

- Report of the Platform Committee -

Libertarian Party of Michigan State Convention

Lansing, Michigan, July 29, 2017

committee members: Diane Bostow, Dana Carver, Lisa Lane Gioia (chair),
Dave Haglund, Greg Stempfle

*Note: Strikethrough indicates text to be deleted; underlining indicates text to be added.

PROPOSAL 1: To change “Statement of Principle” to “Statement of Principles” (plural), and to list-up plural principles in the form of bullet points for quick reference and easy understanding. (vote: 4-0)

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES:

~~The Libertarian Party does not believe in or advocate the initiation of force to achieve social or political goals.~~

We, the Libertarian Party of Michigan, hold that:

- the initiation of force to achieve social or political goals runs counter to the principles of freedom and respect for others, and therefore is unacceptable and not to be tolerated
- the fundamental rights of the individual, including but not limited to the right to life, the right to liberty of thought, speech, action and association, and the right to property are sovereign
- governments, when and where they exist, should be

limited to basic functions designed to protect such individual rights, maintain public order and adjudicate disputes

- freedom of the individual does not condone, excuse, nor imply consent in any way to limiting the rights of others to live their lives as they see fit

PROPOSAL 2: To revise the section entitled “Preamble” as follows, incorporating merely stylistic changes therein. (vote: 4-0)

PREAMBLE:

Libertarians seek a society based on personal liberty and responsibility – a society in which all individuals are sovereign over their own lives. ~~This~~ The most desirable method of ~~organizing society is~~ realizing such a society is to follow the natural order that arises when the inalienable rights of individuals to life, liberty and property ownership are respected and protected.

People have the right to engage in any activity that is peaceful and honest, and pursue happiness in whatever manner they choose, so long as they do not forcibly interfere with ~~the equal~~ those same rights of others. ~~Libertarians welcome the~~ The peace, prosperity, and diversity that such freedom brings is a goal toward which Libertarians aim.

The essential precondition for a free society is that people have the freedom to follow their own dreams in their own ways without government interference. This precondition allows that the only legitimate function of government is the

protection of the inalienable rights of its citizens. To that end, government at all levels should be strictly limited to the essential services necessary to uphold individual rights, maintain public order, and adjudicate disputes. Government at the state and federal level should be involved only in issues not best handled by local or regional government.

PROPOSAL 3: To shift the position of what was previously the first article in this Section I (“State Government”), and to delete the “Federalism” at the beginning of said article, and renumber the articles accordingly. (vote: 4-0)

I. STATE GOVERNMENT

~~1. **Federalism. To restore a necessary check on federal power, we advocate the repeal of the 17th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.**~~

1. We endorse the Tenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which reserves to our state and its people all powers not expressly delegated to the federal government by the U.S. Constitution, or prohibited from the states or the people by the U.S. Constitution.

2. In the absence of a declaration of war by the United States Congress, we oppose any use of Michigan troops by the federal government for any purpose other than natural disaster relief.

3. Individuals have the right to defend themselves and others. Article I, Section 6 of the Michigan Constitution

states: "Every person has a right to keep and bear arms for the defense of himself and the state." We oppose any law that dilutes the right of a law-abiding person to own a firearm or other means of self-defense.

4. Federalism: To restore a necessary check on federal power, we advocate the repeal of the 17th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

PROPOSAL 4: To make the following addition and stylistic change to Article 5 of Section I ("State Government"). (vote: 4-0)

I. STATE GOVERNMENT

5. We oppose any form of discrimination and/or favoritism by government based on race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation or any other group or individual identification. Each person has the same inalienable rights that the ~~State~~ state has a duty to protect.

PROPOSAL 5: To make the following stylistic change, and delete the example from Article 6 of Section I ("State Government") as follows. (vote: 4-0)

I. STATE GOVERNMENT

6. State government should be removed entirely from the licensing process, including, but not limited to, occupational licensing. ~~It~~ State licensing has produced no better results than private licensing and amounts to another tax. ~~For~~

~~example, marriage licenses are contracts between individuals and should be left to the individuals, their attorneys and religious officials, without the need to pay the state for a stamp of approval.~~

PROPOSAL 6: To make the following stylistic changes to Article 7 of Section I (“State Government”). (vote: 4-0)

I. STATE GOVERNMENT

7. We support ~~returning~~ a return to a part-time legislature for the state of Michigan, which is sufficient to carry out the legislative duties as prescribed by our ~~State Constitution~~ state constitution.

PROPOSAL 7: To make the following stylistic change to Article 1 of Section II (“Elections”). (vote: 4-0)

II. ELECTIONS

1. The only electoral duty of the ~~State~~ state government should be providing for fair and efficient conduct of elections. Political parties, like any private voluntary group, should be free from government control and allowed to establish their own rules for nomination procedures and conventions. All taxpayer-funded subsidies to candidates for public office and political parties, including primaries and conventions, should be eliminated.

