

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

MEMBERS PRESENT (35)

Mark N. Axinn (JD1) ¹
Morry C. Davis (JD1) ¹
David B. “Chance” Haywood (JD1) ¹
Paul M. Grindle (JD2) ¹
Gary S. Popkin (JD2)
William Cody Anderson (JD3) ¹
Justin N. Carman (JD3) ¹
Jennifer L. O’Connor (JD3) ¹
Daniel J. Castello (JD5) ¹
James B. Fitch (JD5) ¹
Erinn Rose Leatherman (JD5) ¹
Amber L. Nunes (JD5) ¹
Mark S. Braiman (JD6) ¹
Charles E. Dorgan (JD6) ^V
Samuel Hordeski (JD6) ¹
Christopher M. Olenski (JD6) ¹
Steven G. Becker (JD7) ¹
Justin M. Pelletier (JD7) ¹
Sean C. Phelan (JD7) ¹
James M. Ziobro (JD7)
Erin M. Becker (JD8)
Andrew M. Kolstee (JD8) ¹
Duane J. Whitmer (JD8) ¹
Jame J. VanDewalker (JD8) ¹
Juan R. Ayala (JD9)
Robert J. Greibesland (JD9) ¹
William K. Schmidt (JD9) ¹
Jeffrey J. Denecke (JD10) ¹
Jonathan H. Gunther (JD10) ¹
Vincent O’Neill (JD10) ¹
Christian L. Padgett (JD10) ¹
Robert E. Schuon (JD10) ¹
John Clifton (JD11) ¹
Irwin Mark Weinblatt (JD11) ¹

Richard F. Purtell (ex-officio) ¹
MEMBERS ABSENT (24)

Matthew I. Morgan (JD2)
Lora L. Newell (JD3)
Amanda H. Ellithorpe (JD4)
Stephen C. Healey (JD4)
Karen A. Keniry-Thompson (JD4)
Zachary D. Remian (JD4)
Shawn C. DeGrand (JD5)
Matthew K. Guilianelli (JD5)
Keith C. Redhead (JD5)
Craig L. Colwell (JD6)
David S. Penner (JD6)
Jeffrey C. Bradley (JD7)
Marc A. Smith (JD7)
Maura E. Botsford (JD8)
Leonard E. Morlock (JD8) ^A
Frances Law (JD8)
Charles R. Roggen (JD8)
Daniel P. Donnelly (JD9)
Robert J. Cocomello (JD9)
Christian J. Vondras (JD9)
George T. Ostrowski (JD10)
Blay Tarnoff (JD10)
Randyn Tarnoff (JD10)
Francisco Olvera (JD11)

OBSERVERS (2)

Timothy “TJ” Ferreira, Porcupine Administrator
Christopher Skelly, Brooklyn Chair

KEY

(1) Present at first roll call.
(V) Elected to fill a vacancy.
(A) Leonard Morlock passed away on the morning of the meeting, but this fact was not known until the following day.

The meeting was called to order at 6:53 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. Juan Ayala, Erin Becker, Gary Popkin, and James Ziobro later entered the meeting. The Secretary determined that a quorum was present at all times during the meeting.

The **Agenda (Exhibit 2) was adopted** 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 these vacancies 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 and he accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations.

In the first round of voting for the vacancy in Judicial District 6 on the State Committee, the results were as follows:

Candidate (vote for 1)	Votes	Percentage
Charles Dorgan	12	85.71%
None of the Above (NOTA)	2	14.29%
Total Votes	14	100.00%
Total Voters	14	

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 in writing (**Exhibit 3**) and the report was accepted without objection.

Chair Andrew Kolstee issued a Chair's report. Oliver Hall filed a motion on August 18 to intervene in the Kennedy lawsuit against the New York State Board of Elections, 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 August 23, causing the court to reject Oliver Hall's motion to intervene. Oliver Hall will file an amended motion to intervene within the next two days. There will be a filing with the New York State Board of Elections to register Chase Oliver and Mike ter Maat as write-in candidates along with the required list of Presidential Elector candidates.

Legislative Affairs chair Richard Purtell issued a report. Motion by Richard Purtell to **adopt the following resolution to oppose the New York State Equal Rights Amendment Proposal 1** was seconded by Mark Braiman and passed without objection.

