



LPC PRELIMINARY PLATFORM REPORT 2020

Dear LPC Members and Delegates,

This package is a compilation of the six proposals voted on and approved by the LPC Platform Committee. This is intended as a preliminary report only to give the membership time before the convention to read through the proposals and understand what is being considered for presentation at the state convention. The proposals are mutually exclusive and will be presented in the final order decided by the committee, based on the number of votes each proposal received.

Please take the time to read carefully through them as this committee has spent countless hours writing, debating, and planning. If you have any questions or would like to propose amendments to any of the proposals included, please reach out to me, our secretary Matyas Lajos Homer, or your county platform representative. Thank you so much for your consideration and we look forward to implementing a great platform at the convention!

Sincerely,

Richard Fast

Alameda County

Acting Chair

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#1 Proposed amendments to the current platform

LPC Platform revision #6 Welfare - addition to SNAP

Dear LPC Platform Committee,

I suggest we change sub-section A:

A. An end to participation by the State of California in the Food Stamp, school lunch and Medi-Cal programs. to

A. An end to participation by the State of California in the Food Stamp (*SNAP*), school lunch and Medi-Cal programs.

The federal government has re-branded the Food Stamp program as SNAP so we should use the term for clarity.

Revision to LPC Platform Plank 15 - Labor Relations - Add GIG Economy law

Dear LPC Platform Committee,

I suggest the following addition to Plank 15 3rd paragraph: Change:

We call for the repeal of all

government laws and regulations interfering with employer-employee relationships such as the wage and hour laws, the Wagner Act, the Taft-Hartley Act, the California Occupational Safety and Health Act, and the California Farm Labor Act.

or

We call for the repeal of all government laws and regulations interfering with employer-employee relationships

such as the wage and hour laws, *the GIG Economy Law (AB5)*, the Wagner Act, the Taft-Hartley Act, the

California Occupational Safety and Health Act, and the California Farm Labor Act.

As you've undoubtedly heard, thousands of free lance contractors have lost their jobs thanks to the passage of AB5.

LPC Platform revision - 4 Education

Dear Platform Committee, Add to #4 Education Change sub-section K:

K. An end to government subsidy of private education and an end to all government subsidies to students, such as Pell Grants and the federal student loan program.

to

K. An end to government subsidy of private education and an end to all

government subsidies to students, such as Pell Grants, *Cal Grants*, and the federal student loan program.

For more info:

RE: <https://www.csac.ca.gov/cal-grants>

Addition to LPC Platform Plank 20 - Energy - ban on natural gas in new construction

Dear LPC Platform Committee,

An addition to Plank 20 - Energy

New sub-section E:

E: The repeal of all bans of natural gas in new construction. Various cities are now banning the installation of natural gas in the construction of new homes and businesses.

Platform Plank 15 - Right to Keep and Bear Arms - new sub-section E

Dear LPC Platform Committee, New sub-section E:

Add:

E: The repeal of laws regulating the open carry or concealed carry of arms, including automatic or so-called assault weapons, and the repeal of age restrictions for firearm ownership.

A new law (SB 61) just went into effect that raises the age to 21 (from 18) to purchase a gun.

CCW's are virtually banned in urban areas, but are much more available in rural areas. Not equal treatment under the law!

Small revision to LPC Platform Plank 22 - Insurance

Dear LPC Platform Committee,

Plank 22 - Insurance - replace "found" with "start"

Government has no right to set or approve insurance rates, force insurance companies to write any particular lines of insurance, or regulate who may sell insurance or found an insurance company.

to

Government has no right to set or approve insurance rates, force insurance companies to write any particular lines of insurance, or regulate who may sell insurance or *start* an insurance company.

The word "found" kinda sounds like you were searching for an insurance company, rather than starting or creating a new company.

Addition to the LPC Education Plank - new sub-section O

Dear LPC Platform Committee, I recommend the following: Plank 4 - Education

A new sub-section O

O - Conversion of the government pension system, known as CalPers, into a privately managed system free of legislative oversight and the elimination of any responsibility by taxpayers for CalPers's unfunded pension liabilities.

BTW, I am also aware of CalStrs that seems to be solely for teachers. So, looking for any guidance from the committee to see if CalPers should be in another Plank and perhaps CalStrs substituted above.

Thoughts?

P.S. a little background from the Public Policy Institute of California:

- Nearly one in nine Californians is a member of a public pension program. More than 4.6 million Californians are members of state and local pension plans, according to the State Controller's Office. Most members (76%) belong to the state systems: the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS), the California State Teachers' Retirement System (CalSTRS), and the University of California pension

system. The remaining members belong to more than 100 local, special district, and other pension plans.

- California's largest public pensions have significant unfunded liabilities.

