



**Report of the Platform Committee to the
Delegates of the Libertarian Party of Colorado
2019 State Convention**

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A large, stylized graphic of a torch flame in a muted olive-green color, positioned in the lower right quadrant of the page. It has a soft drop shadow and a white highlight on its left side, giving it a three-dimensional appearance.

Report prepared by Chair Harlos
Approved by Chair and Committee

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION TO RECOMMENDATIONS	6
PROPOSAL A: CONJOINED TWINS	7
<i>PROPOSED REVISION:</i>	7
<i>MOTION:</i>	7
PROPOSAL #1: STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES	8
<i>PROPOSED REVISION:</i>	8
<i>MOTION:</i>	9
PROPOSAL #2: IMPLEMENTATION	11
<i>PROPOSED REVISION:</i>	11
<i>MOTION:</i>	11
PROPOSAL #3: VICTIMLESS CRIMES	12
<i>PROPOSED REVISION:</i>	12
<i>MOTION:</i>	12
PROPOSAL #4: FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION	13
<i>PROPOSED REVISION:</i>	13
<i>MOTION:</i>	13
PROPOSAL #5: PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP	14
<i>PROPOSED REVISION:</i>	14
<i>MOTION:</i>	14
PROPOSALS #6 AND #7: PROPERTY	15
<i>PROPOSED REVISIONS: (THE COMMITTEE WILL PRESENT IN TWO SEPARATE MOTIONS)</i>	15
<i>MOTIONS:</i>	15
PROPOSAL #8: WELFARE	17
<i>PROPOSED REVISION:</i>	17
<i>MOTION:</i>	17
PROPOSAL #9: UTILITIES	18
<i>PROPOSED REVISION:</i>	18
<i>MOTION:</i>	18
PROPOSALS #10 AND #11: THE STATE	19
<i>PROPOSED REVISIONS: (THE COMMITTEE WILL PRESENT IN TWO SEPARATE MOTIONS)</i>	19
<i>MOTIONS:</i>	19
PROPOSAL #12: EQUAL TREATMENT	21

PROPOSED REVISION:	21
MOTION:	21
PROPOSAL #13: DEATH PENALTY	22
PROPOSED REVISION:	22
MOTION:	22
PROPOSALS #14 AND #15: ELECTIONS	23
PROPOSED REVISIONS: (THE COMMITTEE WILL PRESENT IN TWO SEPARATE MOTIONS)	23
MOTIONS:	23
PROPOSAL #16: COLORADO STATE SOVEREIGNTY	25
PROPOSED REVISION:	25
MOTION:	25
APPENDIX A: CURRENT PLATFORM	26
PREAMBLE	26
STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES	26
IMPLEMENTATION	27
THE INDIVIDUAL	27
VICTIMLESS CRIMES.....	27
FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION.....	27
PROTECTION OF PRIVACY	28
FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION	28
PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS.....	28
RIGHT TO SELF-DEFENSE	28
THE MARKET	28
TAXATION.....	29
HEALTHCARE.....	29
MONEY.....	29
LICENSING.....	29
PROPERTY.....	29
LABOR MARKETS.....	30
THE COMMUNITY	30
EDUCATION.....	30
ENVIRONMENT	30
WELFARE.....	31
UTILITIES.....	31
THE STATE	31
EQUAL TREATMENT	31
SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY.....	31
JUDICIAL	31
DEATH PENALTY	32
ELECTIONS.....	32
COLORADO STATE SOVEREIGNTY.....	32
OMISSIONS	32
APPENDIX B: PROPOSED REVISED PLATFORM WITH MARK-UP	33

PREAMBLE	33
STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES	33
IMPLEMENTATION	34
THE INDIVIDUAL	34
VICTIMLESS CRIMES.....	34
FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION.....	34
PROTECTION OF PRIVACY	35
FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION	35
PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS.....	35
RIGHT TO SELF-DEFENSE	35
THE MARKET	35
TAXATION.....	36
HEALTHCARE.....	36
MONEY.....	36
LICENSING.....	36
PROPERTY.....	37
LABOR MARKETS.....	37
THE COMMUNITY	37
EDUCATION.....	37
ENVIRONMENT	37
WELFARE.....	38
UTILITIES.....	38
THE STATE GOVERNMENT	38
EQUAL TREATMENT	38
SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY.....	38
JUDICIAL	38
DEATH PENALTY	39
ELECTIONS.....	39
SAFETY CLAUSE	39
SELF-DETERMINATION.....	39
COLORADO STATE SOVEREIGNTY.....	40
OMISSIONS	40
<u>APPENDIX C: PROPOSED REVISED PLATFORM WITHOUT MARK-UP</u>	<u>41</u>
PREAMBLE	41
STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES	41
IMPLEMENTATION	42
THE INDIVIDUAL	42
VICTIMLESS CRIMES.....	42
FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION.....	42
PROTECTION OF PRIVACY	43
FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION	43
PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS.....	43
RIGHT TO SELF-DEFENSE	43
THE MARKET	43
TAXATION.....	44
HEALTHCARE.....	44
MONEY.....	44
LICENSING.....	44

PROPERTY.....	44
LABOR MARKETS.....	45
THE COMMUNITY.....	45
EDUCATION.....	45
ENVIRONMENT.....	45
WELFARE.....	46
UTILITIES.....	46
THE GOVERNMENT.....	46
EQUAL TREATMENT.....	46
SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY.....	46
JUDICIAL.....	46
DEATH PENALTY.....	47
ELECTIONS.....	47
SAFETY CLAUSE.....	47
SELF-DETERMINATION.....	47
COLORADO STATE SOVEREIGNTY.....	47
OMISSIONS.....	48



INTRODUCTION TO RECOMMENDATIONS

The Platform of the Libertarian Party of Colorado was completely rewritten during the 2016 Convention with the goal of creating a much cleaner, easier to maintain, and concise statement of our core principles. This has proven true as Platform changes at subsequent conventions have been relatively minor, uncontroversial, and quickly decided. This committee expects this year to be no different and is proud to inform the delegates that each of the proposals we will be presenting, with only one exception with one dissenting vote, all of the other proposals were passed unanimously or without objection. Considering that putting one Libertarian in a room will result in 8.76 different opinions, this is quite an accomplishment, and we hope, speaks to the strength and quality of our recommendations. Since there was such agreement in the committee, the decision was made to present the proposals in the order that they appear in the current Platform.

As always it is a pleasure to serve the Party in this capacity.

Respectfully Submitted,

Caryn Ann Harlos, Platform Committee Chair

PROPOSAL A: CONJOINED TWINS

PASSED via trial by combat.

Problem: The Committee wished to make sure that people actually read this report.

Solution: Add this proposal to make sure.

PROPOSED REVISION:

Conjoined Twins

We hold that one conjoined twin has all the rights as any other individual, including the right to commit suicide.

MOTION:

Move to laugh at this proposal.

Conjoined Twins

We hold that one conjoined twin has all the rights as any other individual, including the right to commit suicide.

PROPOSAL #1: STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

PASSED without objection.

Problem: Pursuant to our affiliation with the National Party, the LPCO has ratified the complete Statement of Principles of the National Party. Further, our governing documents hold conformity to the Statement of Principles of the National Party as the benchmark and requirement for policy (no policy can contradict, and affiliates can be disaffiliated for doing so) and for holding certain positions (nominated candidates, National Convention delegates, and Board members). However, the complete text of the Statement of Principles is not incorporated into our Platform but rather, a modified version is. While there might be opinions on chosen wording, at the founding of the Party and in our National Bylaws the Statement of Principles is hard-coded with a nearly impossible to meet burden for amendment (7/8 of registered delegates at National Convention), and this was done intentionally. Modifying wording at the state level is the one thing we do not have the authority to do, and no matter what is put forth as an alternative, the reality is that we have adopted the National Party's Statement of Principles, and members should be able to view it as it is worded. This proposal would display the actual state of our ratification and adoption of the Statement of Principles as written rather than having the position of adopting two versions which does not avoid any wording but merely buries it. The importance of this is further emphasized by the actions of the 2018 national convention delegates who closed any potential backdoor to subvert the Statement of Principles, including the phrase in question.