WHEREAS, the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) proposal 1 poses a significant threat to parental rights by potentially allowing government overreach in areas such as education and medical treatment for minors, possibly mandating gender and sex education without parental knowledge or consent, or allowing minors access to gender-affirming treatments without parental involvement;

WHEREAS, the ERA proposal 1 does not provide equal rights for all, but selectively mentions specific groups while excluding others, such as those discriminated against based on marital status or genetic information;

WHEREAS, existing federal and state laws, including the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and Section 11 of the New York State Constitution, already offer comprehensive protection against discrimination for all individuals;

WHEREAS, Section 11 of the New York State Constitution explicitly mandates equal protection under the law for all persons without arbitrary discrimination and prohibits discrimination of civil rights based on race, color, creed, and religion, with these principles extendable to other areas such as gender and disability through judicial interpretation;

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court has determined the issue of abortion is to be managed at the state level, not federal, and New York State has already codified abortion rights, including for late-term abortions, through the Reproductive Health Act, making proposal 1 redundant in terms of protecting women's reproductive rights;
WHEREAS, the proposal's language is overly broad and ambiguous, creating the potential for significant legal challenges that could burden taxpayers with costly

litigation, while also undermining protections specifically designed for women, such as those against sexual assault and in domestic violence shelters, and may give biological men identifying as women access to women-only spaces;

WHEREAS, the broad scope of the ERA proposal 1 could extend privileges traditionally reserved for citizens, such as voting, to non-citizens, including undocumented immigrants, thus potentially creating further legal and social complications;

WHEREAS, the proposal could negatively impact women's sports by undermining Title IX protections, thus allowing biological men identifying as women to compete in women's sports, creating unfair competition and jeopardizing scholarships and opportunities that many women rely on for their education;

WHEREAS, the proposal's implementation would impose financial burdens on schools, businesses, and taxpayers, with increased costs for compliance, legal consultations, and the creation of inclusive environments, such as gender-neutral facilities, ultimately leading to a negative economic impact;

WHEREAS, the proposal, if passed, will result in expanded government control at the expense of individual rights and freedoms, contrary to the intentions of our forefathers, who advocated for limited government to protect the rights of all citizens, and would likely be subject to numerous legal challenges, further straining state resources and taxpayer funds;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Libertarian Party of New York, oppose the New York State Equal Rights Amendment proposal 1, recognizing it as a dangerously broad and unnecessary measure that threatens parental rights, undermines existing protections for women, imposes financial burdens on taxpayers and businesses, potentially grants non-citizens the same privileges as citizens, and expands governmental control at the expense of individual liberties. We urge all voters to vote "No" on this proposal in the upcoming November election.

Rules Committee Chair Andrew Kolstee issued a report in writing (**Exhibit 4**).

Motion by Daniel Castello on behalf of the Rules Committee to **amend the Rules of the Libertarian Party to adopt Proposal 1** was debated. 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 **amend the Rules of the Libertarian Party to adopt Proposal 2** was debated and failed by voice vote.

Motion by Rich Purtell to **amend the Rules of the Libertarian Party to adopt Proposal 3** was seconded by Mark Axinn and passed without objection.

Motion by Daniel Castello on behalf of the Rules Committee to adopt **amend the Rules of the Libertarian Party to adopt Proposal 4** was debated and failed by voice vote.

Platform Committee Chair Daniel Castello issued a report in writing (**Exhibit 5**).

Motion by Daniel Castello on behalf of the Platform Committee to **amend the Platform of the Libertarian Party to adopt Proposal 1** passed without objection.

Motion by Daniel Castello on behalf of the Platform Committee to **amend the Platform of the Libertarian Party to adopt Proposal 2** passed without objection.

Motion by Daniel Castello on behalf of the Platform Committee to **amend the Platform of the Libertarian Party to adopt Proposal 3** passed without objection.

Motion by Daniel Castello on behalf of the Platform Committee to **amend the Platform of the Libertarian Party to adopt Proposal 4** passed without objection.

Motion by Daniel Castello on behalf of the Platform Committee to **amend the Platform of the Libertarian Party to adopt Proposal 5** passed without objection.

Motion by Daniel Castello on behalf of the Platform Committee to **amend the Platform of the Libertarian Party to adopt Proposal 6** passed without objection.