PROPOSAL 8: To add following Article 6 to Section II (“Elections”). (vote: 4-0)

II. ELECTIONS

6. We support efforts to make voting less difficult for all voters such as Election Day voter registration and voting by mail.

PROPOSAL 9: To make the following changes to Article 9 of Section III (“Courts”). (vote: 4-0)

III. COURTS

~~9. We support equal treatment and oppose sexual discrimination in any judicial proceeding adjudicating a parental right, privilege or obligation concerning his or her child.~~ Supporting equal treatment in judicial proceedings which adjudicate parental rights, privileges or obligations concerning children, we oppose discrimination on the basis of sex and sexual orientation.

PROPOSAL 10: To rewrite Article 10 of Section III (“Courts”) as follows. (vote: 4-0)

III. COURTS

~~10. Any individual who violates the rights of another should be held liable.~~

10. The judicial process is to deem and hold liable any

individual or entity who violates the rights of another.

PROPOSAL 11: To make the following stylistic change to Article 1 of Section IV (“Public Safety”). (vote: 4-0)

IV. PUBLIC SAFETY

1. Law enforcement cannot guarantee individual safety. Self-protection is a personal responsibility. All individuals have the right to defend themselves and to possess the means to do so, as guaranteed by ~~the State Constitution~~ Article I, Section 6 of the state constitution.

PROPOSAL 12: To make the following stylistic change to Article 1 of Section VIII (“Poverty”). (vote: 4-0)

VIII. POVERTY

1. Providing for the needy by forcibly taxing others is contrary to the legitimate function of government, which is to protect the rights of everyone. Disbursing charity from a welfare system costs society more than it gains. It is inefficient, open to fraud and abuse, and creates resentment. Traditional, voluntary sources of emergency support from families, churches, private charities, and mutual aid societies have always been more humane, more effective, and willingly borne by the givers. Therefore, we call for the complete disbandment of the welfare state.

PROPOSAL 13: To change Article 4 of Section IX (“Education”) as follows. (vote: 4-0)

IX. EDUCATION

4. All individuals, regardless of age, are entitled to the protections of the constitutions of the United States and Michigan. While our public education system exists in its current form, in public schools that are supported in any way or form by funds appropriated from taxpayers, random ~~Random~~ drug tests, locker searches without probable cause, censorship of student publications, corporal punishment, or any similar actions violate those rights.

PROPOSAL 14: To make the following stylistic change to Article 4 of Section X (“Environment”). (vote: 4-0)

X. ENVIRONMENT

4. We support efforts to hold all individuals, businesses and governments accountable for the pollution they cause. With respect to so-called orphan sites, where those responsible for contamination of ground or water either cannot be found or cannot be made accountable for the damage they caused, we support the use of the Natural Resources Trust Fund currently earmarked for expansion of ~~State~~ state parks to be redirected to clean up.

PROPOSAL 15: To add following Article 3 to Section

XI (“Health Care”). (vote: 4-0)

XI. HEALTH CARE

3. We oppose all government intervention in the healthcare marketplace, and assert that a free market will provide the most cost-effective and efficient method for individuals to be able to exercise their basic right to choose their own medical care and health insurance that best suit their own needs.

PROPOSAL 16: To delete the last three sentences from Article 1 of Section XI (“Health Care”). (vote: 4-0)

XI. HEALTH CARE

1. The most fundamental property right is an individual’s right to own and control his or her own body. All individuals have the right to determine their own health care needs and treatment. ~~Exercise of this right does not remove the moral obligations not to violate the rights of others. We recognize the state, when it exists, has a duty to protect the rights of others, particularly those in society who are the most vulnerable, including: the very old, the very young, and the mentally handicapped. The state, where it exists, does have a duty to protect the life of all individuals, and should prosecute those who utilize force or fraud to end life.”~~

PROPOSAL 17: To change Article 2 of Section VIII

“Poverty”) as follows. (vote: 3-1)

VIII. POVERTY

2. We oppose all attempts to criminalize ~~the victims of coercion, such as the homeless.~~ persons disenfranchised by our current political, economic and social systems, as well as individuals and organizations attempting to assist such persons. We therefore call for the immediate repeal of all state-wide laws against sleeping, camping, eating, feeding, or solicitation of, by or for the disenfranchised.

PROPOSAL 18: To make the following change to Article 4 of Section IV (“Public Safety”). (vote: 2-2)

IV. PUBLIC SAFETY

4. ~~Laws requiring the use of seat belts and helmets are misguided, paternal, and should be repealed. Individuals must assume responsibility for their own safety.~~ As individuals must assume responsibility for their own safety, laws mandating personal responsibility, such as laws requiring the use of seatbelts and helmets, are misguided, paternal and should be repealed.