Solution: Revert the Statement of Principles to match the wording of the National Party.

PROPOSED REVISION:

Statement of Principles

We, the members of the Libertarian Party, **challenge the cult of the omnipotent state and** defend the rights of the individual.

We hold that all individuals have the right to exercise sole dominion over their own lives, and have the right to live in whatever manner they choose, so long as they do not forcibly interfere with the equal right of others to live in whatever manner they choose.

Governments throughout history have regularly operated on the opposite principle, that the State has the right to dispose of the lives of individuals and the fruits of their labor. Even within the United States, all political parties other than our own grant to government the right to regulate the lives of individuals and seize the fruits of their labor without their consent.

We, on the contrary, deny the right of any government to do these things, and hold that where governments exist, they must not violate the rights of any individual: namely, (1) the right to life — accordingly we support the prohibition of the initiation of physical force against others; (2) the right to liberty of speech and action — accordingly we oppose all attempts by government to abridge the freedom of speech and press, as well as government censorship in any form; and (3) the right to property — accordingly we oppose all government interference with private property, such as confiscation, nationalization, and eminent domain, and support the prohibition of robbery, trespass, fraud, and misrepresentation.

Since governments, when instituted, must not violate individual rights, we oppose all interference by government in the areas of voluntary and contractual relations among individuals. People should not be forced to sacrifice their lives and property for the benefit of others. They should be left free by government to deal with one another as free traders; and the resultant economic system, the only one compatible with the protection of individual rights, is the free market.

MOTION:

Move to add the phrase “, challenge the cult of the omnipotent state and” between the phrases “members of the Libertarian Party” and “defend the rights of the individual” so that the Statement of Principles would then read as follows:

Statement of Principles

We, the members of the Libertarian Party, challenge the cult of the omnipotent state and defend the rights of the individual.

We hold that all individuals have the right to exercise sole dominion over their own lives, and have the right to live in whatever manner they choose, so long as they do not forcibly interfere with the equal right of others to live in whatever manner they choose.

Governments throughout history have regularly operated on the opposite principle, that the State has the right to dispose of the lives of individuals and the fruits of their labor. Even within the United States, all political parties other than our own grant to government the right to regulate the lives of individuals and seize the fruits of their labor without their consent.

We, on the contrary, deny the right of any government to do these things, and hold that where governments exist, they must not violate the rights of any individual: namely, (1) the right to life — accordingly we support the prohibition of the initiation of physical force against others; (2) the right to liberty of speech and action — accordingly we oppose all attempts by government to abridge the freedom of speech and press, as well as government censorship in any form; and (3) the right to property — accordingly we oppose all government interference with private property,

such as confiscation, nationalization, and eminent domain, and support the prohibition of robbery, trespass, fraud, and misrepresentation.

Since governments, when instituted, must not violate individual rights, we oppose all interference by government in the areas of voluntary and contractual relations among individuals. People should not be forced to sacrifice their lives and property for the benefit of others. They should be left free by government to deal with one another as free traders; and the resultant economic system, the only one compatible with the protection of individual rights, is the free market.

PROPOSAL #2: IMPLEMENTATION

PASSED without objection.

Problem: The present plank does not make clear that horse-trading individual rights is not an actual transition to a more Libertarian society. "Repeal and do not replace" has been a constant Libertarian principle. This would add succinct clarity to the plank which makes it clear that we also favor actual transitions or steps rather than just "all or nothing."

Solution: Add language to indicate that replacing abolished or reduced aggressive policies with fresh aggression is not moving policy in the direction of our goals.

PROPOSED REVISION:

Implementation

We support any measure that actually reduces, **and does not increase**, illegitimate governmental action or violations of the rights of the individual as put forth in our Preamble and Statement of Principles. While recognizing that change often takes the form of increments and transitions, the policies in the planks that follow are to be taken as quickly as possible.

MOTION:

Move to insert the words ", and does not increase," between the phrases "actually reduces" and "illegitimate governmental action" so that the Implementation plank would then read as follows:

Implementation

We support any measure that actually reduces, and does not increase, illegitimate governmental action or violations of the rights of the individual as put forth in our Preamble and Statement of Principles. While recognizing that change often takes the form of increments and transitions, the policies in the planks that follow are to be taken as quickly as possible.

PROPOSAL #3: VICTIMLESS CRIMES

PASSED without objection.

Problem: Referred by Style Committee because they felt that the addition of quotes around "crimes" was substantive enough to refer over. The reasoning is that in the context of the plank, victimless crimes are not really crimes at all and the plank refers to them as actual crimes, and the quotes put the context into the proper perspective as the fiction that they are.

Solution: Add the quotes.

PROPOSED REVISION:

Victimless Crimes

Criminal and civil laws should be limited to violations of the rights of others through fraud, force, or deliberate and credible threats of imminent force. We therefore reject all laws that create "crimes" without victims, for voluntary and consensual activities, such as but not limited to, the use of drugs for medicinal or recreational purposes, prostitution, and gambling. We also reject government placing itself as a proxy victim of alleged crimes.

MOTION:

Move to add double quotes around "crimes" in the second sentence, so that the Victimless Crimes plank would read as follows:

Victimless Crimes

Criminal and civil laws should be limited to violations of the rights of others through fraud, force, or deliberate and credible threats of imminent force. We therefore reject all laws that create "crimes" without victims, for voluntary and consensual activities, such as but not limited to, the use of drugs for medicinal or recreational purposes, prostitution, and gambling. We also reject government placing itself as a proxy victim of alleged crimes.

PROPOSAL #4: FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

PASSED without objection.

Problem: There is an alarming trend in our modern society to claim that offensive speech is not free speech nor should it be allowed. This undercuts the very concept of free speech. No one needs the right to speak freely to say only innocuous and lovely things, but also things that may go against the current views or government. The only way to fight bad ideas is with good ideas, and when words are taken away, violence becomes the only solution in the eyes of many as history has shown.

Solution: Add language to indicate that offensive speech is free speech and should not be punished by the state.

PROPOSED REVISION:

Freedom of Expression

We support full freedom of expression and oppose government censorship, regulation, or control of technology, or collusion with communications media. **Language that is perceived to be offensive to certain groups or individuals is not a cause for any legal action.** 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.

MOTION:

Move to insert the words "Language that is perceived to be offensive to certain groups or individuals is not a cause for any legal action." between the first and second sentences so that the Freedom of Expression plank would then read as follows:

Freedom of Expression

We support full freedom of expression and oppose government censorship, regulation, or control of technology, or collusion with communications media. Language that is perceived to be offensive to certain groups or individuals is not a cause for any legal action. 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.

PROPOSAL #5: PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP

PASSED without objection.

Problem: It is obvious to Libertarians what our positions imply, but it is not so obvious to outsiders. For instance, many hear that we oppose drug laws and assume that is simply about marijuana since that is the hot topic of the day. This of course is far from the truth. Similarly, with our statement that relationships should be by voluntary arrangement, outsiders typically read this to mean that people should be free to remain unmarried or that gay people should be free to marry. This, however, is not our whole position, and we need to be clear about that in our platform in the exact same way we are clear about that with drugs.

Solution: Add language that makes our position clear and mirrors the national platform in that sentence.

PROPOSED REVISION:

Personal Relationships

Sexual orientation, preference, gender, or gender identity should have no impact on the government's treatment of individuals, such as in marriage, child custody, adoption, immigration or military service laws. Government does not have the authority to define, license or restrict personal relationships. Consenting adults should be free to choose their own sexual practices and personal relationships, regardless of the number of participants. We favor the complete extrication of government from private consensual relationships.

MOTION:

Move to insert the words “, regardless of the number of participants” at the end of the second to last sentence so that the Personal Relationships plank would then read as follows:

Personal Relationships

Sexual orientation, preference, gender, or gender identity should have no impact on the government's treatment of individuals, such as in marriage, child custody, adoption, immigration or military service laws. Government does not have the authority to define, license or restrict personal relationships. Consenting adults should be free to choose their own sexual practices and personal relationships, regardless of the number of participants. We favor the complete extrication of government from private consensual relationships.

PROPOSALS #6 AND #7: PROPERTY

PASSED without objection.

