

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLATFORM COMMITTEE  
OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF NEW YORK  
HELD ON MONDAY, JULY 1, 2024 ON THE ZOOM MEETING APP**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Daniel Castello, Chair  
Andrew Kolstee, Secretary  
Paul Grindle  
Richard Purtell  
Robert Schuon  
Blay Tarnoff

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Christopher Olenski  
Michael Rebmann  
Keith Redhead  
Charles Roggen  
Karyn Thompson

The meeting was called to order at 7:14 p.m. by Daniel Castello, Chair. It was determined that quorum was present.

Motion by Andrew Kolstee to **waive reading and approve the minutes of March 16, 2024 and June 5, 2024 meetings of the Platform Committee** passed without objection.

Motion by Andrew Kolstee to **recommend Proposals EC, EE, EF, EG, EH, EL, EP, EQ as follows, which amends the draft platform preamble and planks 1, 1.1, 1.2, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 2, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3. and 2.4, to the State Committee for adoption as an amendment to the Platform of the Libertarian Party of New York** passed without objection.

A just and prosperous society is rooted in ~~Natural Law, recognizing~~ the recognition of the inherent, unalienable rights of individuals to life, liberty, property, and the pursuit of happiness. Governments are instituted to safeguard these rights, deriving their legitimacy solely from the explicit consent of the governed. However, we acknowledge that in practice, governments often evolve into the primary threat to these fundamental rights. To ensure a government that remains true to its purpose, we steadfastly uphold the following principles to keep it accountable.

1. **The Right to Individual Sovereignty.** ~~The hHuman species has~~ beings have rights by virtue of ~~its~~ their capacity to understand and ~~be responsible to~~ respect the rights of others, and as such each individual ~~inherently~~ possesses the unalienable right of self-ownership, and thus ~~granting them authority and~~ autonomy over their life, liberty, and property. Specifically:

~~1.5. 1.1. The Right to Bodily~~ **Autonomy of the Mind and Body.** Each individual ~~has~~ **has** exclusive authority over their own ~~mind and bodies~~ **mind and body**.

~~1.1. 1.2. The Right to~~ **Freedom of Conscience.** Individuals are ~~inherently~~ **inherently** free to hold beliefs ~~and make decisions~~ according to their own moral and ethical convictions, without ~~persecution coercion or undue interference, so long as they respect the rights of others to do the same.~~

~~1.2. 1.3. The Right to Decide~~ **Self-Determination.** Individuals and families have the authority to ~~determine~~ **decide** matters including, but not limited to, their health, education, financial well-being, and self-defense, ~~on their own terms and without interference.~~

~~1.4. The Right to~~ **Personal Property.** Individuals ~~possess~~ **have** the ~~inherent~~ **inherent** right to acquire, own, utilize, and ~~divest themselves~~ **dispose** of assets, as these are the outcomes of human dedication through the investment of time and effort. ~~This right also encompasses the freedom to sell one's time and labor in exchange for different assets, thereby expanding the scope of individual economic choices and opportunities.~~

**1.5. Open Expression.** Ideas, though they may challenge or offend, are distinct from acts of violence. Every individual is free to communicate, articulate, share, or otherwise assert their ideas and beliefs and to expose themselves or refrain from exposing themselves to the freely expressed ideas of others, provided they respect the rights of others to likewise voice their own perspectives.

~~1.6. The Right to~~ **Personal Privacy.** Individuals have the ~~inherent~~ **inherent** authority ~~to control~~ **and** to manage and protect ~~safeguard~~ their personal information, choices, and activities, including deciding the extent to which they share this information with others ~~from intrusion or surveillance.~~

**2. The Right to Interact and Collaborate.** Every individual inherently holds the unalienable right to freely engage or not with others. Specifically:

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

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

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

2.4. ~~The Right to~~ **Consent within Organizations.** Individuals engaging in associations, organizations, or groups have the right to agree to a set of terms and conditions that govern their participation. This includes the freedom to negotiate, accept, or reject the rules, obligations, and benefits of membership, ensuring all ~~It is essential that such~~ agreements are made transparently and with the informed consent of all parties involved.

