



## **Report of the Platform Committee to the Board and Delegates of the Libertarian Party of Colorado 2018 State Convention**

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**Sarah Ellsworth**  
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**Caryn Ann Harlos**  
**Michele Poague**  
**Michael Seebeck**  
**Jay Stooksberry**

Report prepared by Chair Casciato  
Approved by Chair and Committee

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

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

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## **Introduction to Recommendations**

The Platform of the Libertarian Party of Colorado was completely rewritten during the 2016 Convention to a much cleaner, easier to maintain, and concise statement of our core principles. Platform proposals that were not heard on the floor in the 2017 Libertarian Party of Colorado Convention and were successfully reaffirmed are included in this year's proposal.

This Committee was honored to serve and thanks the delegates of the 2018 Libertarian Party Convention for their consideration of its proposals. The Chair thanks the Committee members for their diligence.

Respectfully Submitted,

Clayton Casciato  
2018 Platform Committee Chair

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## Proposal #1: Preamble

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**Adopted:** Passed unanimously (two members absent)

**Problem:** The current preamble was adopted during a Platform rewrite 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.

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## 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 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 set forth our basic principles and enumerate 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.

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## Motion

Move 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
- Delete the phrase “more nor” from between the words “nothing” and “less” in the final sentence of the last paragraph

to read:

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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 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.

---

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

## Proposal #2: Statement of Principles

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**Adopted:** Passed unanimously (one member absent)

**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.

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## 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.

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.

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



## Motion

Move to insert “, 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:

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### *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 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.

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## Proposal #3: Victimless Crimes

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**Adopted:** First bullet 4-0-2. Second and last bullet passed unanimously. (1 member absent for all bullets)

**Problem:** There is a lack of clarity to the definition of a victimless crime. Readers might interpret examples as the only cases of victimless crimes. For example, people can be forced into or be unable to meaningfully consent to activities (e.g. prostitution). Lastly, only individuals, and not the government nor society, can be the victim of crimes.

**Solution:** Clarify inclusiveness. Alert reader to the existence of other victimless crimes. Clarify that government cannot be a victim.

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### Proposed Revision

#### *Victimless Crimes*

Criminal and civil laws should be limited to violations of the rights of others through fraud, force, or deliberate and credible threats of imminent force. We therefore reject all laws that create crimes without victims, for voluntary and consensual activities such as, but not limited to, the use of drugs for medicinal or recreational purposes, prostitution, and gambling. We also reject government placing itself as a proxy victim of alleged crimes.

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

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

## Motion

Move the following changes in the *Victimless Crimes* plank:

- Insert “ for voluntary and consensual activities“ between “without victims” and “such as” in the second sentence
- Insert “, but not limited to,” between “such as” and “the use of drugs”
- Insert “We also reject government placing itself as a proxy victim of alleged crimes” at the end

to read:

### *Victimless Crimes*

Criminal and civil laws should be limited to violations of the rights of others through fraud, force, or deliberate and credible threats of imminent force. We therefore reject all laws that create crimes without victims, for voluntary and consensual activities such as, but not limited to, the use of drugs for medicinal or recreational purposes, prostitution, and gambling. We also reject government placing itself as a proxy victim of alleged crimes.

---

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

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

## Proposal #4: Freedom of Expression

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**Adopted:** Passed unanimously (one member absent)

**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 individuals through inappropriate deals and pressures (e.g. blackmail through national highway funding to enforce drinking age restrictions).

**Solution:** Add additional phrase for government collusion.

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### 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 aid or attack any religion.

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

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

## Motion

Move to insert “, or collusion with,” between “control of” and “communications media” and strike “or” between “regulation,” and “control of” in the first sentence 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, 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 aid or attack any religion.

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

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

## Proposal #5: Protection of Privacy

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**Adopted:** First bullet 5-0-1. Other bullets passed unanimously (one member absent for all bullets)

**Problem:** The present plank is limited to certain classes of people while due process rights should extend to all persons. The plank also neglects specifying the type of rights recognized by the Fourth Amendment.

