



T LIBERTARIAN

Report of the Platform Committee

to the delegates of the

Libertarian National Convention of 2018, New Orleans, Louisiana

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NOTES:

This report is subject to amendment at the committee's next meeting on June 30, 2018 in New Orleans, prior to the national convention.

The entire current platform can be found at: www.lp.org/platform. This report merely shows the portions for which the committee is recommending changes.

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LEGEND

Deletions are noted in ~~red bold italic strikethrough~~.

Additions are noted in blue bold underline.

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LEGENDDeletions are noted in ~~red bold italic strikethrough~~.Additions are noted in blue bold underline.

Proposal A
Add New Plank “Licensing” to Section 2 after Current Plank 2.7
 Adopted 14-0 on June 4, 2018

| CURRENT WORDING | PROPOSED AMENDMENT | IF ADOPTED WILL READ |
|-----------------|--|---|
| | <p><u>2.X Licensing</u></p> <p><u>Libertarians support the right of every person to earn an honest and peaceful living through the free and voluntary exchange of goods and services. Accordingly, we oppose occupational and other licensing laws that infringe on this right or treat it as a state-granted privilege. We encourage certifications by voluntary associations of professionals.</u></p> | <p>2.X Licensing</p> <p>Libertarians support the right of every person to earn an honest and peaceful living through the free and voluntary exchange of goods and services. Accordingly, we oppose occupational and other licensing laws that infringe on this right or treat it as a state-granted privilege. We encourage certifications by voluntary associations of professionals.</p> |

Rationale for Proposal A

This fills a gap in the Platform regarding professional trades and the government’s infringement upon the right to earn an honest living. No one should be forced to pay to exercise a right. Privileges can be and often are revoked by government and allow for stifling of competition to create government- mandated monopolies. These licensing requirements often hit the poor with a disproportionate barrier to entry.

LEGEND

Deletions are noted in ~~red bold italic strikethrough~~.
 Additions are noted in **blue bold underline**.

Proposal B
Amend and Split Current Plank 2.4 “Government Finance and Spending”
 Adopted 12-0 on June 4, 2018

| CURRENT WORDING | PROPOSED AMENDMENT | IF ADOPTED WILL READ |
|---|--|---|
| <p>2.4 Government Finance and Spending</p> <p>All persons are entitled to keep the fruits of their labor. We call for the repeal of the income tax, the abolishment of the Internal Revenue Service and all federal programs and services not required under the U.S. Constitution. We oppose any legal requirements forcing employers to serve as tax collectors. Government should not incur debt, which burdens future generations without their consent. We support the passage of a “Balanced Budget Amendment” to the U.S. Constitution, provided that the budget is balanced exclusively by cutting expenditures, and not by raising taxes.</p> | <p>2.4 Government Finance and Spending</p> <p>All persons are entitled to keep the fruits of their labor. We call for the repeal of the income tax, the abolishment of the Internal Revenue Service and all federal programs and services not required under the U.S. Constitution. We oppose any legal requirements forcing employers to serve as tax collectors. <u>We support any initiative to reduce or abolish any tax, and oppose any increase on any taxes for any reason. To the extent possible, we advocate that all public services be funded in a voluntary manner.</u></p> <p>2.5 Government Debt</p> <p>Government should not incur debt, which burdens future generations without their consent. We support the passage of a “Balanced Budget Amendment” to the U.S. Constitution, provided that the budget is balanced exclusively by cutting expenditures, and not by raising taxes.</p> | <p>2.4 Government Finance and Spending</p> <p>All persons are entitled to keep the fruits of their labor. We call for the repeal of the income tax, the abolishment of the Internal Revenue Service and all federal programs and services not required under the U.S. Constitution. We oppose any legal requirements forcing employers to serve as tax collectors. We support any initiative to reduce or abolish any tax, and oppose any increase on any taxes for any reason. To the extent possible, we advocate that all public services be funded in a voluntary manner.</p> <p>2.5 Government Debt</p> <p>Government should not incur debt, which burdens future generations without their consent. We support the passage of a “Balanced Budget Amendment” to the U.S. Constitution, provided that the budget is balanced exclusively by cutting expenditures, and not by raising taxes.</p> |

Rationale for Proposal B

The current plank covers two different topics, which are complex enough to warrant being addressed separately. With regards to government finance, the current language has been a source of confusion leading some to believe that the Libertarian Party only opposes income taxation rather than its position of opposing all forcible collection of the property of others as stated in our Statement of Principles. However, we also realize that it is unlikely that all coercive taxation will be done away with in one fell swoop, so it is important to clear up this confusion while making it clear that we will take whatever steps and transitions we can get on this path. Lastly, to make clear that we realize that there will also be services that are needed in society, we offer our position of advocacy of the eventual voluntary funding of any needed service.

LEGEND

Deletions are noted in ~~red bold italic strikethrough~~.
 Additions are noted in blue bold underline.

First Minority Report on Proposal B

Sponsored by Craig, Fockler, Mattson, Nanna, Rosenbeck, Starr, and Van Horn

| CURRENT WORDING | PROPOSED AMENDMENT | IF ADOPTED WILL READ |
|---|--|---|
| <p>2.4 Government Finance and Spending</p> <p>All persons are entitled to keep the fruits of their labor. We call for the repeal of the income tax, the abolishment of the Internal Revenue Service and all federal programs and services not required under the U.S. Constitution. We oppose any legal requirements forcing employers to serve as tax collectors. Government should not incur debt, which burdens future generations without their consent. We support the passage of a “Balanced Budget Amendment” to the U.S. Constitution, provided that the budget is balanced exclusively by cutting expenditures, and not by raising taxes.</p> | <p>2.4 Government Finance and Spending</p> <p>All persons are entitled to keep the fruits of their labor. We call for the repeal of the income tax, the abolishment of the Internal Revenue Service and all federal programs and services not required under the U.S. Constitution. We oppose any legal requirements forcing employers to serve as tax collectors. <u>We support legislation that reduces overall tax burdens. To the extent possible, we advocate that all public services be funded in a voluntary manner.</u></p> <p>2.5 Government Debt</p> <p>Government should not incur debt, which burdens future generations without their consent. We support the passage of a “Balanced Budget Amendment” to the U.S. Constitution, provided that the budget is balanced exclusively by cutting expenditures, and not by raising taxes.</p> | <p>2.4 Government Finance and Spending</p> <p>All persons are entitled to keep the fruits of their labor. We call for the repeal of the income tax, the abolishment of the Internal Revenue Service and all federal programs and services not required under the U.S. Constitution. We oppose any legal requirements forcing employers to serve as tax collectors. We support legislation that reduces overall tax burdens. To the extent possible, we advocate that all public services be funded in a voluntary manner.</p> <p>2.5 Government Debt</p> <p>Government should not incur debt, which burdens future generations without their consent. We support the passage of a “Balanced Budget Amendment” to the U.S. Constitution, provided that the budget is balanced exclusively by cutting expenditures, and not by raising taxes.</p> |

Rationale for First Minority Report on Proposal B

The committee’s proposal includes: “We support any initiative to reduce or abolish any tax, and oppose any increase on any taxes [sic] for any reason.”

Leaving aside the non-parallel construction and grammatical error, we find the language too rigid, as it precludes, for example, our supporting the enactment of legislation that would simultaneously abolish “Tax A” and increase “Tax B,” where the overall level of taxation is reduced.

As an alternative, we offer instead: “We support legislation that reduces overall tax burdens.”

LEGEND

Deletions are noted in ~~red bold italic strikethrough~~.
 Additions are noted in blue bold underline.