Motion by Daniel Castello on behalf of the Platform Committee to **amend the Platform of the Libertarian Party to adopt Proposal 7** passed without objection.

Motion by Daniel Castello on behalf of the Platform Committee to **amend the Platform of the Libertarian Party to adopt Proposal 8** passed without objection.

Motion by Daniel Castello on behalf of the Platform Committee to **amend the Platform of the Libertarian Party to adopt Proposal 9** passed without objection.

Motion by Daniel Castello on behalf of the Platform Committee to **amend the Platform of the Libertarian Party to adopt Proposal 10** passed without objection.

Motion by Daniel Castello on behalf of the Platform Committee to **amend the Platform of the Libertarian Party to adopt Proposal 11** passed without objection.

Motion by Daniel Castello on behalf of the Platform Committee to **amend the Platform of the Libertarian Party to adopt Proposal 12** passed without objection.

Motion by Daniel Castello on behalf of the Platform Committee to **amend the Platform of the Libertarian Party to adopt Proposal 13** passed without objection.

Motion by Daniel Castello on behalf of the Platform Committee to **amend the Platform of the Libertarian Party to adopt Proposal 14** was debated. Motion by Steven Becker to **amend Proposal 14 to strike the word “any” from the phrase “bear any arms”** was seconded by Mark Axinn, debated, and failed 7-10-2. The original motion to **amend the Platform of the Libertarian Party to adopt Proposal 14** passed by voice vote.

Motion by Daniel Castello on behalf of the Platform Committee to **amend the Platform of the Libertarian Party to adopt Proposal 15** passed without objection.

Motion by Daniel Castello on behalf of the Platform Committee to **amend the Platform of the Libertarian Party to adopt Proposal 16** passed without objection.

Motion by Daniel Castello on behalf of the Platform Committee to **amend the Platform of the Libertarian Party to adopt Proposal 17** passed without objection.

Motion by Daniel Castello on behalf of the Platform Committee to **amend the Platform of the Libertarian Party to adopt Proposal 18** passed without objection.

Motion by Daniel Castello on behalf of the Platform Committee to **amend the Platform of the Libertarian Party to adopt Proposal 19** passed without objection.

Motion by Daniel Castello on behalf of the Platform Committee to **amend the Platform of the Libertarian Party to adopt Proposal 20** passed without objection.

Motion by Daniel Castello on behalf of the Platform Committee to **amend the Platform of the Libertarian Party to adopt Proposal 21** was debated and passed by voice vote.

Motion by Daniel Castello on behalf of the Platform Committee to **amend the Platform of the Libertarian Party to adopt Proposal 22** was debated. Motion by Mark Braiman to amend to **Proposal 22 to strike “perverting” and insert “subverting”** was seconded by William Cody Anderson, debated, and passed 10-8-1. The original motion to **amend the Platform of the Libertarian Party to adopt Proposal 22 as amended** passed by voice vote.

Motion by Daniel Castello on behalf of the Platform Committee to adopt **amend the Platform of the Libertarian Party to adopt Proposal 23** was debated and passed without objection.

Motion by William Cody Anderson to **adopt the Platform as a whole including the amendments approved during the meeting** was seconded by Steven Becker and passed without objection.

A moment of silence was held in memory of Darryl Bonner, Mark Glogowski, and Michael Rebmann, who passed away within the past few months.

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

The meeting was **adjourned** at 9:05 p.m.

