

PLATFORM OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

PREAMBLE

As Libertarians, we seek a world of liberty; a world in which all individuals are sovereign over their own lives and no one is forced to sacrifice his or her values for the benefit of others.

We believe that respect for individual rights is the essential precondition for a free and prosperous world, that force and fraud must be banished from human relationships, and that only through freedom can peace and prosperity be realized.

Consequently, we defend each person's right to engage in any activity that is peaceful and honest, and welcome the diversity that freedom brings. The world we seek to build is one where individuals are free to follow their own dreams in their own ways, without interference from government or any authoritarian power.

In the following pages we have set forth our basic principles and enumerated various policy stands derived from those principles.

These specific policies are not our goal, however. Our goal is nothing more nor less than a world set free in our lifetime, and it is to this end that we take these stands.

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

We, the members of the Libertarian Party, challenge the cult of the omnipotent state and defend the rights of the individual.

We hold that all individuals have the right to exercise sole dominion over their own lives, and have the right to live in whatever manner they choose, so long as they do not forcibly interfere with the equal right of others to live in whatever manner they choose.

Governments throughout history have regularly operated on the opposite principle, that the State has the right to dispose of the lives of individuals and the fruits of their labor. Even within the United States, all political parties other than our own grant to government the right to regulate the lives of individuals and seize the fruits of their labor without their consent.

We, on the contrary, deny the right of any government to do these things, and hold that where governments exist, they must not violate the rights of any individual: namely, (1) the right to life -- accordingly we support the prohibition of the initiation of physical force against others; (2) the right to liberty of speech and action -- accordingly we oppose all attempts by government to abridge the freedom of speech and press, as well as government censorship in any form; and (3) the right to property -- accordingly we oppose all government interference with private property, such as confiscation, nationalization, and eminent domain, and support the prohibition of robbery, trespass, fraud, and misrepresentation.

Since governments, when instituted, must not violate individual rights, we oppose all interference by government in the areas of voluntary and contractual relations among individuals. People should not be forced to sacrifice their lives and property for the benefit of others. They should be left free by government to deal with one another as free traders; and the resultant economic system, the only one compatible with the protection of individual rights, is the free market.

1. CIVIL LIBERTIES

Libertarians believe that civil liberties are as important as economic liberties. Merriam-Webster defines civil liberty: "freedom from arbitrary governmental interference (as with the right of free speech) specifically by denial of governmental power and in the United States especially as guaranteed by the Bill of Rights —usually used in plural." Based on this definition of civil liberties; federal legislation such as the USA PATRIOT Act, REAL ID, FISA, and many others are an unconstitutional violation of our natural rights. The Concise Encyclopedia gives a better definition: "Freedom from arbitrary interference in one's pursuits by individuals or by government. In other words, anything you wish to do that neither harms nor causes a loss to another person should be permissible under the law. Governments have no right to tell you what books you can read, who you can communicate with, where you can travel, whom you can trade with or any other number of things they try to regulate or make illegal that have no identifiable victim.

2. DRUG POLICY

The "War on Drugs" costs NH State government an estimated \$25-35 million each year. These costs include the arrest, prosecution, probation and/or incarceration of nearly 6,000 people per year for drug offenses; the vast majority of these individuals have harmed no one.

Individuals with drug addictions should be treated medically for these addictions, they should not be treated as criminals.

Some libertarians believe that drugs should be taxed as a way for governments to increase revenue; others simply want the laws prohibiting the possession, use and distribution of these substances to be repealed.

3. SCHOOL CHOICE

Libertarians believe that education is best provided by the free market, achieving greater quality, accountability and efficiency with more diversity of choice. Recognizing that the education of children is a parental responsibility, we would restore authority to parents to determine the education of their children, without interference from government. Individuals without kids in the school system should not be forced to pay for a system they aren't utilizing.

4. GAMBLING

Libertarians believe that government should confine itself to protecting individuals from aggression, coercion and deceit. We oppose all laws and regulations that attempt to protect individuals from the consequences of their own behavior. While not necessarily condoning such activities, we believe that gambling and lotteries are peaceful commercial enterprises that the government has no right to interfere with.

5. FOREIGN POLICY

"If goods don't cross border, armies will."

Libertarians believe American foreign policy should seek an America at peace with the world. Peace will never be achieved through force. Libertarians seek the withdrawal of troops from the 900+ military bases in over 130 nations around the world.

Libertarians support an end to taxpayer funded foreign aid and we support real free trade (not the bureaucratic version of "free trade" that exists under NAFTA, CAFTA, GATT, etc). Libertarians agree with President Thomas Jefferson who stated in his March 4, 1801 inaugural address: "peace, commerce and honest friendship with all nations; entangling alliances with none."

6. GUN POLICY

Libertarians support the existence of "Stand Your Ground" laws and believe that every person has the right to defend themselves wherever they have a right to be.

Libertarians further believe that no groups of people have any more right than any individual. For instance, every individual has an inherent right to defend themselves (including their friends, family and others from imminent attack) in any manner they see fit. That includes the right to own any weapon they believe is necessary to defend themselves.

7. OMISSIONS

Our silence about any other particular government law, regulation, ordinance, directive, edict, control, regulatory agency, activity, or machination should not be construed to imply approval.