Second Minority Report on Proposal B

Sponsored by Cholko, Fulner, Harlos, Knapp, Perry, and Seebeck

| CURRENT WORDING | PROPOSED AMENDMENT | IF ADOPTED WILL READ |
|---|---|--|
| <p>2.4 Government Finance and Spending</p> <p>All persons are entitled to keep the fruits of their labor. We call for the repeal of the income tax, the abolishment of the Internal Revenue Service and all federal programs and services not required under the U.S. Constitution. We oppose any legal requirements forcing employers to serve as tax collectors. Government should not incur debt, which burdens future generations without their consent. We support the passage of a “Balanced Budget Amendment” to the U.S. Constitution, provided that the budget is balanced exclusively by cutting expenditures, and not by raising taxes.</p> | <p>2.4 Government Finance and Spending</p> <p>All persons are entitled to keep the fruits of their labor. We call for the repeal of the income tax, the abolishment of the Internal Revenue Service and all federal programs and services not required under the U.S. Constitution. We oppose any legal requirements forcing employers to serve as tax collectors. <u>We support any initiative to reduce or abolish any tax, and oppose any increase on any taxes for any reason. To the extent possible, we advocate that all public services be funded in a voluntary manner.</u></p> <p>2.5 Government Debt</p> <p>Government should not incur debt, which burdens future generations without their consent. We support the passage of a “Balanced Budget Amendment” to the U.S. Constitution, provided that the budget is balanced exclusively by cutting expenditures, and not by raising taxes. No person can <u>rightly enter into a contract on behalf of another person without their consent. When governments accrue debt, they are in essence entering into debt on behalf of their constituents and the children of their constituents. We oppose governments entering into debt obligations on behalf of its constituents and their children for decades to come.</u></p> | <p>2.4 Government Finance and Spending</p> <p>All persons are entitled to keep the fruits of their labor. We call for the repeal of the income tax, the abolishment of the Internal Revenue Service and all federal programs and services not required under the U.S. Constitution. We oppose any legal requirements forcing employers to serve as tax collectors. We support any initiative to reduce or abolish any tax, and oppose any increase on any taxes for any reason. To the extent possible, we advocate that all public services be funded in a voluntary manner.</p> <p>2.5 Government Debt</p> <p>No person can rightly enter into a contract on behalf of another person without their consent. When governments accrue debt, they are in essence entering into debt on behalf of their constituents and the children of their constituents. We oppose governments entering into debt obligations on behalf of its constituents and their children for decades to come.</p> |

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Rationale for Second Minority Report on Proposal B

We support splitting this plank into 2 new planks; however, we believe the new Plank 2.5 should be more strongly worded in opposition to government debt. Further, we do not necessarily support calling for a "Balanced Budget Amendment". The proposed "Balanced Budget Amendment" allows for Congress to avoid balancing a budget by a 2/3 vote OR the President declaring an emergency; which essentially means, there is no requirement to actually balance a budget.

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Additions are noted in blue bold underline.

Third Minority Report on Proposal B

Sponsored by Adams, Harlos, Knapp, Rosenbeck, and Scheetz

| CURRENT WORDING | PROPOSED AMENDMENT | IF ADOPTED WILL READ |
|---|--|--|
| <p>2.4 Government Finance and Spending</p> <p>All persons are entitled to keep the fruits of their labor. We call for the repeal of the income tax, the abolishment of the Internal Revenue Service and all federal programs and services not required under the U.S. Constitution. We oppose any legal requirements forcing employers to serve as tax collectors. Government should not incur debt, which burdens future generations without their consent. We support the passage of a “Balanced Budget Amendment” to the U.S. Constitution, provided that the budget is balanced exclusively by cutting expenditures, and not by raising taxes.</p> | <p>2.4 Government Finance and Spending</p> <p>All persons are entitled to keep the fruits of their labor <u>and no one should be forced to sacrifice themselves, their resources, or their property for the benefit of others. Since taxation is the appropriation of the resources of others without their individual consent (i.e., theft), we call for the repeal of the income tax, the abolishment abolition of the Internal Revenue Service and all federal programs and services not required under the U.S. Constitution. , and eventual repeal of all coercive financing of government operations and programs. We oppose any legal requirements forcing employers and businesses to serve as tax collectors. We advocate that all public services be funded in a voluntary manner and encourage mutual-aid charitable solutions to assist those in need.</u></p> <p><u>2.5 Government Debt</u></p> <p>Government should not incur debt, which burdens future generations without their consent. We support the passage of a “Balanced Budget Amendment” to the U.S. Constitution, provided that the budget is balanced exclusively by cutting expenditures, and not by raising taxes.</p> | <p>2.4 Government Finance and Spending</p> <p>All persons are entitled to keep the fruits of their labor and no one should be forced to sacrifice themselves, their resources, or their property for the benefit of others. Since taxation is the appropriation of the resources of others without their individual consent (i.e., theft), we call for repeal of the income tax, the abolition of the Internal Revenue Service, and eventual repeal of all coercive financing of government operations and programs. We oppose any legal requirements forcing employers and businesses to serve as tax collectors. We advocate that all public services be funded in a voluntary manner and encourage mutual-aid charitable solutions to assist those in need.</p> <p>2.5 Government Debt</p> <p>Government should not incur debt, which burdens future generations without their consent. We support the passage of a “Balanced Budget Amendment” to the U.S. Constitution, provided that the budget is balanced exclusively by cutting expenditures, and not by raising taxes.</p> |

LEGEND

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Rationale for Third Minority Report on Proposal B

We agree with the majority's rationale and proposed changes to these planks and incorporate that rationale into ours, but we believe they do not go far enough and give sanction to items mandated in the Constitution that are not strictly limited to the protection of life, liberty, and property such as the US Post Office, and the dubious "service" of eminent domain when the government decides that the public "needs" those lands. Further, many people do not include welfare with "public services" so the care of the needy needs to be included with an emphasis on humanitarian charitable work.

LEGEND

Deletions are noted in ~~red bold italic strikethrough~~.

Additions are noted in blue bold underline.

Proposal C
Amend Current Plank 3.2 “Internal Security and Individual Rights”
 Adopted 12-0 on June 1, 2018

| CURRENT WORDING | PROPOSED AMENDMENT | IF ADOPTED WILL READ |
|---|--|--|
| <p>3.2 Internal Security and Individual Rights</p> <p>The defense of the country requires that we have adequate intelligence to detect and to counter threats to domestic security. This requirement must not take priority over maintaining the civil liberties of our citizens. The Constitution and Bill of Rights shall not be suspended even during time of war. Intelligence agencies that legitimately seek to preserve the security of the nation must be subject to oversight and transparency. We oppose the government’s use of secret classifications to keep from the public information that it should have, especially that which shows that the government has violated the law.</p> | <p>3.2 Internal Security and Individual Rights</p> <p>The defense of the country requires that we have adequate intelligence to detect and to counter threats to domestic security. This requirement must not take priority over maintaining the civil liberties of our citizens. The Constitution and Bill of Rights shall not be suspended even during time of war. Intelligence agencies that legitimately seek to preserve the security of the nation must be subject to oversight and transparency. We oppose the government’s use of secret classifications to keep from the public information that it should have, especially that which shows that the government has violated the law. <u>We oppose the use of torture and other cruel and unusual punishments, without exception.</u></p> | <p>3.2 Internal Security and Individual Rights</p> <p>The defense of the country requires that we have adequate intelligence to detect and to counter threats to domestic security. This requirement must not take priority over maintaining the civil liberties of our citizens. The Constitution and Bill of Rights shall not be suspended even during time of war. Intelligence agencies that legitimately seek to preserve the security of the nation must be subject to oversight and transparency. We oppose the government’s use of secret classifications to keep from the public information that it should have, especially that which shows that the government has violated the law. We oppose the use of torture and other cruel and unusual punishments, without exception.</p> |

Rationale for Proposal C

Torture has become a recurring and notable public policy issue in the post-9/11 era, regarding both prosecution of the international “War on Terror” and illicit domestic policing practices. It is important to place the party in visible and unequivocal opposition to inhumane practices which the U.S. Constitution clearly forbids.

LEGEND

Deletions are noted in ~~red bold italic strikethrough~~.
 Additions are noted in **blue bold underline**.

Proposal D
Amend Preamble
 Adopted 12-2 on May 13, 2018

| CURRENT WORDING | PROPOSED AMENDMENT | IF ADOPTED WILL READ |
|---|--|--|
| <p>Preamble</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>In the following pages we have set forth our basic principles and enumerated various policy stands derived from those principles.</p> <p>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.</p> | <p>Preamble</p> <p>As Libertarians, we seek a world of liberty; <u>;</u> a world in which all individuals are sovereign over their own lives and no one is are <u>not</u> forced to sacrifice his or her <u>their</u> values for the benefit of others.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>In the following pages we have <u>have</u> set forth our basic principles and enumerated <u>enumerated</u> various policy stands derived from those principles.</p> <p>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.</p> | <p>Preamble</p> <p>As Libertarians, we seek a world of liberty: a world in which all individuals are sovereign over their own lives and are not forced to sacrifice their values for the benefit of others.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>In the following pages we set forth our basic principles and enumerate various policy stands derived from those principles.</p> <p>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.</p> |

Rationale for Proposal D

These are technical changes to the Preamble that are not substantive in nature and only correct the punctuation and grammar, including changing gendered to non-gendered pronouns.