Mark Stephen Braiman,
Secretary

Exhibit 1

CREDENTIALS REPORT

ROLL CALLS. Column #1 taken at 6:00 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	JD	State Committee Member	1	2	JD	State Committee Member	1	2
EO	Richard F. Purtell	P		5	VACANT			8	VACANT		
1	Mark N. Axinn	P		6	Mark S. Braiman	P		9	Juan R. Ayala	7:10	
1	Morry C. Davis	P		6	Craig Colwell			9	Robert J. Cocomello		
1	David B. "Chance" Haywood	P		6	Charles Dorgan		V	9	Daniel P. Donnelly		
2	Paul M. Grindle	P		6	Samuel J. Hordeski	P		9	Robert J. Greibesland	P	
2	Matthew I. Morgan			6	Christopher M. Olenski	P		9	William K. Schmidt	P	
2	Gary S. Popkin		7:23	6	David S. Penner			9	Christian J. Vondras		
3	William Cody Anderson	P		7	Steven G. Becker	P		10	Jeffrey J. Denecke	P	
3	Justin N. Carman	P		7	Jeffrey C. Bradley			10	Jonathan H. Gunther	P	
3	Lora Newell			7	Justin Pelletier	P		10	Vincent O'Neill	P	
3	Jennifer L. O'Connor	P		7	Sean C. Phelan	P		10	George T. Ostrowski		
4	Amanda H. Ellithorpe			7	Marc A. Smith			10	Christian Padgett	P	
4	Stephen C. Healey			7	James M. Ziobro		8:10	10	Robert E. Schuon	P	
4	VACANT			7	VACANT			10	Blay Tarnoff		
4	Karyn A. Keniry-Thompson			7	VACANT			10	Randyn Tarnoff		
4	Zachary D. Remian			7	VACANT			11	John Clifton	P	
5	Daniel J. Castello	P		8	Erin M. Becker		8:10	11	Francisco Olvera		
5	Shawn C. DeGrand			8	Maura E. Botsford			11	Irwin Mark Weinblatt	P	
5	James Fitch	P		8	Andrew M. Kolstee	P		12	VACANT		
5	Matthew K. Guilianelli			8	Francis Law			12	VACANT		
5	Erinn Rose Leatherman	P		8	Leonard E. Morlock			13	VACANT		
5	Amber Nunes	P		8	Charles R. Roggen			13	VACANT		
5	Keith C. Redhead			8	Jame J. VanDewalker	P			# Present at roll call.	30	
5	VACANT			8	Duane J. Whitmer	P			(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 8)

REPORT OF THE RULES COMMITTEE FOR THE STATE COMMITTEE MEETING OF AUGUST 26, 2024

Proposal 1 (O). Reorganizes the Executive Committee by removing the 2nd Vice-Chair to only have one and replacing the Members-At-Large with 7 Director positions, all of which are defined: Communications Director, Fundraising Director, Information Technology (IT) Director, Legislative Affairs Director, Outreach Director, Political Director, and Volunteer Director. The size of the Executive Committee changes from 10 members to 11 members.

Article 6. State Committee

6.1. **AUTHORITY.** The State Committee shall be the highest governing body of the LPNY...

~~7.1.6.1.1. AUTHORITY: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.~~ The Executive Committee shall consist of all the Officers of the LPNY. This committee shall carry on the duties and exercise the powers of the State Committee when it is not in session or stands in recess....

6.2. **MEMBERS.** Members of the State Committee must be LPNY Members and elected in accordance with these Rules. If at any time the LPNY is unable to elect a new State Committee under the auspices of the New York State Board of Elections, the members of the State Committee shall be elected in accordance with Article ~~6.4~~ 6.5. Members of the State Committee shall also include any LPNY Member who fills a vacancy in the State Committee or is an Officer ~~elected to the Executive Committee.~~

6.3. **COMPOSITION...**

6.4. **ELECTION THROUGH THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS...**

6.5. **ELECTION THROUGH THE LPNY...**

~~6.6. OFFICERS...~~ [see below - merging with Executive Committee into Article 7]

~~6.7.~~ 6.6. **VACANCIES.** ~~6.7.1. STATE COMMITTEE.~~ If a vacancy exists on the State Committee, the position shall be vacant until filled by election by a majority vote of the State Committee. Nominations for filling any vacancy may be submitted to the Secretary at least seven (7) days in advance of the meeting in which the filling of the vacancy shall be considered. Once the filling of vacancies begins, the Secretary shall present the nominations received. Subsequent nominations may be made on the floor prior to the election to fill such vacancies. The Chair shall request that each nominee is qualified to fill the vacancy and accepts the nomination in order to be entered into nomination to fill the vacancy they seek.

~~6.7.2. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.~~ If a vacancy occurs on the Executive Committee... [moved to Article 7]

~~6.8.~~ 6.7. **TERM.** ...

