



**Report of the Platform Committee  
to the Board and Delegates of the  
Libertarian Party of Colorado  
2017 State Convention**

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**Report Prepared by Chair Harlos  
Approved by Chair and Committee**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

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<b>Introduction to Recommendations.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Proposal #1: Freedom of Association (Committee Referral from 2016) .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>PROPOSED REVISION: .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>MOTION:.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Proposal #2: Self-Determination (Committee Referral from 2016).....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>PROPOSED REVISION: .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>MOTION:.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Proposal #3: Implementation.....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>PROPOSED REVISION: .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>MOTION:.....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Proposal #4: Victimless Crimes.....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>PROPOSED REVISION: .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>MOTION:.....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Proposal #5: Safety Clause .....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>PROPOSED REVISION: .....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>MOTION:.....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Proposal #6: Equal Treatment.....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>PROPOSED REVISION: .....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>MOTION:.....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Proposal #7: Preamble.....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>PROPOSED REVISION: .....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>MOTION:.....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Proposal #8: The Market.....</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>PROPOSED REVISION: .....</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>MOTION:.....</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Proposal #9: Property .....</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>PROPOSED REVISION: .....</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>MOTION:.....</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Proposal #10: Elections .....</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>PROPOSED REVISION: .....</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>MOTION:.....</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Proposal #11: Freedom of Expression.....</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>PROPOSED REVISION: .....</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>MOTION:.....</b>	<b>28</b>

**Legend for Proposals:** Unchanged existing text, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted.

**Threshold Vote for Passage:** Platform amendment requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote. Deletion of any plank requires simple majority vote.

<b>Proposal #12: Protection of Privacy.....</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>PROPOSED REVISION: .....</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>MOTION:.....</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Proposal #13: Colorado State Sovereignty .....</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>PROPOSED REVISION: .....</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>MOTION:.....</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Proposal #14: Statement of Principles .....</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>PROPOSED REVISION: .....</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>MOTION:.....</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Appendix A: Current Platform.....</b>	<b>37</b>
Preamble .....	37
Statement of Principles .....	37
Implementation .....	38
The Individual.....	38
Victimless Crimes.....	39
Freedom of Expression.....	39
Protection of Privacy .....	39
Personal Relationships.....	39
Right to Self-Defense.....	39
The Market.....	40
Taxation.....	40
Healthcare.....	40
Money .....	40
Licensing .....	40
Property .....	41
Labor Markets.....	41
The Community.....	41
Education.....	41
Environment.....	42
Welfare.....	42
Utilities.....	42
The State .....	42
Equal Treatment.....	42
Sovereign Immunity .....	42
Judicial.....	43
Death Penalty .....	43
Elections .....	43
Colorado State Sovereignty .....	43
Omissions .....	44
<b>Appendix B: Proposed Revised Platform with Mark-Up.....</b>	<b>45</b>
Preamble .....	45

<p><b>Legend for Proposals:</b> Unchanged existing text, <del>text to be deleted</del>, <u>text to be inserted</u>.</p> <p><b>Threshold Vote for Passage:</b> Platform amendment requires <math>\frac{2}{3}</math> vote. Deletion of any plank requires simple majority vote.</p>
---

Statement of Principles .....	45
Implementation .....	46
The Individual.....	46
Protection of Privacy .....	47
<u>Freedom of Association</u> .....	47
Personal Relationships.....	48
Right to Self-Defense.....	48
The Market.....	48
Taxation.....	48
Healthcare.....	49
Money .....	49
Licensing .....	49
Property .....	49
Labor Markets.....	49
The Community .....	50
Education.....	50
Environment.....	50
Welfare.....	50
Utilities.....	50
The State .....	50
Equal Treatment.....	51
Judicial.....	51
Death Penalty .....	51
Elections .....	52
<u>Safety Clause</u> .....	52
<u>Self-Determination</u> .....	52
Colorado State Sovereignty .....	52
Omissions .....	52
Appendix C: Proposed Revised Platform without Mark-Up .....	53
Preamble .....	53
Statement of Principles .....	53
Implementation .....	54
The Individual.....	54
Protection of Privacy .....	55
Freedom of Association.....	55
Personal Relationships.....	55
Right to Self-Defense.....	56
The Market.....	56
Taxation.....	56
Healthcare.....	56
Money .....	57
Licensing .....	57
Property .....	57