The largest funds at CalPERS and CalSTRS have reported gaps of more than \$138.9 billion and \$107.3 billion, respectively, between their estimated obligations to retirees and the current value of their assets. Since 2008, these unfunded liabilities have grown by more than \$103 billion for CalPERS and \$84 billion for CalSTRS. In 2016, 70% of California's public pension liabilities were covered by assets, ranking 26th in the nation. Among other large states, New York ranked 4th (91%), Florida ranked 13th (79%), and Texas ranked 19th (73%).

LPC Platform - Victimless Crime - minor revision

Dear LPC Platform Committee,

Change:

F. The end of court injunctions that criminalize otherwise legal acts such as wearing certain colors, carrying pagers, or using cellular phones, or restricting the rights of individuals for actions that have not violated anyone's rights.

Change to:

F. The end of court injunctions that criminalize otherwise legal acts such as wearing certain colors or using cell phones, or restricting the rights of individuals for actions that have not violated anyone's rights.

No one carries/uses pagers anymore and no one uses cellular phones to describe "cell phones".

#2. Replace the current platform with a CA Specific Platform

Statement of Principles

We, the members of the Libertarian Party of California, 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, including California, 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 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.

Preamble

We oppose the existence of any state as having a monopoly on the use of force but agree that governments, when they exist, can only legitimately do so to the extent that their membership is entered into voluntarily and without coercion, and any individual member reserves the right to withdraw from such voluntary association as their conscience dictates.

Until we reach that end, we support reducing, and not replacing, the size, scope and power of government at all levels and on all issues, and oppose increasing the size, scope and power of government at any level, for any purpose. While recognizing that change often takes the form of increments and transitions, the policies in the planks

that follow are to be taken as quickly and efficiently as possible without interruption or delay.

1. The Individual

No conflict exists between an orderly society and individual rights. Both concepts are based on the same fundamental principle: that no individual, group, or government may initiate force or fraud against any other individual, group, or government.

1.1 Self-Ownership, Freedom, and Responsibility

Individuals own their bodies and have rights over them that other individuals, groups, and governments may not violate. Individuals have the freedom and responsibility to decide what they knowingly and voluntarily consume, and what risks they accept to their own health, finances, safety, or life, provided those choices do not violate the rights of others.

1.2 Freedom of Association and Discrimination

Libertarians embrace the concept that all people are born with certain natural rights to life, liberty, and justly-acquired property, including the fruits of their labor. We reject the idea that a natural right can ever impose a positive obligation upon others to fulfill that right. Government must not deny, abridge, or enhance any individual's inherent rights for any reason and any laws which currently do so must be repealed rather than extended to all groups.

We condemn private discrimination as irrational and repugnant; however, we support the abolition of all laws that attempt to limit or ban it. The right to trade includes the right not to trade – for any reasons whatsoever; the right of association includes the right not to associate – for any reasons whatsoever, for exercise of these rights depend upon mutual consent. Individuals and private organizations, including businesses, retain their rights to set whatever standards of association and terms of voluntary interaction they

deem appropriate, and other individuals and private businesses are free to respond with ostracism, boycotts, and other free market solutions.

1.3 Freedom to Think

The ability to think – including the abilities to reason, to remember, and to imagine – is a fundamental characteristic of human beings, and the basis of individual, cultural, and economic progress. We oppose all efforts by government to interfere with thought, the ability of individuals to exercise their ability to think, and the use of technology to enhance their ability to think. We oppose any laws which would define certain ideas or ways of thinking to be "criminal", any attempts by government to restrict who can use computer hardware or software, any restrictions on individuals incorporating such technology voluntarily into their own bodies to enhance their ability to think, any attempts to regulate or tax the processing or storage of information, and any government mandate that existing knowledge be destroyed or "forgotten".

1.4 Freedom of Communications

We defend the rights of individuals to unrestricted freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and the right of individuals to unfettered expression. An important corollary to the right to speech is the right to silence. Language that is deemed offensive is not a cause for legal action. The possibility that some listeners may become disorderly and commit criminal acts is not a valid excuse for censorship. We oppose government-imposed or subsidized speech codes as well as laws against "hate speech."

We recognize that freedom of expression is possible only as part of a system of full property rights and recognize that freedom of communication does not extend to the use of other people's property to promote one's ideas without the voluntary consent of the owners. We oppose government ownership, control, funding, and subsidization of any communications organization, medium, or spectra.

We support the right to individual and group privacy via encryption, and oppose any government efforts to restrict encryption development or deployment. We oppose any requirement that equipment manufacturers, software developers, or service providers include "backdoors" that would allow government access to encrypted communications.