LEGEND

Deletions are noted in ~~red bold italic strikethrough~~.
 Additions are noted in blue bold underline.

Proposal E
Amend Current Plank 1.0 “Personal Liberty”
 Adopted 12-2 on May 14, 2018

| CURRENT WORDING | PROPOSED AMENDMENT | IF ADOPTED WILL READ |
|---|---|--|
| <p>1.0 Personal Liberty</p> <p>Individuals should be free to make choices for themselves and must accept responsibility for the consequences of the choices they make. Our support of an individual’s right to make choices in life does not mean that we necessarily approve or disapprove of those choices. No individual, group, or government may initiate force against any other individual, group, or government.</p> | <p>1.0 Personal Liberty</p> <p>Individuals should be free to make choices for themselves and must accept responsibility for the consequences of the choices they make. Our support of an individual’s right to make choices in life does not mean that we necessarily approve or disapprove of those choices. No individual, group, or government may initiate force against any other individual, group, or government. <u>Libertarians reject the notion that groups have inherent rights. We support the rights of the smallest minority, the individual.</u></p> | <p>1.0 Personal Liberty</p> <p>Individuals should be free to make choices for themselves and must accept responsibility for the consequences of the choices they make. Our support of an individual’s right to make choices in life does not mean that we necessarily approve or disapprove of those choices. No individual, group, or government may initiate force against any other individual, group, or government. Libertarians reject the notion that groups have inherent rights. We support the rights of the smallest minority, the individual.</p> |

Rationale for Proposal E

In recent times, there has been a shift towards the collectivization of persons and rights. This amendment solidifies the Libertarian position that only individuals have inherent rights. Individuals can voluntarily contract to give each other benefits and privileges but these are not inherent rights.

LEGEND

Deletions are noted in ~~red bold italic strikethrough~~.
 Additions are noted in blue bold underline.

Proposal F
Amend Current Plank 1.0 “Personal Liberty”
 Adopted 12-3 on May 13, 2018

| CURRENT WORDING | PROPOSED AMENDMENT | IF ADOPTED WILL READ |
|---|---|---|
| <p>1.0 Personal Liberty</p> <p>Individuals should be free to make choices for themselves and must accept responsibility for the consequences of the choices they make. Our support of an individual’s right to make choices in life does not mean that we necessarily approve or disapprove of those choices. No individual, group, or government may initiate force against any other individual, group, or government.</p> | <p>1.0 Personal Liberty</p> <p>Individuals should be <u>are inherently</u> free to make choices for themselves and must accept responsibility for the consequences of the choices they make. Our support of an individual’s right to make choices in life does not mean that we necessarily approve or disapprove of those choices. No individual, group, or government may <u>rightly</u> initiate force against any other individual, group, or government.</p> | <p>1.0 Personal Liberty</p> <p>Individual are inherently free to make choices for themselves and must accept responsibility for the consequences of the choices they make. Our support of an individual’s right to make choices in life does not mean that we necessarily approve or disapprove of those choices. No individual, group, or government may rightly initiate force against any other individual, group, or government.</p> |

Rationale for Proposal F

These changes strengthen the language about individual freedom and the initiation of force, bringing the plank firmly in line with the Statement of Principles. Further, the active and strong “voice” is stylistically preferable.

LEGEND

Deletions are noted in ~~red bold italic strikethrough~~.
 Additions are noted in blue bold underline.

Proposal G

Add New Plank “Sex Work” to Section 2 before Current Plank 2.8

Adopted 11-3 on May 14, 2018

| CURRENT WORDING | PROPOSED AMENDMENT | IF ADOPTED WILL READ |
|-----------------|--|---|
| | <p><u>2.x Sex Work</u></p> <p><u>We oppose regulations and laws that restrict consenting adults from engaging in sexual activity or regulate the production, use, or sale of sexually explicit material involving consenting adults.</u></p> | <p>2.x Sex Work</p> <p>We oppose regulations and laws that restrict consenting adults from engaging in sexual activity or regulate the production, use, or sale of sexually explicit material involving consenting adults.</p> |

Rationale for Proposal G

The government should not be in the business of determining whom, when, or how consenting individuals engage in sexual behavior, including the commercial exchange of sexual products and services.

LEGEND

Deletions are noted in ~~***red bold italic strikethrough***~~.

Additions are noted in **blue bold underline**.

First Minority Report on Proposal G

Sponsored by Craig, Harlos, Knapp, Mattson, Starr, and Van Horn

| CURRENT WORDING | PROPOSED AMENDMENT | IF ADOPTED WILL READ |
|---|---|--|
| <p>1.7 Crime and Justice</p> <p>The prescribed role of government is to protect the rights of every individual including the right to life, liberty and property. Criminal laws should be limited in their application to violations of the rights of others through force or fraud, or to deliberate actions that place others involuntarily at significant risk of harm. Therefore, we favor the repeal of all laws creating “crimes” without victims, such as the use of drugs for medicinal or recreational purposes. We support restitution to the victim to the fullest degree possible at the expense of the criminal or the negligent wrongdoer. The constitutional rights of the criminally accused, including due process, a speedy trial, legal counsel, trial by jury, and the legal presumption of innocence until proven guilty, must be preserved. We assert the common-law right of juries to judge not only the facts but also the justice of the law.</p> <p>2.7 Marketplace Freedom</p> <p>Libertarians support free markets. We defend the right of individuals to form corporations, cooperatives and other types of entities based on voluntary association. We oppose all forms of government subsidies and bailouts to business, labor, or any other special interest. Government should not compete with private enterprise.</p> | <p>1.7 Crime and Justice</p> <p>The prescribed role of government is to protect the rights of every individual including the right to life, liberty and property. Criminal laws should be limited in their application to violations of the rights of others through force or fraud, or to deliberate actions that place others involuntarily at significant risk of harm. Therefore, we favor the repeal of all laws creating “crimes” without victims <u>where the participants are consenting adults</u>, such as <u>with gambling</u>, the use of drugs for medicinal or recreational purposes, <u>and transactions involving sexual services</u>. We support restitution to the victim to the fullest degree possible at the expense of the criminal or the negligent wrongdoer. The constitutional rights of the criminally accused, including due process, a speedy trial, legal counsel, trial by jury, and the legal presumption of innocence until proven guilty, must be preserved. We assert the common-law right of juries to judge not only the facts but also the justice of the law.</p> <p>2.7 Marketplace Freedom</p> <p>Libertarians support free markets, <u>so we oppose regulations and laws that restrict adults from engaging in any transaction absent the use of force or fraud</u>. We defend the right of individuals to form corporations, cooperatives and other types of entities based on voluntary association. We oppose all forms of government subsidies and bailouts to business, labor, or any other special interest. Government should not compete with private enterprise.</p> | <p>1.7 Crime and Justice</p> <p>The prescribed role of government is to protect the rights of every individual including the right to life, liberty and property. Criminal laws should be limited in their application to violations of the rights of others through force or fraud, or to deliberate actions that place others involuntarily at significant risk of harm. Therefore, we favor the repeal of all laws creating “crimes” without victims where the participants are consenting adults, such as with gambling, the use of drugs for medicinal or recreational purposes, and transactions involving sexual services. We support restitution to the victim to the fullest degree possible at the expense of the criminal or the negligent wrongdoer. The constitutional rights of the criminally accused, including due process, a speedy trial, legal counsel, trial by jury, and the legal presumption of innocence until proven guilty, must be preserved. We assert the common-law right of juries to judge not only the facts but also the justice of the law.</p> <p>2.7 Marketplace Freedom</p> <p>Libertarians support free markets, so we oppose regulations and laws that restrict adults from engaging in any transaction absent the use of force or fraud. We defend the right of individuals to form corporations, cooperatives and other types of entities based on voluntary association. We oppose all forms of government subsidies and bailouts to</p> |

LEGEND

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 Additions are noted in blue bold underline.

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| | | business, labor, or any other special interest. Government should not compete with private enterprise. |
|--|--|--|

Rationale for First Minority Report on Proposal G

The committee proposes that we create an entirely new plank:

2.x Sex Work

We oppose regulations and laws that restrict consenting adults from engaging in sexual activity or regulate the production, use, or sale of sexually explicit material involving consenting adults.

While we agree that the government should not be in the business of restricting or prohibiting such activity, we don't see the need to have a separate plank on the topic, any more than we would have a separate plank on gambling, hair braiding without a cosmetology license, or any number of activities too many to mention.

The committee's recommendation does alert us, though, to the fact that we really don't elucidate our opposition to regulations and laws in commerce, except with the general statement in Plank 2.7 that "Libertarians support free markets."