<p><b>Legend for Proposals:</b> Unchanged existing text, <del>text to be deleted</del>, <u>text to be inserted</u>.</p> <p><b>Threshold Vote for Passage:</b> Platform amendment requires <math>\frac{2}{3}</math> vote. Deletion of any plank requires simple majority vote.</p>
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Labor Markets.....	57
<b>The Community .....</b>	<b>57</b>
Education.....	58
Environment.....	58
Welfare.....	58
Utilities.....	58
<b>The State .....</b>	<b>58</b>
Equal Treatment.....	58
Judicial.....	59
Death Penalty .....	59
Elections .....	59
Safety Clause .....	60
Self-Determination.....	60
Colorado State Sovereignty .....	60
<b>Omissions .....</b>	<b>60</b>

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## Introduction to Recommendations

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The Platform of the Libertarian Party of Colorado was completely re-written during the 2016 Convention to a much cleaner, easier to maintain, and concise statement of our core principles. Two items were referred back to this Committee and addressed in the first two proposals in this report. The rest of the proposed changes are tweaks to an already solid Platform that will serve the Party for years to come. There is only one entirely new item proposed which deals with a unique feature of Colorado legislation.

This Committee was honored to serve in this manner and thanks the delegates of the 2017 Libertarian Party Convention for their consideration of its proposals. The Chair thanks the rest of the Committee members for their diligence, and particularly Secretary Caleb Bolander for his faithful dedication.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Caryn Ann Harlos, Platform Committee Chair

**Legend for Proposals:** Unchanged existing text, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted.

**Threshold Vote for Passage:** Platform amendment requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote. Deletion of any plank requires simple majority vote.

## Proposal #1: Freedom of Association (Committee Referral from 2016)

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***ADOPTED: Passed unanimously.***

**Problem:** The 2016 Platform Committee proposed a different version of this plank during the Platform deletion/re-write process. Some delegates felt that the prior proposal included terminology which was confusing with its distinctions between “positive” and “negative” rights and referred this plank back to Committee. Freedom of association comprises fundamental libertarian principles of self-ownership and rejection of anyone else having a higher claim to one’s life and labor other than one’s own self in peaceful actions. A person’s rights to life, liberty, and property require only non-aggression from others and impose no positive obligations upon others to fulfill those rights.

**Solution:** Re-work language to remove potentially confusing language while still clearly stating Libertarian principles.

PROPOSED REVISION:

### **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 that 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. Exercise of these rights depends upon mutual consent. 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.

Page 7 of 60

**Legend for Proposals:** Unchanged existing text, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted.

**Threshold Vote for Passage:** Platform amendment requires ⅔ vote. Deletion of any plank requires simple majority vote.

## MOTION:

Move to insert the following language after the Protection of Privacy plank and before the Taxation plank to create a new Freedom of Association plank that would then read as follows:

### **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 that 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. Exercise of these rights depends upon mutual consent. 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.

**Legend for Proposals:** Unchanged existing text, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted.

**Threshold Vote for Passage:** Platform amendment requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote. Deletion of any plank requires simple majority vote.



## Proposal #2: Self-Determination (Committee Referral from 2016)

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***ADOPTED: Passed unanimously.***

**Problem:** The 2016 Platform Committee proposed a different version of this plank during the Platform deletion/re-write process. As this occurred near the end of the Platform re-write with both time and patience for extended debate running short, this plank was referred back to Committee. Additionally, the title was felt to be potentially inflammatory and needed re-wording to reflect the principle. The plank is an expression that Libertarians believe in the right of peaceful peoples to withdraw in fulfillment of the belief in the rights of the individual and consensual cooperation between individuals, groups, and governments. If a person cannot self-determine in a peaceful manner, then they truly cannot be said to own themselves.

**Solution:** Re-work the previously proposed plank with an emphasis on re-titling. The Committee felt the proposed language was squarely in line with basic Libertarian principles, including the Statement of Principles of the Party. This right of self-determination is inherent to the person and voluntary groups whether recognized by any government.

PROPOSED REVISION:

### **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.

MOTION:

Move to insert the following language after the Elections plank and before the Colorado State Sovereignty plank to create a new Self-Determination plank that would then read as follows:

Page 9 of 60

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**Threshold Vote for Passage:** Platform amendment requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote. Deletion of any plank requires simple majority vote.

## **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.

**Legend for Proposals:** Unchanged existing text, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted.

**Threshold Vote for Passage:** Platform amendment requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote. Deletion of any plank requires simple majority vote.

## Proposal #3: Implementation

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***ADOPTED: Passed without objection (three members absent).***

**Problem:** The present plank does not make clear that horse-trading individual rights is not an actual transition to a more Libertarian society. “Repeal and do not replace” has been a constant Libertarian principle. This would add succinct clarity to the plank which makes it clear that we also favor actual transitions or steps rather than just “all or nothing.”