1.5 Freedom of Religion

We defend the rights of individuals to engage or not engage in any religious activities which do not violate the rights of others. In order to defend religious freedoms, we advocate a strict separation of church and state. We oppose government actions which define, aid, or attack any religion or religious membership. We oppose taxation of church property for the same reason we oppose all taxation.

Legislative, regulatory, or judicial decisions about what is a crime must not discriminate on the basis of religious belief or membership. No religious test must ever be required to assert the right to act in a way that does not violate the rights of others, and similarly there must be no religious exemption from responsibility for actions which violate the rights of others.

1.6 Children

Children are human beings and, as such, have all the rights of human beings. Because the exercise of some rights requires the ability to understand the possible consequences from actions, some rights may not be realized until an appropriate level of comprehension and responsibility is reached. Until such time, rights are placed in the custodianship of a guardian who is entrusted to exercise these rights on behalf of the child. Children must always have the right to establish their maturity by assuming administration and protection of their own rights, ending dependency upon their parents or other guardians and assuming all the responsibilities of adulthood. The path for full acceptance of all rights and responsibilities (also known as "emancipation") must be easy and clear.

We oppose all laws that empower government officials to seize children and make them "wards of the state" or, by means of child labor laws and compulsory education, to infringe on their freedom to work or learn as they choose. We oppose all legally created or sanctioned discrimination against (or in favor of) children, just as we oppose government discrimination directed at any other artificially defined sub-category of human beings.

We also support the repeal of all laws establishing any category of crimes applicable to children for which adults would not be similarly vulnerable, such as curfew, smoking, and alcoholic beverage laws, and other status offenses. We seek the repeal of all "children's codes" or statutes which abridge due process protections for young people. Juveniles must be held fully responsible for their crimes in accordance with their maturity and ability to administer their own rights and responsibilities.

1.7 Families

We believe that families and households are private institutions which must be free from government intrusion and interference. Parents, or other guardians, have the right to raise their children according to their own standards and beliefs. Specifically, we believe that choices about such matters as education and health care are the proper domain of families and not the government. We believe that delegation of the care of children to other parties when they are not personally able to provide it, whether that be to extended family or another social group, an employee, or a formal day care center, is both the right and responsibility, including financial responsibility, of the family and not the government.

However families do not have a right to abandon or recklessly endanger their children. Whenever they are unable or unwilling to raise their children, they have the obligation to find others willing to assume guardianship. Accordingly, we oppose all laws that impede these processes, notably those restricting private adoption services, or those forcing children to remain in the custody of, or removing them from the custody of, their parents against their will.

1.8 End of Life Decisions

We believe in self-ownership. We support the inherent right of individuals to end their lives with dignity. All persons must have the right to die at the time and place and under the conditions of their own choosing. We support the concept of living wills in which individuals declare the manner in which they are to be treated and the procedures for disposal of their remains. In the absence of such wills and the ability of the individual to choose (e.g., coma) the matter must be decided by the family or such persons the individual may have clearly preferred with whatever guidance they may desire. In keeping with the principle of non-coercion, no individual shall be forced either to continue or terminate life-sustaining care. We oppose the prosecution of physicians and loved ones who participate in consensual assisted suicide.

1.9 Sexual Rights

Consenting individuals have the right to private choice in sexual activity.

We support the repeal of all laws and policies which are intended to condemn, affirm, encourage, or deny sexual lifestyles or any attitudes about such lifestyles. Further, we oppose any government attempts to dictate, prohibit, control, or encourage any private lifestyle, living arrangement, or contractual relationship.

Who or how many somebody loves is none of the government's business.

We support separation of marriage and state. Government marriage license regimes were introduced as tools of control like any other license, and therefore we call for their immediate abolition. No free individual should be expected to obtain a "permission slip" from the state in order to marry.

We support the repeal of all laws prohibiting or regulating sex work including prostitution, whether practiced by individuals or in the form of businesses such as those operating brothels, massage parlors, or other facilities.

1.10 Justice for the Individual

The present system of criminal law is focused exclusively on imprisonment. As violators of foundational principles, aggressors must be required to compensate their victims and pay for costs of their trial and apprehension. We support restitution to the victim to the fullest degree possible at the expense of the criminal or wrongdoer and oppose any laws which deprive the victim of the right to recover damages from those responsible in the case of injury. Those unwilling to make payments towards a court-ordered judgment must be placed in a competitive private prison agreed upon by arbitration, in lieu of the state-subsidized Prison Industrial Complex whose sole motive is profit with little concern for making the victim whole. We also support the right of the victim to pardon the criminal or wrongdoer, barring threats to the victim for this purpose.