Motion by Blay Tarnoff to **recommend Proposal ER as follows, which amends draft platform plank 1.5, to the State Committee for adoption as an amendment to the Platform of the Libertarian Party of New York** was seconded by Andrew Kolstee and passed without objection.

1.5. **Open Expression.** Ideas, though they may challenge or offend, are distinct from acts of violence. Every individual is free to communicate, articulate, share, or otherwise assert their ideas and beliefs and to expose themselves or refrain from exposing themselves to the freely expressed ideas of others, ~~provided they respect the rights of others to likewise voice their own perspectives.~~

Paul Grindle left the meeting at 7:42 p.m. and quorum was no longer present.

Blay Tarnoff proposed striking the entirety of 2.4 Consent within Organization.

Paul Grindle entered the meeting at 7:44 p.m. and quorum was restored.

Motion by Andrew Kolstee to **recommend Proposal ES as follows, which amends draft platform planks 2 and 2.2, to the State Committee for adoption as an amendment to the Platform of the Libertarian Party of New York** was seconded by Blay Tarnoff and passed without objection.

2. **Interaction and Collaborateion.** Every individual inherently holds the unalienable right to freely engage or not with others. Specifically:

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

Motion by Andrew Kolstee to **recommend Proposal EV as follows, which amends draft platform plank 2.3, to the State Committee for adoption as an amendment to the Platform of the Libertarian Party of New York** was seconded by Richard Purtell and passed without objection.

2.3. **Contract Voluntary Agreements and Free Exchange.** Individuals have the right to engage in voluntary agreements, contracts, organizations, groups, and any other free exchanges with others, including the right to trade goods, services, and their time and

labor. ~~2.4. Consent within Organizations.~~ Individuals engaging in associations, organizations, or groups have the right to agree to a set of terms and conditions that govern their participation. This includes the freedom to negotiate, accept, or reject the rules, obligations, and benefits terms of membership, ensuring all agreements are made transparently and made with the informed consent of all parties involved.

There was a consensus to adopt Proposal EY, which amends draft platform section 3 as follows when quorum is present.

~~3. The Principle of Defending Rights.~~ The most basic implication of a right is that it may be defended and the preservation and defense of individual rights are paramount to liberty. This right encompasses the ability of individuals to resolve conflicts concerning their rights, respecting the inherent freedoms of all involved. Individuals may form groups to defend these rights or delegate this responsibility to others tasked with protecting fundamental rights such as life, liberty, and property.

**3. Defense of Rights.** The preservation and defense of individual rights is paramount to liberty. The most basic implication of a right is that it may be defended. Individuals may determine the manner of their defense and may act individually, in groups, or delegate the necessary action to others.

**3.1. The Right to Defensive Response.** Individuals have the right to use reasonable and necessary force, including the use of weapons, to protect themselves, others, and property, and therefore have the right to keep and bear any arms they may need to do so. ~~The right of defensive response requires the need for immediate action in situations where rights are under direct and imminent threat. Individuals may allow others to aid in their defense or decline assistance.~~

**3.2. Immediate Defensive Action.** The right of defensive response requires the need for immediate action in situations where rights are under direct and imminent threat, enabling individuals to act independently without external approval.

**3.3. Assistance in Defense.** Individuals may allow others to aid in their defense or decline assistance.

~~3.2.~~ **3.4. Peaceful Resolution in Defense of Rights.** Recognizing that the foundation of a free society includes the potential use of force for defending rights, a civilized society provides peaceful means to achieve resolutions. Individuals and groups should seek peaceful means for resolving disputes, including but not limited to mediation, arbitration, negotiation, and legal recourse, including a fair trial and due process.

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, July 18, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was **adjourned** at 8:53 p.m.

Andrew Martin Kolstee  
Secretary of the Platform Committee