**Solution:** Add language to indicate that replacing abolished or reduced aggressive policies with fresh aggression is not moving policy in the direction of our goals.

PROPOSED REVISION:

### **Implementation**

We support any measure that actually reduces, and does not replace, illegitimate governmental action or violations of the rights of the individual as put forth in our Preamble and 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.

MOTION:

Move to insert the words “, and does not replace,” between the phrases “actually reduces” and “illegitimate governmental action” so that the Implementation plank would then read as follows:

### **Implementation**

We support any measure that actually reduces, and does not replace, illegitimate governmental action or violations of the rights of the individual as put forth in our Preamble and Statement of Principles. While recognizing that change often takes

Page 11 of 60

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**Threshold Vote for Passage:** Platform amendment requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote. Deletion of any plank requires simple majority vote.

the form of increments and transitions, the policies in the planks that follow are to be taken as quickly as possible.

**Legend for Proposals:** Unchanged existing text, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted.

**Threshold Vote for Passage:** Platform amendment requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote. Deletion of any plank requires simple majority vote.

## Proposal #4: Victimless Crimes

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***ADOPTED: First part adding “and civil” passed without objection. Second part passed 4-0-1 (Chair abstained-two members absent).***

**Problem:** The present plank leaves open the possibility of categorizing personal choices of self-ownership as civil violations and subject to fines. Further it creates a class of crime that has no provable victim, only potential victims, which should not be criminally or civilly punishable.

**Solution:** Add clarifying language that civil laws would not be acceptable in violation of self-ownership and strike out the phrase specifying potential rather than actual victims.

PROPOSED REVISION:

### Victimless Crimes

Criminal and civil laws should be limited to violations of the rights of others through fraud, ~~or~~ force, or deliberate actions that place others involuntarily at significant risk of harm and credible threats of imminent force. We therefore reject all laws that create crimes without victims such as the use of drugs for medicinal or recreational purposes, prostitution, and gambling.

MOTION:

Move to make the following changes to the Victimless Crimes plank:

- Insert the words “and civil” between the words “criminal” and “laws in the first sentence;
- Strike the word “or” before the word “force” and re-insert it immediately following the word “force” in the first sentence;
- Delete the phrase “actions that place others involuntarily at significant risk of harm” in the first sentence;

Page 13 of 60

**Legend for Proposals:** Unchanged existing text, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted.

**Threshold Vote for Passage:** Platform amendment requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote. Deletion of any plank requires simple majority vote.

- Insert the phrase “and credible threats of imminent force” to the end of the first sentence;

So that the Victimless Crimes plank would then read as follows:

### **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 such as the use of drugs for medicinal or recreational purposes, prostitution, and gambling.

**Legend for Proposals:** Unchanged existing text, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted.

**Threshold Vote for Passage:** Platform amendment requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote. Deletion of any plank requires simple majority vote.

## Proposal #5: Safety Clause

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***ADOPTED: Passed without objection (three members absent).***

**Problem:** The addition of a “Safety Clause” to legislation is a uniquely Coloradoan issue addressed in past Platforms but not addressed in our current Platform. The Colorado Channel provided this information:

According to the Office of Legislative Legal Services:

*A bill with a safety clause:*

*Is not subject to the citizens' right to file a referendum petition against all or any part of the bill. (The right is recognized in Section 1 (3) of Article V of the Colorado State constitution.)*

*Can take effect immediately after the Governor signs it or allows it to become law. This may be necessary for any bill that addresses a matter that constitutes an emergency, that requires an immediate change in the law, or that must take effect prior to or on the first day of a fiscal year (July 1).*

*A bill without a safety clause:*

*Is subject to the citizens' right to file a referendum petition against all or any part of the bill. The earliest date that this bill can take effect is the day after the expiration of the 90-day period following adjournment of the General Assembly. If a referendum petition is filed during that 90-day period, the bill or part of the bill cannot take effect until approved by the voters at an even-year, statewide election.*

*Should contain a special effective date clause that indicates that the act is subject to petition and explains the alternative effective dates that will apply.*

Note that Petitions for referendum of legislative bills need to have valid signatures equal to 5% of the votes for Secretary of State in the last general election.

**Legend for Proposals:** Unchanged existing text, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted.

**Threshold Vote for Passage:** Platform amendment requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote. Deletion of any plank requires simple majority vote.