PROPOSAL #6

Problem: It was understood by everyone in the formation of the Party that property included land and the buildings thereupon and nearly all of the early platforms would have been nonsensical without that understanding. This plank also would be rendered nonsensical without that understanding as it speaks about the opposition to taxation of real property. However, with the rise of socialism in our culture, and unfortunately in our Party, we need to be crystal clear to anyone reading our platform and not require parsing out later clauses in order to be sure that is our position.

Solution: Clearly include real property in the introductory sentence about property rights.

PROPOSAL #7

Problem: Referred by Style Committee to change "State" in both cases of the last sentence to "government." The committee thought that was potentially a substantive change and that it brings that sentence in line with the rest of the plank, which refers to government rather than the state.

Solution: Change both instances of "State" to "government."

PROPOSED REVISIONS: (the committee will present in two separate motions)

Property

We hold that rights to property, **including real property**, are individual rights and, as such, are entitled to the same protections as all other individual rights and that the owners of property have the full right to acquire, trade, control, use, dispose of, rent, collateralize, or in any manner enjoy their property without interference, until and unless the exercise of their control infringes the valid rights of others. Eminent domain, civil asset forfeiture, governmental limits on profits, governmental production mandates, and governmental controls on prices of goods and services (including wages, rents, and interest) are abridgements of fundamental rights. We support ending taxation of real property, which makes the **Stategovernment** the de facto owner of all lands and forces individuals to rent their homes and places of business from the **Stategovernment**.

MOTIONS:

PROPOSAL #6

Move to insert “, including real property,” between the phrases “We hold that rights to property” and “are individual rights” in the first sentence so that the Property plank would then read as follows:

Property

We hold that rights to property, including real property, are individual rights and, as such, are entitled to the same protections as all other individual rights and that the owners of property have the full right to acquire, trade, control, use, dispose of, rent, collateralize, or in any manner enjoy their property without interference, until and unless the exercise of their control infringes the valid rights of others. Eminent domain, civil asset forfeiture, governmental limits on profits, governmental production mandates, and governmental controls on prices of goods and services (including wages, rents, and interest) are abridgements of fundamental rights. We support ending taxation of real property, which makes the State the de facto owner of all lands and forces individuals to rent their homes and places of business from the State.

PROPOSAL #7

Move to amend the Property plank by changing in the last sentence both instances of “State” to “government”, so that the Property plank would read as follows:

Property

We hold that rights to property, including real property,¹ are individual rights and, as such, are entitled to the same protections as all other individual rights and that the owners of property have the full right to acquire, trade, control, use, dispose of, rent, collateralize, or in any manner enjoy their property without interference, until and unless the exercise of their control infringes the valid rights of others. Eminent domain, civil asset forfeiture, governmental limits on profits, governmental production mandates, and governmental controls on prices of goods and services (including wages, rents, and interest) are abridgements of fundamental rights. We support ending taxation of real property, which makes the government the de facto owner of all lands and forces individuals to rent their homes and places of business from the government.

¹ If Proposal #6 is passed, otherwise that phrase will not be included.

PROPOSAL #8: WELFARE

PASSED without objection.

Problem: Referred by Style Committee to clarify what “help” means in the second sentence, and if “assistance” is a better term.

Solution: Replace term to clarify meaning and intent.

PROPOSED REVISION:

Welfare

The forced taking of property from an individual for the benefit of others is a violation of individual rights. The most effective source of **help**assistance for others is voluntary efforts of private groups and individuals.

MOTION:

Move to amend by changing “help” to “assistance” in the second sentence, so that the Welfare plank would read as follows:

Welfare

The forced taking of property from an individual for the benefit of others is a violation of individual rights. The most effective source of assistance for others is voluntary efforts of private groups and individuals.

PROPOSAL #9: UTILITIES

PASSED without objection.

Problem: Wording of "state" vs. "government" is inconsistent.

Solution: Amend to fix.

PROPOSED REVISION:

Utilities

We advocate the termination of government regulated franchise privileges and governmental monopolies for public services. The right to offer such services on the market should not be curtailed by the **stategovernment**.

MOTION:

Move to amend the Utilities plank by changing "state" to "government" in the last sentence, so that the Utilities plank would read as follows:

Utilities

We advocate the termination of government regulated franchise privileges and governmental monopolies for public services. The right to offer such services on the market should not be curtailed by the government.

PROPOSALS #10 AND #11: THE STATE

PASSED without objection.

PROPOSAL #10

Problem: While the more precise term is “state”; it is easily misunderstood by the general public as referring just to a particular state, such as the state of Colorado.

Solution: Replace with the more general term “government.”

PROPOSAL #11

Problem: Governments deal with people, not merely citizens, and some of the people that the government may deal with are non-citizens. The principle of non-initiation of force should apply to every person, regardless of any organization's categorizations. As is, language is collectivist and insufficient.

Solution: Change the term “citizens” to “individuals.”

PROPOSED REVISIONS: (the committee will present in two separate motions)

The StateGovernment

The principle of non-initiation of force should guide governments and **citizensindividuals**. We call for a non-interventionist foreign policy and recognize the rights to unrestricted travel, trade and immigration while reserving the right to defend against specific and credible threats.

MOTIONS:

PROPOSAL #10

Move to amend the State plank by changing “State” to “Government” in the title, so that the State plank would read as follows:

The Government

The principle of non-initiation of force should guide governments and citizens. We call for a non-interventionist foreign policy and recognize the rights to unrestricted travel, trade and immigration while reserving the right to defend against specific and credible threats.

PROPOSAL #11

Move to amend the **Government (or State) plank²** by changing “citizens” to “individuals” in the first sentence, so that the plank would read as follows:

The Government

The principle of non-initiation of force should guide governments and individuals. We call for a non-interventionist foreign policy and recognize the rights to unrestricted travel, trade and immigration while reserving the right to defend against specific and credible threats.

²The title of the plank depends on whether or not Proposal #10 is passed.

PROPOSAL #12: EQUAL TREATMENT

PASSED without objection.

Problem: The present plank does not clearly distinguish between government/public and private actors. Private actors, unlike the government, have an absolute right to refuse to associate or provide service to anyone for any reason (i.e. you do not have to “bake the cake”).

Solution: Re-assert that governments are under stricter standards than private individuals who do not give up their freedoms to associate and contract.

PROPOSED REVISION:

Equal Treatment

Government should not deny, abridge, or enhance any individual's human rights based upon sex, wealth, ethnicity, creed, age, national origin, personal habits and preferences, political affiliation, gender, gender identity, or sexual orientation. Any laws which currently do so should be repealed rather than extended to all groups.

However, freedom of association and contracts should not be denied or restricted in private consensual arrangements or agreements.

MOTION:

Move to add the sentence “However, freedom of association and contracts should not be denied or restricted in private consensual arrangements or agreements.” to the end of the current plank so that the Equal Treatment Plank read as follows:

Equal Treatment

Government should not deny, abridge, or enhance any individual's human rights based upon sex, wealth, ethnicity, creed, age, national origin, personal habits and preferences, political affiliation, gender, gender identity, or sexual orientation. Any laws which currently do so should be repealed rather than extended to all groups. However, freedom of association and contracts should not be denied or restricted in private consensual arrangements or agreements.

PROPOSAL #13: DEATH PENALTY

PASSED 4-1.

Problem: There is an inconsistent use of the words "state" and "government" in the last sentence of this plank so one word or the other should be chosen. Since states are involuntary and governments can be voluntary, "state" is the right word to use here though this committee has preferred "government" over "state" elsewhere since the nuance makes a substantive difference in this plank.

Solution: Change the wording in order to clarify the opposition to *involuntary* irreversible edicts and provide consistent use of terms.

PROPOSED REVISION:

Death Penalty

The death penalty is irreversible and no recompense for a violation of an individual's right to life can be made for an execution later found to be in error. Given the fallibility of any judicial system, punishments that cannot be reversed or compensated for should not be levied. Even if the death penalty were morally appropriate, it cannot be implemented without risking the execution of innocents. Since it is impossible to trust any **government state** with this kind of power, we reject all state-sanctioned death penalty laws.

