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## PLATFORM

# Platform

(As revised in convention, July 18, 2020)

## STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLE:

The Libertarian Party does not believe in or advocate the initiation of force to achieve social or political goals.

## PREAMBLE:

Libertarians seek a society based on personal liberty and responsibility—a society in which all individuals are sovereign over their own lives. The most desirable method of realizing such a society is to follow the natural order that arises when the inalienable rights of individuals to life, liberty and property ownership are respected and protected.

People have the right to engage in any activity that is peaceful and honest, and pursue happiness in whatever manner they choose, so long as they do not forcibly interfere with those same rights of others. The peace, prosperity, and diversity that such freedom brings is a goal toward which Libertarians aim.

The essential precondition for a free society is that people have the freedom to follow their own dreams in their own ways without government interference. This precondition allows that the only legitimate function of government, where it exists, is the protection of the inalienable rights of its citizens. To that end, government at all levels should be strictly limited to the essential services necessary to uphold individual rights, maintain public order, and adjudicate disputes. Government at the state and federal level should be involved only in issues not best handled by local or regional government.

## I. STATE GOVERNMENT

1. We endorse the Tenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which reserves to our state and its people all powers not expressly delegated to the federal government by the U.S. Constitution, or prohibited from the states or the people by the U.S. Constitution.
2. The state government has no duty to enforce federal laws not authorized by the US Constitution, and which do not protect the life, liberty, or property of Michiganders. Federal agents enforcing such acts and powers in Michigan must face state level criminal prosecution.
3. We support proportional representation in the Michigan State Senate, until such time as the Senate can be eliminated.
4. In the absence of a declaration of war by the United States Congress, we oppose any use of Michigan troops by the federal government for any purpose other than natural disaster relief.
5. Individuals have the right to defend themselves and others. Article I, Section 6 of the Michigan Constitution states: "Every person has a right to keep and bear arms for the defense of himself and the state." We oppose any law that dilutes the right of a law-abiding person to own a firearm or other means of self-defense.
6. We oppose any form of discrimination by government based on race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation or any

other group or individual identification. Each person has the same inalienable rights that the State has a duty to protect.

7. State government should be removed entirely from the licensing process, including, but not limited to, occupational licensing. It has produced no better results than private licensing and amounts to another tax. For example, marriage licenses are contracts between individuals and should be left to the individuals, their attorneys and religious officials, without the need to pay the state for a stamp of approval.
8. We support returning to a part-time legislature, which is sufficient to carry out the legislative duties as prescribed by our state constitution.
9. We advocate a sunset law requiring an automatic end to most government offices, agencies, departments, laws, regulations, taxes, and expenditures within ten years if not reauthorized.
10. We oppose immunities for any public officials or employees for illegal acts or omissions. Like any individual, they should be subject to criminal prosecution and held personally liable for any injuries caused by their actions. Therefore, we seek to abolish the protections of qualified immunity.
11. There should be maximum separation of legislative, executive and judicial powers.
12. We believe the government should not force individuals to alter their schedules through the practice known as daylight savings, as the manipulation of time is not within the government's legal authority.

## II. ELECTIONS

1. The only electoral duty of the state government should be providing for fair and efficient conduct of elections. Political parties, like any private voluntary group, should be free from government control and allowed to establish their own rules for nomination procedures and conventions. All taxpayer-funded subsidies to candidates for public office and political parties, including primaries and conventions, should be eliminated.
2. We support the addition of the alternative "None of the above is acceptable" to all ballots. We further propose that in the event that "None of the above is acceptable" receives a plurality of votes in any election, a new election shall be held for which none of the losing candidates shall be eligible. Other forms of voting should also be considered, such as ranked choice voting or proportional representation.
3. Campaign finance laws are unwarranted restrictions of free speech or association and should be repealed.
4. The time during which voters may circulate any statewide petition should be extended to two years.
5. Voters should have the power of referendum on all existing or new legislation.
6. We support efforts to make voting less difficult for all voters.
7. While incarcerated, citizens should retain the right to vote.

