

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLATFORM COMMITTEE
OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF NEW YORK
HELD ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2023 ON THE ZOOM MEETING APP**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Daniel Castello, Chair
Andrew Kolstee, Secretary
Justin Carman
Michael Rebmann
Blay Tarnoff
Keith Redhead
Robert Schuon
Karyn Thompson

MEMBERS ABSENT

Paul Grindle
Jennifer O'Connor
Christopher Olenski
Richard Purtell

The meeting was called to order at 7:13 p.m. by Daniel Castello, Chair. It was determined that quorum was not met.

The next meeting was set for Monday, October 2, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

At 7:16 p.m., quorum was met, and the meeting was officially called to order.

Motion by Andrew Kolstee to **waive reading and approve the minutes of the August 10, 2023 and August 24, 2023 meetings of the Platform Committee** was seconded by Michael Rebmann and passed by voice vote.

Motion by Blay Tarnoff to **adopt the Statement of Intent (Exhibit 1)** passed by voice vote.

Motion by Andrew Kolstee to **recommend Proposal H as follows to the State Committee for adoption as an amendment to the Platform of the Libertarian Party of New York** was seconded by Michael Rebmann, debated, and passed by voice vote.

~~**The Right of Conscience**—Individuals have the right to live their lives in accordance with their own values and sense of right and wrong, and, except for rare cases of abuse or neglect, the right to raise and educate their children as they see fit.~~

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

Motion by Andrew Kolstee to **recommend Proposal O as follows to the State Committee for adoption as an amendment to the Platform of the Libertarian Party of New York** was seconded by Robert Schuon and passed by voice vote.

~~**The Right to Decide**—Individuals and families have a right to decide for themselves all issues regarding their health, wealth, and safety.~~

The Right to Decide – Individuals and families have the authority to determine matters including, but not limited to, their health, education, financial well-being, and self-defense, on their own terms and without undue interference.

Motion by Karyn Thompson to **recommend Proposal T as follows to the State Committee for adoption as an amendment to the Platform of the Libertarian Party of New York** was seconded by Andrew Kolstee, debated, and passed by voice vote.

~~**The Right of Free Expression**—Individuals have the right to express themselves peacefully in whatever form they choose, even if that expression is seen by some as profane or offensive.~~

The Right to Freedom of Expression – Individuals have the inherent authority to communicate, articulate, and assert their personal beliefs and choices in both public and private domains. Recognizing that words, though they may challenge or offend, are distinct from acts of violence; everyone is entitled to express freely without restriction or reprisal, provided they respect the rights of others to voice their perspectives similarly.

Motion by Robert Schuon to **include the “The Right to Freedom of Personal Action” as the next plank of discussion at the next meeting** was seconded by Karyn Thompson and passed without objection.

The next meeting was set for Thursday, September 21, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Motion by Andrew Kolstee to **adjourn** was seconded by Robert Schuon and passed by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Andrew Martin Kolstee
Secretary of the Platform Committee

Exhibit 1

Statement of Intent
with regard to amendments to the platform

WHEREAS limiting the Libertarian platform to only those positions that are clearly dictated by the libertarian philosophy showcases the difference between Libertarian and other political parties, declaring we are philosophically grounded and can therefore be trusted not to drift into conflicting or opposite positions over time;

WHEREAS failing to anchor platforms in philosophy breeds widespread disdain of political parties, as exemplified by the ubiquitous complaint that "I didn't leave the X Party, it left me";

WHEREAS taking positions that other libertarians may disagree with alienates and may chase away potential members, who may in every way be perfect libertarians, as well as candidates and party officials who would otherwise be of great value to our cause;

WHEREAS deciding and declaring our intent to impose morally questionable force on everybody opens us to highly credible accusations of hypocrisy for violation of the non-aggression principle;

WHEREAS although political parties regularly decide and impose morally questionable force on everyone in their regular course of business, the traditional libertarian position has been to let the courts fill in the ambiguities and marginal cases; and

WHEREAS if we as a party are going to advocate imposing morality on people, it should be only such morality as we know and understand to be absolute and unquestionable; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that this Platform Committee shall not propose any amendment that does not logically and unambiguously derive from the libertarian principle of self-ownership.

Blay Tarnoff
August 1, 2023