

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STATE COMMITTEE  
OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF NEW YORK  
HELD MONDAY, AUGUST 26, 2024  
ON THE ZOOM MEETING APP AND PORCUPINE APP**

**MEMBERS PRESENT (31)**

Richard F. Purtell<sup>1,E</sup>  
Mark N. Axinn (JD1)<sup>1</sup>  
Morry C. Davis (JD1)  
Paul M. Grindle (JD2)  
William Cody Anderson (JD3)<sup>1</sup>  
Justin N. Carman (JD3)<sup>1</sup>  
Lora Newell (JD3)<sup>1</sup>  
Jennifer L. O'Connor (JD3)<sup>1</sup>  
Daniel J. Castello (JD5)<sup>1</sup>  
Erinn Rose Leatherman (JD5)<sup>1</sup>  
Mark S. Braiman (JD6)<sup>1</sup>  
Craig Colwell (JD6)<sup>1</sup>  
Charles Dorgan (JD6)<sup>V</sup>  
Christopher M. Olenski (JD6)<sup>1</sup>  
David S. Penner (JD6)<sup>1</sup>  
Steven G. Becker (JD7)<sup>1</sup>  
Justin Pelletier (JD7)<sup>1</sup>  
Sean C. Phelan (JD7)<sup>1</sup>  
James M. Ziobro (JD7)<sup>1</sup>  
Erin M. Becker (JD8)  
Maura E. Botsford (JD8)<sup>1</sup>  
Andrew M. Kolstee (JD8)<sup>1</sup>  
Frances Law (JD8)<sup>1</sup>  
Leonard E. Morlock (JD8)<sup>1</sup>  
Charles R. Roggen (JD8)<sup>1</sup>  
Jame J. VanDewalker (JD8)<sup>1</sup>  
Duane Whitmer (JD8)<sup>1</sup>  
Juan R. Ayala (JD9)<sup>1</sup>  
Daniel P. Donnelly (JD9)<sup>1</sup>  
Jeffrey J. Denecke (JD10)<sup>1</sup>  
Jonathan H. Gunther (JD10)<sup>1</sup>  
Robert E. Schuon (JD10)<sup>1</sup>  
Blay Tarnoff (JD10)<sup>1</sup>  
Irwin Mark Weinblatt (JD11)<sup>1</sup>

**MEMBERS ABSENT (28)**

David B. "Chance" Haywood (JD1)

Matthew I. Morgan (JD2)  
Gary S. Popkin (JD2)  
Amanda H. Ellithorpe (JD4)  
Stephen C. Healey (JD4)  
Karen A. Keniry-Thompson (JD4)  
Zachary D. Remian (JD4)  
Shawn C. DeGrand (JD5)  
James Fitch (JD5)  
Matthew K. Guilianelli (JD5)  
Amber Nunes (JD5)  
Keith C. Redhead (JD5)  
Samuel Hordeski (JD6)  
Jeffrey C. Bradley (JD7)  
Marc A. Smith (JD7)  
Robert J. Cocomello (JD9)  
Robert J. Greibesland (JD9)  
Vincent O'Neill (JD10)<sup>1</sup>  
William K. Schmidt (JD9)  
Christian J. Vondras (JD9)  
Vincent O'Neil (JD10)<sup>1</sup>  
Christian Padgett (JD10)  
Randyn Tarnoff (JD10)  
George T. Ostrowski (JD10)  
John Clifton (JD11)  
Francisco Olvera (JD11)

**OBSERVERS (3)**

Timothy "TJ" Ferrera, Porcupine Administrator  
Chuck Dorgan, candidate for JD6 vacancy  
Christopher Skelly, Chair of Brooklyn LP

**KEY**

(1) Present at first roll call at 6:30 p.m. on 8/26  
(V) Elected to fill a vacancy.  
(E) 2nd Vice-Chair and ex-officio voting member

The meeting was called to order at 6:43 p.m. by Andrew Kolstee, Chair. Secretary Mark Braiman conducted a roll call and determined that a quorum was present.

The Credentials and Nominations Report (**Exhibit 1**) indicated that there were thirty (30) of fifty-eight (58) voting members of the State Committee present at the time of roll call. After filling of vacancies there were thirty-one (31) of fifty-nine (59) State Committee members present. The Secretary determined that a quorum was present at all times during the meeting.