## III. COURTS

1. The current practice of forced jury duty should be replaced by volunteer juries.
2. The common law authority of a trial by jury preceded our constitution and is the foundation of our legal system. If a jury of peers deems a law unjust, oppressive or inappropriately applied, it has the right and duty to acquit the defendant.
3. We support the right of defendants to a fully informed jury, which would require judges to instruct jurors of their authority to judge not only the facts, but also the justice of the law according to their own good consciences. We support restitution for victims of crimes at the expense of the perpetrator. The victim should have the right to pardon the perpetrator, provided the victim is not threatened or coerced.

4. Private adjudication of disputes by mutually acceptable judges or mediators should be encouraged.
5. No-fault laws should be repealed because they deprive the victim of the right to recover damages from those responsible for causing harm.
6. The right of trial by jury should be allowed in all civil or criminal cases.
7. The use of civil asset forfeiture to enforce laws circumvents constitutional protections and should be ended.
8. Random police roadblocks and other searches without probable cause bypass constitutional protections and should be prohibited.
9. We support equal treatment and oppose discrimination on the basis of sex and sexual orientation in any judicial proceeding adjudicating a parental right, privilege or obligation concerning their child.
10. Any individual who violates the rights of another should be held liable.
11. We deny the legitimacy of criminal prosecutions of persons who have victimized no one. To prevent false prosecutions, we affirm the right of alleged victims to end prosecutions by freely asserting their objection to it. This does not preclude prosecution in cases where a victim remains silent, nor shall it preclude prosecution where a victim has been coerced into objecting.
12. No person should be denied due process on the basis of age or citizenship.

#### IV. PUBLIC SAFETY

1. We believe the largest threat to public safety is the government itself, and thus the right to bear arms exists primarily to ensure the people the ability to effectively resist tyranny.
2. Law enforcement cannot guarantee individual safety. Self-protection is a personal responsibility. All individuals have the right to defend themselves and to possess the means to do so, as guaranteed by the state constitution Article I, Section 6
3. As we believe that government transparency is essential to public accountability. Complaints of police misconduct should be should be open to public scrutiny. We support the revision of the Freedom of Information Act to remove the exemption of these records.
4. Once free from incarceration, all rights should be restored immediately and the classification of "felon" should not impede one's constitutional rights.
5. State prison facilities should be used only for the incarceration of individuals who have proven themselves a threat to others.
6. Curfew laws should be repealed as an individual's behavior is not the responsibility of the state or municipality.
7. Laws requiring the use of seat belts or other personal protection devices are misguided, paternal, and should be repealed. Individuals must assume responsibility for their own safety.

#### V. VICE LAWS

1. Government should confine itself to protecting individuals from aggression, coercion and deceit. We oppose all laws and regulations that attempt to protect individuals from the consequences of their own behavior. While not necessarily condoning such activities, we advocate the repeal of all laws criminalizing gambling, possession and sale of drugs and alcohol. All those presently incarcerated or ever convicted solely for the commission of these victimless crimes should be pardoned and their records expunged.

2. Voluntary communities may enforce rules that prohibit certain activities to which all members subscribe, such as substance-free dorms.
3. We call for the repeal of all laws criminalizing actions between consenting adults. Libertarians support the repeal of all laws criminalizing the offer of sexual services for compensation by consenting adults, as well as the repeal of all laws criminalizing voluntarily seeking out sexual services for hire.
4. The natural, lawful, unalienable, and absolute rights of the citizens of Michigan to cultivate and utilize the natural plant known as cannabis shall not be infringed. All local and state laws regarding cannabis should be repealed, nullified or otherwise abrogated. All prior and current non-violent cannabis related convictions should be null and void and expunged from those individual's records.

## VI. TAXES

1. Whereas taxation is theft, the legislature should find more voluntary means of supporting state services, such as lotteries and user fees.
2. The income tax should be repealed.
3. Taxation of privately owned real property should be eliminated. In effect, it makes the state the owner of all lands by forcing individuals to pay rent to the state or forfeit their title.
4. The remaining personal property tax on Michigan businesses should be repealed.
5. Tax favoritism should be illegal. Abatements, subsidies, credits, or other incentives to businesses based on geographical area, job creation, or any other criteria deny equal protection under the law.
6. We oppose any sales or use tax, including on the Internet.