1.11 The War on Drugs

The so-called "War on Drugs" is in reality a war on people. We deplore the suffering that drug misuse has brought about; however, drug prohibition is more dangerous than drugs themselves and comes with a staggering cost in both money and human lives. The War on Drugs is a grave threat to individual liberty, to domestic order, and to peace in the world; furthermore, it has provided a rationale by which the power of the state has been expanded to restrict greatly our right to privacy and to be secure in our homes.

While we do not advocate drug misuse, we are in favor of alternative solutions that do not increase the power of the state. Additionally, we favor the elimination of all laws establishing criminal or civil penalties for the use of drugs, and the abolition of bureaucracies like the Drug Enforcement Agency.

1.12 Criminal and Civil Laws

We hold that any action which does not infringe on the rights of others cannot properly be deemed a crime or civil violation and believe that individuals retain the right to voluntarily assume risk of harm to themselves. We therefore favor the repeal of all laws that create penalties without actual victims. In particular, we advocate:

- a. The repeal of all laws prohibiting the production, sale, possession, or use of drugs and alcohol, and of all medicinal prescription requirements for the purchase of vitamins, drugs, and similar substances and call for the abolition of any agencies that exist to enforce any of these restrictions including the Drug Enforcement Agency and the Food and Drug Administration.
- b. The repeal of all laws regarding consensual sexual relations, including prostitution and solicitation;
- c. The repeal of all laws regulating or prohibiting gambling.
- d. The repeal of all laws interfering with the right to commit suicide as infringements of the ultimate right of individuals to their own lives; and

We demand the pardon and exoneration of everyone who has been convicted solely for these "crimes." We condemn the confiscation of property via civil asset forfeiture that all too often accompanies police raids, searches, and prosecutions for victimless crimes.

1.13 Safeguards for the Criminally Accused

People must be accorded all possible respect for their individual rights until such time as they are proven guilty of a crime. The rights of due process, a speedy trial, legal counsel, trial by jury, and the legal presumption of innocence until proven guilty, must not be denied.

We oppose labeling cases as civil in order to avoid the due process protections of criminal law and we further oppose pretrial seizure of property. We oppose police officers using excessive force, preventive detention, and no-knock raids, and support the right to film police officers.

Whenever malfeasance of government agents results in persons being arrested, indicted, tried, imprisoned, or otherwise injured in the course of criminal proceedings, injured parties must receive full restitution.

1.14 Protection of Privacy

The individual's right to privacy must not be infringed. Governments must not use electronic or other means of covert surveillance of an individual's actions or private property without the express consent of the owner or occupant. Correspondence, financial transactions and records, medical records, legal records, employment records, and the like must not be open to review without the express consent of all parties involved in those actions.

We support the natural rights of individuals to be secure in their persons and property against unreasonable searches and seizures and oppose any government use of search warrants to examine or seize materials belonging to innocent third parties. We also oppose and call for the abolition of police roadblocks and practices of testing drivers for intoxicants, stopping mass transit vehicles and searching passengers, and Terry stops (also called "stop-and-frisk") in the absence of probable cause.

All state, local, and other government compilations of data must be conducted only with the express consent of the persons from whom the data is sought. To this end, we call for the abolition of all government agencies that conduct unwarranted mass surveillance and any other legislation, executive orders, or regulations which authorize violations of rights.

We support the rights of people to develop, sell, and use encryption technology and distributed software that allows users to protect their privacy. Specifically, we oppose any requirement for disclosure of encryption methods or keys ("back doors") and any requirement for use of government-specified devices or protocols. We also oppose government classification of civilian research on encryption methods, and we oppose any attempts to regulate virtual currencies.

When government agencies violate privacy rights, people who are knowledgeable of these violations have a duty to inform the public. To that end, we support protections for whistleblowers and oppose efforts to charge whistleblowers with espionage for exposing governmental wrongdoing.

If a private employer screens prospective or current employees for drugs or medical conditions, that is a term of that employee's labor contract with the employer. Such screening does not violate the rights of employees, who have the right to boycott such employers if they choose. Private contractual arrangements, including labor contracts, must be founded on mutual consent and agreement in a society that upholds freedom of association. We oppose any use of such screening by government; we also oppose mandating it of private employers.

We oppose the requirement to possess an identity card, for any purpose, such as employment, voting, or border crossing, and call upon the state to discontinue its adherence with the REAL ID which in effect creates a national identification system.

We further oppose the nearly universal requirement for use of Social Security number(s) as personal identification codes, whether by government agencies or by intimidation of private companies by governments.

1.15 The Right to Self-Defense

The only legitimate use of force is in self-defense. This right inheres in the individual, who may seek to be, or agree to be, aided by any other individual or group. Private property owners shall be free to establish their own conditions regarding weapons. The right of defense extends to defense against aggressive acts of government.