As such, we believe these concepts are better addressed by making modifications in Plank 1.7 Crime and Justice and 2.7 Marketplace Freedom.

LEGEND

Deletions are noted in ~~***red bold italic strikethrough***~~.

Additions are noted in **blue bold underline**.

Second Minority Report on Proposal G

Sponsored by Perry, Cholko, Fulner, Knapp

| CURRENT WORDING | PROPOSED AMENDMENT | IF ADOPTED WILL READ |
|-----------------|---|--|
| | <p><u>2.x Sex Work</u></p> <p><u>We oppose regulations and laws that restrict consenting adults from engaging in sexual activity. We support the repeal of all laws regulating or prohibiting the possession, use, sale, production or distribution of sexually explicit material involving consenting adults. We reject the tying in of human trafficking with sex work and recognize that by pushing into the shadows what could be a lucrative industry for millions of Americans it is those who oppose it that fuel human trafficking.</u></p> | <p>2.x Sex Work</p> <p>We oppose regulations and laws that restrict consenting adults from engaging in sexual activity. We support the repeal of all laws regulating or prohibiting the possession, use, sale, production or distribution of sexually explicit material involving consenting adults. We reject the tying in of human trafficking with sex work and recognize that by pushing into the shadows what could be a lucrative industry for millions of Americans it is those who oppose it that fuel human trafficking.</p> |

Rationale for Second Minority Report on Proposal G

We agree with the majority's rationale for this plank; however, we believe the convention should adopt a plank that is more strongly worded and explicitly states our objections to governments attempting to paint voluntary sex work as involuntary human trafficking.

LEGEND

Deletions are noted in ~~***red bold italic strikethrough***~~.

Additions are noted in **blue bold underline**.

Proposal H

Amend Current Plank 1.4 “Personal Relationships”

Adopted 11-6 on May 17, 2018

| CURRENT WORDING | PROPOSED AMENDMENT | IF ADOPTED WILL READ |
|--|---|--|
| <p>1.4 Personal Relationships</p> <p>Sexual orientation, preference, gender, or gender identity should have no impact on the government's treatment of individuals, such as in current marriage, child custody, adoption, immigration or military service laws. Government does not have the authority to define, license, or restrict consensual personal relationships. Consenting adults should be free to choose their own sexual practices and personal relationships.</p> | <p>1.4 Personal Relationships</p> <p>Sexual orientation, preference, gender, or gender identity should have no impact on the government's treatment of individuals, such as in current marriage, child custody, adoption, immigration or military service laws. Government does not have the authority to define, license, or restrict consensual personal relationships, <u>regardless of the number of participants</u>. Consenting adults should be free to choose their own sexual practices and personal relationships.</p> | <p>1.4 Personal Relationships</p> <p>Sexual orientation, preference, gender, or gender identity should have no impact on the government's treatment of individuals, such as in current marriage, child custody, adoption, immigration or military service laws. Government does not have the authority to define, license, or restrict consensual personal relationships, regardless of the number of participants. Consenting adults should be free to choose their own sexual practices and personal relationships.</p> |

Rationale for Proposal H

Libertarians have been on the forefront of equal civil recognition for gay couples and have been for decades. However, this battle is not over nor complete. There are other arrangements for personal relationships that comprise more than two people and the state is still currently practicing discrimination against those individuals across the board including threats of criminal penalties and loss of custodial rights to children. We should be as bold in defense of these persons as we are in defense of gay persons.

LEGEND

Deletions are noted in ~~red bold italic strikethrough~~.

Additions are noted in blue bold underline.

Minority Report on Proposal H

Sponsored by Adams, Fockler, Harlos, Knapp, Fockler, Scheetz, and Seebeck

| CURRENT WORDING | PROPOSED AMENDMENT | IF ADOPTED WILL READ |
|--|--|--|
| <p>1.4 Personal Relationships</p> <p>Sexual orientation, preference, gender, or gender identity should have no impact on the government's treatment of individuals, such as in current marriage, child custody, adoption, immigration or military service laws. Government does not have the authority to define, license, or restrict consensual personal relationships. Consenting adults should be free to choose their own sexual practices and personal relationships.</p> | <p>1.4 Personal Relationships</p> <p>Sexual orientation, preference, gender, or gender identity should have no impact on the government's treatment of individuals, such as in current marriage, child custody, adoption, immigration or military service laws. Government does not have the authority to define, <u>promote</u>, license, or restrict consensual personal relationships, <u>regardless of the number of participants</u>. Consenting adults should be free to choose their own sexual practices and personal relationships. <u>Until such time as the government stops its illegitimate practice of marriage licensing, such licenses must be granted to all consenting adults who apply.</u></p> | <p>1.4 Personal Relationships</p> <p>Sexual orientation, preference, gender, or gender identity should have no impact on the government's treatment of individuals, such as in current marriage, child custody, adoption, immigration or military service laws. Government does not have the authority to define, promote, license, or restrict consensual personal relationships, regardless of the number of participants. Consenting adults should be free to choose their own sexual practices and personal relationships. Until such time as the government stops its illegitimate practice of marriage licensing, such licenses must be granted to all consenting adults who apply.</p> |

Rationale for Minority Report on Proposal H

We agree with the majority's rationale and proposed changes to this plank, but we believe they do not go far enough. The government has for decades engaged in social engineering by promoting certain arrangements over others which is not a proper role for the government in any Libertarian justification and encourages social stigma against the people that the government does not prefer or advance. Further, the Platform must be clear to non-Libertarians that our position is that the government must get out of the marriage business but cannot continue to discriminate against people while it refuses to stop that practice. This is not giving sanction to government marriage but rather recognizing the reality of this practice and condemning discriminatory practices in the same way that we oppose limiting professional licenses to only certain races or genders of people while simultaneously rejecting the licensing itself.

LEGEND

Deletions are noted in ~~red bold italic strikethrough~~.
 Additions are noted in **blue bold underline**.

Proposal I
Amend Current Plank 1.7 “Crime and Justice”
 Adopted 11-7 on May 27, 2018

| CURRENT WORDING | PROPOSED AMENDMENT | IF ADOPTED WILL READ |
|--|---|--|
| <p>1.7 Crime and Justice</p> <p>The prescribed role of government is to protect the rights of every individual including the right to life, liberty and property. Criminal laws should be limited in their application to violations of the rights of others through force or fraud, or to deliberate actions that place others involuntarily at significant risk of harm. Therefore, we favor the repeal of all laws creating “crimes” without victims, such as the use of drugs for medicinal or recreational purposes. We support restitution to the victim to the fullest degree possible at the expense of the criminal or the negligent wrongdoer. The constitutional rights of the criminally accused, including due process, a speedy trial, legal counsel, trial by jury, and the legal presumption of innocence until proven guilty, must be preserved. We assert the common-law right of juries to judge not only the facts but also the justice of the law.</p> | <p>1.7 Crime and Justice</p> <p><u>Libertarians believe that government force must be limited to the protection of the rights of individuals to life, liberty, and property, and governments must never be permitted to violate these rights.</u> The prescribed role of government is to protect the rights of every individual including the right to life, liberty and property. Criminal <u>L</u>aws should be limited in their application to violations of the rights of others through force or fraud, or to deliberate actions that place others involuntarily at significant risk of harm. Therefore, we favor the repeal of all laws creating “crimes” without victims, such as <u>gambling</u>, the use of drugs for medicinal or recreational purposes, <u>and consensual transactions involving sexual services</u>. We support restitution to the victim to the fullest degree possible at the expense of the criminal or the negligent wrongdoer. The constitutional rights of the criminally accused, including due process, a speedy trial, legal counsel, trial by jury, and the legal presumption of innocence until proven guilty, must be preserved. We assert the common-law right of juries to judge not only the facts but also the justice of the law <u>and oppose the prosecutorial practice of “over-charging” in criminal prosecutions so as to avoid jury trials by intimidating defendants into accepting plea bargains.</u></p> | <p>1.7 Crime and Justice</p> <p>Libertarians believe that government force must be limited to the protection of the rights of individuals to life, liberty, and property, and governments must never be permitted to violate these rights. Laws should be limited in their application to violations of the rights of others through force or fraud, or to deliberate actions that place others involuntarily at significant risk of harm. Therefore, we favor the repeal of all laws creating “crimes” without victims, such as gambling, the use of drugs for medicinal or recreational purposes, and consensual transactions involving sexual services. We support restitution to the victim to the fullest degree possible at the expense of the criminal or the negligent wrongdoer. The constitutional rights of the criminally accused, including due process, a speedy trial, legal counsel, trial by jury, and the legal presumption of innocence until proven guilty, must be preserved. We assert the common-law right of juries to judge not only the facts but also the justice of the law and oppose the prosecutorial practice of “over-charging” in criminal prosecutions so as to avoid jury trials by intimidating defendants into accepting plea bargains.</p> |

LEGEND

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 Additions are noted in blue bold underline.