**Solution:** Expand basic rights to all classes of persons and tighten up second part by consolidating language and describing these 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~~individuals 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. ~~Protection from unreasonable search and seizure includes records, 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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**Legend for Proposals:** Unchanged existing text, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted. Deletions precede insertions.

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

## Motion

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

- Strike “its own citizens” after “of spying on” in the second sentence and insert the phrase “individuals without probable cause and due process” immediately after “of spying on”
- Insert “property” between “We support the” and “rights” in the third sentence
- Strike “property, and” between “homes” and “communications” in the third sentence
- Strike “. Protection from unreasonable search and seizure includes records” from the beginning of the last sentence so that the third and fourth sentences are combined
- Insert “, and other effects, including data” immediately following the word “communications” in the last sentence

to read:

### *Protection of Privacy*

Libertarians advocate individual privacy and call for government transparency. We condemn government’s practice of spying on individuals without probable cause and due process. We support the 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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**Legend for Proposals:** Unchanged existing text, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted. Deletions precede insertions.

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



## Proposal #6: Right to Self-Defense

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**Adopted:** Passed unanimously (one member absent).

**Problem:** Defensive force is inherently “reasonable and proportional” and the addition of this language could appear to weaken our support for the absolute right to self defense.

**Solution:** Remove the phrase “reasonable and proportional” to describe defense.

---

### Proposed Revision

#### *Right to Self-Defense*

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

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

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

## Motion

Move to strike “reasonable and proportional” in the first and last sentences and insert “in the” before “defense of individual rights” in the first sentence so that the *Right to Self-Defense* plank would then read as follows:

### *Right to Self-Defense*

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

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

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

## Proposal #7: The Market

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**Adopted:** Passed unanimously (one member absent)

**Problem:** The present language is excessively wordy. The plank is missing another potential and common avenue of interference with trade. Additionally, the current wording departs from the Statement of Principles in appearing to advocate the necessity of the role of the government.

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

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### 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 private~~ **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.

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

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

## Motion

Move the following changes to the *Market* plank:

- Strike “For voluntary dealings among” from the first part of the second sentence so that the second sentence will begin with “Private” (capitalized instead of lower case)
- Strike “, parties” after the word “entities” in the second sentence
- Insert “, if any,” between “only proper role” and “of existing governments” in the fourth sentence
- Insert “, or impede” between the words “regulate” and “trade” while striking “and” and adding a comma after “forcibly manage” in the second to last sentence

to read:

### *The Market*

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

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

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

## Proposal #8: Property

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**Adopted:** Passed unanimously (one member absent)

**Problem:** The current plank has an incomplete description of the rights of property owners, which has been exploited by some to imply restrictions that are incompatible with the founding principles of the Libertarian Party.

**Solution:** Add missing terms.

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### 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, rent, collateralize, or enjoy their property in any manner, 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.

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

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

## Motion

Move the following changes to the *Property* plank:

- Insert “acquire, trade,” between “the full right to” and “control” in the first sentence
- Insert “rent, collateralize,” between “dispose of,” and “or enjoy their property” in the first sentence

to read:

### *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, rent, collateralize, or enjoy their property in any manner, 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.

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

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

## Proposal #9: Environment

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**Adopted:** Passed unanimously (one member absent).

**Problem:** The present plank conjoins government agencies and standards, which implies that governments can properly interfere with determination of liability as long as it is argued that it is arbitrary.

**Solution:** Change the wording from “and” to “or”.

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### Proposed Revision

#### *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~~or arbitrary government standards, should regulate pollution.

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

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

## Motion

Move to strike the word “and” and insert the word “or” between “government agencies” and “arbitrary government” in the third sentence so that the *Environment* plank would then read as follows:

### *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 or arbitrary government standards, should regulate pollution.

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

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



## Proposal #10: Equal Treatment

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**Adopted:** Passed unanimously (two members absent)

**Problem:** The present plank does not clearly distinguish between government/public and private actors. Private actors, unlike the government, have an absolute right to refuse to associate or provide service to anyone for any reason (i.e. you do not have to “bake the cake”).