Motion by Justin Carman to adopt the **Agenda (Exhibit 2)** was seconded by **Michael Rebmann** and passed without objection.

Chair Andrew Kolstee called for the filling of one (1) State Committee vacancy from Judicial District 4. Secretary Mark Braiman reported that no one had been nominated in advance. Chair Andrew Kolstee, hearing no nominations from the floor, postponed filling this vacancy until the next meeting of the State Committee.

Chair Andrew Kolstee called for the filling of one (1) State Committee vacancy from Judicial District 6. Secretary Mark Braiman reported that no one had been nominated in advance. Mark Braiman nominated Charles Dorgan from the floor. There were no other nominees.

Chuck Dorgan was elected as JD 6 representative by a vote of 12 -2 (2 for NOTA)

Chair Andrew Kolstee called for the filling of three (3) State Committee vacancies from Judicial District 7. Secretary Mark Braiman reported that no one had been nominated in advance. Chair Andrew Kolstee, hearing no nominations from the floor, postponed filling these vacancies until the next meeting of the State Committee.

Chair Andrew Kolstee called for the filling of one (1) State Committee vacancies from Judicial District 8. Secretary Mark Braiman reported that no one had been nominated in advance. Chair Andrew Kolstee proposed not filling this vacancy out of respect for Michael Rebmann's long service.

Chair Andrew Kolstee called for the filling of two (2) State Committee vacancies from Judicial District 12. Secretary Mark Braiman reported that no one had been nominated in advance. Chair Andrew Kolstee, hearing no nominations from the floor, postponed filling these vacancies until the next meeting of the State Committee.

Chair Andrew Kolstee called for the filling of two (2) State Committee vacancies from Judicial District 13. Secretary Mark Braiman reported that no one had been nominated in advance. Chair Andrew Kolstee, hearing no nominations from the floor, postponed filling these vacancies until the next meeting of the State Committee.

Treasurer William Cody Anderson issued a Treasurer's Report (**Exhibit 3**) and the report was accepted without objection.

Chair Andrew Kolstee issued a report. Oliver Hall filed a motion on August 18 to intervene in the Kennedy lawsuit against the NY BoE, on behalf of the LPNY as well as the Green Party of New York and Kolstee, Braiman, and Purtell as individual intervenors. The Kennedy Campaign filed an amended motion on Aug. 23, causing the court to reject Oliver Hall's motion to intervene. Oliver Hall will file an amended motion to intervene within the next 2 days. Chase Oliver and Mike terMaat will be filing a notice with the NY Board of Elections of intention to campaign as write-in candidates, and will be filing along with that the required list of Elector candidates.

Legislative Affairs chair Richard Purtell issued a report, which included a proposed resolution on ballot measure 1 "The New York Equal Rights Amendment".

Rules Committee Chair Andrew Kolstee offered a report (**Exhibit 4**).

Motion by Dan Castello on behalf of the Rules Committee to **approve Proposal 1** was discussed. Motion by Justin Carman to **refer Proposal 1 back to the Rules Committee** was seconded by William Cody Anderson and passed by voice vote.

Motion by Mark Braiman on behalf of the Rules Committee to **adopt Proposal 2** was discussed and failed by voice vote.

Motion by Rich Purtell to **adopt Proposal 3** was seconded by Mark Axinn passed without objection.

Motion by Dan Castello on behalf of the Rules Committee to **adopt Proposal 4** was discussed and failed by voice vote.

Platform Committee Chair Dan Castello issued a written report (**Exhibit 5**).

Motion by Dan Castello on behalf of the Platform Committee to adopt Proposal 1 (Amend Preamble) was accepted without objection.

Motion by Dan Castello on behalf of the Platform Committee to adopt Proposal 2 (Add Plank #1) was accepted without objection.

Motion by Dan Castello on behalf of the Platform Committee to adopt Proposal 3 (Amend Plank to create new Plank 1.1) was accepted without objection.

Motion by Dan Castello on behalf of the Platform Committee to adopt Proposal 4 was accepted without objection.

Motion by Dan Castello on behalf of the Platform Committee to adopt Proposal 5 was accepted without objection.

Motion by Dan Castello on behalf of the Platform Committee to adopt Proposal 6 was accepted without objection.

Motion by Dan Castello on behalf of the Platform Committee to adopt Proposal 7 was accepted without objection.