Exhibit 4 (page 2 of 8)

Article 7. ~~Executive Committee~~ Officers

~~6.6.7.1. OFFICERS: GENERAL.~~ The officers ~~of the State and Executive Committee~~ shall be the Chair, ~~1st Vice-Chair, 2nd Vice-Chair,~~ Secretary, ~~and~~ Treasurer, Communications Director, Fundraising Director, Information Technology (IT) Director, Legislative Affairs Director, Outreach Director, Political Director, and Volunteer Director. ~~All officers shall be considered ex-officio members of the State Committee and shall have the same rights and privileges as any member of the State Committee.~~ ~~7.2. MEMBERSHIP:~~ ~~The Executive Committee shall consist of the officers of the State Committee as defined in Article 6.5 and five (5) Members-At-Large elected by the State Committee. There shall be no more than one (1) Member-At-Large from a single Judicial District. Members-At-Large, if not a member of the State Committee, shall be considered ex-officio members of the State Committee and shall have the same rights and privileges as any member of the State Committee.~~ Only LPNY Members are eligible to be officers. Within three days after the election a certificate stating the names and post office addresses of such officers shall be filed with the New York State Board of Elections as required by law.

~~6.8.1. OFFICER TERMS.~~ Officer terms ~~expire upon the conclusion of the next Organization Meeting held following the Organization Meeting in which they were elected.~~

~~7.4.2. TERM.~~ ~~All Executive Committee members~~ Officers shall be elected at the first State Committee meeting following the primary election in even-numbered years and shall serve a term of two (2) years or until their successors are duly elected as provided herein or by statute. ~~Executive Committee members who move out of their State Committee district but within the State of New York may keep their offices until the end of their term. All other officers shall be elected at the annual convention and shall serve a term of one (1) year or until their successors are duly elected.~~

7.3. **DUTIES OF OFFICERS.** Duties of such officers are provided in this section.

~~6.6.1.7.3.1. CHAIR.~~ The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the State Committee. The Chair shall perform such duties as usually pertain to the office of Chair and shall perform such other duties as are assigned to the Chair by the State Committee. ~~7.3. PRESIDING OFFICER:~~ The Chair shall be the Presiding Officer for the purpose of signing and filing documents as provided by law. ~~[merged these Chair duties]~~

~~6.6.2.7.3.2. VICE-CHAIRS.~~ The ~~1st and 2nd~~ Vice-Chairs shall act as assistants to the Chair. The ~~1st~~ Vice-Chair shall preside in the absence of the Chair and shall assume all the duties of the Chair in the event the Chair is unable to execute the duties of the Chair. ~~The 2nd Vice-Chair shall assume such duties in the event that the 1st Vice-Chair is unable to execute such duties.~~

~~6.6.3.7.3.3. SECRETARY.~~ ...

~~6.6.4.7.3.4. TREASURER.~~ ...

~~6.6.5.7.3.5. ASSISTANTS.~~ ...

Exhibit 4 (page 3 of 8)

[DEFINITIONS TAKEN FROM POLICY MANUAL AND AMENDED]

7.3.6. **COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR.** The Communications Director shall oversee the ~~The~~ Communications Division, which shall be led by the Communications Director. The Division is responsible for overseeing public relations, social media, content creation, and messaging. ~~The Division shall consist of a Communications Committee chaired by the Communications Director; and a Social Media Committee.~~

7.3.7. **FUNDRAISING DIRECTOR.** The Fundraising Director shall oversee the ~~The~~ Fundraising Division, which shall be led by the Fundraising Director. The Division shall be responsible for obtaining finances, including managing donor relationships, sponsorships, vendor relationships, and merchandising.

7.3.8. **IT DIRECTOR.** The IT Director shall oversee the ~~The~~ IT Division, which shall be led by the ~~IT Director.~~ The Division shall be responsible for administering the website, database management, and assisting other divisions with IT-related tasks as necessary.

7.3.9. **LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS DIRECTOR.** The Legislative Affairs Director shall oversee the ~~The~~ Legislative Affairs Division, which shall be led by the Legislative Affairs Director. The Division is responsible for developing and policy; monitoring legislation, and building strategies to advance the party's message in the legislative process. ~~The Division shall consist of a Legislative Affairs Committee chaired by the Legislative Affairs Director. The Division may be further divided into subcommittees based on the category of issues.~~

7.3.10. **OUTREACH DIRECTOR.** The Outreach Director shall oversee the ~~The~~ Outreach Division, which shall be led by the Outreach Director. The Division shall be responsible for developing and implementing strategies for content creation, activism opportunities; direct citizen action, networking with other organizations, coalition building, and developing County Affiliates and College Campus Affiliates.