## VII. ECONOMY

1. We believe in the free market, thus the complete separation of the economy and the state.
2. No commercial enterprises should be granted legal monopoly status, including the so-called natural monopolies of electricity, natural gas, water supplies, telephones, and cable television. The Michigan Public Service Commission should be abolished and all rate regulation in these industries ended. The right to offer such services in the marketplace should not be curtailed. We also call on the legislature to end the state monopoly on lotteries.
3. State regulation of industries such as insurance and communications, and professions such as medicine and law, should be ended. They should be regulated by trade or consumer groups.
4. The condemnation of private property for public use should only be allowed when necessary for the protection of the rights of the citizens.
5. We recognize all mutually agreed upon forms of trade, including, but not limited to non-fiat currencies such as precious metals, cryptocurrencies and bartering.

## VIII. POVERTY

1. Providing for the needy by forcibly taxing others is contrary to the legitimate function of government, which is to protect the rights of everyone. Disbursing charity from a welfare system costs society more than it gains. It is inefficient, open to fraud and abuse, and creates resentment. Traditional, voluntary sources of emergency support from families, churches, private charities, and mutual aid societies have always been more humane, more effective, and willingly borne by the givers.

Therefore, we call for the complete disbandment of the welfare state.

2. We oppose all attempts to criminalize the victims of coercion, such as the homeless. We therefore call for the immediate repeal of all laws against sleeping, camping, eating, feeding, or solicitation.

## IX. EDUCATION

1. Education is an individual or parental responsibility and best handled at the most local level. We advocate the separation of school and state.
2. Because parents are best situated to decide what is in their own children's best interests, we support all measures that enhance the educational choices available, such as charter schools, tax credits for private school tuition, and home schooling.
3. Compulsory attendance and truancy laws should be repealed. Students cannot be forced to learn, and teachers should not be forced to act as juvenile delinquency officers.
4. All individuals, regardless of age, are entitled to the protections of the constitutions of the United States and Michigan. Random drug tests, locker searches without probable cause, censorship of student publications, corporal punishment, or any similar actions violate those rights.
5. All votes relevant to school operations, including millage proposals, bond issues and school board elections, should be placed only on the regular, biannual ballot.

## X. ENVIRONMENT

1. Aside from public safety, there is no greater concern for the people of Michigan than having a safe, healthy environment. We look forward to the day when all property not required for police and court functions is returned to private ownership and control.
2. We call for the restoration of every individual's ancient, common law standing to sue for trespass any individual business, government or other group that pollutes their property.
3. We oppose creation of new government parks or wilderness and recreation areas. Such parks and areas that already exist should be transferred to non-government ownership. Pending such transfer, their operating costs should be borne by their users rather than by taxpayers.
4. We support efforts to hold all individuals, businesses and governments accountable for the pollution they cause. With respect to so-called orphan sites, where those responsible for contamination of ground or water either cannot be found or cannot be made accountable for the damage they caused, we support the use of the Natural Resources Trust Fund currently earmarked for expansion of state parks to be redirected to clean up.

## X. HEALTH CARE

1. The most fundamental property right is an individual's right to own and control their own body. All individuals have the right to determine their own health care needs and treatment. Exercise of this right does not remove the moral obligations not to violate the rights of others. We recognize the state, when it exists, has a duty to protect the rights of others, particularly those in society who are the most vulnerable, including the very old, the very young, and the mentally handicapped. The state, where it exists, does have a duty to protect the life of all individuals, and should prosecute those who utilize force or fraud to end life.
2. The right of people to extend or end their lives with dignity should not be infringed. We support the freedom to use living

wills and durable medical powers of attorney.

## XII. SECESSION

We recognize the right to political secession. Exercise of this right, like the exercise of all other rights, does not remove legal and moral obligations not to violate the rights of others.