Rationale for Proposal I

The first sentence has been a source of confusion and misinterpretation. All planks must be in conformity with the Statement of Principles, which takes no stand on whether or not there must be a “government” or what said government must do. Rather it focuses on rights, and what existing governments, if any, must not do. Therefore, this language borrows and mirrors the Statement of Principles.

In the following sentences we clarify that “victimless crimes” should not be the subject of any laws, not just criminal laws. In the past, it has been claimed that our platform gave the green light for civil penalties for “victimless crimes” as those are not criminal penalties. As that is not correct, this needed to be clarified in our Platform. Additionally, the subject of sexual services and gambling needed to be plainly listed in that category to give the three items that are the classic examples of victimless crimes so that it is very clear where we stand.

The last addition is in response to the disturbingly long list of people who may have been found innocent, but who pled guilty after being intimidated by the prosecution. This practice is immoral, and officers of the court bringing inflated charges against people when they know that this practice will help them win without spending time conducting a trial is repugnant. In a just society, people will not be accepting “bargains” in such instances.

LEGEND

Deletions are noted in ~~red bold italic strikethrough~~.

Additions are noted in blue bold underline.

Minority Report on Proposal I

Sponsored by Craig, Fockler, Mattson, Starr, and Van Horn. Harlos sponsors only the change detailed in bullet point “2” of the Rationale.

| CURRENT WORDING | PROPOSED AMENDMENT | IF ADOPTED WILL READ |
|--|---|--|
| <p>1.7 Crime and Justice</p> <p>The prescribed role of government is to protect the rights of every individual including the right to life, liberty and property. Criminal laws should be limited in their application to violations of the rights of others through force or fraud, or to deliberate actions that place others involuntarily at significant risk of harm. Therefore, we favor the repeal of all laws creating “crimes” without victims, such as the use of drugs for medicinal or recreational purposes. We support restitution to the victim to the fullest degree possible at the expense of the criminal or the negligent wrongdoer. The constitutional rights of the criminally accused, including due process, a speedy trial, legal counsel, trial by jury, and the legal presumption of innocence until proven guilty, must be preserved. We assert the common-law right of juries to judge not only the facts but also the justice of the law.</p> | <p>1.7 Crime and Justice</p> <p><u>Libertarians believe that government force must be limited to the protection of the rights of individuals to life, liberty, and property, and governments must never be permitted to violate these rights.</u> The prescribed role of government is to protect the rights of every individual including the right to life, liberty and property. Criminal laws should be limited in their application to violations of the rights of others through force or fraud, or to deliberate actions that place others involuntarily at significant risk of harm. Therefore, we favor the repeal of all laws creating “crimes” without victims <u>where the participants are consenting adults, such as gambling, the use of drugs for medicinal or recreational purposes, and consensual transactions involving sexual services.</u> We support restitution to the victim to the fullest degree possible at the expense of the criminal or the negligent wrongdoer. The constitutional rights of the criminally accused, including due process, a speedy trial, legal counsel, trial by jury, and the legal presumption of innocence until proven guilty, must be preserved. We assert the common-law right of juries to judge not only the facts but also the justice of the law.</p> | <p>1.7 Crime and Justice</p> <p>Libertarians believe that government force must be limited to the protection of individuals to life, liberty, and property, and governments must never be permitted to violate these rights. Criminal laws should be limited in their application to violations of the rights of others through force or fraud, or to deliberate actions that place others involuntarily at significant risk of harm. Therefore, we favor the repeal of all laws creating “crimes” without victims where the participants are consenting adults, such as with gambling, the use of drugs for medicinal or recreational purposes, and consensual transactions involving sexual services. We support restitution to the victim to the fullest degree possible at the expense of the criminal or the negligent wrongdoer. The constitutional rights of the criminally accused, including due process, a speedy trial, legal counsel, trial by jury, and the legal presumption of innocence until proven guilty, must be preserved. We assert the common-law right of juries to judge not only the facts but also the justice of the law.</p> |

LEGEND

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 Additions are noted in blue bold underline.

Rationale for Minority Report on Proposal I

The committee's proposal has several features that we disagree with.

1. It eliminates the word "Criminal" from "Criminal laws" in the second sentence. This makes the plank read that we oppose all laws that do not involve the violation of rights. However, many laws have nothing to do with such crimes, they deal with the administration of the state apparatus or government functions. A few example subject areas are laws that:
 - a) Deal with how courts conduct their business.
 - b) Spell out the ministerial duties of government officials.
 - c) Direct the processing of elections.
2. It does not make clear that we favor the repeal of "crimes" without victims involving *consenting adults*, as opposed to minors. We have revised the language to limit it to adults.
3. We find the addition of language about prosecutorial "over-charging" to be clumsy, so we have deleted that change. There is potential there, but it needs further refinement before we present something like that to the Convention.

LEGEND

Deletions are noted in ~~***red bold italic strikethrough***~~.

Additions are noted in **blue bold underline**.

Proposal J
Amend Plank 1.2 “Expression and Communication”
 Adopted 10-5 on June 23, 2018

| CURRENT WORDING | PROPOSED AMENDMENT | IF ADOPTED WILL READ |
|--|---|---|
| <p>1.2 Expression and Communication</p> <p>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.</p> | <p>1.2 Expression and Communication</p> <p>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.</p> <p><u>Libertarians oppose any law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise therefore; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.</u></p> | <p>1.2 Expression and Communication</p> <p>Libertarians oppose any law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise therefore; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.</p> |

Rationale for Proposal J

When trying to find phrasing that could speak to these general principles, the observation was made that we were trying to convey the same sentiments already embodied in the First Amendment. Rather than try to re-invent the wheel or say the same thing with different words, the committee chose to present this proposal, as an homage in the spirit of "we couldn't say it any better ourselves." This language invokes the principles of freedom of religion, speech, the press, and assembly, in a form familiar to Americans, and carrying unique emotional and historical weight. It places the Libertarian Party firmly and absolutely on the side of these principles, and adopting this unadorned language without any caveats or exemptions would send a firm and clear message. It would also complement the party's messaging on these issues, which invariably includes references to the First Amendment, including the many times the Party has filed lawsuits on that basis.

LEGEND

Deletions are noted in ~~red bold italic strikethrough~~.
 Additions are noted in blue bold underline.

Minority Report on Proposal J

Sponsored by Cholko, Harlos, Knapp, Seebeck, and Scheetz

| CURRENT WORDING | PROPOSED AMENDMENT | IF ADOPTED WILL READ |
|--|--|--|
| <p>1.2 Expression and Communication</p> <p>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.</p> | <p>1.2 Expression and Communication</p> <p>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.</p> <p><u>Absent any other actionable factor that would infringe upon inherent individual rights, the fact that some speech may be considered offensive is not grounds for legal action. If “hate speech” is not free speech, there is no truly free speech. Freedom means that others may say things that we abhor.</u></p> | <p>1.2 Expression and Communication</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Absent any other actionable factor that would infringe upon inherent individual rights, the fact that some speech may be considered offensive is not grounds for legal action. If “hate speech” is not free speech, there is no truly free speech. Freedom means that others may say things that we abhor.</p> |

Rationale for Minority Report on Proposal J

The Committee proposal is to eliminate the entire current plank and simply copy and paste the First Amendment. However, our Platform is the place for us to state, ideally in our own words, what our position is, and the First Amendment is increasingly being wrongly and unjustly re-interpreted to mean the opposite what was intended. Further, citing the Constitution may give the impression that our rights come from the Constitution rather than they merely being recognized by the Constitution. To that end, we note that there is an ever-increasing trend throughout the world to criminalize certain aspects of freedom of speech. One need only look at the case of “Count Dankula” in Scotland who was successfully prosecuted for a joke that was in bad taste. Nobody actually complained, but the prosecution was successful because someone might actually have to hear something offensive. This destroys freedom. When people cannot speak out with words, violence is the inevitable outlet, and if people are not free to speak, then they do not truly own themselves. Nobody has the right to not be offended; and offending someone should not be a criminal offense.