7.3.11. **POLITICAL DIRECTOR.** The Political Director shall oversee the ~~The~~ Political Division, which shall be led by the Political Director. The Division shall be responsible for candidate acquisition, candidate support, and supporting elected Libertarians ~~Support.~~

7.3.12. **VOLUNTEER DIRECTOR.** The Volunteer Director shall oversee the ~~The~~ Volunteer Division, which shall be led by the Volunteer Director. The Division shall be responsible for volunteer coordination and organizing trainings. ~~The Division shall consist of a Personnel Committee chaired by the Personnel Director.~~

~~6.7.2.7.4. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. VACANCIES.~~ If a vacancy occurs ~~on the Executive Committee or the State Committee;~~ in any officer position, the position shall be filled in accordance with this section. Vacancies occur by death, resignation, removal, relocation out of state, or change of party enrollment to a choice other than Libertarian.

Exhibit 4 (page 4 of 8)

~~6.7.1.7.4.1. CHAIR.~~ If a vacancy exists in the office of Chair, the ~~1st~~ Vice-Chair shall serve as Acting Chair until the election of a new Chair at the next meeting of the full State Committee. ~~If the 1st Vice-Chair declines to serve as Acting Chair, the 2nd Vice-Chair shall serve as Acting Chair until the election of a new Chair at the next meeting of the full State Committee. If the 2nd Vice-Chair declines to serve as Acting Chair, the Executive Committee shall appoint an Acting Chair at its next meeting, who shall serve as Acting Chair until a new Chair is elected.~~

~~6.7.2. 1ST VICE-CHAIR.~~ If a vacancy exists in the office of 1st Vice-Chair, the 2nd Vice-Chair shall serve as the 1st Vice-Chair for the remainder of the term.

~~6.7.3.7.4.3. OTHER OFFICERS.~~ If a vacancy exists in any other ~~the~~ officer position ~~of 2nd Vice-Chair, Secretary, or Treasurer,~~ the Executive Committee shall fill the vacancy, subject to ratification by a vote of the State Committee. The individual selected shall serve for the remainder of the term of the office vacated. If the ratification fails, the State Committee shall fill the vacancy.

~~6.7.4. AT-LARGE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS.~~ If a vacancy exists in an At-Large Executive Committee Member position, the position shall be vacant until filled by a majority vote of the State Committee. ~~The Executive Committee is not authorized to fill such vacancies.~~

Article 9. Elections

9.1. **GENERAL.** Elections of party offices shall be conducted in accordance with this article. Such offices shall include the officers ~~(Chair, 1st Vice-Chair, 2nd Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer), Members-At-Large of the Executive Committee,~~ and the filling of vacancies of any of those offices, including members of the State Committee. [\[officers already defined in Article 7\]](#)

9.3.4. **ORDER OF ELECTIONS.** Elections of each party office shall be held individually in the following order, if such election is required by the agenda: Members of the State Committee, Chair, 1st Vice-Chair, ~~2nd Vice-Chair,~~ Secretary, Treasurer, ~~and Members-At-Large of the Executive Committee~~ Communications Director, Fundraising Director, IT Director, Legislative Affairs Director, Outreach Director, Political Director, and Volunteer Director.

~~9.3.5.2. ELECTION OF MEMBERS-AT-LARGE OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.~~ In any election for ~~Members-At-Large of the Executive Committee,~~ only the candidate with the highest number of votes from a Judicial District shall be elected. ~~There shall be no more than one Member-At-Large elected from a Judicial District. Once a candidate is elected as a Member-At-Large of the Executive Committee, any other candidate residing in that Judicial District shall be disqualified and removed from any subsequent ballot.~~

Exhibit 4 (page 5 of 8)

Proposal 2 (B). Cleanup article regarding County Affiliates, define a county that regularly meets as a provisional County Organization, a level in between a recognized County Affiliate and a County Liaison.