**Solution:** Add plank similar to those found in Colorado Party Platforms during the 1980s.

PROPOSED REVISION:

**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.

MOTION:

Move to insert the following language after the Elections plank and before the Colorado State Sovereignty plank (or the Self-Determination plank if previously passed) to create a new Safety Clause plank that would then read as follows:

**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.

**Legend for Proposals:** Unchanged existing text, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted.

**Threshold Vote for Passage:** Platform amendment requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote. Deletion of any plank requires simple majority vote.



## Proposal #6: Equal Treatment

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**ADOPTED:** *Passed 5-1 (one member absent). Grammatical corrections passed unanimously (one member absent).*

**Problem:** The present plank does not clearly distinguish between government/public and private actors.

**Solution:** Re-assert that governments are under stricter standards than private individuals who do not give up their freedoms to associate and contract.

PROPOSED REVISION:

### 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; ~~And~~ 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.

MOTION:

Move to change the period after the phrase "sexual orientation" to a semi-colon and change the subsequent word "And" to lower-case; and to add the sentence "However, freedom of association and contracts should not be denied or restricted in private consensual arrangements or agreements." to the end of the Equal Treatment plank which would then read as follows:

### 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; and

Page 17 of 60

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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.

**Legend for Proposals:** Unchanged existing text, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted.

**Threshold Vote for Passage:** Platform amendment requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote. Deletion of any plank requires simple majority vote.

## Proposal #7: Preamble

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***ADOPTED: Passed without objection. Reverted change in capitalization passed without objection (three members absent).***

**Problem:** The current preamble was adopted during a Platform re-write and is almost entirely a duplicate of the Preamble of the National Party. Some tightening of the language is needed in order to flow with the Colorado Platform, particularly in light of our separate “Implementation” plank. Additionally, there is a lack of clarity in the proper scope of the rights of non-interference and ownership.

**Solution:** Remove redundant language and add clarifying language on the scope of rights to be free from interference and the scope of sovereign personal rights.

PROPOSED REVISION:

### 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, or any other individual, group, or organization.

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

Page 19 of 60

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prohibition of the initiation of physical force and fraud against other people and their property. These principles ~~are to~~ guide Libertarian policy positions in every area.

~~In the following sections we have set forth our basic principles and enumerated various policy positions derived from those principles. These specific policies are not our goal, however.~~ Our goal is nothing ~~more nor~~ less than a world set free in our lifetime, and it is to this end that we take these stands.

#### MOTION:

Move to make the following changes to the Preamble:

- Insert the word “we” prior to “welcome the diversity that freedom brings” in the first sentence of the third paragraph;
- Insert the phrase “, or any other individual, group, or organization” at the end of the third paragraph;
- Insert the phrase “, including their labor and the fruits thereof” to the end of the first sentence of the fourth paragraph;
- Delete the sentences “In the following sections we have set forth our basic principles and enumerated various policy positions derived from those principles. These specific policies are not our goal, however.” from the beginning of the last paragraph and delete the phrase “more nor” from between the words “nothing” and “less” in the final sentence of the last paragraph;

So that the Preamble would then read as follows:

**Legend for Proposals:** Unchanged existing text, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted.

**Threshold Vote for Passage:** Platform amendment requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote. Deletion of any plank requires simple majority vote.

## 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, or any other individual, group, or organization.

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. 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.

**Legend for Proposals:** Unchanged existing text, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted.

**Threshold Vote for Passage:** Platform amendment requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote. Deletion of any plank requires simple majority vote.

## Proposal #8: The Market

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***ADOPTED: Addition of “if any” and “or impede” passed without objection. Remainder of changes passed 4-2-1 (Chair abstained).***

**Problem:** The present plank has some excessive wordiness and is missing another potential and common avenue of interference with trade. Additionally, language is used that is not in conformity with the Statement of Principles.

**Solution:** Eliminate wordiness, add needed clarifying word, and edit language to be in conformity with the wording in the Statement of Principles.

PROPOSED REVISION:

### **The Market**

We believe that each person has the right to offer goods and services to others on the free market. ~~For voluntary dealings among p~~Private entities, ~~parties~~ 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, ~~and~~ 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.

**Legend for Proposals:** Unchanged existing text, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted.

**Threshold Vote for Passage:** Platform amendment requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote. Deletion of any plank requires simple majority vote.

