

# ***LIBERTARIAN PARTY PLATFORM (2016)***

As Libertarians, we seek . . . 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 . . . Consequently, we defend each person's right to engage in any activity that is peaceful and honest, and 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 . . .

## ***1.0 PERSONAL LIBERTY***

Individuals should be free to make choices for themselves and must accept responsibility for the consequences of the choices they make . . . No individual, group, or government may initiate force against any other individual, group, or government . . .

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.

We support full freedom of expression and oppose government censorship, regulation or control of communications media and technology . . . We oppose government actions, which either aid or attack any religion.

Libertarians advocate individual privacy and government transparency. We are committed to ending government's practice of spying on everyone . . . Protection from unreasonable search and seizure should include records held by third parties, such as email, medical, and library records.

Sexual orientation, preference, gender, or gender identity should have no impact on the government's treatment of individuals . . . Consenting adults should be free to choose their own sexual practices and relationships . . .

Recognizing that abortion is a sensitive issue . . . we believe that government should be kept out of the matter, leaving the question to each person for their conscientious consideration . . .

Criminal laws should be limited in their application to violations of the rights of others through force or fraud, or to deliberate actions that place others involuntarily at significant risk of harm. Therefore, we favor the repeal of all laws creating "crimes" without victims, such as the use of drugs for medicinal or recreational purposes . . .

We oppose the administration of the death penalty by the state . . .

We affirm the individual right recognized by the Second Amendment to keep and bear arms, and oppose the prosecution of individuals for exercising their rights of self- defense . . . We oppose all laws at any level of government restricting, registering, or monitoring the ownership, manufacture, or transfer of firearms or ammunition.

## ***2.0 ECONOMIC LIBERTY***

Libertarians want all members of society to have abundant opportunities to achieve economic success. A free and competitive market allocates resources in the most efficient manner . . . The only proper role of government in the economic realm is to protect property rights, adjudicate disputes, and provide a legal framework in which voluntary trade is protected. All efforts by government to redistribute wealth, or to control or manage trade, are improper in a free society . . .

Competitive free markets and property rights stimulate the technological innovations and behavioral changes required to protect our environment and ecosystems . . . Governments are unaccountable for damage done to our

environment and have a terrible track record when it comes to environmental protection. Protecting the environment requires a clear definition and enforcement of individual rights and responsibilities . . . Where damages can be proven and quantified in a court of law, restitution to the injured parties must be required . . .

While energy is needed to fuel a modern society, government should not be subsidizing any particular form of energy. We oppose all government control of energy pricing, allocation, and production . . .

All persons are entitled to keep the fruits of their labor. We call for the repeal of the income tax, the abolishment of the Internal Revenue Service and all federal programs and services not required under the U.S. Constitution.

Libertarians . . . oppose all forms of government subsidies and bailouts to business, labor, or any other special interest. Government should not compete with private enterprise . . .

Education is best provided by the free market, achieving greater quality, accountability and efficiency with more diversity of choice . . . [W]e would restore authority to parents to determine the education of their children, without interference from government. Parents should have control of and responsibility for all funds expended for their children's education . . .

We favor a free-market health care system. We recognize the freedom of individuals to determine the level of health insurance they want (if any), the level of health care they want, the care providers they want, the medicines and treatments they will use and all other aspects of their medical care, including end-of-life decisions . . .

The proper and most effective source of help for the poor is the voluntary efforts of private groups and individuals. We believe members of society will become even more charitable and civil society will be strengthened as government reduces its activity in this realm.

### ***3.0 SECURING LIBERTY***

We support the maintenance of a sufficient military to defend the United States against aggression. The United States should both avoid entangling alliances and abandon its attempts to act as policeman for the world. We oppose any form of compulsory national service (i.e. a draft) . . .

The defense of the country requires that we have adequate intelligence to detect and to counter threats to domestic security. This requirement must not take priority over maintaining the civil liberties of our citizens. The Constitution and Bill of Rights shall not be suspended even during time of war . . .

American foreign policy should seek an America at peace with the world. Our foreign policy should emphasize defense against attack from abroad and enhance the likelihood of peace by avoiding foreign entanglements. We would end the current U.S. government policy of foreign intervention, including military and economic aid . . . We condemn the use of force, and especially the use of terrorism, against the innocent, regardless of whether such acts are committed by governments or by political or revolutionary groups . . .

Libertarians embrace the concept that all people are born with certain inherent rights . . . We condemn bigotry as irrational and repugnant. Government should neither deny nor abridge any individual's human right based upon sex, wealth, ethnicity, creed, age, national origin, personal habits, political preference or sexual orientation . . .

We call for an end to any tax-financed subsidies to candidates or parties and the repeal of all laws, which restrict voluntary 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 advocate initiative, referendum, recall and repeal when used as popular checks on government.

Whenever any form of government becomes destructive of individual liberty, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to agree to such new governance as to them shall seem most likely to protect their liberty.