We oppose all laws at any level of government restricting, registering, or monitoring the ownership, sale, manufacture, transport, or transfer of firearms, ammunition, or any other tool that could be used for self-defense, including any requirements for background checks. Accordingly, we support abolishing government oversight of alcohol, tobacco, firearms, and explosives and favor the implementation of fully-legal carry of weapons, open or concealed, without any permit requirement.

1.16 The Right to Property

We hold that property rights are individual rights and, as such, are entitled to the same protections as all other individual rights. We oppose any recognition of fiat claims by national governments or international bodies to unclaimed territory. Individuals have the right to homestead unowned resources, both within the jurisdictions of their respective governments and within such unclaimed territory as the ocean, Antarctica, and the volume of outer space. We further hold that the owners of property, including land, have the full right to control, use, rent, collateralize, dispose of, or in any manner enjoy their property without interference until and unless the exercise of their control infringes the valid rights of others.

Eminent domain, civil asset forfeiture, governmental limits on profits, governmental production mandates, and governmental controls on prices of goods and services (including wages, rents, and interest) are abridgments of such fundamental rights.

Where property, including land, has been taken from its rightful owners in violation of individual rights, we favor restitution to the rightful owners.

We specifically condemn current government efforts to regulate or ban the use of property in the name of aesthetic values, riskiness, moral standards, cost-benefit estimates, or the promotion or restriction of economic growth. We demand an end to the taxation of privately owned real property, which makes the state the de facto owner of all lands and forces individuals to rent their homes and places of business from the state.

2. The Market

Every individual has the right to offer goods and services to others on the free market. Where governments exist, the only justifiable role in the economic realm is to protect property rights, adjudicate disputes, and provide a legal framework in which voluntary trade is protected.

Efforts to forcibly redistribute wealth or forcibly manage trade are intolerable. We believe that all individuals have the right to dispose of the fruits of their labor as they see fit and that governments have no right to take such wealth. We oppose government-enforced charity such as welfare programs and subsidies, but we support those individuals and private charitable organizations that help the needy and contribute to a wide array of worthwhile causes through voluntary activities.

2.1 Trade Barriers

Free trade does not require a treaty, but only for the government to stay out of the way. Tariffs and quotas give special treatment to favored interests and diminish the welfare of everyone. We therefore support abolition of all trade barriers and all government-sponsored export-promotion programs. We affirm this as a unilateral policy, independent of the trade policies of other states and nations.

2.2 Subsidies

In order to achieve a free economy in which government victimizes no one for the benefit of any other, we oppose all government subsidies. Subsidies can take the form of so-called public-private partnerships, government contracting, mandatory insurance, and similar policies.

We oppose all government guarantees of loans. Such guarantees transfer resources to special interests as effectively as actual government expenditures and, at the national level, exceed direct government loans in total amount. Such government meddling also distorts decisions about lending risk, as we have seen with recent crises relating to housing and student loans. All state and local government agencies whose primary function is to guarantee loans must be abolished.

Relief or exemption from taxation or from any other involuntary government intervention must not be considered a subsidy.

2.3 Employer/Employee Rights

To protect the rights of both employees and employers, their relationship must be based on voluntary agreement. Forcing a person to work against his/her will is commonly understood to be wrong – slavery. Forcing somebody to hire a person is equally wrong. We oppose any government scheme based on the idea of "a right to a job".

Compensation for work is properly determined by employees deciding what their time and effort are worth to them and employers deciding what having that work done is worth to their business. Jobs exist because they are mutually beneficial to both parties. This relationship does not automatically create any obligation on the part of an employer to fully support an employee or his/her family, any more than it automatically creates an obligation on the part of an employee to ensure that a business is successful or profitable. We oppose minimum wage laws and any government schemes based on the idea of "a living wage".

The structure of compensation is similarly a choice properly made by the employer and employee, not government. Whether compensation is based on hours worked, output produced, or some other measure, and whether it includes "benefits" such as insurance, day care, or paid vacation, are matters which should be left to the parties involved to decide, by mutual agreement. We oppose all laws which mandate specific employee

benefits, as well as subsidies and tax policies which attempt to impose standard benefit packages which may not be in the best interests of particular employers or employees.

2.4 Unions and Collective Bargaining

We support the right of people to freely associate in labor unions, just as we recognize that the existence of a union does not grant powers that the individuals within the union do not possess. The existence of boycotts, strikes, and lockouts does not justify the initiation of violence against other workers, employers, strike-breakers, or innocent bystanders.

We oppose government interference in bargaining such as compulsory arbitration or the imposition of an obligation to bargain. Therefore, we urge repeal of all laws that prohibit employers from making voluntary contracts with unions. We oppose all government back-to-work orders as the imposition of a form of forced labor.