MOTION:

Move to change the word "government" to "state" in its first use in the last sentence of the plank so that the Death Penalty would read as follows:

Death Penalty

The death penalty is irreversible and no recompense for a violation of an individual's right to life can be made for an execution later found to be in error. Given the fallibility of any judicial system, punishments that cannot be reversed or compensated for should not be levied. Even if the death penalty were morally appropriate, it cannot be implemented without risking the execution of innocents. Since it is impossible to trust any state with this kind of power, we reject all state-sanctioned death penalty laws.

PROPOSALS #14 AND #15: ELECTIONS

PASSED without objection.

Proposal #14

Problem: After the recent passage of Propositions 107 and 108 in 2017, it has become necessary to clearly state the Party's position on the means that private political parties can use to determine their candidates, which in Colorado historically included caucuses.

Solution: Add the word "caucuses" to the list of means of internal candidate nominations by political parties.

Proposal #15

Problem: With the runaway legislature selling out Colorado's Electoral College votes through the National Popular Vote Compact, it has become necessary to clearly state the Party's opposition to sacrificing Colorado's Electoral College Sovereignty to other states that have little if any political interest or affiliation with Colorado.

Solution: Add language to clearly and unequivocally state our opposition.

PROPOSED REVISIONS: (the committee will present in two separate motions)

Elections

We support election systems that are more representative of the electorate at the national, state and local levels. As private voluntary groups, political parties should be allowed to establish their own rules for nomination procedures, primaries, **caucuses**, and conventions. We call for an end to any tax-financed subsidies to candidates or parties and the repeal of all laws which restrict voluntary individual financing of election campaigns. We oppose laws that effectively exclude alternative candidates and parties, deny ballot access, gerrymander districts, or deny the voters their right to consider all legitimate alternatives. We support the addition of the alternative "none of the above" is acceptable to all ballots. In the event that "none of the above" wins, the elective office for that term will remain unfilled and unfunded. **We oppose all attempts to bind Colorado's Presidential Electors to the national popular vote.**

MOTIONS:

Proposal #14

Move to amend the Elections plank by adding ", caucuses," just after primaries in the second sentence, so that the Elections plank would read as follows:

Elections

We support election systems that are more representative of the electorate at the national, state and local levels. As private voluntary groups, political parties should be allowed to establish their own rules for nomination procedures, primaries, caucuses, and conventions. We call for an end to any tax-financed subsidies to candidates or parties and the repeal of all laws which restrict voluntary individual financing of election campaigns. We oppose laws that effectively exclude alternative candidates and parties, deny ballot access, gerrymander districts, or deny the voters their right to consider all legitimate alternatives. We support the addition of the alternative "none of the above" is acceptable to all ballots. In the event that "none of the above" wins, the elective office for that term will remain unfilled and unfunded.

Proposal #15

Move to amend the Elections plank by adding " We oppose all attempts to bind Colorado's Presidential Electors to the national popular vote." to the end of the plank, so the Elections plank would read as follows:

Elections

We support election systems that are more representative of the electorate at the national, state and local levels. As private voluntary groups, political parties should be allowed to establish their own rules for nomination procedures, primaries, caucuses,³ and conventions. We call for an end to any tax-financed subsidies to candidates or parties and the repeal of all laws which restrict voluntary individual financing of election campaigns. We oppose laws that effectively exclude alternative candidates and parties, deny ballot access, gerrymander districts, or deny the voters their right to consider all legitimate alternatives. We support the addition of the alternative "none of the above" is acceptable to all ballots. In the event that "none of the above" wins, the elective office for that term will remain unfilled and unfunded. **We oppose all attempts to bind Colorado's Presidential Electors to the national popular vote.**

³ If Proposal #6 is passed, otherwise that phrase will not be included.

PROPOSAL #16: COLORADO STATE SOVEREIGNTY

PASSED without objection.

Problem: The present language needs more strength in asserting the vertical separation of powers within a republican form of government, which includes the reservation of powers and privileges to the states in relation to the federal government, and also includes prohibiting the federal commandeering of state government resources to do or assist with the federal government's job. This is essential in ending the Drug War and any other federal compulsion upon states to enforce federal laws against their consent.

Solution: Add language asserting the explicit separation of powers in the federal Constitution and the rights of states to be free from interference or subjugation.

PROPOSED REVISION:

Colorado State Sovereignty

In a free society, any existing governments are established of, by, and for the people. The United States Constitution specifies which powers the federal government may exercise, and **explicitly** forbids any others. We oppose unfunded Federal mandates and coercion of State Legislatures by threats to withhold Federal funds. **We support full enforcement of all anti-commandeering laws.**

MOTION:

Move to add the word "explicitly" prior to the phrase "forbids any others" from the end of the second sentence and add the sentence "We support full enforcement of all anti-commandeering laws." to the end of the plank, so that the Colorado State Sovereignty plank would then read as follows:

Colorado State Sovereignty

In a free society, any existing governments are established of, by, and for the people. The United States Constitution specifies which powers the federal government may exercise, and explicitly forbids any others. We oppose unfunded Federal mandates and coercion of State Legislatures by threats to withhold Federal funds. We support full enforcement of all anti-commandeering laws.

APPENDIX A: CURRENT PLATFORM

Preamble

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.

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. Consequently, we defend each person's right to engage in any activity that is peaceful and honest, and we 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.

We hold that individuals have inherent sovereign rights to their own bodies and property. As such, we support the prohibition of the initiation of physical force and fraud against other people and their property, including their labor and the fruits thereof, by anyone. These principles guide Libertarian policy positions in every area. Our goal is nothing less than a world set free in our lifetime, and it is to this end that we take these stands.

Statement of Principles

We, the members of the Libertarian Party, defend the rights of the individual.

We hold that all individuals have the right to exercise sole dominion over their own lives, and have the right to live in whatever manner they choose, so long as they do not forcibly interfere with the equal right of others to live in whatever manner they choose.

Governments throughout history have regularly operated on the opposite principle, that the State has the right to dispose of the lives of individuals and the fruits of their labor. Even within the United States, all political parties other than our own grant to government the right to regulate the lives of individuals and seize the fruits of their labor without their consent.

We, on the contrary, deny the right of any government to do these things, and hold that where governments exist, they must not violate the rights of any individual: namely, (1) the right to life — accordingly we support the prohibition of the initiation of physical force against others; (2) the right to liberty of speech and action — accordingly we oppose all attempts by government to abridge the freedom of speech and press, as well as government censorship in any form; and (3) the right to

property — accordingly we oppose all government interference with private property, such as confiscation, nationalization, and eminent domain, and support the prohibition of robbery, trespass, fraud, and misrepresentation.

Since governments, when instituted, must not violate individual rights, we oppose all interference by government in the areas of voluntary and contractual relations among individuals. People should not be forced to sacrifice their lives and property for the benefit of others. They should be left free by government to deal with one another as free traders; and the resultant economic system, the only one compatible with the protection of individual rights, is the free market.

Implementation

We support any measure that actually reduces illegitimate governmental action or violations of the rights of the individual as put forth in our Preamble and Statement of Principles. While recognizing that change often takes the form of increments and transitions, the policies in the planks that follow are to be taken as quickly as possible.

The Individual

Individuals own their bodies and have rights over them that other individuals, groups, and governments may not violate. Individuals have the freedom and responsibility to decide what they knowingly and voluntarily consume, and what risks they accept to their own health, finances, safety, or life. Individuals should be free to make choices for themselves and to accept responsibility for the consequences of the choices they make provided those choices do not violate the rights of others. Our support of an individual's right to make choices in life does not mean that we necessarily approve or disapprove of those choices.

Victimless Crimes

Criminal and civil laws should be limited to violations of the rights of others through fraud, force, or deliberate and credible threats of imminent force. We therefore reject all laws that create crimes without victims, for voluntary and consensual activities, such as but not limited to, the use of drugs for medicinal or recreational purposes, prostitution, and gambling. We also reject government placing itself as a proxy victim of alleged crimes.

Freedom of Expression

We support full freedom of expression and oppose government censorship, regulation, or control of technology, or collusion with communications media. 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.

Protection of Privacy

Libertarians advocate individual privacy and call for government transparency. We condemn government's practice of spying on its own citizens. We support the rights recognized by the Fourth Amendment to be secure in our persons, homes, property, and communications. Protection from unreasonable search and seizure includes records held by third parties, such as, but not limited to, email, library, medical, and phone records.