## MOTION:

Move to make the following changes to the Market plank:

- Delete the phrase “For voluntary dealings among” from the first part of the second sentences so that the sentence will begin with “Private” (capitalized instead of lower case);
- Delete the word “parties” after the word “entities”;
- Add the phrase “, if any,” following the phrases “only proper role” and “of existing governments” in the fourth sentence;
- Add the phrase “, or impede” between the words “regulate” and “trade” while striking the word “and” before the word “regulate” in the second to last sentence;

So that the Market plank would then read as follows:

### 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, and 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.

**Legend for Proposals:** Unchanged existing text, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted.

**Threshold Vote for Passage:** Platform amendment requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote. Deletion of any plank requires simple majority vote.

## Proposal #9: Property

---

***ADOPTED: Passed without objection.***

**Problem:** The present plank is missing several key terms in relation to what can be done with property.

**Solution:** Add missing terms.

PROPOSED REVISION:

### Property

We hold that rights to property are individual rights and, as such, are entitled to the same protections as all other individual rights and that the owners of property have the full right to acquire, trade, control, use, dispose of, or in any manner enjoy their property without interference, until and unless the exercise of their control infringes 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, which makes the State the de facto owner of all lands and forces individuals to rent their homes and places of business from the State.

MOTION:

Move to add the words “acquire, trade,” between the phrase “the full right to” and the word “control” so that the Property plank would then read as follows:

**Legend for Proposals:** Unchanged existing text, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted.

**Threshold Vote for Passage:** Platform amendment requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote. Deletion of any plank requires simple majority vote.



## Property

We hold that rights to property are individual rights and, as such, are entitled to the same protections as all other individual rights and that the owners of property have the full right to acquire, trade, control, use, dispose of, or in any manner enjoy their property without interference, until and unless the exercise of their control infringes 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, which makes the State the de facto owner of all lands and forces individuals to rent their homes and places of business from the State.

**Legend for Proposals:** Unchanged existing text, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted.

**Threshold Vote for Passage:** Platform amendment requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote. Deletion of any plank requires simple majority vote.

## Proposal #10: Elections

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***ADOPTED: Passed without objection (three members absent).***

**Problem:** After the recent passage of Propositions 107 and 108, it has become necessary to clearly state the Party's position on the means that private political parties can use to determine their candidates, which in Colorado historically included caucuses.

**Solution:** Add the word "caucuses" to the list of means of internal candidate nominations by political parties.

PROPOSED REVISION:

### 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 the alternative "none of the above" is acceptable to all ballots. In the event that "none of the above" wins, the elective office for that term will remain unfilled and unfunded.

MOTION:

Move to add the word ", caucuses," between the word "primaries" and the phrase "and conventions" so that the Elections plank would then read as follows:

### Elections

Page 26 of 60

**Legend for Proposals:** Unchanged existing text, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted.

**Threshold Vote for Passage:** Platform amendment requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote. Deletion of any plank requires simple majority vote.

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 the alternative "none of the above" is acceptable to all ballots. In the event that "none of the above" wins, the elective office for that term will remain unfilled and unfunded.

**Legend for Proposals:** Unchanged existing text, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted.

**Threshold Vote for Passage:** Platform amendment requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote. Deletion of any plank requires simple majority vote.

## Proposal #11: Freedom of Expression

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***ADOPTED: Passed without objection.***

**Problem:** The present plank is missing a potential element in the hindering of freedom of expression by the government. Governments can engage in schemes in which they are indirectly controlling through inappropriate deals and schemes.

**Solution:** Add additional term.

PROPOSED REVISION:

### **Freedom of Expression**

We support full freedom of expression and oppose government censorship, regulation, or control of, or collusion with, communications media and technology. We favor the freedom to engage in or abstain from any religious activities that do not violate the rights of others. We oppose government actions which either aid or attack any religion.

MOTION:

Move to add the words “, or collusion with,” between the phrases “control of” and “communications media” so that the Freedom of Expression plank would then read as follows:

### **Freedom of Expression**

We support full freedom of expression and oppose government censorship, regulation, or control of, or collusion with, communications media and technology. We favor the freedom to engage in or abstain from any religious activities that do not violate the rights of others. We oppose government actions which either aid or attack any religion.

Page 28 of 60

**Legend for Proposals:** Unchanged existing text, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted.

**Threshold Vote for Passage:** Platform amendment requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote. Deletion of any plank requires simple majority vote.

## Proposal #12: Protection of Privacy

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**ADOPTED:** *Passed without objection (three members absent).*

**Problem:** The present plank is limited to certain classes of people while due process rights should extend to all persons. There is also a lack of succinct clarity to the source of these rights.

**Solution:** Expand basic rights to all classes of persons and tighten up second part by consolidating language and describing these rights as property rights.