2.5 Licensure

Licensure is a method for government to convert a natural right into a privilege – one that involves paying fees to the government to exercise. Privileges can be and often are revoked by government. Rights must be held inviolate, and no one must be forced to pay to exercise a right.

2.6 Monopolies

We condemn all coercive and government-granted monopolies including public utilities. In order to facilitate their elimination, we advocate a strict separation of business and state, and call for the repeal of all antitrust laws. Laws of incorporation must not include grants of monopoly privilege. In particular, we oppose special limits on the liability of corporations for damages caused in non-contractual transactions. We defend the right of individuals to form corporations, cooperatives, and other types of companies based on voluntary association and favor the elimination of state limits on the size of private companies and on the right of companies to merge. We also favor the elimination of efforts to expand state chartering as a pretext for government control of business, particularly those involving industries where government could attempt to create its own monopoly.

2.7 Intellectual Monopoly and File Sharing

The phrase "intellectual property" is a misnomer. What the state calls intellectual property is more accurately referred to as "intellectual monopoly" as the is a state-granted grants a monopoly on the use of an idea, or goods, and services derived from an idea to a certain limited group. We call for the elimination of the protection of such monopoly thereby freeing the market, encouraging content providers and product developers to improve on existing products thereby bringing more and better choices to the market.

In particular, we call for the end of the prohibition of online file sharing, just as we oppose all victimless crimes. When content is shared it is not stolen as no one loses any property, only a potential loss of some future revenue, which is natural in any open market.

2.8 Space Exploration

The development of space and the establishment of a spacefaring civilization, being in the greatest common good of the human race, should not be restricted by governments.

We oppose all government restrictions upon voluntary peaceful use and exploration of outer space. We condemn all international attempts to control, prevent, or limit private exploration, industrialization, and colonization of the moon, planets, asteroids, satellite orbits, Lagrange points, or any other extra-terrestrial resources.

It is important to allow free market entrants to create innovative launch systems and business models, and for them and their customers to determine their own acceptable levels of risk.

Therefore, we support the abolition of all state agencies and programs regarding outer space, and replacing their functions with private-sector alternatives.

3. The Community

Current problems in such areas as energy, pollution, health care delivery, decaying cities, and poverty are not solved, but are primarily caused, by government. The welfare and protection state, supposedly designed to aid the poor and protect the public, is in reality a growing and parasitic burden on all productive people, and injures, rather than benefits, the poor themselves, while violating the rights of peaceful persons to be free to keep the fruits of their labors and to trade freely.

3.1 Consumer Protection

The natural right to produce and purchase products and services must not be restricted by law.

In the free market, consumers would be protected because:

- a. A good name is an asset to a business and it can best be maintained by fair and honest dealing;
- b. The use of certificates, guarantees, and warranties issued by manufacturers and suppliers of goods and services is a protection to the consumer;
- c. Both professional and non-professional people can voluntarily form associations for the specific purpose of maintaining high standards both in work and behavior; and,
- d. Privately-owned consumer protection organizations producing journals and magazines would proliferate in a free market.

We therefore endorse and advocate the elimination of all government consumer affairs bureaus or departments, and the repeal of all laws regulating the production,

transportation, sale, possession, advertising, quality, safety, or use of any product or service.

3.2 Agriculture

We seek a return to a free, dynamic market with every possible and desirable crop being produced and sold by as many market participants as possible, using any method that meets with the approval of the buying public that does not spread external harm.

Private sector labeling must be allowed to replace government-mandated labeling – consumers will be better served with competitive certification and labels and the ability to reject products whose labeling fails to meet their personal standards.

Private individuals or corporations must bear full responsibility for damages they inflict on their neighbors with unwanted externalities including pesticides, herbicides, and genetic modifications.

3.3 Pollution

Pollution of air, water, and land violates the rights of individuals to their lives and property. We support the development of an objective legal system defining property rights to air and water and a modification of the laws governing such torts as trespass and nuisance to cover damages done by pollution. Strict liability, not government agencies and arbitrary government standards, must regulate pollution. Governments will no longer be able to be among the worst polluters due to the fact that they will be held liable like everyone else under this system.

We support holding property owners fully liable for damages done by their toxic waste. We oppose the creation of governmental funds, backed by the taxing power, to finance toxic waste clean-up.

We call for the repeal of environmental regulations and call for the abolition of the state Environmental Protection Agencies and the return of all questions of violations of the rights to life and property to the jurisdiction of the courts.

3.4 Transportation

The transportation industry must not be treated differently from any other industry, and must be governed by free markets and held to strict liability.

We call for the privatization of airports, air traffic control systems, railroads, rail passenger services, seaports, canals, and all public roads.