LEGEND

Deletions are noted in ~~red bold italic strikethrough~~.
 Additions are noted in blue bold underline.

Proposal K
Add New Plank 1.0 “Implementation” as a New Section prior to Current Section 1.0

Adopted 10-7 on June 20, 2018

| CURRENT WORDING | PROPOSED AMENDMENT | IF ADOPTED WILL READ |
|-----------------|--|---|
| | <p style="text-align: center;"><u>1.0 IMPLEMENTATION</u></p> <p><u>We support any measure that protects individual liberty and shrinks government and oppose any measure that violates individual liberty and expands government. While recognizing that change often takes the form of increments and transitions, the policies and principles set forth in our Statement of Principles, Preamble, and Platform should be enacted and implemented as quickly as possible.</u></p> | <p style="text-align: center;">1.0 IMPLEMENTATION</p> <p>We support any measure that protects individual liberty and shrinks government and oppose any measure that violates individual liberty and expands government. While recognizing that change often takes the form of increments and transitions, the policies and principles set forth in our Statement of Principles, Preamble, and Platform should be enacted and implemented as quickly as possible.</p> |

Rationale for Proposal K

There is presently a single-section conclusory statement to our Platform entitled Omissions to give guidance on issues about which the Platform is silent. A complementary single-section introductory statement would similarly give guidance but rather than on things about which we are silent, it would be about how to interpret possible strategies for our goals. This addition would provide a pleasing stylistic “book-end” feel to our planks and would explicitly grant more flexibility to candidates to support transitional measures without appearing to be denying our end-game principles.

LEGEND

Deletions are noted in ~~red bold italic strikethrough~~.
Additions are noted in **blue bold underline**.

First Minority Report on Proposal K

Sponsored by Craig, DiBenedetto, Mattson, Morris, Starr, and Van Horn

| CURRENT WORDING | PROPOSED AMENDMENT | IF ADOPTED WILL READ |
|---|--|---|
| <p>Preamble</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>In the following pages we have set forth our basic principles and enumerated various policy stands derived from those principles.</p> <p>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.</p> | <p>Preamble</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>In the following pages we have set forth our basic principles and enumerated various policy stands derived from those principles.</p> <p>These specific policies are not our goal, however. <u>Nor do they preclude our support of incremental and transitional measures that expand individual liberty and reduce the role of government.</u> 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.</p> | <p>Preamble</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>In the following pages we have set forth our basic principles and enumerated various policy stands derived from those principles.</p> <p>These specific policies are not our goal, however. Nor do they preclude our support of incremental and transitional measures that expand individual liberty and reduce the role of government. 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.</p> |

LEGEND

Deletions are noted in ~~red bold italic strikethrough~~.
 Additions are noted in blue bold underline.

Rationale for First Minority Report on Proposal K

The committee proposes that we create an entirely new introductory plank:

1.0 IMPLEMENTATION

We support any measure that protects individual liberty and shrinks government and oppose any measure that violates individual liberty and expands government. While recognizing that change often takes the form of increments and transitions, the policies and principles set forth in our Statement of Principles, Preamble, and Platform should be taken as quickly as possible.

Keep in mind that the Preamble and the Statement of Principles at the beginning of our Platform already contain most of the ideas expressed in the committee’s proposal. Following those two sections with yet another introduction before getting to the planks seems verbose to us and adds no value.

More important, though, is that the proposed language ignores the reality that many measures will have a combination of good and bad aspects, so we oppose adopting language making such a blanket statement of endorsement (i.e. “We support *any* measure”) for policies that on balance may not be worthy of such support and could never achieve two-thirds support of delegates at Convention.

We do appreciate, though, the sentiment expressed that measures that serve to increase freedom do not necessarily need to be enumerated in our Platform to enjoy the support of Libertarians. And we also appreciate that some of those measures could be incremental and transitional in nature.

However, to accomplish the aims of this recommendation – and not create redundancy with yet another introductory paragraph – we believe a better proposal is to add a single sentence in the Preamble acknowledging that the lack of an enumerated policy in our Platform does not “preclude our support of incremental and transitional measures that expand individual liberty and reduce the role of government.”

LEGEND

Deletions are noted in ~~red bold italic strikethrough~~.

Additions are noted in blue bold underline.

Second Minority Report on Proposal K

Sponsored by Cholko, Harlos, Knapp, Rosenbeck, Seebeck, and Scheetz

| CURRENT WORDING | PROPOSED AMENDMENT | IF ADOPTED WILL READ |
|---|--|---|
| <p>Preamble</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>In the following pages we have set forth our basic principles and enumerated various policy stands derived from those principles.</p> <p>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.</p> | <p>Preamble</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>In the following pages we have set forth our basic principles Statement of Principles and enumerated various policy stands derived from those pPrinciples.</p> <p>These specific policies are not our ultimate goal, however, and merely reflect our recognition of the reality that we must not refuse incremental and transitional measures that expand individual liberty. Our goal is nothing more nor less than a world set free in our lifetime, as set forth by our Principles, and it is to this end that we take these stands.</p> | <p>Preamble</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>In the following pages we have set forth our Statement of Principles and enumerated various policy stands derived from those Principles.</p> <p>These specific policies are not our ultimate goal, however, and merely reflect our recognition of the reality that we must not refuse incremental and transitional measures that expand individual liberty. Our goal is nothing more nor less than a world set free in our lifetime, as set forth by our Principles, and it is to this end that we take these stands.</p> |

LEGEND

Deletions are noted in ~~red bold italic strikethrough~~.
 Additions are noted in blue bold underline.

Rationale for Second Minority Report on Proposal K

The committee proposes that we create an entirely new introductory plank:

1.0 IMPLEMENTATION

We support any measure that protects individual liberty and shrinks government and oppose any measure that violates individual liberty and expands government. While recognizing that change often takes the form of increments and transitions, the policies and principles set forth in our Statement of Principles, Preamble, and Platform should be taken as quickly as possible.

We agree that this statement is necessary to balance between two incorrect and extreme characterizations of our positions: to wit, as all-or-nothing or its polar opposite of claiming that states' transitional means are in effect the limit of what we hold (i.e., we only support elimination of the income tax instead of all taxation since our Platform singles out the income tax as a desirable first step). The Committee's proposal would accomplish that goal, but we also believe that this outcome can also be accomplished by making these points in the Preamble while clarifying other language in the process.

In the first change from "basic principles" to "Statement of Principles," it is made clear exactly where our basic principles are found. This may seem obvious to those of us who have been in the Party longer but it not so obvious to those exploring our ideas. It further recognizes the priority of place and prominence that the Bylaws give to the Statement of Principles and underscores the fact that the Platform is intended to be transitory, transitional, and subservient to the Statement of Principles. This is a very real gap in the knowledge and understanding of many members of our Party. It is our further belief that this clarification will help ease much of the destructive in-fighting by making it clear that this is a journey with many steps, and that our advocacy of pragmatic increments is not a denial of the end goal of our Principles.

LEGEND

Deletions are noted in ~~red bold italic strikethrough~~.

Additions are noted in blue bold underline.

Proposal L
Amend Current Plank 2.6 “Money and Financial Markets”
 Adopted 9-3 on June 3, 2018

| CURRENT WORDING | PROPOSED AMENDMENT | IF ADOPTED WILL READ |
|---|--|---|
| <p>2.6 Money and Financial Markets</p> <p>We favor free-market banking, with unrestricted competition among banks and depository institutions of all types. Markets are not actually free unless fraud is vigorously combated. Those who enjoy the possibility of profits must not impose risks of losses upon others, such as through government guarantees or bailouts. Individuals engaged in voluntary exchange should be free to use as money any mutually agreeable commodity or item. We support a halt to inflationary monetary policies and unconstitutional legal tender laws.</p> | <p>2.6 Money and Financial Markets</p> <p>We favor free-market banking, with unrestricted competition among banks and depository institutions of all types. Markets are not actually free unless fraud is vigorously combated. Those who enjoy the possibility of profits must not impose risks of losses upon others, such as through government guarantees or bailouts. <u>We support ending federal student loan guarantees and special treatment of student loan debt in bankruptcy proceedings.</u> Individuals engaged in voluntary exchange should be free to use as money any mutually agreeable commodity or item. We support a halt to inflationary monetary policies and unconstitutional legal tender laws.</p> | <p>2.6 Money and Financial Markets</p> <p>We favor free-market banking, with unrestricted competition among banks and depository institutions of all types. Markets are not actually free unless fraud is vigorously combated. Those who enjoy the possibility of profits must not impose risks of losses upon others, such as through government guarantees or bailouts. We support ending federal student loan guarantees and special treatment of student loan debt in bankruptcy proceedings. Individuals engaged in voluntary exchange should be free to use as money any mutually agreeable commodity or item. We support a halt to inflationary monetary policies and unconstitutional legal tender laws.</p> |

Rationale for Proposal L

There is a student debt crisis in our country. Education costs keep rising as the government underwrites risks and subsidizes profits. If government guarantees were ended, and this debt treated no differently than any other consumer debt, prices would fall more in line with what can be sustainably borne by students.