Motion by Dan Castello on behalf of the Platform Committee to adopt Proposal 8 was accepted without objection.

Motion by Dan Castello on behalf of the Platform Committee to adopt Proposal 9 was accepted without objection.

Motion by Dan Castello on behalf of the Platform Committee to adopt Proposal 10 was accepted without objection.

Motion by Dan Castello on behalf of the Platform Committee to adopt Proposal 11 was accepted without objection.

Motion by Dan Castello on behalf of the Platform Committee to adopt Proposal 12 was accepted without objection.

Motion by Dan Castello on behalf of the Platform Committee to adopt Proposal 13 was accepted without objection.

Motion by Dan Castello on behalf of the Platform Committee to adopt Proposal 14 was discussed. Motion by Stephen Becker to **amend by removing the word “any” from the phrase “bear any arms”** was seconded by Mark Axinn and was discussed. A Porcupine poll was taken. Motion to amend failed 7-10-2. Main motion passed two-thirds voice vote.

Motion by Dan Castello on behalf of the Platform Committee to adopt Proposal 15 was accepted without objection.

Motion by Dan Castello on behalf of the Platform Committee to adopt Proposal 16 was accepted without objection.

Motion by Dan Castello on behalf of the Platform Committee to adopt Proposal was 17 accepted without objection.

Motion by Dan Castello on behalf of the Platform Committee to adopt Proposal 18 was accepted without objection.

Motion by Dan Castello on behalf of the Platform Committee to adopt Proposal 19 was accepted without objection.

Motion by Dan Castello on behalf of the Platform Committee to adopt Proposal 20 was accepted without objection.

Motion by Dan Castello on behalf of the Platform Committee to adopt Proposal 21 was discussed and passed by two-thirds voice vote.

Motion by Dan Castello on behalf of the Platform Committee to adopt Proposal 22 was discussed. Motion by Mark Braiman to amend to replace “perverting” by “subverting” was seconded by William Cody Anderson and discussed. The motion to amend passed by a Porcupine vote 10-8-1. The amended motion to add the platform plank passed by two-thirds voice vote.

Motion by Dan Castello on behalf of the Platform Committee to adopt Proposal 23 to strike an existing plank was accepted without objection.

Motion by William Cody Anderson to adopt the entire Platform including the amendments just approved was seconded by Stephen Becker and passed without objection.

Andrew Kolstee asked a moment of silence in honor of Darrell Bonner, Mark Glogowski and Michael Rebmann passed away.

Motion by Cody Anderson to **adjourn** was seconded by Justin Carman and passed without objection.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm

Mark Stephen Braiman,  
Secretary.

## EXHIBIT 1

### CREDENTIALS REPORT

**ROLL CALLS.** Column #1 taken at 6: p.m. on August 26, 2024; Column #2 shows times of late arrivals. P=Present.V=filled a vacancy.

JD	State Committee Member	1	2
EO	Richard F. Purtell	P	
1	Mark N. Axinn	P	
1	Morry C. Davis	P	
1	David B. "Chance" Haywood	P	
2	Paul M. Grindle	P	
2	Matthew I. Morgan		
2	Gary S. Popkin		7:23
3	William Cody Anderson	P	
3	Justin N. Carman	P	
3	Lora Newell		
3	Jennifer L. O'Connor	P	
4	Amanda H. Ellithorpe		
4	Stephen C. Healey		
4	VACANT		
4	Karyn A. Keniry-Thompson		
4	Zachary D. Remian		
5	Daniel J. Castello	P	
5	Shawn C. DeGrand		
5	James Fitch	P	
5	Matthew K. Guilianelli		
5	Erinn Rose Leatherman	P	
5	Amber Nunes	P	
5	Keith C.Redhead		
5	VACANT		

JD	State Committee Member	1	2
5	VACANT		
6	Mark S. Braiman	P	
6	Craig Colwell		
6	Charles Dorgan		V
6	Samuel J. Hordeski	P	
6	Christopher M. Olenski	P	
6	David S. Penner		
7	Steven G. Becker	P	
7	Jeffrey C. Bradley		
7	Justin Pelletier	P	
7	Sean C. Phelan	P	
7	Marc A. Smith		
7	James M. Ziobro		8:10
7	VACANT		
7	VACANT		
7	VACANT		
8	Erin M. Becker		8:10
8	Maura E. Botsford		
8	Andrew M. Kolstee	P	
8	Francis Law		
8	Leonard E. Morlock		
8	Charles R. Roggen		
8	Jame J. VanDewalker	P	
8	Duane J. Whitmer	P	