11.1. **GENERAL PROVISIONS.** No more than one (1) County Affiliate shall be recognized by and affiliated with the Libertarian Party for each county. The recognized County Affiliate shall officially represent the LPNY Members in the county and shall exercise all of the powers of the County Committees as set forth herein and not prohibited by applicable law. The County Affiliate shall be organized as either a County Organization, ~~as outlined in Article 11.2.~~ or as a Constituted County Committee ~~as outlined in Article 11.5.~~

11.2. **UNORGANIZED COUNTIES.** An unorganized county is any county in which no recognized County Affiliate exists. The State Committee may recognize a Provisional County Organization and/or appoint an Acting County Chair ~~and~~ or County Liaison from among the LPNY Member(s) in that county. ~~Both positions may be held by the same person.~~

11.2.1. **PROVISIONAL COUNTY ORGANIZATION.** A Provisional County Organization is an intermediary stage for counties that are meeting no less than twice per quarter. Such organizations do not need to formally adopt rules and do not have the privileges of a full County Organization. The Acting County Chair shall serve as the presiding officer of the Provisional County Organization and shall only be appointed or removed by the State Committee. The Provisional County Organization shall be recognized for a period of six (6) months, subject to renewal of recognition every six (6) months.

~~11.2.1. **ACTING COUNTY CHAIR.** The Acting Chair of an unorganized county is responsible for holding a meeting or event no less than twice per quarter and promoting them for the purpose of ultimately organizing a County Affiliate and building a Libertarian Party presence in the county.~~

11.2.2. **COUNTY LIAISON.** The County Liaison of an unorganized county is responsible for serving as the liaison of the unorganized county to the State Committee.

11.2.3. **TERMS.** Acting County Chairs and County Liaisons shall serve until the end of the succeeding calendar quarter, subject to renewal or removal by the State Committee. Each renewal shall expire at the end of the succeeding calendar quarter.

Exhibit 4 (page 6 of 8)

Proposal 3 (D). Cleanup and simplify provisions for County Affiliates

~~11.6.~~ 11.3. **CONSTITUTED COUNTY COMMITTEES.** When the number of Election District delegates elected at primary is sufficient to meet Election Law requirements, and an organization meeting is held, the County Affiliate shall be referred to as a **Libertarian Constituted** County Committee. No County Committee shall be recognized unless elected, organized, and constituted in accordance with the Election Law. County Committees shall adopt rules that are consistent with these Rules and Election Law.

~~11.3.1.4.~~ **GENERAL COUNTY ORGANIZATIONS.** In any county where ~~an insufficient number of Election District delegates were elected to form~~ a **Constituted** County Committee ~~is unable to be organized in accordance with Election Law,~~ a County Organization may be formed and affiliated in those counties when a convention is held to adopt county rules ~~consistent with Article 11.2 and~~ and elect officers. Quorum at the convention shall be four (4) LPNY Members residing in the county.

11.4.1. **AFFILIATION CRITERIA.** ~~To qualify to be an affiliated County Organization;~~ The group that convened ~~in order to form a County Organization~~ must provide documentation to the **Executive State Committee of the following:** that a convention was held in accordance with these Rules, county rules were adopted, and officers were elected. ~~11.3.2. AFFILIATION.~~ Upon a majority vote of the **Executive Committee of the State Committee,** the group that met the criteria ~~for affiliation in Article 11.3~~ shall become an affiliated County Organization. **[ALREADY PASSED 2ND TO LAST STRIKE-OUT]**

11.4.2. **NOTIFICATION.** Notice of the convention must be made to all LPNY Members in the county ~~as follows by one or more of the following options.~~ ~~11.4.4.1.~~ The first notice is to be sent to the mailing address, email address, and/or telephone number ~~of the LPNY member on record at the County Board of Elections or the LPNY.~~ ~~The expense of mailing can be reduced by sending a notice by telephone.~~ The first notice must also include a clear statement of how notice of subsequent meetings will be provided. ~~11.4.4.2.~~ Subsequent notification shall be sufficient if it is posted on the County Organization's ~~website or Facebook page.~~

~~11.3.3.~~ 4.3. **CERTIFICATION.** All County Affiliates shall be recertified as a County Affiliate to ensure they continue to meet the requirements of these Rules. All County Affiliates shall provide the latest copy of the County Rules and minutes of any convention or election to fill vacancies. A quorum of the **Executive State Committee** shall certify by a majority vote that such requirements have been met by March 31 in each odd-numbered year. County Affiliates that fail to meet such requirements may have their affiliation revoked in accordance with Article 12.