Freedom of Association

Libertarians embrace the concept that all people are born with certain inherent rights and reject the idea that those rights can impose an obligation upon any other person or non-government organization to fulfill that right. The right to trade includes the right not to trade—for any reason. The right of association includes the right not to associate—for any reason. The right to contract includes the right not to contract—for any reason. Individuals and business owners retain their rights and privileges to set their own standards of association and terms of voluntary interaction. Other individuals and business owners are free to respond with ostracism, boycotts, and other free market solutions. We therefore favor the repeal of any governmental attempts to regulate any private association, including public accommodations laws.

Personal Relationships

Sexual orientation, preference, gender, or gender identity should have no impact on the government's treatment of individuals, such as in marriage, child custody, adoption, immigration or military service laws. Government does not have the authority to define, license or restrict personal relationships. Consenting adults should be free to choose their own sexual practices and personal relationships. We favor the complete extrication of government from private consensual relationships.

Right to Self-Defense

The only legitimate use of force is reasonable and proportional defense of individual rights—life, liberty, and justly acquired property--against aggression. This right inheres in the individual, who may seek to be, or agree to be aided by any other individual or group in the exercise of the right to self-defense. Maintaining our belief in the inviolability of the right to keep and bear arms, we reject all laws at any level of government restricting, registering, or monitoring the ownership, manufacture, transport or transfer of any item or tool that could be used for reasonable and proportional self-defense.

The Market

We believe that each person has the right to offer goods and services to others on the free market. Private entities should be free to choose with whom they trade and set whatever trade terms are mutually agreeable. Therefore we oppose all intervention by government into the area of economics. The only proper role, if any of existing governments in the economic realm is to protect property rights, adjudicate disputes, and provide a legal framework in which voluntary trade is protected. Efforts to forcibly redistribute wealth or forcibly manage, regulate or impede trade violate individual rights. We believe that all individuals have the right to dispose of the fruits of their labor as they see fit.

Taxation

Taxation is government confiscation of the property of its citizens through the use of force. Because of its non-voluntary nature, it cannot be justified, regardless of the purpose. Therefore we oppose coercive taxation, and we support any and all initiatives to reduce or abolish any tax, and oppose any initiatives to increase any tax or add new ones. We advocate that all public services be funded in a voluntary manner such as through contributions, lotteries, subscriptions, and user fees. We contend that a tax by any other name, including a fee, excise, or assessment, is still a tax.

Healthcare

We support a free market health care system and oppose government mandates in insurance and healthcare. We recognize the freedom of individuals to determine the services they want (if any) and all other aspects of their medical care, including end-of-life decisions. People should be free to purchase health insurance across state lines.

Money

Individuals engaged in voluntary exchange should be free to use as money any mutually agreeable commodity or item. We oppose inflationary monetary policies and unconstitutional legal tender laws. We oppose government use of debt to conceal or cover the cost of their expenditures.

Licensing

Licensing is a method for government to convert a natural right into a privilege, and then require one to pay fees to the government to exercise. Privileges can be and often are revoked by government and allow for stifling of competition to create government-mandated monopolies. Rights must be held inviolate, and no one should be forced to pay to exercise a right. We encourage certifications by voluntary associations of professionals.

Property

We hold that rights to property are individual rights and, as such, are entitled to the same protections as all other individual rights and that the owners of property have the full right to acquire, trade, control, use, dispose of, rent, collateralize, or in any manner enjoy their property without interference, until and unless the exercise of their control infringes the valid rights of others. Eminent domain, civil asset forfeiture, governmental limits on profits, governmental production mandates, and governmental controls on prices of goods and services (including wages, rents, and interest) are abridgements of fundamental rights. We support ending taxation of real property, which makes the State the de facto owner of all lands and forces individuals to rent their homes and places of business from the State.

Labor Markets

The contract between an employer and employee is a voluntary relationship, where both sides choose to enter into it and can only fairly negotiate on the terms of the contract without interference by government. We support the right of employers and employees to freely choose whether or not to bargain with each other through a third party, such as a labor union. There is neither inherent "right to work" nor a "right to unionize," merely the freedom for all to negotiate conditions of employment.

The Community

Free and voluntary societies provide the best potential for all members of society to succeed and flourish. A free and competitive market for all services will allocate resources in the most efficient manner. Voluntary cooperation and charity between people meets the needs of others without violating rights through coercion and force. Current problems in many societal areas such as energy, pollution, public services, and poverty are not solved, but instead are caused or exacerbated, by government.

Education

Education is a matter of conscience, values, and free expression, as much as assembly, press, religion, or speech. Accordingly we advocate the complete separation of school and state, ending government ownership, operation, regulation, and subsidy of schools, colleges, and universities. Until that time, any government funds for education should be put entirely under parental and student control, for use in schools of choice (including, but not limited to, private, parochial, and home schooling) or to carry forward for education in a future year.

Environment

Pollution of air, water, and land violates rights. Polluters, including government, should have strict liability for harms caused by pollution. Strict liability, not government agencies or arbitrary government standards should regulate pollution.

Welfare

The forced taking of property from an individual for the benefit of others is a violation of individual rights. The most effective source of help for others is voluntary efforts of private groups and individuals.

Utilities

We advocate the termination of government regulated franchise privileges and governmental monopolies for public services. The right to offer such services on the market should not be curtailed by the state.

The State

The principle of non-initiation of force should guide governments and citizens. We call for a non-interventionist foreign policy and recognize the rights to unrestricted travel, trade, and immigration while reserving the right to defend against specific and credible threats.

Equal Treatment

Government should not deny, abridge, or enhance any individual's human right based upon sex, wealth, ethnicity, creed, age, national origin, personal habits and preferences, political affiliation, gender, gender identity, or sexual orientation. And any laws which currently do so should be repealed rather than extended to all groups.

Sovereign Immunity

Neither government agencies nor their representatives should be exempted from laws, statutes, and regulations applicable to everyone else. We favor an immediate end to the doctrine of Sovereign Immunity which ignores the primacy of the individual over the abstraction of the State, and holds that the State, contrary to the tradition of redress of grievances, may not be sued without its permission or held accountable for its actions under civil law. Government agents should be subject to civil and criminal liability for any injuries caused by their actions, without regard to whether those actions occurred during the course of their duties.

Judicial

The only real crimes are crimes of violence or threat of violence, property loss, and fraud where an individual is a victim. The judicial process should be an earnest attempt, through due process of law, to extract reasonable restitution from a person convicted of a crime and to convey that restitution to the victim, to imprison or exclude criminals from society when necessary, to hold persons liable for damage they do, and to fairly settle contract disputes in which the parties have not voluntarily opted for private dispute resolution. A criminal, having paid for the crime, should be

accorded full restoration of liberty. We assert the common-law right of juries to judge not only the facts but also the justice of the law.

Death Penalty

The death penalty is irreversible and no recompense for a violation of an individual's right to life can be made for an execution later found to be in error. Given the fallibility of any judicial system, punishments that cannot be reversed or compensated for should not be levied. Even if the death penalty were morally appropriate, it cannot be implemented without risking the execution of innocents. Since it is impossible to trust any government with this kind of power, we reject all state-sanctioned death penalty laws.

Elections

We support election systems that are more representative of the electorate at the national, state and local levels. As private voluntary groups, political parties should be allowed to establish their own rules for nomination procedures, primaries, and conventions. We call for an end to any tax-financed subsidies to candidates or parties and the repeal of all laws which restrict voluntary individual financing of election campaigns. We oppose laws that effectively exclude alternative candidates and parties, deny ballot access, gerrymander districts, or deny the voters their right to consider all legitimate alternatives. We support the addition of the alternative "none of the above" is acceptable to all ballots. In the event that "none of the above" wins, the elective office for that term will remain unfilled and unfunded.

Colorado State Sovereignty

In a free society, any existing governments are established of, by, and for the people. The United States Constitution specifies which powers the federal government may exercise, and forbids any others. We oppose unfunded Federal mandates and coercion of State Legislatures by threats to withhold Federal funds.