JD	State Committee Member	1	2
8	VACANT		
9	Juan R. Ayala	7:10	
9	Robert J. Cocomello		
9	Daniel P. Donnelly		
9	Robert J. Greibesland	P	
9	William K. Schmidt	P	
9	Christian J. Vondras		
10	Jeffrey J. Denecke	P	
10	Jonathan H. Gunther	P	
10	Vincent O'Neill	P	
10	George T. Ostrowski		
10	Christian Padgett	P	
10	Robert E. Schuon	P	
10	Blay Tarnoff		
10	Randyn Tarnoff		
11	John Clifton	P	
11	Francisco Olvera		
11	Irwin Mark Weinblatt	P	
12	VACANT		
12	VACANT		
13	VACANT		
13	VACANT		
	# Present at roll call.	30	
	(out of 58 members initially and 59 after vacancies filled)		

## EXHIBIT 2

### LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF NEW YORK AGENDA OF THE STATE COMMITTEE OF MONDAY, AUGUST 26, 2024

**6:30 P.M. Call to Order (Andrew Kolstee, Chair)**

**6:30 P.M. Roll Call and Confirmation of Quorum (Mark Braiman, Secretary)**

**6:35 P.M. Adoption of Agenda**

**6:40 P.M. Filling of Vacancies on the State Committee**

Judicial District 4 (1 vacancy)

Judicial District 6 (1 vacancy)

Judicial District 7 (4 vacancies)

Judicial District 8 (1 vacancy)

Judicial District 12 (2 vacancies)

Judicial District 13 (2 vacancies)

**6:55 P.M. Public Comment**

**7:00 P.M. Treasurer's Report (Cody Anderson)**

**7:10 P.M. Chair's Report (Andrew Kolstee)**

**7:20 P.M. Equal Rights Amendment Resolution (Rich Purtell)**

Click [here](#) to see the proposed text of the Resolution.

**7:40 P.M. Rules Committee Report (Andrew Kolstee)**

Click [here](#) to see the Rules Committee report.

**8:20 P.M. Platform Committee Report (Daniel Castello)**

Click [here](#) to see the Platform Committee report.

**9:40 P.M. Old Business**

**9:50 P.M. New Business**

**10:00 P.M. Adjournment**

## EXHIBIT 3

LPNY Treasurer's Report  
August 26, 2024

Housekeeping Committee account balance as of August 26, 2024: **\$1,777.27**  
(no change since August 13)

Constituted Committee account balance as of August 26, 2024: **\$31,013.38**  
(+896.02 since August 13)

---

**Deposits to Housekeeping account since August 13:**

None.

**TOTAL DEPOSITS: \$0.00**

---

**Disbursements from Housekeeping account since August 13:**

None.

**TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS: \$0.00**

---

**Deposits to CC account since August 13:**

Net Donations - \$715.74

Deposits in transit - \$180.28

**TOTAL DEPOSITS: \$896.02**

---

**Disbursements from CC account since August 13:**

None.

**TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS: \$0.00**

---

Respectfully submitted,  
W. Cody Anderson  
Treasurer



## EXHIBIT 4 (PAGE 1 OF 2)

### REPORT OF THE RULES COMMITTEE FOR THE STATE COMMITTEE MEETING OF APRIL 3, 2024

#### Proposal 1 (C). Cleanup provisions in agenda for organization meetings.

8.5.2. **AGENDA.** The order of business shall be as follows:

- (a) The current Chair shall call the meeting to order.
- (b) ~~The Chair shall call the roll~~ Roll call to identify the elected State Committee members present.
- (c) The Chair shall serve as the Presiding Officer and Secretary shall serve as the Recording Secretary, respectively, of the Organization Meeting, unless they decline or are unable to serve, at which point a Temporary Chair and/or Temporary Secretary shall be elected for the duration of the meeting.
- ~~(d) Report of Rules Committee and adoption of the Special Rules of Order of the Organization Meeting.~~
- ~~(d)~~ (d) Filling of vacancies on the State Committee.
- ~~(e)~~ (e) Supplemental credentials report.
- ~~(f)~~ (f) Report of Rules Subcommittee Committee and adoption of the Rules of the Libertarian Party.
- ~~(g)~~ (g) Election of the officers and five Members-At-Large of the Executive Committee.
- ~~(h)~~ (h) Discussion and consideration of Platform amendments.
- (i) Treasurer's report
- (j) Other reports
- ~~(j) Report of Resolutions Subcommittee.~~
- (k) Adjournment.

