

PLATFORM OF THE KANSAS LIBERTARIAN PARTY

Adopted in Convention, March 6, 2004

PREAMBLE - The Kansas Libertarian Party is part of the worldwide movement for liberty. It is an affiliate of the Libertarian Party of the United States. The Kansas Libertarian Party supports and endorses the National Libertarian Party Platform. However, the following Platform, created and adopted by the Kansas Libertarian Party, addresses issues and positions as they apply to Kansas.

ARTICLE I - PERSONAL PROPERTY, RIGHTS and DUTIES

Libertarians hold that inviolable individual sovereignty and personal property rights are central to a free society. Kansans should work to strengthen the ownership of all forms of personal property. Government control of property is not conducive to conservation or good stewardship.

1. We stand opposed to government seizure and sales of property under the guise of law enforcement, environmental protection, tax collection, or economic development.
2. We oppose the use of taxpayer funds to pay for abortion, family planning, birth control, or the provision of contraceptive devices. The right to privacy and the obligation for responsibility in reproductive matters rests with the individuals and their families.
3. We believe children are the responsibility of their parents until such time as they have reached the age of majority. We deny unequivocally the assertion that children are the property, or resource, of the State, to be educated, raised, disciplined, and financed according to the State's arbitrary agenda. We deny the State's right to remove a child from the family or either parent except in cases of gross, verifiable, documented abuse or neglect, as determined under due process of law including trial by jury.
4. The current public school system in Kansas is a socialist enterprise and the results are consistent

with socialism: increasing costs, declining performance, propaganda replacing core subject matter, and alienation among teachers, students and parents. Education is much too important to be controlled by government. Education should be the responsibility of parents, students, and teachers.

Therefore, we advocate privatizing education in Kansas. The option of home schooling must be preserved for families unwilling to place their children's education in the hands of the state. Although tax credits or vouchers may be a

viable interim measure to end the present failing system, our long-term goal is the complete separation of school and state.

ARTICLE II - TAXES and ECONOMICS

Economic growth is most likely where productivity and investments are not penalized. Libertarians support tax-limiting measures similar to California's Proposition 13, Missouri's Hancock amendment, and the 1992 Oklahoma citizens' initiative restricting tax hikes.

1. We support a state constitutional amendment ending the present unlimited taxation scenario. We propose keying taxes to specific projects and purposes with sunset clauses attached to taxes wherever possible. We support voter approval as a requirement for all new and incremental taxes.
2. We believe sales taxes should be eliminated on all food and medicines. The property and personal income tax should be reduced immediately and eventually eliminated.
3. We oppose the use of taxes for social engineering , including so-called "sin" taxes.
4. We believe that government has no business in business. Employers and entrepreneurs should not be burdened with excessive regulations, quotas, and licensing requirements.
5. We oppose most of the State professional licensing requirements as unwarranted protection of special interest groups under the guise of protecting the public.
6. We believe in the free market system. Businesses and individuals must assume responsibility for their own financial affairs and reap the rewards or suffer the consequences of their own choices. We oppose both corporate and individual welfare. We oppose the use of public funds for financing private endeavors of any sort.

ARTICLE III - GOVERNMENT and ELECTIONS

Bureaucracies in Kansas have grown much faster than the private sector and at a rate much faster than population growth in the state. This directly results in the loss of personal liberties and increased intervention in the citizens' private affairs. This trend must be reversed.

1. We favor an immediate freeze in State hiring. We oppose the use of tax funds to pay lobbyists. The expense of government bureaucracies in Kansas would thus be reduced.

2. We support sunset provisions for all laws and State agencies thus requiring the state to reassess the effects of existing laws and activities on a continuing basis.
3. We strongly oppose any movement to consolidate governments in Kansas. Smaller more representative governments are always preferable to larger more powerful governments that are dissociated from the people they purport to serve.
4. We support the elimination of all government activities that would be better performed by the private sector.
5. We oppose unfunded federal or state mandates. Libertarians favor state sovereignty as afforded by the ninth and tenth amendments to the Constitution of the United States. Federal meddling in state affairs must be firmly rejected.
6. We oppose the use of taxpayers' money to fund primary elections and create matching campaign funds. The various political parties should bear the cost of nominating and running their candidates at their own expense. All political parties in Kansas should be equal before the law.

ARTICLE IV - PERSONAL LIBERTIES

Libertarians believe that each individual has the right to choose how to live his or her life and reap the rewards or face the consequences of that chosen lifestyle.

1. We believe that the sacrosanct primary right, duty, and privilege of individual protection lies with the individual and cannot be performed by government. Citizens must have the right to carry concealed or unconcealed loaded firearms for self-protection. We strongly support the provision in the Kansas Constitution preserving private ownership of personal firearms. Protecting these rights will both reduce crime and ensure against government tyranny.
2. We believe that driving a motor vehicle is not a privilege as asserted by the State, but a right. We oppose removal of that right for any reason except the demonstrated inability to safely operate a motor vehicle on public thoroughfares. We also oppose mandatory motorcycle helmet and seat belt use laws for adults.
3. We advocate ending drug prohibition for adults. Violence, gang activity, over crowded prisons, funding of terrorism, and other problems caused by drug prohibition will continue to increase until the law recognizes that drug use is a personal and medical issue.

ARTICLE V - JUDICIAL REFORM

Kansas Libertarians believe the present state judiciary is out of control and is now exploiting the very people it claims to protect and serve. We must find a way to bring the truth into a courtroom and receive justice from it.

1. We believe that restoring a sound judicial system is critical to preserving our independence. An empowered jury system gives citizens direct involvement in and oversight of both legislature and judiciary. That concept is a crucial foundation stone of our system of government. Juries must be informed of their right to judge not only the facts of the case but the law itself without abrogation or restriction. This is a citizen's last veto of an unfair law. We believe a Fully Informed Jury provision must be enacted as law in Kansas.

2. We strongly defend property rights and, in the case of crimes against property, advocate restitution for victims of crime to be paid for by the wrongdoer. The criminal justice system should concentrate upon crimes against people and property. It should not concern itself with private, consensual activity among adults. All laws pertaining to victimless crimes should be repealed.

3. We oppose the present plea bargaining system. This system is regularly abused to further the records and careers of public officials, circumventing real justice.

4. We oppose mandatory minimum sentences. Such sentences usurp the power of the people and the judiciary to fit the punishment with the severity of the crime.

5. We support the right to trial by jury in all cases, criminal, civil, and administrative as afforded by both the Kansas and United States Constitutions.