Omissions

Our silence about any other particular government law, regulation, ordinance, directive, edict, control, regulatory agency, activity, or machination, including the existence of any particular governmental system, should not be construed to imply approval or disapproval. In every matter, we adhere to the consistent application of the principle of the non-initiation of physical force or fraud.

Preamble

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.

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. Consequently, we defend each person's right to engage in any activity that is peaceful and honest, and we 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.

We hold that individuals have inherent sovereign rights to their own bodies and property. As such, we support the prohibition of the initiation of physical force and fraud against other people and their property, including their labor and the fruits thereof, by anyone. These principles guide Libertarian policy positions in every area. Our goal is nothing less than a world set free in our lifetime, and it is to this end that we take these stands.

Statement of Principles

We, the members of the Libertarian Party, **challenge the cult of the omnipotent state and** defend the rights of the individual.

We hold that all individuals have the right to exercise sole dominion over their own lives, and have the right to live in whatever manner they choose, so long as they do not forcibly interfere with the equal right of others to live in whatever manner they choose.

Governments throughout history have regularly operated on the opposite principle, that the State has the right to dispose of the lives of individuals and the fruits of their labor. Even within the United States, all political parties other than our own grant to government the right to regulate the lives of individuals and seize the fruits of their labor without their consent.

We, on the contrary, deny the right of any government to do these things, and hold that where governments exist, they must not violate the rights of any individual: namely, (1) the right to life — accordingly we support the prohibition of the initiation of physical force against others; (2) the right to liberty of speech and action — accordingly we oppose all attempts by government to abridge the freedom of

speech and press, as well as government censorship in any form; and (3) the right to property — accordingly we oppose all government interference with private property, such as confiscation, nationalization, and eminent domain, and support the prohibition of robbery, trespass, fraud, and misrepresentation.

Since governments, when instituted, must not violate individual rights, we oppose all interference by government in the areas of voluntary and contractual relations among individuals. People should not be forced to sacrifice their lives and property for the benefit of others. They should be left free by government to deal with one another as free traders; and the resultant economic system, the only one compatible with the protection of individual rights, is the free market.

Implementation

We support any measure that actually reduces, **and does not increase**, illegitimate governmental action or violations of the rights of the individual as put forth in our Preamble and Statement of Principles. While recognizing that change often takes the form of increments and transitions, the policies in the planks that follow are to be taken as quickly as possible.

The Individual

Individuals own their bodies and have rights over them that other individuals, groups, and governments may not violate. Individuals have the freedom and responsibility to decide what they knowingly and voluntarily consume, and what risks they accept to their own health, finances, safety, or life. Individuals should be free to make choices for themselves and to accept responsibility for the consequences of the choices they make provided those choices do not violate the rights of others. Our support of an individual's right to make choices in life does not mean that we necessarily approve or disapprove of those choices.

Victimless Crimes

Criminal and civil laws should be limited to violations of the rights of others through fraud, or force, or and credible threats of imminent force. We therefore reject all laws that create "crimes" without victims such as the use of drugs for medicinal or recreational purposes, prostitution, and gambling.

Freedom of Expression

We support full freedom of expression and oppose government censorship, regulation, or control of technology, or collusion with communications media. **Language that is perceived to be offensive to certain groups or individuals is not a cause for any legal action.** 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.

Protection of Privacy

Libertarians advocate individual privacy and call for government transparency. We condemn government's practice of spying on citizens and non-citizens without probable cause and due process. We support the property rights recognized by the Fourth Amendment to be secure in our persons, homes, property, and communications, and other effects, including data held by third parties, such as, but not limited to, email, library, medical, and phone records.

Freedom of Association

Libertarians embrace the concept that all people are born with certain inherent rights and reject the idea that those rights can impose an obligation upon any other person or non-government organization to fulfill that right. The right to trade includes the right not to trade--for any reason. The right of association includes the right not to associate--for any reason. The right to contract includes the right not to contract--for any reason. Exercise of these rights depends upon mutual consent. Individuals and business owners retain their rights and privileges to set their own standards of association and terms of voluntary interaction. Other individuals and business owners are free to respond with ostracism, boycotts, and other free market solutions. We therefore favor the repeal of any governmental attempts to regulate any private association, including public accommodations laws.

Personal Relationships

Sexual orientation, preference, gender, or gender identity should have no impact on the government's treatment of individuals, such as in marriage, child custody, adoption, immigration or military service laws. Government does not have the authority to define, license or restrict personal relationships. Consenting adults should be free to choose their own sexual practices and personal relationships, **regardless of the number of participants**. We favor the complete extrication of government from private consensual relationships.

Right to Self-Defense

The only legitimate use of force is reasonable and proportional defense of individual rights—life, liberty, and justly acquired property--against aggression. This right inheres in the individual, who may seek to be, or agree to be aided by any other individual or group in the exercise of the right to self-defense. Maintaining our belief in the inviolability of the right to keep and bear arms, we reject all laws at any level of government restricting, registering, or monitoring the ownership, manufacture, transport or transfer of any item or tool that could be used for reasonable and proportional self-defense.

The Market

We believe that each person has the right to offer goods and services to others on the free market. Private entities should be free to choose with whom they trade and set whatever trade terms are mutually agreeable. Therefore we oppose all intervention by government into the area of economics. The only proper role, if any of existing governments in the economic realm is to protect property rights, adjudicate disputes, and provide a legal framework in which voluntary trade is protected. Efforts to forcibly redistribute wealth or forcibly manage, regulate or impede trade violate individual rights. We believe that all individuals have the right to dispose of the fruits of their labor as they see fit.

Taxation

Taxation is government confiscation of the property of its citizens through the use of force. Because of its non-voluntary nature, it cannot be justified, regardless of the purpose. Therefore we oppose coercive taxation, and we support any and all initiatives to reduce or abolish any tax, and oppose any initiatives to increase any tax or add new ones. We advocate that all public services be funded in a voluntary manner such as through contributions, lotteries, subscriptions, and user fees. We contend that a tax by any other name, including a fee, excise, or assessment, is still a tax.

Healthcare

We support a free market health care system and oppose government mandates in insurance and healthcare. We recognize the freedom of individuals to determine the services they want (if any) and all other aspects of their medical care, including end-of-life decisions. People should be free to purchase health insurance across state lines.

Money

Individuals engaged in voluntary exchange should be free to use as money any mutually agreeable commodity or item. We oppose inflationary monetary policies and unconstitutional legal tender laws. We oppose government use of debt to conceal or cover the cost of their expenditures.

Licensing

Licensing is a method for government to convert a natural right into a privilege, and then require one to pay fees to the government to exercise. Privileges can be and often are revoked by government and allow for stifling of competition to create government-mandated monopolies. Rights must be held inviolate, and no one should be forced to pay to exercise a right. We encourage certifications by voluntary associations of professionals.

Property

We hold that rights to property, **including real property**, are individual rights and, as such, are entitled to the same protections as all other individual rights and that the owners of property have the full right to acquire, trade, control, use, dispose of, rent, collateralize, or in any manner enjoy their property without interference, until and unless the exercise of their control infringes the valid rights of others. Eminent domain, civil asset forfeiture, governmental limits on profits, governmental production mandates, and governmental controls on prices of goods and services (including wages, rents, and interest) are abridgements of fundamental rights. We support ending taxation of real property, which makes the **State government** the de facto owner of all lands and forces individuals to rent their homes and places of business from the **State government**.

Labor Markets

The contract between an employer and employee is a voluntary relationship, where both sides choose to enter into it and can only fairly negotiate on the terms of the contract without interference by government. We support the right of employers and employees to freely choose whether or not to bargain with each other through a third party, such as a labor union. There is neither inherent "right to work" nor a "right to unionize," merely the freedom for all to negotiate conditions of employment.

The Community

Free and voluntary societies provide the best potential for all members of society to succeed and flourish. A free and competitive market for all services will allocate resources in the most efficient manner. Voluntary cooperation and charity between people meets the needs of others without violating rights through coercion and force. Current problems in many societal areas such as energy, pollution, public services, and poverty are not solved, but instead are caused or exacerbated, by government.