We advocate an immediate end to government regulation of private transit organizations and to government favors to the transportation industry. We advocate an immediate end to all government subsidies related to transportation.

We support the immediate repeal of all laws restricting and regulating transit competition such as the granting of taxicab and bus monopolies.

We support the immediate repeal of any regulation or prohibition of ride-share transportation services such as Uber and Lyft.

We urge immediate deregulation of the trucking industry.

We call for the dissolution of all government agencies concerned with transportation and the transfer of their legitimate functions to competitive private firms.

3.5 Emergency Services

We favor the complete abolition of government-operated fire and emergency medical (EMS) services, along with police. While fire and emergency medical services do not have the high body count that government police do, Libertarians nevertheless call for their elimination for the same reasons we want government out of all other markets: services are provided more efficiently by the private sector, without coercive funding.

In addition, fire and EMS unions have disproportionate power to manipulate gold-plated salaries and benefits, to the point of threatening bankruptcy of local governments.

In scattered markets across the country there are already competing, private fire agencies where the less-effective or more-costly providers tend over time to get squeezed out by the better providers. For-profit fire departments operate more efficiently, and offer more incentives for customers to seek and maintain higher safety standards that, in turn, result in fewer fires.

There are also alternatives aplenty provided by the private sector that reduce or eliminate the need for some services altogether. Some examples include insurance companies providing their own emergency fire service crews to protect homes and private property, especially in targeted areas of wildfires. Insurance-provided fire protection was the standard in 19th century Europe. Subscription-based fire protection agencies are offered more and more in former third-world countries now embracing capitalism. These subscriptions offer services ranging from guaranteed response times to minimal yearly check-ups. Lower rates are offered when customers agree to comply with fire preventative maintenance and training.

Advancements in technology are already helping in fire safety. For instance, modern residential and commercial electrical equipment has prevented thousands of potential fires, and modern fire suppression systems have almost eliminated fire department response to high-rise building fires.

Private EMS companies already exist, proving that such services do not need to be provided by a government entity. Personal emergency response companies take advantage of current technologies such as smartphones, apps, home hardware, or communicative arm bands and neck lanyard devices.

Today, some of these services can be provided as a bundle option with home alarm companies. These on-demand business models are cost-effective and the companies that provide faster response times and better service are rated higher, thus gaining a strong advantage in growing market share.

Even the recent popularity of ride-share services has noticeably decreased the need for ambulance rides.

We encourage the growth of such private alternatives to government services.

3.6 Education

We advocate the complete separation of education and state. Government schools lead to the indoctrination of children and interfere with the free choice of individuals. We condemn compulsory education laws and call for their immediate repeal. Government should not be in the business of deciding what is taught, whether in the form of curriculum guidelines, "standards", or approval of textbooks.

Government ownership, operation, regulation, and subsidy of schools and colleges must end. The responsibility for the cost of education properly belongs with the people being educated or their parents/guardians. Tax funding is a form of welfare, shifts the cost to other households and to businesses without any connection to the services provided, creates bloated and stagnant bureaucracies, and reduces incentives for innovation that could both improve quality and reduce cost. Government loans and other subsidies for higher education distort students' judgement both about what fields they study and the overall value of such education.

We support the rights of parents who choose to educate their children at home. We support the right of businesses and other organizations to operate schools at all levels, whether on a for-profit or non-profit basis, whether following some traditional format or making use of new methods and technology. We applaud those who have chosen to make free or low-cost educational resources available online to students of all ages. We encourage all who want to help families cover educational expenses to do so through voluntary action.

3.7 Energy

The provision of energy must be left to the free market. We oppose all government control of energy pricing, allocation, distribution, and production. We oppose all government subsidies for energy research, development, and operation. We support abolition of the Department of Energy and its component agencies.

We oppose all government conservation schemes involving taxes, subsidies, and regulation. We oppose any attempt to compel national energy self-sufficiency. The government must not be in the business of stockpiling natural resources; therefore we call for the complete disbursement of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

We favor the creation of a free market in all forms of energy by respect for property rights and by the repeal of all government controls over output in the energy industry. All government-owned energy resources must be returned to private ownership.

3.8 Juries

We assert the common-law right of juries to judge not only the facts but also the justice of the law. Without the ability to judge the law, juries can do nothing to protect the people against government oppression. Since the jury trial is a crucial element to the judicial system of checks and balances against some of the more ludicrous legislative creations, juries need to be informed of their right to nullify all laws that are unjust or oppressive, and find against the government and the law by voting "not guilty."

We oppose the current practice of forced jury duty and favor all-volunteer juries.

3.9 Government and Mental Health

We oppose the involuntary treatment or commitment of any person for mental health concerns, as well as government pressure requiring parents to obtain counseling or psychiatric drugs for their children. We advocate an end to the spending of tax money for any program of psychiatric, psychological, behavioral research, or treatment.