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

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### Proposed Revision

#### *Equal Treatment*

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

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

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

## Motion

Move to insert “However, freedom of association and contracts should not be denied or restricted in private consensual arrangements or agreements.” to the end of the plank so that the Statement of Principles would then read as follows:

### *Equal Treatment*

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

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

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

## Proposal #11: Elections

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**Adopted:** Passed unanimously (one member absent)

**Problem:** After the 2016 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 candidate nominations by political parties.

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### 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" to all ballots. In the event that "None of the Above" wins, the elective office for that term will remain unfilled and unfunded.

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

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

## Motion

Move to insert the word “caucuses,” between “primaries,” and “and conventions” in the second sentence so that the *Elections* plank would then read as follows:

### *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” to all ballots. In the event that “None of the Above” wins, the elective office for that term will remain unfilled and unfunded.

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

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

## Proposal #12: Colorado State Sovereignty

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**Adopted:** Adopted unanimously (one member absent)

**Problem:** The present language needs more strength in asserting the vertical separation of powers within the current form of government. For example, this problem manifests itself in the Drug War.

**Solution:** Add language asserting the Constitution's explicit separation of powers and the right to be free from interference.

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

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**Legend for Proposals:** Unchanged existing text, ~~text to be deleted~~, [text to be inserted](#). Deletions precede insertions.

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

## Motion

Move the following changes to the *Colorado State Sovereignty* plank:

- Insert the word “explicitly” between “may exercise, and” and “forbids any others.” in the second sentence
- Insert “We support full enforcement of all anti-commandeering laws.” to the end

to read:

### *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.

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

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

## Appendix A: Current Platform

### 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 set forth our basic principles and enumerate 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.

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

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

### **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

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

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



Principles. While recognizing that change often takes the form of increments and transitions, the policies in the planks that follow are to be implemented as quickly as possible.

### **The Individual**

Individuals own their bodies and have rights over them that other individuals, groups, and governments may not violate. Individuals have the freedom and responsibility to decide what they knowingly and voluntarily consume, and what risks they accept to their own health, finances, safety, or life. Individuals should be free to make choices for themselves and to accept responsibility for the consequences of the choices they make provided those choices do not violate the rights of others. Our support of an individual's right to make choices in life does not mean that we necessarily approve or disapprove of those choices.

#### ***Victimless Crimes***

Criminal and civil laws should be limited to violations of the rights of others through fraud, force, or deliberate and credible threats of imminent force. We therefore reject all laws that create crimes without victims, 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 aid or attack any religion.

#### ***Protection of Privacy***

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

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

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.

### ***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. Individuals and business owners retain their rights and privileges to set their own standards of association and terms of voluntary interaction. Other individuals and business owners are free to respond with ostracism, boycotts, and other free market solutions. We therefore favor the repeal of any governmental attempts to regulate any private association, including public accommodations laws.

### ***Personal Relationships***

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

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

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

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

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 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.

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

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

## ***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 any mutually agreeable commodity or item as money. 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 control, use, dispose of, or enjoy their property in any manner, 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,

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

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

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

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

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

in schools of choice (including, but not limited to, private, parochial, and home schools) or to carry forward for education in a future year.

### ***Environment***

Pollution of air, water, and land violates rights. Polluters, including government, should have strict liability for harms caused by pollution. Strict liability, 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***

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

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

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

### ***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 threats 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***

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

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

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" to all ballots. In the event that "None of the Above" wins, the elective office for that term would 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***

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

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



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

### **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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**Legend for Proposals:** Unchanged existing text, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted. Deletions precede insertions.

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

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

### 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 set forth our basic principles and enumerate 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 not forcibly interfere with the equal right of others to live in whatever manner they choose.

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

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

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 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 implemented as quickly as possible.