#### Proposal 2 (D). Avoid using ballots for uncontested elections to speed up the process.

9.5. **UNCONTESTED ELECTIONS.** If any election is uncontested, normal voting procedures in accordance with these Rules may be suspended by a majority vote in which the vote may then be conducted by a voice vote between the uncontested candidate(s) and "None of the Above" (NOTA).

#### Proposal 3 (A). Add a financial obligation for all State Committee members during in-person meetings regardless of in-person or remote attendance.

8.3.1. **FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS OF STATE COMMITTEE MEMBERS.** All members of the State Committee, whether attending in-person or remotely, shall pay a minimum registration fee of \$20. Purchasing a meeting package fulfills this requirement. No person shall be provided with the means to speak or vote in the meeting until their individual registration fee is paid.

## EXHIBIT 4 (PAGE 2 OF 2)

**KOLSTEE AMENDMENT 1. Give the Executive Committee flexibility to choose a smaller committee on vacancies to prevent the need to mail the documents to change candidates to 10 different people.**

### 14.2. STATEWIDE CANDIDATES.

14.2.1. **GENERAL.** Candidates for statewide office shall be nominated at a special open meeting of the State Committee in accordance with these Rules and Election Law. The nomination process shall be conducted in the same manner as the election of party offices as provided in Article 9. ~~The Executive Committee of the State Committee shall constitute the committee to fill any vacancy in such designations that may occur after the State Committee has adjourned.~~

14.2.2. **ELIGIBILITY.** To be a candidate for nomination for any of the following offices to be filled by the voters of the entire state, one must be an LPNY Member: Governor/Lt. Governor, Attorney General, Comptroller, United States Senator, Presidential/Vice Presidential Elector. However, in the event that nominations have already closed for a particular statewide office, a motion may be made to reopen nominations exclusively to allow the nomination of a specific non-LPNY Member for that position. Such a motion requires a three-quarters (3/4) vote and is non-debatable. If the motion is passed, the candidate will be entered into nomination.

14.2.3. **COMMITTEE TO FILL VACANCIES.** The Executive Committee of the State Committee shall constitute the committee to fill any vacancy in such designations that may occur after the State Committee has adjourned. [moved from 14.2.1] **The Executive Committee may, by majority vote, appoint a subset of the Executive Committee to serve as the committee to fill vacancies.**

14.2.3. **STAND-IN CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.** The State Committee may nominate a stand-in candidate for President and Vice President of the United States for the purposes of selecting names for an official Libertarian Party independent nominating petition if the Libertarian National Convention in which such candidates are to be nominated, is scheduled to begin after the start of the petitioning period. ~~The Executive Committee shall be named on the petition as the committee to fill vacancies.~~

#### 14.2.3.1. **OPTION TO RETAIN STAND-IN CANDIDATE(S) IN THE GENERAL ELECTION.**

After the Libertarian National Convention and prior to the declination deadline of independent candidates as determined by the New York State Board of Elections, the State Committee may, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, officially request that one or both stand-in candidate(s) remain as the candidate(s) through the general election.

14.2.3.2. **PROCEDURES TO FILL VACANCIES.** If a vacancy occurs in the independent nomination for President and/or Vice President, ~~the Executive Committee, acting as~~ the committee to fill vacancies, shall name the candidate(s) chosen at the Libertarian National Convention as substitute(s). In the event that the Libertarian National Convention fails to nominate a candidate for President or Vice President of the United States, or nominates None of the Above (NOTA), the Executive Committee, acting as the committee to fill vacancies, shall choose the nominee(s) according to their own discretion.