~~11.4.1. CONVENTION.~~ ~~A convention, organization meeting, or special meeting held in accordance with Article 11.2.1. The convention may be held in person, by video teleconference, or a combination thereof.~~ **[moving and rewording to Rules governing County Organizations]**

~~11.4.2. COUNTY RULES.~~ ~~The adoption of County Rules at said convention, organization meeting, or special meeting which contain the following provisions:~~ **[simplified in 11.4]**

Exhibit 4 (page 7 of 8)

~~11.4.2.1. ELECTION OF OFFICERS. A provision for the election of officers to terms not exceeding twenty-five (25) months, elected through single non-transferable votes; [moving and rewording to Rules governing County Organizations]~~

~~11.4.2.3. OTHER PROVISIONS. All other provisions in the county rules must be consistent with Article 11.4. [Reworded in Article 11.5]~~

~~11.4.3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS. An election of officers of the County Committee.~~

11.5. **RULES GOVERNING COUNTY ORGANIZATIONS.** These provisions shall govern all County Organizations and shall supersede the County Rules.

11.5.2. **OFFICERS.** Each County Organization shall elect a Chair, a Vice-Chair, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. All officers and interim officers must be LPNY Members residing in the county in which they serve. Terms of office shall not exceed twenty-five (25) months and officers must be elected through single non-transferable votes. If a County Affiliate is unable to fill all officer positions, two positions may be held by one member, except that the Chair may not also serve as the Treasurer.

11.5.4. **AUTHORITY.** Until a Constituted County Committee ...

~~11.4.2.2.5.5. QUARTERLY MEETINGS. County Affiliates shall hold A provision in the county rules for meetings of the full County Committee to be held~~ no less often than once per quarter, open to all county members and announced as provided in Article 8 of these rules.

~~11.4.1. CONVENTION. A convention, organization meeting, or special meeting held in accordance with Article 11.2.1. The convention may be held in-person, by video teleconference, or a combination thereof.~~

11.5.5.6. **ELECTION DISTRICT DELEGATES.** The County Organization may appoint Election District Delegates. If they do so, they shall appoint no more than two (2) enrolled members of the Libertarian Party to represent each Election District in their county. Any enrolled member of the Libertarian Party residing in the county containing such Election District shall be appointed as an Election District delegate as long as there is a vacancy. An election shall be held if there are more candidates than Election District delegate positions. County Organizations shall determine the manner in which Election District delegates are appointed. Such appointment is not intended to be subject to Election Law 2-104.

Exhibit 4 (page 8 of 8)

Proposal 4 (C). Clarification/Splitting article for readability.

13.4. **MANNER OF SELECTION OF AT-LARGE DELEGATES.** All At-Large Delegates and At-Large Alternate Delegates shall be selected by the State Committee in accordance with the rubric provided in the Policy Manual in which a line of succession is established for ranking Delegates and Alternate Delegates. At-Large Delegates shall be selected in the order in accordance with the rubric until all the At-Large Delegate seats are filled. At-Large Alternate Delegates shall be selected in the order in accordance with the rubric until all the At-Large Alternate Delegate seats are filled.

13.4.1. **TIES.** Ties shall be broken by a vote of the State Committee.

13.4.2. **VACANCIES.** Vacancies of At-Large Delegate positions shall be filled by selecting the next individual in the line of succession. Filling of vacancies shall be filled by the Chair and ratified by the State Committee. If the vacancy occurs within fourteen (14) days prior to the start of the National Convention, the ratification requirement shall not apply.

13.4.3. **RATIFICATION OF LIST.** The list of Delegates and Alternate Delegates shall be ratified by the State Committee.

13.4.4. **APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL DELEGATES AND ALTERNATE DELEGATES.** Additional At-Large Alternate Delegates may be added after the appointment of At-Large Delegates and At-Large Alternate Delegates and shall be added to the end of the list in chronological order of their ~~selection~~ request to be ~~as~~ an additional Alternate Delegate.

Proposal 5 (M). Amend provisions for resolutions, requiring at least five members to co-sponsor before it is considered.

Article 17. Resolutions

To provide the Libertarian Party with a means of expressing its official opinion on any issues ~~of public concern~~, resolutions may be passed by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the full State Committee. All resolutions shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary with the names of five (5) members of the State Committee co-sponsoring in order for the resolution to be considered.

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

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.

Exhibit 5 (page 3 of 10)

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.

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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.

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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.~~

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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.

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

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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.

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.

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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.