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

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

## **The Individual**

Individuals own their bodies and have rights over them that other individuals, groups, and governments may not violate. Individuals have the freedom and responsibility to decide what they knowingly and voluntarily consume, and what risks they accept to their own health, finances, safety, or life. Individuals should be free to make choices for themselves and to accept responsibility for the consequences of the choices they make provided those choices do not violate the rights of others. Our support of an individual's right to make choices in life does not mean that we necessarily approve or disapprove of those choices.

### ***Victimless Crimes***

Criminal and civil laws should be limited to violations of the rights of others through fraud, force, or deliberate and credible threats of imminent force. We therefore reject all laws that create crimes without victims, for voluntary and consensual activities such as, but not limited to, the use of drugs for medicinal or recreational purposes, prostitution, and gambling. We also reject government placing itself as a proxy victim of alleged crimes.

### ***Freedom of Expression***

We support full freedom of expression and oppose government censorship, regulation, ~~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 aid or attack any religion.

### ***Protection of Privacy***

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

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

Libertarians advocate individual privacy and call for government transparency. We condemn government's practice of spying on ~~its own citizens~~individuals 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. ~~Protection from unreasonable search and seizure includes records, and other effects, including data~~ held by third parties, such as, but not limited to, email, library, medical, and phone records.

### ***Freedom of Association***

Libertarians embrace the concept that all people are born with certain inherent rights and reject the idea that those rights can impose an obligation upon any other person or non-government organization to fulfill 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. Individuals and business owners retain their rights and privileges to set their own standards of association and terms of voluntary interaction. Other individuals and business owners are free to respond with ostracism, boycotts, and other free market solutions. We therefore favor the repeal of any governmental attempts to regulate any private association, including public accommodations laws.

### ***Personal Relationships***

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

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

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

The only legitimate use of force is ~~reasonable and proportional~~in the defense of individual rights – life, liberty, and justly-acquired property – against aggression. This right inheres in the individual, who may seek to be, or agree to be, aided by any other individual or group in the exercise of the right to self-defense. Maintaining our belief in the inviolability of the right to keep and bear arms, we reject all laws at any level of government restricting, registering, or monitoring the ownership, manufacture, transport, or transfer of any item or tool that could be used for ~~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 private~~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 any mutually agreeable commodity or item as money. 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, [rent, collateralize,](#) or enjoy their property in any manner, without interference, until and unless the exercise of their control infringes the valid rights of others. Eminent domain, civil asset forfeiture,

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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

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in schools of choice (including, but not limited to, private, parochial, and home schools) or to carry forward for education in a future year.

### ***Environment***

Pollution of air, water, and land violates rights. Polluters, including government, should have strict liability for harms caused by pollution. Strict liability, not government agencies ~~and~~<sup>or</sup> 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***

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

### ***Sovereign Immunity***

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

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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, [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" 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***

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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

### 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.

### 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

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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 implemented 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

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

### ***Victimless Crimes***

Criminal and civil laws should be limited to violations of the rights of others through fraud, force, or deliberate and credible threats of imminent force. We therefore reject all laws that create crimes without victims, for voluntary and consensual activities such as, but not limited to, the use of drugs for medicinal or recreational purposes, prostitution, and gambling. We also reject government placing itself as a proxy victim of alleged crimes.

### ***Freedom of Expression***

We support full freedom of expression and oppose government censorship, regulation, control of, 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 aid or attack any religion.

### ***Protection of Privacy***

Libertarians advocate individual privacy and call for government transparency. We condemn government's practice of spying on individuals without probable cause and due process. We support the 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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### ***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. Individuals and business owners retain their rights and privileges to set their own standards of association and terms of voluntary interaction. Other individuals and business owners are free to respond with ostracism, boycotts, and other free market solutions. We therefore favor the repeal of any governmental attempts to regulate any private association, including public accommodations laws.

### ***Personal Relationships***

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

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

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

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## **The Market**

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

## ***Taxation***

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

## ***Healthcare***

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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, rent, collateralize, or enjoy their property in any manner, 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.

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### ***Sovereign Immunity***

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## ***Self Determination***

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### **Omissions**

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