

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLATFORM COMMITTEE
OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF NEW YORK
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2023 ON THE ZOOM MEETING APP**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Daniel Castello, Chair
Andrew Kolstee, Secretary
Michael Rebmann
Robert Schuon
Blay Tarnoff

MEMBERS ABSENT

Justin Carman
Paul Grindle
Christopher Olenski
Richard Purtell
Keith Redhead
Karyn Thompson

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 p.m. by Daniel Castello, Chair. It was determined that quorum was not present.

The committee continued to discuss the next portion of the platform to consist of planks pertaining to individuals' interactions with society. The entire revised platform that had been placed into ChatGPT was reviewed and extensively edited.

There was a consensus to adopt Proposal BF when quorum is present:

2. The Right to Free Association and Voluntary Interaction. In recognition of the essential role of free association and fostering cooperative relationships within the community, every individual inherently possesses the unalienable right to freely engage, or not engage, with others. Specifically:

There was a consensus to adopt Proposal BI when quorum is present:

2.1. The Right to Free Association. Every individual has the freedom to interact, associate, and form connections with other individuals, as well as the liberty to create, join, and participate in associations, organizations, and groups of their choosing. This right is upheld without interference or coercion from any entity, including the government, emphasizing the importance of personal autonomy in both individual and collective endeavors.

There was a consensus to adopt Proposal BQ as a replacement to Proposal BF and Proposal BI, with additional planks, when quorum is present:

2. The Right to Free Association and Voluntary Interaction. Every individual inherently holds the unalienable right to freely engage or not with others. This is a cornerstone of a free society and facilitates the collective expression of diverse interests, concerns, and aspirations. Specifically:

2.1. The Right to Free Association. Every individual has the freedom to interact, associate, and form connections with other individuals, as well as the liberty to create, join, and participate in associations, organizations, and groups of their choosing.

2.2. The Right to Peaceful Assembly. Individuals have the inherent right to gather with others for any non-violent purpose, whether for social, recreational, cultural, political, or otherwise.

There was a consensus to adopt Proposal BS when quorum is present:

2.3. The Right to Contract and Exchange. Individuals have the inherent authority to engage in voluntary agreements, contracts, and exchanges with others, including the right to trade goods and services.

Blay Tarnoff entered the meeting, but quorum was still not present.

There was a consensus to adopt Proposal BV when quorum is present:

3.1. The Right to Self-Defense. The most basic implication of a right is that it may be defended. Individuals therefore possess the right to employ the minimum force necessary to defend their rights, and therefore have the inherent right to protect themselves and their property from harm or aggression, whether from individuals or institutions.

Robert Schuon entered the meeting, but quorum was still not present.

The committee discussed the next portion of the platform to consist of planks pertaining to conflict resolution and the role of government. The entire revised platform including the planks that obtained consensus for future adoption were placed into ChatGPT to determine an idea for the next part of the platform and the following was generated as Proposal BX:

3. The Role of Government in Conflict Resolution. In a libertarian society, government is understood as an association of individuals, convened with the primary purpose of resolving conflicts. This collective is formed based on the mutual recognition that, while individual sovereignty is paramount, there are instances where conflicts—particularly

those involving rights violations and acts of violence—require an organized, impartial approach to resolution. The government, therefore, functions as a facilitator of conflict resolution, ensuring that individual rights are protected and upheld. Specifically:

3.1. The Right to Self-Defense. Individuals retain the inherent right to protect themselves and their property from harm or aggression. In doing so, they may exercise the minimum force necessary to defend their rights against both individual and institutional threats.

3.2. Voluntary Association for Arbitration. When conflicts arise, individuals may opt to form or seek an association, which in essence is the government, for the purpose of arbitration and restorative justice. This reflects a libertarian view that government is a voluntary collective for managing disputes, not an overarching authority.

3.3. Government as a Means of Resolving Rights Violations. The primary role of this association of individuals, or government, is to address situations where individual rights are violated. This includes the prevention and resolution of violence against individuals, safeguarding the rights to life, liberty, and property.

3.4. The Consent of the Governed. The actions and scope of this government are determined by the collective decision of its constituents. However, these decisions must always respect and not infringe upon the individual rights as outlined previously, maintaining the libertarian principle of non-coercion.

3.5. The Government's Role in Safeguarding Rights. From a libertarian perspective, the government's duty is to safeguard the rights outlined in this platform. It should provide a framework for impartial conflict resolution, uphold the principles of individual sovereignty, and ensure that any intervention it undertakes is strictly aimed at protecting the rights of individuals.

3.6. Limitation and Accountability of Government Power. The power of this government is inherently limited to its role in conflict resolution and rights protection. It must operate with transparency and be held accountable to the individuals it represents, ensuring that it remains a tool for upholding liberty rather than a source of coercion.

The generated text received generally positive reception from members of the committee, although there are portions that will need extensive review and modification.

The next meeting was set for Wednesday, January 3, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was **adjourned** at 9:15 p.m.

Andrew Martin Kolstee
Secretary of the Platform Committee