PROPOSED REVISION:

### Protection of Privacy

Libertarians advocate individual privacy and call for government transparency. We condemn government's practice of spying on ~~its own~~ citizens and non-citizens without probable cause and due process. We support the property rights recognized by the Fourth Amendment to be secure in our persons, homes, ~~property, and~~ communications, and other effects, ~~Protection from unreasonable search and seizure includes including records data~~ held by third parties, such as, but not limited to, email, library, medical, and phone records.

MOTION:

Move to make the following changes to the Protection of Privacy plank:

- Delete the phrase "its own" from prior to the word "citizens" in the first sentence and add the phrase "and non-citizens without probable cause and due process" immediately after;
- Add the word "property" between the phrase "We support the" and the word "rights" in the second sentence;

**Legend for Proposals:** Unchanged existing text, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted.

**Threshold Vote for Passage:** Platform amendment requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote. Deletion of any plank requires simple majority vote.

- Delete the words “property, and” between the words “homes” and “communications” in the second sentence;
- Add the phrase “and other effects,” immediately following the word “communications” in the second sentence;
- Delete the phrase “Protection from unreasonable search and seizure includes records” from the beginning of the third sentence so that the second and third sentences are combined;
- Add the words “including data” to the added phrase “and other effects,” in the new combined second sentence;

So that the Protection of Privacy plank would then read as follows:

### **Protection of Privacy**

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

<p><b>Legend for Proposals:</b> Unchanged existing text, <del>text to be deleted</del>, <u>text to be inserted</u>.</p> <p><b>Threshold Vote for Passage:</b> Platform amendment requires <math>\frac{2}{3}</math> vote. Deletion of any plank requires simple majority vote.</p>
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## Proposal #13: Colorado State Sovereignty

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***ADOPTED: Passed without objection (three members absent).***

**Problem:** The present language needs more strength in asserting the vertical separation of powers within our republican form of government, which includes the reservation of powers and privileges to the states in relation to the federal government. This is essential in ending the Drug War and any other federal compulsion upon states to enforce federal laws against their consent.

**Solution:** Add language asserting the explicit separation of powers in the federal Constitution and the rights of states to be free from unconstitutional interference.

PROPOSED REVISION:

### 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 opposed unfunded Federal mandates and coercion of State Legislatures by threats to withhold Federal funds. We support full enforcement of all anti-commandeering laws.

MOTION:

Move to add the word “explicitly” prior to the phrase “forbids any others” from at the end of the first sentence and add the sentence “We support full enforcement of all anti-commandeering laws.” to the end of the plank, so that the Colorado State Sovereignty plank would then read as follows:

Page 31 of 60

**Legend for Proposals:** Unchanged existing text, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted.

**Threshold Vote for Passage:** Platform amendment requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote. Deletion of any plank requires simple majority vote.

## 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 opposed unfunded Federal mandates and coercion of State Legislatures by threats to withhold Federal funds. We support full enforcement of all anti-commandeering laws.

**Legend for Proposals:** Unchanged existing text, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted.

**Threshold Vote for Passage:** Platform amendment requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote. Deletion of any plank requires simple majority vote.



## Proposal #14: Statement of Principles

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***ADOPTED: Passed 4-2-1.***

**Problem:** Pursuant to our affiliation with the National Party, the LPCO has ratified the complete Statement of Principles of the National Party. Further, our governing documents hold conformity to the Statement of Principles of the National Party as the benchmark and requirement for policy (no policy can contradict, and affiliates can be disaffiliated for doing so) and for holding certain positions (nominated candidates, National Convention delegates, and Board members). However, the complete text of the Statement of Principles is not incorporated into our Platform but rather, a modified version is. While there might be opinions on chosen wording, at the founding of the Party and in our National Bylaws the Statement of Principles is hard-coded with a nearly impossible to meet burden for amendment (7/8 of registered delegates at National Convention), and this was done intentionally. Modifying wording at the state level is the one thing we do not have the authority to do, and no matter what is put forth as an alternative, the reality is that we have adopted the National Party's Statement of Principles, and members should be able to view it as it is worded. This proposal would display the actual state of our ratification and adoption of the Statement of Principles as written rather than having the position of adopting two versions which does not avoid any wording but merely buries it.

**Solution:** Revert the Statement of Principles to match the wording of the National Party.

PROPOSED REVISION:

### Statement of Principles

We, the members of the Libertarian Party, challenge the cult of the omnipotent state and defend the rights of the individual.