## EXHIBIT 5 (page 1 of 10)

### REPORT OF THE PLATFORM COMMITTEE OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF NEW YORK FOR THE STATE COMMITTEE MEETING OF MONDAY, AUGUST 26, 2024

#### CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE PLATFORM COMMITTEE

*All members unless otherwise specified were appointed at the State Committee meeting of June 4, 2023. Daniel Castello was elected Chair of the Platform Committee and Andrew Kolstee was appointed Secretary of the Platform Committee by the committee on August 10, 2023. Charles Roggen joined the committee on January 25, 2024.*

Daniel Castello, Chair  
Andrew Kolstee, Secretary  
Paul Grindle  
Christopher Olenski  
Richard Purtell  
Charles Roggen  
Robert Schuon  
Blay Tarnoff  
Karyn Thompson

#### FORMER MEMBERS OF THE PLATFORM COMMITTEE

*The following is a list of former members of the Platform Committee.*

Justin Carman (resigned February 20, 2024)  
Jennifer O'Connor (resigned September 21, 2023)  
Keith Redhead (resigned August 7, 2024)  
Michael Rebmann (died August 15, 2024)

#### MEETINGS OF THE PLATFORM COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Platform Committee were held on the following dates. All minutes are available to review at LPedia [here](#) along with other information regarding the LPNY Platform Committee.

August 10, 2023	January 25, 2024
August 24, 2023	February 15, 2024
September 14, 2023	February 20, 2024
September 21, 2023	April 15, 2024
October 2, 2023	May 16, 2024
October 26, 2023	June 5, 2024
November 13, 2023	July 1, 2024
December 6, 2023	July 18, 2024
January 3, 2024	July 24, 2024
January 18, 2024	August 7, 2024

## EXHIBIT 5 (page 2 of 10)

### INTRODUCTION

The platform of the Libertarian Party of New York, a general platform adopted in 2019 to replace the specific platform adopted in 1983, was amended once. There was general consensus amongst most members of the State Committee to opt for a platform that covers general topics as opposed to specific issues. The platform was reexamined and essentially rewritten to follow a flow from the preamble, to individuals rights (section 1), the rights regarding interaction amongst multiple individuals (section 2), principles associated to defending rights (section 3), the universality of rights (section 4), and concluding with preserving liberty (section 5). Numbers indicated as [3] in appearing before struck out text in the original platform are paragraph numbers after the preamble, since the current platform is not numbered.

### STATEMENT OF INTENT

On September 14, 2023, the Platform Committee passed the following:

**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

## EXHIBIT 5 (page 3 of 10)

**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.

### **PROPOSAL 1: Amend preamble.**

[old preamble] ~~WE THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF NEW YORK~~

~~Recognize that all people, being created equal, are endowed with unalienable rights, among these are the right to life, liberty, property, and the pursuit of happiness. We recognize that if governments must exist at all, their only just purpose is to secure these rights for individuals.~~

~~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:~~

[new preamble] A just and prosperous society is rooted in 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.

### **PROPOSAL 2. Add a new plank, as an introduction to rights specific to individuals.**

1. **Individual Sovereignty.** Human beings have rights by virtue of their capacity to understand and respect the rights of others. As such, each individual possesses the unalienable right of self-ownership, and thus autonomy over their life, liberty, and property. Specifically:

### **PROPOSAL 3. Amend existing plank.**

[4] ~~The Right to Self-Ownership and Personal Autonomy—Individuals have the right to do with their own bodies whatever they please.~~

1.1. **Autonomy of the Mind and Body.** Each individual has exclusive authority over their own mind and body.

## EXHIBIT 5 (page 4 of 10)

### PROPOSAL 4. Amend existing plank.

~~[3] **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.~~

1.2. **Freedom of Conscience.** Individuals are free to hold beliefs according to their own moral and ethical convictions, without persecution.

### PROPOSAL 5. Amend existing plank.

~~[8] **The Right to Decide**—Individuals and families have a right to decide for themselves all issues regarding their health, wealth, and safety.~~

1.3. **Self-Determination.** Individuals have the authority to decide matters including, but not limited to, their health, education, financial well-being, and self-defense.

### PROPOSAL 6. Amend existing plank.

~~[5] **The Right to Personal Property**—Individuals have the right to their own property, and to keep, to use, and to dispose of that property however they see fit.~~

1.4. **Personal Property.** Individuals have the right to acquire, own, utilize, and dispose of assets, as these are the outcomes of human dedication through the investment of time and effort.

### PROPOSAL 7. Amend existing plank.

~~[2] **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.~~

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.

