of "None of the Above" as an option on all ballots. If "None of the Above" wins, the elective office for that term would remain unfilled and unfunded. We oppose all attempts to bind Colorado's Presidential Electors to the national popular vote.

#### *Safety Clause*

We adamantly oppose the attachment of a "Safety Clause" to any bill approved by the legislature. Use of the "Safety Clause" limits the ability of the electorate to reject improper bills.

#### *Self-Determination*

We recognize the right to political and personal self-determination, including—if necessary—secession. Exercise of this right, like the exercise of all other rights, does not remove legal and moral obligations not to violate the rights of others.

#### *Colorado State Sovereignty*

In a free society, any existing governments are established of, by, and for the people. The United States Constitution specifies which powers the federal government may exercise, and explicitly forbids any others. We oppose unfunded Federal mandates and coercion of state legislatures by threats to withhold Federal funds. We support full enforcement of all anti-commandeering laws.

#### **Localization of Powers**

**We support the untangling of the layers of government from each other, such that federal, state, county, municipal, and district governments are separate and independent from each other, in both function and funding, in order to facilitate their reduction or repeal.**

#### **Omissions**

Our silence about any other particular government law, regulation, ordinance, directive, edict, control, regulatory agency, activity, or machination, including the existence of any particular governmental

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## **Appendix C: Proposed Platform with All Proposals, Clean Copy**

### **Platform of the Libertarian Party of Colorado**

[Adopted in Convention, April 27, 2019]

#### **Preamble**

As Libertarians, we seek a world of liberty: a world in which all individuals are sovereign over their own lives, and no one is forced to sacrifice his or her 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 we 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.

We hold that individuals have inherent sovereign rights to their own bodies and property, including their labor and the fruits thereof. As such, we support the prohibition of the initiation of physical force and fraud against other people and their property by anyone. These principles guide Libertarian policy positions in every area.

Our goal is nothing less than a world set free in our lifetime, and it is to this end that we take these stands.

#### **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,

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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.

## Implementation

We support any measure that actually reduces, and does not increase, illegitimate governmental action or violations of the rights of the individual, as put forth in our Preamble and the Statement of Principles. While recognizing that change often takes the form of increments and transitions, the policies in the planks that follow are to be taken as quickly as possible.

## The Individual

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. Individuals must be free to make choices for themselves and accept responsibility for the consequences of the choices they make, provided those choices do not violate the rights of others. Our support of an individual's right to make choices in life does not mean that we necessarily approve or disapprove of those choices.

### *Victimless Crimes*

Criminal and civil laws must be limited to violations of the rights of others through fraud, force, or deliberate and credible threats of imminent force. We therefore reject all laws that create "crimes" without victims for voluntary and consensual activities such as, but not limited to, the use of drugs

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for medicinal or recreational purposes, prostitution, and gambling. We also reject government placing itself as a proxy victim of alleged “crimes.”

### *Freedom of Expression*

We support full freedom of expression and oppose government censorship, regulation, control of technology, or collusion with communications media. Language that is perceived to be offensive to certain groups or individuals is not a cause for any legal action. While private entities have the right to exclude speech, we believe that the practice of “de-platforming” harms the free and open exchange of ideas, and freedom of speech is valuable in its own right and should be strongly advocated in both public and private spheres. 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 attack any religion.

### *Protection of Privacy*

Libertarians advocate individual privacy and call for government transparency. We condemn government’s practice of spying on individuals without probable cause and due process. We support the rights recognized by the Fourth Amendment to be secure in our persons, property, communications, and other effects, including data held by third parties, such as, but not limited to, email, library, medical, and phone records.

### *Freedom of Association*

Libertarians embrace the concept that all people are born with certain inherent rights and reject the idea that those rights can impose an obligation upon any other person or non-government organization to fulfill any right. The right to trade includes the right not to trade—for any reason. The right of association includes the right not to associate—for any reason. The right to contract includes the right not to contract—for any reason. Individuals and business owners retain their rights and privileges to set their own standards of association and terms of voluntary interaction. Other individuals and business owners are free to respond with ostracism, boycotts, and other free-market solutions. We therefore favor the repeal of any governmental attempts to regulate any private association, including public accommodations laws.

### *Personal Relationships*

Sexual orientation, preference, gender, or gender identity should have no impact on the government's treatment of individuals—such as in marriage, child custody, adoption, immigration, or military service laws. Government does not have the authority to define, license, or restrict personal relationships. Consenting adults should be free to choose their own sexual practices and

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personal relationships, regardless of the number of participants. We favor the complete extrication of government from private consensual relationships.