Page 33 of 60

**Legend for Proposals:** Unchanged existing text, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted.

**Threshold Vote for Passage:** Platform amendment requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote. Deletion of any plank requires simple majority vote.

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, 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.

**Legend for Proposals:** Unchanged existing text, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted.

**Threshold Vote for Passage:** Platform amendment requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote. Deletion of any plank requires simple majority vote.

## MOTION:

Move to add the phrase “, challenge the cult of the omnipotent state and” between the phrases “members of the Libertarian Party” and “defend the rights of the individual” so that the Statement of Principles would then read as follows:

### **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, 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

Page 35 of 60

**Legend for Proposals:** Unchanged existing text, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted.

**Threshold Vote for Passage:** Platform amendment requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote. Deletion of any plank requires simple majority vote.

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.

**Legend for Proposals:** Unchanged existing text, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted.

**Threshold Vote for Passage:** Platform amendment requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote. Deletion of any plank requires simple majority vote.

## Appendix A: Current Platform

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### 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 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. As such, we support the prohibition of the initiation of physical force and fraud against other people and their property. These principles are to guide Libertarian policy positions in every area.

In the following sections we have set forth our basic principles and enumerated various policy positions derived from those principles. These specific policies are not our goal, however. Our goal is nothing more nor 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, 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, all political parties other than our own

Page 37 of 60

**Legend for Proposals:** Unchanged existing text, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted.

**Threshold Vote for Passage:** Platform amendment requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote. Deletion of any plank requires simple majority vote.

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 illegitimate governmental action or violations of the rights of the individual as put forth in our Preamble and 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.

**Legend for Proposals:** Unchanged existing text, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted.

**Threshold Vote for Passage:** Platform amendment requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote. Deletion of any plank requires simple majority vote.

### **Victimless Crimes**

Criminal laws should be limited to violations of the rights of others through force or fraud, or deliberate actions that place others involuntarily at significant risk of harm. We therefore reject all laws that create crimes without victims such as the use of drugs for medicinal or recreational purposes, prostitution, and gambling.

### **Freedom of Expression**

We support full freedom of expression and oppose government censorship, regulation, or control of communications media and technology. We favor the freedom to engage in or abstain from any religious activities that do not violate the rights of others. We oppose government actions which either aid or attack any religion.

### **Protection of Privacy**

Libertarians advocate individual privacy and call for government transparency. We condemn government's practice of spying on its own citizens. We support the rights recognized by the Fourth Amendment to be secure in our persons, homes, property, and communications. Protection from unreasonable search and seizure includes records held by third parties, such as, but not limited to, email, library, medical, and phone records.

### **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. We favor the complete extrication of government from private consensual relationships.

### **Right to Self-Defense**

The only legitimate use of force is reasonable and proportional 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 reasonable and proportional self-defense.

**Legend for Proposals:** Unchanged existing text, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted.

**Threshold Vote for Passage:** Platform amendment requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote. Deletion of any plank requires simple majority vote.

## The Market

We believe that each person has the right to offer goods and services to others on the free market. For voluntary dealings among private entities, parties 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 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 and regulate 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 healthcare. 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 as money any mutually agreeable commodity or item. 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. 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

**Legend for Proposals:** Unchanged existing text, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted.

**Threshold Vote for Passage:** Platform amendment requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote. Deletion of any plank requires simple majority vote.



should be forced to pay to exercise a right. We encourage certifications by voluntary associations of professionals.

### **Property**

We hold that rights to property are individual rights and, as such, are entitled to the same protections as all other individual rights and that the owners of property have the full right to control, use, dispose of, or in any manner enjoy their property without interference, until and unless the exercise of their control infringes 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, which makes the State the de facto owner of all lands and forces individuals to rent their homes and places of business from the State.

### **Labor Markets**

The contract between an employer and employee is a voluntary relationship, where both sides choose to enter into it and can only fairly negotiate on the terms of the contract 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,” 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 will allocate 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 schooling) or to carry forward for education in a future year.

Page 41 of 60

**Legend for Proposals:** Unchanged existing text, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted.

**Threshold Vote for Passage:** Platform amendment requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote. Deletion of any plank requires simple majority vote.

### **Environment**

Pollution of air, water, and land violates rights. Polluters, including government, should have strict liability for harms caused by pollution. Strict liability, not government agencies and arbitrary government standards should regulate pollution.

### **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 help for others is 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 state.

### **The State**

The principle of non-initiation of force should guide governments and citizens. 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. And any laws which currently do so should be repealed rather than extended to all groups.