## XIII. INCLUSION

The Libertarian Party of Michigan ratifies and hereby includes in this document the platform of the national Libertarian Party.

## XIV. OMISSIONS

Our silence about any other particular government law, regulation, ordinance, directive, edict, control, restriction, regulatory agency, or activity should not be construed to imply approval.

## RESOLUTIONS

*Resolutions are statements of opinion on timely issues, and are adopted as described in our bylaws. They are not permanent planks of the LPM platform. Here they are posted at the bottom of the page where the platform for the corresponding year is listed.*

### Stop Police Brutality!

Whereas the initiation of force by state police officers is often done under false or unclear pretenses, that all individuals possess the same set of rights, that individual rights are not suspended when accusations are made against an individual, and that a free society cannot co-exist within a militarized police state,

We, the Libertarian Party of Michigan, resolve that awarding impunity to police who violate the individual rights of an accused is more harmful than the alleged crime itself, that the perpetual betrayal of the public's trust by law enforcement officers is an indication of a culture of tyranny, and that the judges and the state police officers responsible for protecting or participation in this systematic aggression should be immediately removed from their positions of authority and prosecuted for the crimes they committed in their betrayal of the people.

### Free Assange!

Whereas the Libertarian Party of Michigan holds that the most grievous of crimes is the mass murder committed by the federal government overseas,

Whereas journalism is not in any way, shape or form, a crime and is protected by the First Amendment of the Constitution,

Let it be RESOLVED that whistleblowers crimes provide a valuable service for the American people, and that Chelsea Manning, Edward Snowden, Julian Assange, and all other whistleblowers, journalists and their publishers must have all charges dropped and be released from detention immediately.

### Libertarians Reject More Taxes to Fix the Damn Roads

Whereas a tax on gas for roads was rejected by the voters in 2015;

Whereas the vote in 2015 was the largest defeat in Michigan history of a ballot proposal to amend the state constitution;

Whereas the legislature increased taxes in Michigan since the aforementioned defeat;

Whereas the state of Michigan takes in more than enough revenue to pay for road maintenance;

Whereas the state spends that revenue on non-essential, self-serving or harmful, projects;

Whereas voluntary alternatives such as private roads are worthy of consideration;

Whereas taxation is theft;

Be it resolved, that we oppose any increase in the Michigan gas tax, or in any other tax.

## Proposal 1 Not Good Enough

Be it resolved, that the Libertarian Party of Michigan supports the amendment to the Michigan Constitution as of this date proposed by End Prohibition Michigan.

Proposed language to amend the Michigan Constitution

This proposal would add a new Section 28 to Article 1.

- \* The natural, lawful, unalienable and absolute rights of the people to cultivate and utilize the natural plant known as cannabis shall not be infringed. These rights include, but are not limited to, the possession. Consumption, growing, manufacturing, delivery, treatment, purchase, sale, transfer storage and transport of any plant, seed, flower, leaf, mixture, derivative, extract, product, or preparation of any cannabis plant for personal preparations including, but not limited to the recreational, religious, medical, development, educational, commercial and industrial purposes within the State of Michigan.
- All local and state penalties shall be repealed, nullified or otherwise abrogated.
- No fines, fees, regulations, or penalties to diminish the use of cannabis shall be applied or allowed.
- Any tax levied in accordance with the current State of Michigan sales tax code. Cannabis used for medicines and foods shall be exempt from all taxes.
- All prior and current non-violent cannabis related convictions shall be null, and void and the records of such convictions expunged from the records.

[Link to prior versions of the LPM Platform and Resolutions from prior years in our Historical Archives.](#)

### Our Mission

The Libertarian Party is committed to America's heritage of freedom: individual liberty and personal responsibility, a free-market economy of abundance and prosperity, a foreign policy of non-intervention, peace and free trade.

### Contact Us

PO Box 27065, Lansing, MI 48909  
888-373-3669 | [info@michiganlp.org](mailto:info@michiganlp.org)

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