### *Sexual and Gender Self-Determination*

We believe that government should be kept out of the matter of sexual and gender self-determination and control, leaving the question to each person for their conscientious consideration.

### *Right to Self-Defense*

The only legitimate use of force is in the defense of individual rights—life, liberty, and justly-acquired property—against aggression. This right inheres in the individual, who may seek to be, or agree to be aided by any other individual or group in the exercise of the right to self-defense. Maintaining our belief in the inviolability of the right to keep and bear arms, we reject all laws at any level of government restricting, registering, or monitoring the ownership, manufacture, transport, or transfer of any item or tool that could be used for self-defense, along with any related accessories, parts, or supplies. Further, we oppose all laws that de facto restrict arms ownership by adding additional burdens such as mandatory storage and insurance requirements.

## **The Market**

We believe that each person has the right to offer goods and services to others on the free market. Private entities should be free to choose with whom they trade and set whatever trade terms are mutually agreeable. Therefore, we oppose all intervention by government into the area of economics. The only proper role, if any, of existing governments in the economic realm is to protect property rights, adjudicate disputes, and provide a legal framework in which voluntary trade is protected. Efforts to forcibly redistribute wealth or forcibly manage, regulate, or impede trade violate individual rights. We believe that all individuals have the right to dispose of the fruits of their labor as they see fit.

### *Taxation*

Taxation is government confiscation of the property of its citizens through the use of force. Because of its non-voluntary nature, it cannot be justified, regardless of the purpose. Therefore, we oppose coercive taxation, and we support any and all initiatives to reduce or abolish any tax, and oppose any initiatives to increase any tax or add new ones. We advocate that all public services be funded in a voluntary manner such as through contributions, lotteries, subscriptions, and user fees. We contend that a tax by any other name, including a fee, excise, or assessment, is still a tax. We oppose the use of taxation as a punitive measure against certain goods or services, such as “vice” taxes.

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### *Healthcare*

We support a free-market health care system and oppose government mandates in insurance and health care. We recognize the freedom of individuals to determine the services they want (if any) 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 any government mandating or denying treatments or vaccines. Individuals have a presumption of health and should not have to prove they are healthy to avoid forced quarantine, isolation, or other restrictions of their rights and freedoms.

### *Money*

Individuals engaged in voluntary exchange should be free to use any mutually agreeable commodity or item as currency. We oppose inflationary monetary policies and unconstitutional legal tender laws. We oppose government use of debt to conceal or cover the cost of their expenditures.

### *Licensing*

Licensing is a method for government to convert a natural right into a privilege, then require one to pay fees to the government to exercise that right. Privileges can be and often are revoked by government and allow for stifling of competition to create government-mandated monopolies. Rights must be held inviolate, and no one should be forced to pay to exercise a right. We encourage certifications by voluntary associations of professionals.

### *Property*

We hold that rights to property, including real property, are individual rights and, as such, are entitled to the same protections as all other individual rights. The owners of property have the full right to acquire, trade, control, use, dispose of, rent, collateralize, or enjoy their property in any manner, without interference, unless the exercise of their control infringes upon the valid 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 fundamental rights. We support ending taxation of real property, because taxation makes the government the de facto owner of all lands and forces individuals to rent their homes and places of business from the government.

### *Intellectual Monopolies*

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As we oppose all government intervention in the marketplace, we favor the repeal of intellectual property laws. Disputes between inventors, creators, authors, artists, businesses, and other such entities should be resolved without government intervention.

### *Labor Markets*

The contract between a private employer and employee is a voluntary relationship which both sides choose to enter into, and whose terms can only be fairly negotiated without interference by government. We support the right of private employers and employees to freely choose whether or not to bargain with each other through a third party, such as a labor union. There is no inherent “right to work” nor a “right to unionize” but merely the freedom for all to negotiate conditions of employment. We oppose all public employee unions.

### *Free Enterprise*

We defend the rights of individuals to form any type of business entity based on voluntary association and investment. We oppose all forms of government subsidies, bailouts, or any other preferential or punitive treatment to businesses, labor, or any other special interest. Government should not compete with private enterprise. We reject government charter of corporations. Corporations are not individuals. We call for a separation of business and state.

## **The Community**

Free and voluntary societies provide the best potential for all members of society to succeed and flourish. A free and competitive market for all services allocates resources in the most efficient manner. Voluntary cooperation and charity between people meets the needs of others without violating rights through coercion and force. Current problems in many societal areas such as energy, pollution, public services, and poverty are not solved, but instead are caused or exacerbated by government.