Education

Education is a matter of conscience, values, and free expression, as much as assembly, press, religion, or speech. Accordingly we advocate the complete separation of school and state, ending government ownership, operation, regulation, and subsidy of schools, colleges, and universities. Until that time, any government funds for education should be put entirely under parental and student control, for use in schools of choice (including, but not limited to, private, parochial, and home schooling) or to carry forward for education in a future year.

Environment

Pollution of air, water, and land violates rights. Polluters, including government, should have strict liability for harms caused by pollution. Strict liability, not government agencies or arbitrary government standards should regulate pollution.

Welfare

The forced taking of property from an individual for the benefit of others is a violation of individual rights. The most effective source of **help**assistance for others is voluntary efforts of private groups and individuals.

Utilities

We advocate the termination of government regulated franchise privileges and governmental monopolies for public services. The right to offer such services on the market should not be curtailed by the state.

The **State** Government

The principle of non-initiation of force should guide governments and **citizens** individuals. We call for a non-interventionist foreign policy and recognize the rights to unrestricted travel, trade, and immigration while reserving the right to defend against specific and credible threats.

Equal Treatment

Government should not deny, abridge, or enhance any individual's human right based upon sex, wealth, ethnicity, creed, age, national origin, personal habits and preferences, political affiliation, gender, gender identity, or sexual orientation. Any laws which currently do so should be repealed rather than extended to all groups. **However, freedom of association and contracts should not be denied or restricted in private consensual arrangements or agreements.**

Sovereign Immunity

Neither government agencies nor their representatives should be exempted from laws, statutes, and regulations applicable to everyone else. We favor an immediate end to the doctrine of Sovereign Immunity which ignores the primacy of the individual over the abstraction of the State, and holds that the State, contrary to the tradition of redress of grievances, may not be sued without its permission or held accountable for its actions under civil law. Government agents should be subject to civil and criminal liability for any injuries caused by their actions, without regard to whether those actions occurred during the course of their duties.

Judicial

The only real crimes are crimes of violence or threat of violence, property loss, and fraud where an individual is a victim. The judicial process should be an earnest attempt, through due process of law, to extract reasonable restitution from a person convicted of a crime and to convey that restitution to the victim, to imprison or exclude criminals from society when necessary, to hold persons liable for damage they do, and to fairly settle contract disputes in which the parties have not voluntarily opted for private dispute resolution. A criminal, having paid for the crime, should be accorded full restoration of liberty. We assert the common-law right of juries to judge not only the facts but also the justice of the law.

Death Penalty

The death penalty is irreversible and no recompense for a violation of an individual's right to life can be made for an execution later found to be in error. Given the fallibility of any judicial system, punishments that cannot be reversed or compensated for should not be levied. Even if the death penalty were morally appropriate, it cannot be implemented without risking the execution of innocents. Since it is impossible to trust any **governmentstate** with this kind of power, we reject all state-sanctioned death penalty laws.

Elections

We support election systems that are more representative of the electorate at the national, state and local levels. As private voluntary groups, political parties should be allowed to establish their own rules for nomination procedures, primaries, **caucuses**, and conventions. We call for an end to any tax-financed subsidies to candidates or parties and the repeal of all laws which restrict voluntary individual financing of election campaigns. We oppose laws that effectively exclude alternative candidates and parties, deny ballot access, gerrymander districts, or deny the voters their right to consider all legitimate alternatives. We support the addition of the alternative "none of the above" is acceptable to all ballots. In the event that "none of the above" wins, the elective office for that term will remain unfilled and unfunded. **We oppose all attempts to bind Colorado's Presidential Electors to the national popular vote.**

Safety Clause

We adamantly oppose the attachment of a "Safety Clause" to any bill approved by the legislature. Use of the "Safety Clause" limits the ability of the electorate to reject improper bills.

Self-Determination

We recognize the right to political and personal self-determination, including—if necessary—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.

In a free society, any existing governments are established of, by, and for the people. The United States Constitution specifies which powers the federal government may exercise, and **explicitly** forbids any others. We oppose unfunded Federal mandates and coercion of State Legislatures by threats to withhold Federal funds. **We support full enforcement of all anti-commandeering laws.**

Omissions

Our silence about any other particular government law, regulation, ordinance, directive, edict, control, regulatory agency, activity, or machination, including the existence of any particular governmental system, should not be construed to imply approval or disapproval. In every matter, we adhere to the consistent application of the principle of the non-initiation of physical force or fraud.

Preamble

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.

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. Consequently, we defend each person's right to engage in any activity that is peaceful and honest, and we 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.

We hold that individuals have inherent sovereign rights to their own bodies and property. As such, we support the prohibition of the initiation of physical force and fraud against other people and their property, including their labor and the fruits thereof, by anyone. These principles guide Libertarian policy positions in every area. Our goal is nothing less than a world set free in our lifetime, and it is to this end that we take these stands.

Statement of Principles

We, the members of the Libertarian Party, challenge the cult of the omnipotent state and defend the rights of the individual.

We hold that all individuals have the right to exercise sole dominion over their own lives, and have the right to live in whatever manner they choose, so long as they do not forcibly interfere with the equal right of others to live in whatever manner they choose.

Governments throughout history have regularly operated on the opposite principle, that the State has the right to dispose of the lives of individuals and the fruits of their labor. Even within the United States, all political parties other than our own grant to government the right to regulate the lives of individuals and seize the fruits of their labor without their consent.

We, on the contrary, deny the right of any government to do these things, and hold that where governments exist, they must not violate the rights of any individual: namely, (1) the right to life — accordingly we support the prohibition of the initiation of physical force against others; (2) the right to liberty of speech and action — accordingly we oppose all attempts by government to abridge the freedom of speech and press, as well as government censorship in any form; and (3) the right to

property — accordingly we oppose all government interference with private property, such as confiscation, nationalization, and eminent domain, and support the prohibition of robbery, trespass, fraud, and misrepresentation.

Since governments, when instituted, must not violate individual rights, we oppose all interference by government in the areas of voluntary and contractual relations among individuals. People should not be forced to sacrifice their lives and property for the benefit of others. They should be left free by government to deal with one another as free traders; and the resultant economic system, the only one compatible with the protection of individual rights, is the free market.

Implementation

We support any measure that actually reduces, and does not increase, illegitimate governmental action or violations of the rights of the individual as put forth in our Preamble and Statement of Principles. While recognizing that change often takes the form of increments and transitions, the policies in the planks that follow are to be taken as quickly as possible.

The Individual

Individuals own their bodies and have rights over them that other individuals, groups, and governments may not violate. Individuals have the freedom and responsibility to decide what they knowingly and voluntarily consume, and what risks they accept to their own health, finances, safety, or life. Individuals should be free to make choices for themselves and to accept responsibility for the consequences of the choices they make provided those choices do not violate the rights of others. Our support of an individual's right to make choices in life does not mean that we necessarily approve or disapprove of those choices.

Victimless Crimes

Criminal and civil laws should be limited to violations of the rights of others through fraud, force, or deliberate and credible threats of imminent force. We therefore reject all laws that create "crimes" without victims such as the use of drugs for medicinal or recreational purposes, prostitution, and gambling.

Freedom of Expression

We support full freedom of expression and oppose government censorship, regulation, or control of technology, or collusion with communications media. Language that is perceived to be offensive to certain groups or individuals is not a cause for any legal action. 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.

Protection of Privacy

Libertarians advocate individual privacy and call for government transparency. We condemn government's practice of spying on citizens and non-citizens without probable cause and due process. We support the property rights recognized by the Fourth Amendment to be secure in our persons, homes, communications, and other effects, including data held by third parties, such as, but not limited to, email, library, medical, and phone records.

Freedom of Association

Libertarians embrace the concept that all people are born with certain inherent rights and reject the idea that those rights can impose an obligation upon any other person or non-government organization to fulfill that right. The right to trade includes the right not to trade--for any reason. The right of association includes the right not to associate--for any reason. The right to contract includes the right not to contract--for any reason. Exercise of these rights depends upon mutual consent. Individuals and business owners retain their rights and privileges to set their own standards of association and terms of voluntary interaction. Other individuals and business owners are free to respond with ostracism, boycotts, and other free market solutions. We therefore favor the repeal of any governmental attempts to regulate any private association, including public accommodations laws.

