

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLATFORM COMMITTEE
OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF NEW YORK
HELD ON THURSDAY, JULY 18, 2024 ON THE ZOOM MEETING APP**

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Paul Grindle
Michael Rebmann
Keith Redhead
Charles Roggen

An informal discussion began at 7:05 p.m. since it was determined that quorum was not present. Karyn Thompson entered the meeting at 7:16 p.m., establishing quorum.

The meeting was called to order at 7:18 p.m. by Daniel Castello, Chair. It was determined that quorum was not present.

Motion by Robert Schuon to **call for a reading of the proposed platform as so far approved by the Platform Committee** passed without objection.

Daniel Castello read the proposed platform.

Motion by Andrew Kolstee to **recommend Proposal EY as follows, which amends draft platform section 3, to the State Committee for adoption as an amendment to the Platform of the Libertarian Party of New York** was seconded by Robert Schuon passed without objection.

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

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

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

3.2. Immediate Defensive Action. The right of defensive response ~~requires~~ 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.

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

Blay Tarnoff entered the meeting at 8:11 p.m.

Motion by Robert Schuon to **recommend Proposal FE as follows, which amends draft platform plank 4, to the State Committee for adoption as an amendment to the Platform of the Libertarian Party of New York** was seconded by Karyn Thompson passed without objection.

~~4. Limitations of Government and Citizen Responsibilities. Governments are an imperfect mechanism for protecting rights. To secure these rights, government powers must be restricted. Therefore, governments are eternally prohibited from perverting the rights of the individual.~~

Preserving Liberty. Government will inevitably grow more tyrannical if left unchecked. To preserve liberty, the government, its powers, and its agents must be strictly limited. Only the active involvement of responsible citizens can restrain the government, and

prevent it from perverting the rights of the people. It is essential for ~~vigilant~~ citizens to be vigilant and ~~abide by~~ adhere to the forgoing principles to preserve liberty and actively defend their freedom and sovereignty.

Daniel Castello read the newly proposed platform.

Motion by Robert Schuon was seconded by Karyn Thompson to **append the following quote to the end of the platform.**

The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants. It is its natural manure. - Thomas Jefferson

Andrew Kolstee objected to the motion.

Motion by Robert Schuon to **amend the motion to add quotations and remove the apostrophe in “it’s”** passed without objection.

“The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants. It is its natural manure.” - Thomas Jefferson

The original motion as amended as follows was debated and failed by voice vote.

“The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants. It is its natural manure.” - Thomas Jefferson

Motion by Karyn Thompson to **recommend Proposal FG as follows, which amends draft platform plank 2.2, to the State Committee for adoption as an amendment to the Platform of the Libertarian Party of New York** was seconded by Robert Schuon and debated.

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

Motion by Blay Tarnoff to **amend the motion to insert “justifiable” as follows** was seconded by Christopher Olenski, debated, and failed by voice vote.

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

The original motion as follows was debated.

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

Motion by Blay Tarnoff to **amend the motion to insert “peacefully” as follows** was seconded by Andrew Kolstee, debated, and passed by voice vote.

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

The original main motion as amended as follows passed by voice vote.

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

The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, July 27, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Motion by Andrew Kolstee to **adjourn** was seconded by Karyn Thompson.

The meeting was **adjourned** at 9:13 p.m.

Andrew Martin Kolstee
Secretary of the Platform Committee