LEGEND

Deletions are noted in ~~red bold italic strikethrough~~.
 Additions are noted in blue bold underline.

Minority Report on Proposal L

Sponsored by Craig, Harlos, Mattson, Rosenbeck, Seebeck, Sheetz, and Starr

| CURRENT WORDING | PROPOSED AMENDMENT | IF ADOPTED WILL READ |
|--|---|---|
| <p>2.6 Money and Financial Markets</p> <p>We favor free-market banking, with unrestricted competition among banks and depository institutions of all types. Markets are not actually free unless fraud is vigorously combated. Those who enjoy the possibility of profits must not impose risks of losses upon others, such as through government guarantees or bailouts. Individuals engaged in voluntary exchange should be free to use as money any mutually agreeable commodity or item. We support a halt to inflationary monetary policies and unconstitutional legal tender laws.</p> <p>2.7 Marketplace Freedom</p> <p>Libertarians support free markets. We defend the right of individuals to form corporations, cooperatives and other types of entities based on voluntary association. We oppose all forms of government subsidies and bailouts to business, labor, or any other special interest. Government should not compete with private enterprise.</p> | <p>2.6 Money and Financial Markets</p> <p>We favor free-market banking, with unrestricted competition among banks and depository institutions of all types. Markets are not actually free unless fraud is vigorously combated. Those who enjoy the possibility of profits must not impose risks of losses upon others, such as through government guarantees or bailouts. Individuals engaged in voluntary exchange should be free to use as money any mutually agreeable commodity or item. We support a halt to inflationary monetary policies and unconstitutional legal tender laws.</p> <p>2.7 Marketplace Freedom</p> <p>Libertarians support free markets. We defend the right of individuals to form corporations, cooperatives and other types of entities based on voluntary association. <u>Those who enjoy the possibility of profits must not impose risks of losses upon others. Accordingly, we</u> We oppose all forms of government subsidies and bailouts to business, labor, or any other special interest, <u>including loan guarantees such as with student loans, SBA loans, USDA loans and FHA loans.</u> Government should not compete with private enterprise.</p> | <p>2.6 Money and Financial Markets</p> <p>We favor free-market banking, with unrestricted competition among banks and depository institutions of all types. Markets are not actually free unless fraud is vigorously combated. Individuals engaged in voluntary exchange should be free to use as money any mutually agreeable commodity or item. We support a halt to inflationary monetary policies and unconstitutional legal tender laws.</p> <p>2.7 Marketplace Freedom</p> <p>Libertarians support free markets. We defend the right of individuals to form corporations, cooperatives and other types of entities based on voluntary association. Those who enjoy the possibility of profits must not impose risks of losses upon others. Accordingly, we oppose all forms of government subsidies and bailouts to business, labor, or any other special interest, including loan guarantees such as with student loans, SBA loans, USDA loans and FHA loans. Government should not compete with private enterprise.</p> |

Rationale for Minority Report on Proposal L

The committee proposes that we insert the following after the sentence already stating our opposition to government guarantees and bailouts in Plank 2.6: “We support ending federal guarantees and special treatment of student loan debt in bankruptcy proceedings.”

LEGEND

Deletions are noted in ~~red bold italic strikethrough~~.
 Additions are noted in blue bold underline.

This proposal creates redundancy – we already mention in the immediately preceding sentence that we oppose government guarantees. By citing just one specific example, the plank reads as though we oppose government guarantees, but we *really* oppose student loan guarantees.

Moreover, we mustn't single out just one nuance of bankruptcy law, which might be misinterpreted as an endorsement of the overall policy of bankruptcy – a practice some Libertarians view as legalized theft. To do the subject Justice, considerable thought is needed to address broadly which debts or creditors ought to receive preference in cases of insolvency. Consider what is covered under current bankruptcy laws:

- Debts secured by assets (e.g. mortgages) often have first claims to those assets
- Child and spousal support payments are given higher priority in consumer bankruptcies
- Certain debts can't be extinguished, such as student loans, tax liens, alimony, and debts for willful injury or wrongful death
- Some assets (e.g. household items, motor vehicles and cemetery plots) are exempt from seizure to satisfy debts
- In business bankruptcies, unpaid wages and customer deposit claims have higher priority over some other unsecured debts

Rather than inserting a tacit endorsement of bankruptcy laws in our platform, we propose focusing solely on the government guarantee aspect of this proposal by moving some language from Money and Financial Markets and consolidating it into Marketplace Freedom, where we can address several examples of government guarantees we oppose, including student loans.

LEGEND

Deletions are noted in ~~red bold italic strikethrough~~.

Additions are noted in blue bold underline.

Proposal M
Add New Plank “Religious Freedom” to End of Section 1
 Adopted 9-5 on May 31, 2018

| CURRENT WORDING | PROPOSED AMENDMENT | IF ADOPTED WILL READ |
|-----------------|---|--|
| | <p><u>1.x Religious Freedom</u></p> <p><u>We defend the rights of individuals to engage or not engage in any religious activities which do not violate the rights of others. In order to defend religious freedoms, we advocate a strict separation of church and state. We oppose government actions which define, aid, or attack any religion or religious membership, or lack thereof. We oppose taxation of church property for the same reason we oppose all taxation.</u></p> | <p>1.x Religious Freedom</p> <p>We defend the rights of individuals to engage or not engage in any religious activities which do not violate the rights of others. In order to defend religious freedoms, we advocate a strict separation of church and state. We oppose government actions which define, aid, or attack any religion or religious membership, or lack thereof. We oppose taxation of church property for the same reason we oppose all taxation.</p> |

Rationale for Proposal M

Religious freedom is an important topic to be addressed separately as particularly important to the American tradition. Further, there has been debate lately about the taxation of church property. If taxation is coercion, our position should clearly state that the answer to some people being coerced and others escaping from coercion should not be to impose coercion equally but to grant freedom from coercion equally.

LEGEND

Deletions are noted in ~~red bold italic strikethrough~~.
 Additions are noted in **blue bold underline**.

First Minority Report on Proposal M

Sponsored by Cholko, Harlos, Seebeck, and Scheetz

We support the Committee’s proposal. However, if adopted, it would result in a word-for-word duplication with the currently existing Plank 1.2. We would add the Proviso that the passage of this proposal would include the deletion of the words/phrases “*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.*” to the extent that they exist in that exact or substantially similar form at the time this proposal is passed.

Rationale for First Minority Report on Proposal M

Clean-up duplicative language created by the passage of this proposal.

LEGEND

Deletions are noted in ~~***red bold italic strikethrough***~~.

Additions are noted in **blue bold underline**.

Second Minority Report on Proposal M

Sponsored by Craig, Fockler, Starr, and Van Horn

We urge the rejection of this proposal in favor of the Proposal J (Amend Plank 1.2 “Expression and Communication”), which would address freedom of religion within a single plank covering the closely related issues of freedom of speech and assembly.

There is a troubling contradiction in this proposed language. In order to grant “church property” as such a tax exemption, the government must “define” what does or does not count as a church, which is precisely the current conflict over the issue. This proposed language doesn’t clarify the Libertarian position on that, it only confuses it by seemingly wanting it both ways. As we’ve seen with the Johnson Amendment, the power to grant special tax exemptions based on status as a church entails the ability to revoke that exemption for not meeting the government’s definition of “church” – such as by engaging in political speech.

There can also be ambiguity, when it comes to things like local utilities, as to what counts as a “tax” versus what is really a user fee, and cases where the legal definition might not match up with how Libertarians would draw that line. In such cases, it’s inappropriate for other people to be forced to subsidize goods and services provided to a church by the government.

Issues of taxation are better addressed in our plank dedicated to that topic, and freedom of religion and separation of church and state are better addressed alongside the closely related principles of freedom of speech, expression, assembly, association, and the like. Combining the two into a single plank does an unsatisfactory job of addressing both.

Furthermore, if we oppose taxation of churches in simply the same way that we oppose taxation of everybody, then there’s no reason to mention it especially for churches and not accountants, grocery stores, piano repairmen, and an infinite list of other types of businesses, organizations, and professions.