### *Education*

Education is a matter of conscience, values, and free expression—as much as assembly, press, religion, or speech. Accordingly, we advocate the complete separation of school and state, ending government ownership, operation, regulation, and subsidy of schools, colleges, and universities. Until that time, any government funds for education should be put entirely under parental and student control, for use in schools of choice (including, but not limited to, private, parochial, and home schools) or to carry forward for education in a future year.

### *Environment*

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Pollution of air, water, and land violates rights. Polluters, including government, should have strict liability for harms caused by pollution. Strict liability should regulate pollution, not government agencies nor arbitrary government standards.

### *Welfare*

The forced taking of property from an individual for the benefit of others is a violation of individual rights. The most effective source of assistance for others is the voluntary efforts of private groups and individuals.

### *Utilities*

We advocate the termination of government-regulated franchise privileges and governmental monopolies for public services. The right to offer such services on the market should not be curtailed by the government.

## **The Government**

The principle of non-initiation of force should guide governments and individuals. We call for a non-interventionist foreign policy and recognize the rights to unrestricted travel, trade, and immigration while reserving the right to defend against specific and credible threats. Individual liberties must never be suspended or curtailed, whether based on circumstances of war, contagion, natural disaster, or any other pretense.

### *Equal Treatment*

Government should not deny, abridge, or enhance any individual's human right based upon sex, wealth, ethnicity, creed, age, national origin, personal habits and preferences, political affiliation, gender, gender identity, or sexual orientation. Any laws which currently do so should be repealed rather than extended to all groups. However, freedom of association and contracts should not be denied or restricted in private consensual arrangements or agreements.

### *Sovereign Immunity*

Neither government agencies nor their representatives should be exempted from laws, statutes, and regulations applicable to everyone else. We favor an immediate end to the doctrine of Sovereign Immunity which ignores the primacy of the individual over the abstraction of the State, and holds that the State, contrary to the tradition of redress of grievances, may not be sued without its permission or held accountable for its actions under civil law. Government agents should be

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subject to civil and criminal liability for any injuries caused by their actions, without regard to whether those actions occurred during the course of their duties.

### *Judicial*

The only real crimes are crimes of violence or threat of violence, property loss, and fraud where an individual is a victim. The judicial process should be an earnest attempt, through due process of law, to extract reasonable restitution from a person convicted of a crime and to convey that restitution to the victim, to imprison or exclude criminals from society when necessary, to hold persons liable for damage they do, and to fairly settle contract disputes in which the parties have not voluntarily opted for private dispute resolution. A criminal, having paid for the crime, should be accorded full restoration of liberty. We assert the common-law right of juries to judge not only the facts but also the justice of the law.

### *Death Penalty*

The death penalty is irreversible, and no recompense for a violation of an individual's right to life can be made for an execution later found to be in error. Given the fallibility of any judicial system, punishments that cannot be reversed or compensated for should not be levied. Even if the death penalty were morally appropriate, it cannot be implemented without risking the execution of innocents. Since it is impossible to trust any state with this kind of power, we reject all state-sanctioned death penalty laws.

### *Elections*

We support transparent and more representative election systems at all levels, including ranked-choice voting, approval voting, and proportional representation. As private voluntary groups, political parties should be allowed to establish their own rules for nomination procedures, primaries, caucuses, 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 individual 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 support the addition of "None of the Above" as an option on all ballots. If "None of the Above" wins, the elective office for that term would remain unfilled and unfunded. We oppose all attempts to bind Colorado's Presidential Electors to the national popular vote.

### *Safety Clause*

We adamantly oppose the attachment of a "Safety Clause" to any bill approved by the legislature. Use of the "Safety Clause" limits the ability of the electorate to reject improper bills.

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### *Self-Determination*

We recognize the right to political and personal self-determination, including—if necessary—secession. Exercise of this right, like the exercise of all other rights, does not remove legal and moral obligations not to violate the rights of others.

### *Colorado State Sovereignty*

In a free society, any existing governments are established of, by, and for the people. The United States Constitution specifies which powers the federal government may exercise, and explicitly forbids any others. We oppose unfunded Federal mandates and coercion of state legislatures by threats to withhold Federal funds. We support full enforcement of all anti-commandeering laws.

### *Localization of Powers*

We support the untangling of the layers of government from each other, such that federal, state, county, municipal, and district governments are separate and independent from each other, in both function and funding, in order to facilitate their reduction or repeal.

### **Omissions**

Our silence about any other particular government law, regulation, ordinance, directive, edict, control, regulatory agency, activity, or machination, including the existence of any particular governmental system, should not be construed to imply approval or disapproval. In every matter, we adhere to the consistent application of the principle of the non-initiation of physical force or fraud.

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