

## **Platform Committee—Minutes of meeting of 06/22/2021**

Meeting called to order 19:30 by Mark Braiman.

Additional Members in attendance: Pietro Geraci, Mark Glogowski, Andrew Kolstee

Minutes of 06/08/2022 were approved without objection.

Old Business: Platform items 1-14 below were discussed and put to votes. The vote after each item indicates the results. Additional minor re-wording was allowed if it increased support.

(After the meeting adjourned, additional email votes from non-attending members were sought. The only member who responded was Rob Griebsland. Therefore the tally for each item reached 5, which we consider to have adequately represented a quorum, given the 9 members who have not resigned and who have attended any meetings at all since February 2021).

Where 2 numbers are given, they represent Aye/Nay. Where 3 numbers are given, they represent Aye/Nay/Abstain.

New Business: It was decided unanimously that the Committee would move at the July 18 State Committee meeting only the 8 items below that received 5 yes votes (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 10, 12); and that these would be offered as individual motions to the full State Committee in the revised order indicated by the boldface number after each item's vote tally. Thus item 12 below will be offered as the first amendment in the Platform Committee Report for July 18; while item 1 below will be offered as the third amendment.

Meeting was adjourned at 21:30.

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE PLATFORM OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF NEW YORK**

Incorporating suggestions by Pietro Geraci, Andrew Kolstee, and Mark Glogowski

**1. Eliminate taxation and regulation of cannabis for adults.** We support the full legalization of cannabis and hemp products, including cultivation, processing, distribution, sales, possession, and transportation, without introducing any new taxes or licensing requirements.5-0 **#3**

**2. Maintain the greatest possible degree of local autonomy during emergencies.** Government responses to extended emergencies, including pandemics, should be as localized as possible. One-size-fits-all solutions have little benefit for sparsely populated regions in much of the state.  
5-0 **#5**

**3. Maintain due process during extended emergencies.** Any response to an emergency at the state level must be enacted by the Legislature following extensive committee hearings, not by Executive Orders, and should expire when the emergency declaration expires. The State should be held liable for damages to persons or businesses, that are caused by emergency rules that have not been subject to a deliberative legislative process. 5-0 #6

**4. Protect personal freedoms during emergencies.** We oppose the violation of First Amendment rights of free association and human interaction associated with lockdowns and stay-at-home orders during government-declared emergencies. We respect the diversity of values; people who wish to engage in commerce, worship, and social interaction should be free to individually assume the associated risks of such action. We believe government decrees intended to enforce healthy behavior erase personal responsibility. The continued use of emergency powers to make and enforce such decrees habituates society away from personal responsibility, which will gradually erode our liberties. 5-0 #7

**5. Increase choices and eliminate barriers in education.** We support parents' rights to send their children to any school of their choosing, whether public, private, or charter. We furthermore support eliminating barriers to alternative educational options, such as vocational training and homeschooling. 5-0 #8

**6. Return power from the government to individuals.** People in New York should no longer be blocked by the government from defending themselves, their family and neighbors when necessary; from engaging in productive activities; from building wealth for the purposes of benefitting themselves or others; from engaging in recreational activities; or from performing good works as the individual deems appropriate. 1-4

**7. Require that the legal age for any adult activity regulated by the state not exceed 18.** Once individuals are considered to have adequate judgment to vote and to serve on a jury or in the military, they should be considered to have sufficient judgment to decide their own purchase and use of alcohol, tobacco, firearms, and other potentially risky activities. 5-0 #4

**8. Allow voters the option to sign candidate nominating petitions online.** Requiring in-person signature collection is archaic and inconvenient. Verification of online signatures will be easier because searchable databases of signing voters can be created. 3-0-2

**9. Prohibit use of eminent domain to transfer property from one private owner to another.** Land taken by eminent domain by a New York State agency should never be transferred to a private party, other than by returning it to the prior owner(s) from whom it was taken, or their heirs or assigns. 4-0-1

## PREAMBLE

10. Replace and move (to end of Statement of Principles): While we defer to the national party on issues of national interest, and we defer to our candidates to offer specific policy proposals, we do so only so far as they do not conflict with the following principles:

With: We support the Platform of the National Libertarian Party, in addition to the following planks specific to New York State: 5-0 #2

## STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

11. Replace: The Purpose of the State is to secure these above rights to all persons, all the time recognizing that it is a servant of the people and never its master.

With: **It is the responsibility of the State government to recognize that it is a servant of the people and never their master.** The main role of the State government is the protection of individual rights. 1-1-3

12. Add The Right to Decide - Individuals and families have a right to decide for themselves all issues regarding their health, wealth, and safety. 5-0 #1

13. Add The Right to Defend Yourself - Individuals should be empowered to defend themselves, their family, and neighbors when necessary. 2-0-3

14. Add The Right to Live as You Desire – Individuals have the right to engage in productive and recreational activities; to build wealth; to perform good works; and to engage in any other activity not harmful to another. 3-0-2