LEGEND

Deletions are noted in ~~***red bold italic strikethrough***~~.

Additions are noted in **blue bold underline**.

Proposal N

Amend Current Plank 3.4 “Free Trade and Migration”

Adopted 9-6 on May 13, 2018

| CURRENT WORDING | PROPOSED AMENDMENT | IF ADOPTED WILL READ |
|---|--|--|
| <p>3.4 Free Trade and Migration</p> <p>We support the removal of governmental impediments to free trade. Political freedom and escape from tyranny demand that individuals not be unreasonably constrained by government in the crossing of political boundaries. Economic freedom demands the unrestricted movement of human as well as financial capital across national borders. However, we support control over the entry into our country of foreign nationals who pose a credible threat to security, health or property.</p> | <p>3.4 Free Trade and Migration</p> <p>We support the removal of governmental impediments to free trade. Political freedom and escape from tyranny demand that individuals not be unreasonably constrained by government in the crossing of political boundaries. Economic freedom demands the unrestricted movement of human as well as financial capital across national borders. <i>However, we support control over the entry into our country of foreign nationals who pose a credible threat to security, health or property.</i></p> | <p>3.4 Free Trade and Migration</p> <p>We support the removal of governmental impediments to free trade. Political freedom and escape from tyranny demand that individuals not be unreasonably constrained by government in the crossing of political boundaries. Economic freedom demands the unrestricted movement of human as well as financial capital across national borders.</p> |

Rationale for Proposal N

As of this plank’s adoption in 2008, the well-intentioned goal of the delegates in the final sentence was to provide for barring entry by individual known terrorists, known criminals, or persons known to carry infectious diseases into the United States. In recent years, rhetoric of security and safety risks has been used to justify categorical restrictions based on factors such as nationality and religion. The plank’s second sentence already leaves ample room for those differences of opinion as to what might constitute “reasonable constraints.”

LEGEND

Deletions are noted in ~~***red bold italic strikethrough.***~~

Additions are noted in **blue bold underline.**

First Minority Report on Proposal N

Sponsored by Fockler, Nanna, Rosenbeck, Seebeck, and Starr

| CURRENT WORDING | PROPOSED AMENDMENT | IF ADOPTED WILL READ |
|---|---|--|
| <p>3.4 Free Trade and Migration</p> <p>We support the removal of governmental impediments to free trade. Political freedom and escape from tyranny demand that individuals not be unreasonably constrained by government in the crossing of political boundaries. Economic freedom demands the unrestricted movement of human as well as financial capital across national borders. However, we support control over the entry into our country of foreign nationals who pose a credible threat to security, health or property.</p> | <p>3.4 Free Trade and Migration</p> <p>We support the removal of governmental impediments to free trade. Political freedom and escape from tyranny demand that individuals not be unreasonably constrained by government in the crossing of political boundaries. Economic freedom demands the unrestricted movement of human as well as financial capital across national borders. However, we support control over the entry into our country of <u>individual</u> foreign nationals who pose a credible threat to security, health or property.</p> | <p>3.4 Free Trade and Migration</p> <p>We support the removal of governmental impediments to free trade. Political freedom and escape from tyranny demand that individuals not be unreasonably constrained by government in the crossing of political boundaries. Economic freedom demands the unrestricted movement of human as well as financial capital across national borders. However, we support control over the entry into our country of individual foreign nationals who pose a credible threat to security, health or property.</p> |

Rationale for First Minority Report on Proposal N

The majority proposes to strike the last sentence of the plank, which reads:

“However, we support control over the entry into our country of foreign nationals who pose a credible threat to security, health or property.”

This sentence is important, as it delineates what constraints are reasonable.

It’s unfortunate that not every person that comes to the United States arrives with good intentions. We *do* believe in controlling entry of those who pose a credible threat to people’s lives and property.

However, it would be inappropriate to craft policy to be applied against entire groups based on race, creed, nationality, religion or some immutable characteristic. To make that clear, we propose adding “individual” just before “foreign nationals” to emphasize that this needs to be done on a case-by-case basis (e.g., history of violent crime, known terrorist ties, carriers of serious contagious diseases, etc.).

With this one minor change, we believe the plank balances the ideal of peaceful persons crossing political borders with minimal interference, with the need to secure our rights to life, liberty, and property from aggression.

LEGEND

Deletions are noted in ~~red bold italic strikethrough~~.

Additions are noted in blue bold underline.

Second Minority Report on Proposal N

Sponsored by Adams, Craig, Harlos, Knapp, and Scheetz

| CURRENT WORDING | PROPOSED AMENDMENT | IF ADOPTED WILL READ |
|---|---|--|
| <p>3.4 Free Trade and Migration</p> <p>We support the removal of governmental impediments to free trade. Political freedom and escape from tyranny demand that individuals not be unreasonably constrained by government in the crossing of political boundaries. Economic freedom demands the unrestricted movement of human as well as financial capital across national borders. However, we support control over the entry into our country of foreign nationals who pose a credible threat to security, health or property.</p> | <p>3.4 Free Trade and Migration</p> <p>We support the removal of governmental impediments to free trade <u>which infringe upon any individual's inherent right to peacefully trade with willing partners under mutually agreeable conditions. Therefore, we oppose all tariffs and quotas and call for the removal of government interference in trade that is not limited to the protection of the rights to life and property.</u></p> <p>3.5 Immigration</p> <p>Political freedom and escape from tyranny demand that individuals not be unreasonably constrained by government in the crossing of political boundaries. Economic freedom demands the unrestricted movement of human as well as financial capital across national borders. However, we support control over the entry into our country of foreign nationals who pose a credible threat to security, health or property.</p> <p><u>We welcome all peaceful immigrants and refugees, whether political or economic, to our country and condemn any efforts of U.S. officials to create regulatory or physical "walls" which deny them the fundamental right to offer their labor to willing partners and to move about unmolested.</u></p> <p><u>We therefore call for the elimination of all restrictions on peaceful immigration, the abolition of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Border Patrol, and Customs and</u></p> | <p>3.4 Free Trade</p> <p>We support the removal of governmental impediments to free trade which infringe upon any individual's inherent right to peacefully trade with willing partners under mutually agreeable conditions. Therefore, we oppose all tariffs and quotas and call for the removal of government interference in trade that is not limited to the protection of the rights to life and property.</p> <p>3.5 Immigration</p> <p>We welcome all peaceful immigrants and refugees, whether political or economic, to our country and condemn any efforts of U.S. officials to create regulatory or physical "walls" which deny them the fundamental right to offer their labor to willing partners and to move about unmolested.</p> <p>We therefore call for the elimination of all restrictions on peaceful immigration, the abolition of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, the Border Patrol, and Immigration and Customs Enforcement and strongly support a declaration of full amnesty for all people who have entered the country illegally.</p> |

LEGEND

Deletions are noted in ~~red bold italic strikethrough~~.
 Additions are noted in blue bold underline.

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| | <u>Border Protection, and strongly support a declaration of full amnesty for all people who have entered the country illegally.</u> | |
|--|---|--|

Rationale for Second Minority Report on Proposal N

The mixing of these two subjects together is awkward and truncated and best served by separating out the two topics. Further, it is offensive to human dignity to treat human beings as if they were the exact kind of capital as money or goods. Regarding immigration, while we support the change proposed in the Committee report, it does not go nearly far enough. This language is not new or novel, but appeared for decades in prior Party platforms, and there is no evidence that these views were determined to be in violation of the Statement of Principles or the principle of the non-initiation of force. If they are not, then why would we not strongly stand upon those principles? Are we trying to hide our views in order to attract those who would ultimately reject our principles? If so, that is neither fair to our members nor to those who were not given this information. In these days of rampant nationalism and hostility to those from different lands, it is imperative that we firmly stand upon the principles of freedom. Why do we have to single out certain groups of people based upon an arbitrary characteristic (where they were born) to over-emphasize that violence and threats can be repelled, when that is a given throughout our platform, if not to insinuate or appear to insinuate that these are people that should not be granted the presumption of good faith that we give to people born here?

LEGEND

Deletions are noted in ~~red bold italic strikethrough~~.

Additions are noted in blue bold underline.

Supplement to Committee Report

Any changes to this report, including additional proposals and Minority Reports, if any, will be provided to the convention in the form of a supplement.

LEGEND

Deletions are noted in ~~**red bold italic strikethrough**~~.

Additions are noted in **blue bold underline**.