## EXHIBIT 5 (page 5 of 10)

### PROPOSAL 8. Amend existing plank.

~~[6] **The Right to Personal Privacy**—Individuals have the right to live free of government intrusion or surveillance into their movements, communications, health, or personal affairs.~~

1.6. **Personal Privacy.** Individuals have the right to manage and protect their personal information, choices, and activities, including deciding the extent to which they share this information with others.

### PROPOSAL 9. Add a new plank.

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

### PROPOSAL 10. Amend existing plank.

~~[1] **The Right to Free Association**—Individuals have the right to associate or not associate with one another on the terms of their own choosing, and without interference from third parties. Nor should one lose their individual rights should they choose to band together collectively.~~

2.1. **Free Association.** Every individual has the right 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.

### PROPOSAL 11. Add a new plank.

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

### PROPOSAL 12. Add a new plank.

2.3. **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. This includes the freedom to negotiate, accept, or reject terms, ensuring all agreements are transparent and made with informed consent.

## EXHIBIT 5 (page 6 of 10)

### PROPOSAL 13. Add a new plank.

**3. Defense of Rights.** 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 authorize others to act on their behalf. The preservation and defense of individual rights is paramount to liberty.

### PROPOSAL 14. Add a new plank.

**3.1. 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.

### PROPOSAL 15. Add a new plank.

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

### PROPOSAL 16. Add a new plank.

**3.3. Assistance in Defense.** Individuals may allow others to aid in their defense or decline assistance. Those who provide assistance have no more right to use force than those requesting it and carry the same responsibilities. Furthermore, those delegated the authority to assist shall not be granted immunity and must be held accountable for their actions to the same extent as anyone else.

### PROPOSAL 17. Add a new plank.

**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.



## EXHIBIT 5 (page 7 of 10)

### PROPOSAL 18. Add a new plank.

4. **Universality of Rights.** Human rights are the same for every man, woman, and child, however there are specific provisions for those unable to exercise them independently.

### PROPOSAL 19. Add a new plank.

4.1. **Parental Authority.** A child's parents have the sole authority to exercise the child's rights on the child's behalf in the child's best interests, which authority may only be abrogated if a parent acts unquestionably against the child's interest, beyond a reasonable doubt.

### PROPOSAL 20. Add a new plank.

4.2. **Rights Held in Trust.** For adults who are organically incapable of informed consent, responsible adults may be appointed to exercise their rights on their behalf in their best interests, which appointment may be changed at any time if it is in the adult's best interest to do so.

### PROPOSAL 21. Add a new plank.

4.3. **Emancipation.** Individuals whose rights are being exercised by another may be emancipated at any time they become capable of informed consent.

### PROPOSAL 22. Amend existing plank.

[conclusion] ~~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.~~

5. **Preserving Liberty.** Government will inevitably grow more tyrannical if left unchecked. It is essential for citizens to be vigilant in defense of their freedom and sovereignty. Therefore, it is the responsibility of citizens to actively restrain the government, its powers, and its agents from ~~perverting~~ **subverting** the rights of the people.

### PROPOSAL 23. Strike existing plank.

[7] ~~The Right to Freedom of Personal Action—Individuals have the right be free to live and do as they please, so long as they respect the rights of others to do the same.~~

## EXHIBIT 5 (page 8 of 10)

### PROPOSED CLEAN TEXT

The following is the proposed platform as recommended by the Platform Committee.

A just and prosperous society is rooted in 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. **Individual Sovereignty.** Human beings have rights by virtue of their capacity to understand and respect the rights of others. As such, each individual possesses the unalienable right of self-ownership, and thus autonomy over their life, liberty, and property. Specifically:

1.1. **Autonomy of the Mind and Body.** Each individual has exclusive authority over their own mind and body.

1.2. **Freedom of Conscience.** Individuals are free to hold beliefs according to their own moral and ethical convictions, without persecution.

1.3. **Self-Determination.** Individuals have the authority to decide matters including, but not limited to, their health, education, financial well-being, and self-defense.

1.4. **Personal Property.** Individuals have the right to acquire, own, utilize, and dispose of assets, as these are the outcomes of human dedication through the investment of time and effort.

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.

1.6. **Personal Privacy.** Individuals have the right to manage and protect their personal information, choices, and activities, including deciding the extent to which they share this information with others.