### **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.

**Legend for Proposals:** Unchanged existing text, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted.

**Threshold Vote for Passage:** Platform amendment requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote. Deletion of any plank requires simple majority vote.

### **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 government 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 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 the alternative "none of the above" as acceptable to all ballots. In the event that "none of the above" wins, the elective office for that term will remain unfilled and unfunded.

### **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 forbids any others. We oppose unfunded Federal mandates and coercion of State Legislatures by threats to withhold Federal funds.

**Legend for Proposals:** Unchanged existing text, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted.

**Threshold Vote for Passage:** Platform amendment requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote. Deletion of any plank requires simple majority vote.

## 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.

**Legend for Proposals:** Unchanged existing text, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted.

**Threshold Vote for Passage:** Platform amendment requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote. Deletion of any plank requires simple majority vote.

## Appendix B: Proposed Revised Platform with Mark-Up

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### 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, or any other individual, group, or organization.

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. These principles are to guide Libertarian policy positions in every area.

~~In the following sections we have set forth our basic principles and enumerated various policy positions derived from those principles. These specific policies are not our goal, however.~~ Our goal is nothing ~~more nor~~ 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

**Legend for Proposals:** Unchanged existing text, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted.

**Threshold Vote for Passage:** Platform amendment requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote. Deletion of any plank requires simple majority vote.

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, 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 replace, illegitimate governmental action or violations of the rights of the individual as put forth in our Preamble and 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

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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, or force, or deliberate ~~actions that place others involuntarily at significant risk of harm~~ and credible threats of imminent force. We therefore reject all laws that create crimes without victims such as the use of drugs for medicinal or recreational purposes, prostitution, and gambling.

### **Freedom of Expression**

We support full freedom of expression and oppose government censorship, regulation, or control of, or collusion with, communications media and technology. We favor the freedom to engage in or abstain from any religious activities that do not violate the rights of others. We oppose government actions which either aid or attack any religion.

### **Protection of Privacy**

Libertarians advocate individual privacy and call for government transparency. We condemn government's practice of spying on ~~its own~~ citizens and non-citizens without probable cause and due process. We support the property rights recognized by the Fourth Amendment to be secure in our persons, homes, property, and communications, and other effects, ~~Protection from unreasonable search and seizure includes~~ including records 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 that 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. Exercise of these rights depends upon mutual consent. 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.

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### **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. We favor the complete extrication of government from private consensual relationships.

### **Right to Self-Defense**

The only legitimate use of force is reasonable and proportional 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 reasonable and proportional self-defense.

### **The Market**

We believe that each person has the right to offer goods and services to others on the free market. ~~For voluntary dealings among p~~Private entities, parties 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, ~~and~~ 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.

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## **Money**

Individuals engaged in voluntary exchange should be free to use as money any mutually agreeable commodity or item. 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. 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 are individual rights and, as such, are entitled to the same protections as all other individual rights and that the owners of property have the full right to acquire, trade, control, use, dispose of, or in any manner enjoy their property without interference, until and unless the exercise of their control infringes 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, which makes the State the de facto owner of all lands and forces individuals to rent their homes and places of business from the State.

## **Labor Markets**

The contract between an employer and employee is a voluntary relationship, where both sides choose to enter into it and can only fairly negotiate on the terms of the contract 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,” merely the freedom for all to negotiate conditions of employment.

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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 will allocate 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 schooling) 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, not government agencies and arbitrary government standards should regulate pollution.

### **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 help for others is 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 state.

## **The State**

The principle of non-initiation of force should guide governments and citizens. We call for a non-interventionist foreign policy and recognize the rights to unrestricted

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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; And 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 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 government with this kind of power, we reject all state sanctioned death penalty laws.

Page 51 of 60

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## **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 the alternative "none of the above" is acceptable to all ballots. In the event that "none of the above" wins, the elective office for that term will remain unfilled and unfunded.

## **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 C: Proposed Revised Platform without Mark-Up

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### 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, or any other individual, group, or organization.

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. These principles are to 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

Page 53 of 60

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their labor. Even within the United States, 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 replace, illegitimate governmental action or violations of the rights of the individual as put forth in our Preamble and 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.

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### **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 such as the use of drugs for medicinal or recreational purposes, prostitution, and gambling.

### **Freedom of Expression**

We support full freedom of expression and oppose government censorship, regulation, or control of, or collusion with, communications media and technology. We favor the freedom to engage in or abstain from any religious activities that do not violate the rights of others. We oppose government actions which either aid or attack any religion.

### **Protection of Privacy**

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

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### **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

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