Personal Relationships

Sexual orientation, preference, gender, or gender identity should have no impact on the government's treatment of individuals, such as in marriage, child custody, adoption, immigration or military service laws. Government does not have the authority to define, license or restrict personal relationships. Consenting adults should be free to choose their own sexual practices and personal relationships, regardless of the number of participants. We favor the complete extrication of government from private consensual relationships.

Right to Self-Defense

The only legitimate use of force is reasonable and proportional defense of individual rights--life, liberty, and justly acquired property--against aggression. This right inheres in the individual, who may seek to be, or agree to be aided by any other individual or group in the exercise of the right to self-defense. Maintaining our belief in the inviolability of the right to keep and bear arms, we reject all laws at any level of government restricting, registering, or monitoring the ownership, manufacture, transport or transfer of any item or tool that could be used for reasonable and proportional self-defense.

The Market

We believe that each person has the right to offer goods and services to others on the free market. Private entities should be free to choose with whom they trade and set whatever trade terms are mutually agreeable. Therefore we oppose all intervention by government into the area of economics. The only proper role, if any of existing governments in the economic realm is to protect property rights, adjudicate disputes, and provide a legal framework in which voluntary trade is protected. Efforts to forcibly redistribute wealth or forcibly manage, regulate or impede trade violate individual rights. We believe that all individuals have the right to dispose of the fruits of their labor as they see fit.

Taxation

Taxation is government confiscation of the property of its citizens through the use of force. Because of its non-voluntary nature, it cannot be justified, regardless of the purpose. Therefore we oppose coercive taxation, and we support any and all initiatives to reduce or abolish any tax, and oppose any initiatives to increase any tax or add new ones. We advocate that all public services be funded in a voluntary manner such as through contributions, lotteries, subscriptions, and user fees. We contend that a tax by any other name, including a fee, excise, or assessment, is still a tax.

Healthcare

We support a free market health care system and oppose government mandates in insurance and healthcare. We recognize the freedom of individuals to determine the services they want (if any) and all other aspects of their medical care, including end-of-life decisions. People should be free to purchase health insurance across state lines.

Money

Individuals engaged in voluntary exchange should be free to use as money any mutually agreeable commodity or item. We oppose inflationary monetary policies and unconstitutional legal tender laws. We oppose government use of debt to conceal or cover the cost of their expenditures.

Licensing

Licensing is a method for government to convert a natural right into a privilege, then require one to pay fees to the government to exercise. Privileges can be and often are revoked by government and allow for stifling of competition to create government mandated monopolies. Rights must be held inviolate, and no one should be forced to pay to exercise a right. We encourage certifications by voluntary associations of professionals.

Property

We hold that rights to property, including real property, are individual rights and, as such, are entitled to the same protections as all other individual rights and that the owners of property have the full right to acquire, trade, control, use, dispose of, rent, collateralize, or in any manner enjoy their property without interference, until and unless the exercise of their control infringes the valid rights of others. Eminent domain, civil asset forfeiture, governmental limits on profits, governmental production mandates, and governmental controls on prices of goods and services (including wages, rents, and interest) are abridgements of fundamental rights. We support ending taxation of real property, which makes the government the de facto owner of all lands and forces individuals to rent their homes and places of business from the government.

Labor Markets

The contract between an employer and employee is a voluntary relationship, where both sides choose to enter into it and can only fairly negotiate on the terms of the contract without interference by government. We support the right of employers and employees to freely choose whether or not to bargain with each other through a third party, such as a labor union. There is neither inherent "right to work" nor a "right to unionize," merely the freedom for all to negotiate conditions of employment.

The Community

Free and voluntary societies provide the best potential for all members of society to succeed and flourish. A free and competitive market for all services will allocate resources in the most efficient manner. Voluntary cooperation and charity between people meets the needs of others without violating rights through coercion and force. Current problems in many societal areas such as energy, pollution, public services, and poverty are not solved, but instead are caused or exacerbated, by government.

Education

Education is a matter of conscience, values, and free expression, as much as assembly, press, religion, or speech. Accordingly we advocate the complete separation of school and state, ending government ownership, operation, regulation, and subsidy of schools, colleges, and universities. Until that time, any government funds for education should be put entirely under parental and student control, for use in schools of choice (including, but not limited to, private, parochial, and home schooling) or to carry forward for education in a future year.

Environment

Pollution of air, water, and land violates rights. Polluters, including government, should have strict liability for harms caused by pollution. Strict liability, not government agencies or arbitrary government standards should regulate pollution.

Welfare

The forced taking of property from an individual for the benefit of others is a violation of individual rights. The most effective source of assistance for others is voluntary efforts of private groups and individuals.

Utilities

We advocate the termination of government regulated franchise privileges and governmental monopolies for public services. The right to offer such services on the market should not be curtailed by the state.

The Government

The principle of non-initiation of force should guide governments and individuals. We call for a non-interventionist foreign policy and recognize the rights to unrestricted travel, trade, and immigration while reserving the right to defend against specific and credible threats.

Equal Treatment

Government should not deny, abridge, or enhance any individual's human right based upon sex, wealth, ethnicity, creed, age, national origin, personal habits and preferences, political affiliation, gender, gender identity, or sexual orientation. Any laws which currently do so should be repealed rather than extended to all groups. However, freedom of association and contracts should not be denied or restricted in private consensual arrangements or agreements.

Sovereign Immunity

Neither government agencies nor their representatives should be exempted from laws, statutes, and regulations applicable to everyone else. We favor an immediate end to the doctrine of Sovereign Immunity which ignores the primacy of the individual over the abstraction of the State, and holds that the State, contrary to the tradition of redress of grievances, may not be sued without its permission or held accountable for its actions under civil law. Government agents should be subject to civil and criminal liability for any injuries caused by their actions, without regard to whether those actions occurred during the course of their duties.

Judicial

The only real crimes are crimes of violence or threat of violence, property loss, and fraud where an individual is a victim. The judicial process should be an earnest attempt, through due process of law, to extract reasonable restitution from a person convicted of a crime and to convey that restitution to the victim, to imprison or exclude criminals from society when necessary, to hold persons liable for damage

they do, and to fairly settle contract disputes in which the parties have not voluntarily opted for private dispute resolution. A criminal, having paid for the crime, should be accorded full restoration of liberty. We assert the common-law right of juries to judge not only the facts but also the justice of the law.

Death Penalty

The death penalty is irreversible and no recompense for a violation of an individual's right to life can be made for an execution later found to be in error. Given the fallibility of any judicial system, punishments that cannot be reversed or compensated for should not be levied. Even if the death penalty were morally appropriate, it cannot be implemented without risking the execution of innocents. Since it is impossible to trust any state with this kind of power, we reject all state-sanctioned death penalty laws.

Elections

We support election systems that are more representative of the electorate at the national, state and local levels. As private voluntary groups, political parties should be allowed to establish their own rules for nomination procedures, primaries, caucuses, and conventions. We call for an end to any tax-financed subsidies to candidates or parties and the repeal of all laws which restrict voluntary individual financing of election campaigns. We oppose laws that effectively exclude alternative candidates and parties, deny ballot access, gerrymander districts, or deny the voters their right to consider all legitimate alternatives. We support the addition of the alternative "none of the above" is acceptable to all ballots. In the event that "none of the above" wins, the elective office for that term will remain unfilled and unfunded. We oppose all attempts to bind Colorado's Presidential Electors to the national popular vote.

Safety Clause

We adamantly oppose the attachment of a "Safety Clause" to any bill approved by the legislature. Use of the "Safety Clause" limits the ability of the electorate to reject improper bills.

Self-Determination

We recognize the right to political and personal self-determination, including, if necessary, 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.

Colorado State Sovereignty

In a free society, any existing governments are established of, by, and for the people. The United States Constitution specifies which powers the federal government may exercise, and explicitly forbids any others. We oppose unfunded Federal mandates

and coercion of State Legislatures by threats to withhold Federal funds. We support full enforcement of all anti-commandeering laws.

Omissions

Our silence about any other particular government law, regulation, ordinance, directive, edict, control, regulatory agency, activity, or machination, including the existence of any particular governmental system, should not be construed to imply approval or disapproval. In every matter, we adhere to the consistent application of the principle of the non-initiation of physical force or fraud.