## EXHIBIT 5 (page 9 of 10)

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

**2.1. Free Association.** Every individual has the right 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. Peaceful Assembly.** Individuals have the right to gather peacefully with others for any purpose, whether social, recreational, cultural, political, or otherwise.

**2.3. 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. This includes the freedom to negotiate, accept, or reject terms, ensuring all agreements are transparent and made with informed consent.

**3. Defense of Rights.** 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 authorize others to act on their behalf. The preservation and defense of individual rights is paramount to liberty.

**3.1. 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.

**3.2. Immediate Defensive Action.** The right of defensive response protects 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. Those who provide assistance have no more right to use force than those requesting it and carry the same responsibilities. Furthermore, those delegated the authority to assist shall not be granted immunity and must be held accountable for their actions to the same extent as anyone else.

## EXHIBIT 5 (page 10 of 10)

**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.

**4. Universality of Rights.** Human rights are the same for every man, woman, and child, however there are specific provisions for those unable to exercise them independently.

**4.1. Parental Authority.** A child's parents have the sole authority to exercise the child's rights on the child's behalf in the child's best interests, which authority may only be abrogated if a parent acts unquestionably against the child's interest, beyond a reasonable doubt.

**4.2. Rights Held in Trust.** For adults who are organically incapable of informed consent, responsible adults may be appointed to exercise their rights on their behalf in their best interests, which appointment may be changed at any time if it is in the adult's best interest to do so.

**4.3. Emancipation.** Individuals whose rights are being exercised by another may be emancipated at any time they become capable of informed consent.

**5. Preserving Liberty.** Government will inevitably grow more tyrannical if left unchecked. It is essential for citizens to be vigilant in defense of their freedom and sovereignty. Therefore, it is the responsibility of citizens to actively restrain the government, its powers, and its agents from perverting the rights of the people.

## Appendix 1. Porcupine votes (page 1 of 3)

Shall we amend Platform Committee Proposal #22 to change "perverting" to "subverting"?

25547 seconds left

Yes

Abstain

No

- Yes ~ 10 ~ (56%)
- No ~ 8 ~ (44%)
- Abstain ~ 2

20 responses submitted.

- Mark Weinblatt ~ Y
- Daniel Castello ~ N
- Cody Anderson ~ Y
- Mark Braiman ~ Y
- Robert Schuon ~ N
- Mark Axinn ~ Y
- Rich Purtell ~ N
- Justin Pelletier ~ Y
- William Schmidt ~ N
- Jeffrey Denecke ~ N
- Steven Becker ~ Y
- Samuel Hordeski ~ N
- Jennifer O'Connor ~ Y
- Chuck Dorgan ~ Y
- Jame VanDewalker ~ N
- E. Rose Leatherman ~ Y
- John Clifton ~ Y
- Jon Gunther ~ A
- Robert Greibesland ~ N
- Andrew Kolstee ~ A

## Appendix 1. Porcupine votes (page 2 of 3)

Shall we amend Platform Committee Proposal #14 to strike the word "any"?

24587 seconds left

Yes

Abstain

No

- Yes ~ 7 ~ (41%)
- No ~ 10 ~ (59%)
- Abstain ~ 2

19 responses submitted.

- Rich Purtell ~ Y
- Sean Phelan ~ Y
- Daniel Castello ~ N
- Robert Schuon ~ N
- Steven Becker ~ Y
- Morry Davis ~ A
- Robert Greibesland ~ N
- Cody Anderson ~ Y
- Jame VanDewalker ~ N
- Chuck Dorgan ~ N
- Mark Axinn ~ Y
- E. Rose Leatherman ~ N
- William Schmidt ~ Y
- Justin Pelletier ~ Y
- Mark Weinblatt ~ N
- Jeffrey Denecke ~ N
- Samuel Hordeski ~ N
- Justin Carman ~ N
- Jon Gunther ~ A

## Appendix 1. Porcupine votes (page 3 of 3)

### JD 6 Election

19547 seconds left

Make up to 1 choices

Chuck Dorgan

NOTA: None Of The Above

[Send Ballot](#)

14 ballots submitted.

- Mark Axinn
- E. Rose Leatherman
- Jon Gunther
- Mark Braiman
- Andrew Kolstee
- Daniel Castello
- Cody Anderson
- Chance Haywood
- Sean Phelan
- Jame VanDewalker
- Rich Purtell
- Amber Nunes
- William Schmidt
- Mark Weinblatt