

**Libertarian Party of
California
2018 Program**



**Approved by the Libertarian Party of California
Executive Committee on September 8, 2018**

2018 Program

Program Committee Representatives Elected by the Executive Committee

The Party Program shall consist of up to five planks which state interim measures and practical policies, designed to implement the Party position on issues of interest to California. The Program shall not conflict with the Statement of Principles or the Platform.

Committee Chair: Gail Lightfoot
 Alex Appleby
 José Castañeda
 Jonathan Jaech
 Rebecca Lau

PROGRAM PLANKS

- I END INVOLUNTARY HOMELESSNESS AND INVIGORATE HOUSING
 MARKETS**
- II SAFE AND WELCOMING COMMUNITIES; END HUMAN TRAFFICKING**
- III FAIR AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY; END CORPORATE
 WELFARE**
- IV ABUNDANT, AFFORDABLE AND WORLD-CLASS HEALTHCARE**
- V FREE AND EFFECTIVE EDUCATION FOR ALL**

END INVOLUNTARY HOMELESSNESS AND INVIGORATE HOUSING MARKETS

Government policy should foster healthy economies, strong families, and thriving charitable institutions; but too often suppresses these social assets, depriving people of social support that would otherwise exist. Instead of imposing rules that penalize poverty and homelessness, governments should enable the homeless to help themselves with support by community action. We support beneficial programs such as providing need-based short or long-term shelter, training in useful skills and crafts, personal hygiene, nutrition and wellness, addiction recovery, and other beneficial programs by individuals and private institutions. Californians will find diverse solutions for housing shortages if left alone to try new forms of ethical and effective housing for everyone, including those unable to care for themselves. Governments should support these and similar beneficial community programs by:

1. Reforming laws and regulations to eliminate unnecessary restrictions, taxes, penalties and costs of assisting the homeless and self-help by the homeless (e.g., home and meal sharing, micro-businesses and tiny homes);
2. Similarly reducing and eliminating restrictions on the use of private property for shared or short-term tenancies, and restrictions on construction of new housing units including safe high-density non-traditional housing;
3. Reforming police training and procedures towards guiding the homeless to sources of support in their local communities;
4. Donating or below-market leasing surplus state property to worthy programs; and
5. Providing tax credits for projects that reduce dependency of the homeless and indigent on government resources.

SAFE AND WELCOMING COMMUNITIES; END HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Maximum personal freedom subject to swift justice against violent or fraudulent victimization of others or their environments is the key to healthy communities where all people of good will can thrive. To build and foster such communities, governments should:

1. Decriminalize all victimless conduct, recognizing that no one can be victim of their own conduct while all must accept responsible for harm to unwilling victims, thereby enabling transparency and safety in all activities involving consenting adults and eliminating the darkness in which human trafficking thrives;
2. End all “drug wars” and other bans on possession or use of substances or things, these bans having devastated the less privileged and violated the individual liberty of all; but hold all who aggress against victims responsible for their aggression;
3. Encourage and support community-based alternative conflict resolution and victim restitution systems, while focusing state justice resources on criminals or civil litigants who refuse or subvert swift justice acceptable to the victims in community-based conflict resolution systems;
4. Eliminate civil forfeiture done without conviction after due process;
5. Eliminate prosecutorial over-charging and other abuses of due process designed to pressure the accused into plea bargains; and
6. Eliminate incentives for police and prosecutorial misconduct including invasions of privacy and pursuit of convictions without regard for truth, while rewarding ethical conduct.

FAIR AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY; END CORPORATE WELFARE

All should be free to pursue their own economic security and happiness so long as not infringing on the rights of others to do likewise. With its abundant natural resources, diverse and creative citizens and legacy of freedom, California should lead the nation and the world in sustainable prosperity that does not depend on destruction of our natural environment or oppression of an underclass. Instead, too many people are deprived of economic opportunity and hope by a corrupt political establishment and burdensome regulations that are nothing more than corporate welfare against competition from individuals and small businesses, masquerading as protection for the weak. For the prosperity of all, we insist that government:

1. Eliminate all mandatory professional licensing and union membership, while encouraging competition in professional standards and certification, swift and proportionate justice against fraud and professional malpractice, and greater freedom for unions and other collectives seeking to correct politically privileged biases against individual rights;
2. Eliminate all regulations imposed by political or bureaucratic fiat, while supporting effective justice and transparency to penalize businesses that engage in fraud, trespass, violence or abuse against any person, their valid property or the environment on which all depend;
3. Eliminate subsidies, price controls, and other market-distorting schemes designed to favor political interests; and
4. Eliminate coercive taxes and government monopolies in favor of user fees, voluntary action, open competition for providing public services, and support for sustainable, independent communities that reduce dependency and helplessness.

ABUNDANT, AFFORDABLE AND WORLD-CLASS HEALTHCARE

Interference by big medicine, big law, big insurance and big government has eliminated any semblance of a free market in health care. The foxes are running the hen house. Consequently, the cost of mandatory insurance and hospital care increases beyond reach of our middle class while access to care and average lifespan erode. While much of the blame rests with the Federal Government, our public servants in California should cease their complicity in this unconscionable disaster. In addition to economic freedom and restoration of markets as outlined above, we support:

1. Nullification of Federal interference in our health insurance and provider markets, under the Tenth Amendment or otherwise;
2. A free market in health cooperatives and collectives, insurance, and the provision of health care and pharmaceuticals;
3. An end to medical corporate welfare, such as discrimination against individual purchasers of health insurance and uninsured purchasers of health care imposed by current tax and government regulatory policy;
4. Freedom of all to use the medicines and therapies they choose, regardless of government approval, with responsibility for outcomes resting on those who decide and implement on the course of treatment, be it the patient or the provider; and
5. Effective regulation of the standard of care and penalties for professional negligence provided by free speech, free markets, and a fair justice system.

FREE AND EFFECTIVE EDUCATION FOR ALL

State and Federal interference in community education have spawned powerful special interests while degrading if not destroying the quality of primary public education and turning higher education into a debt mill that too often fails to justify its costs, leaving graduates with mortgage-sized debts but bereft of marketable skills. Meanwhile, the rise of the Internet has made information and self-education accessible to the masses. Control of education must be wrested from central-planning bureaucrats, politicians and returned to local communities and to private communities of interest where it can thrive and respond to the needs of its students, not to the whims of politicians. We urge:

1. Reformation of the California Department of Education towards increase of local control over schools and curricula, including but not limited to Charter schools;
2. Simplifying regulations that encourage greater diversity, allowing educational resources to better fit the needs of individual students and families; and
3. Expand income tax deductions and credits for educational activities that replace or support state-funded children, including home-schooling, investments in educational savings accounts for any child's education, contributions to public and independently-funded schools, tuition paid to independently-funded schools, and charitable contributions made to enable others to attend independently-funded schools.