

**REPORT OF THE PLATFORM COMMITTEE
OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF NEW YORK
FEBRUARY 16, 2021**

INTRODUCTION

The Chair, Mark Braiman, would like the State Committee to ratify (or to appoint) the members of the Platform Committee. These individuals have expressed an interest in membership, and participated in our Facebook Messenger group chat and/or our two meetings to date (February 11, 2021 and February 16, 2021).

Ratification of the members of the Platform Committee

Motion to ratify the appointments of David Fite, Pietro Geraci, Robert Griebesland, Paul Grindle, Andrew Kolstee, Christopher Olenski, Anthony Pellegrino, and Karyn Thompson as members of the Platform Committee.

PROPOSED PLATFORM AMENDMENTS

The Platform Committee proposes the following language to append to the Platform of the Libertarian Party of New York.

Proposal #1. Heading preceding the existing platform planks.

Motion to add the following heading to precede the existing platform planks:

Preamble and Statement of Principles

Proposal #2. Introductory sentence for supplemental platform planks.

Motion to add the following introductory sentence to precede the platform planks, if Proposal #3, Proposal #4, Proposal #5, and/or Proposal #6:

Specifically, the Libertarian Party of New York distinguishes itself from other parties in supporting the following:

Proposal #3. New Platform Plank Proposal A

Motion to adopt the following platform plank:

Maintaining government institutions, local autonomy, and due process during emergencies. We believe that 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. Any action at the state level must be enacted by the Legislature following extensive committee hearings, not by Executive Orders. Violations should not warrant draconian punishments, such as the revocation of business licenses without due process, when the rules are convoluted, poorly justified by science, and constantly changing.

Proposal #4. New Platform Plank Proposal B

Motion to adopt the following platform plank:

Protecting personal freedoms during emergencies. We oppose the abrogation of First Amendment rights of free association and human interaction, including lockdowns and stay-at-home orders, even 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.

Proposal #5. New Platform Plank Proposal C

Motion to adopt the following platform plank:

Decriminalizing cannabis, without taxation. We support the full decriminalization of cannabis and hemp products, including cultivation, processing, distribution, sales, possession, and transportation, without introducing any new taxes.

Proposal #6. New Platform Plank Proposal D

Motion to adopt the following platform plank:

Increasing choices and eliminating 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 choices including vocational training and homeschooling.

Report prepared by: Mark Braiman, Chair
David Fite
Pietro Geraci
Andrew Kolstee
Anthony Pellegrino