3.10 Health Care

We advocate a complete separation of medicine from the state. Accordingly, we support a free market health care system and oppose government mandates in insurance and healthcare. We recognize the freedom of individuals to determine the services they want (if any) and all other aspects of their medical care. We advocate replacing compulsory or tax supported plans to supply health services or insurance with voluntarily supported efforts. We oppose any government restriction or funding of private medical or scientific research.

3.11 Poverty and Unemployment

We oppose all attempts to criminalize homelessness. We therefore call for the immediate repeal of all laws against sleeping, camping, eating, feeding, or solicitation.

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 rather than being coercively taken from others. Therefore we call for the complete disbandment of the welfare state.

As long as we are being oppressed by the current tax system, we advocate dollar-for-dollar tax credits for all charitable contributions, as a way of shortening the time when governmental programs are replaced by effective private institutions.

Government fiscal and monetary measures that artificially foster business expansion guarantee an eventual increase in unemployment rather than curtailing it. We call for the immediate cessation of such policies as well as any governmental attempts to affect employment levels.

We support repeal of all laws that impede the ability of any person to find employment, such as minimum wage laws, so-called "protective" labor legislation for women and

children, and governmental restrictions on the establishment of private day-care centers. We deplore government-fostered forced retirement, which robs the elderly of the right to work.

3.12 Resource Use

Resource management is properly the responsibility and right of the legitimate owners of land, water, and other natural resources. We oppose government control of resource use via taxes, incentives, or regulations.

We call for the homesteading or other just transfer to private ownership of government-controlled lands and other resources. We recognize the legitimacy of resource planning by means of private, voluntary covenants.

We oppose creation of new government parks or wilderness and recreation areas. Such parks and areas that already exist must be transferred to non-government ownership. Pending such just transfer, their operating costs must be borne by their users rather than by taxpayers.

The allocation of water must be governed by unrestricted competition and unregulated prices. We call for the divestment of government and quasi-government water supply systems. The construction of government dams and other water projects must cease, and existing government water projects must be transferred to private ownership. Only the complete separation of water and the state will prevent future water crises.

3.13 Zoning

Zoning laws need to be abolished, not only because they are a violation of property rights, but because they make many problems worse, especially in busy metropolitan areas.

* Zoning laws have racism in their roots and are still a source of racial and class discrimination.

* Zoning laws cost the average worker thousands of dollars in annual income potential, drive up property taxes, and are a drain on the local economy.

* Zoning imposes artificial patterns of property use, often including "single-use" zones, while areas in which a mix of uses is allowed to develop naturally through market processes tend to offer more affordable housing options and lower crime rates.

* Zoning laws contribute to environmental damage with longer commute times and increases in vehicle emissions.

4. The State

We consider the rights of individuals to be paramount, and look to the market and other voluntary institutions as the proper ways for individuals to cooperate with each other as a community. We view the role of the state as subsidiary, and to be reduced as much as possible.

To whatever extent a state exists, it must conduct its affairs without violating the rights of its own citizens, and with rules that are applied fairly to all citizens. Specifically, we demand that these principles be applied to the government of California and to the governments of its member counties.

4.1 Sovereign Immunity

We favor an immediate end to the doctrine of Sovereign Immunity that ignores the primacy of the individual over the abstraction of the state. According to this doctrine, the state may not be sued without its permission or be held accountable for its actions under civil law.

Government agents must be subject to civil and criminal liability for any injuries caused by their actions, without regard to whether those actions occurred during the course of their duties. Neither government agencies nor their representatives shall be exempted from laws, statutes and regulations applicable to everyone else.

Government agents must be personally responsible for satisfying judgments against them, and the agency/taxpayers must never directly pay such settlements.

4.2 Taxation

Taxation is theft.

Since we believe that all persons are entitled to keep the fruits of their labor, we oppose all government activity that consists of the forcible collection of money or goods from individuals in violation of their individual rights. Specifically, we:

- a. recognize the right of any individual to challenge the payment of taxes on moral, religious, legal, or constitutional grounds;
- b. support the elimination of the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration;
- c. oppose any increase in existing tax rates and the imposition of any new taxes;
- d. support reductions in existing tax rates;
- e. oppose all taxation, including but not limited to, personal income, corporate income, capital gains, inheritance, sales, use, and value-added (VAT) taxes; and
- f. support a declaration of unconditional pardon or amnesty for all those individuals who have been convicted of, or who now stand accused of, tax resistance.

As an interim measure, all criminal and civil sanctions against tax evasion must be terminated immediately including, but not limited to, imprisonment and asset forfeiture.

We oppose as involuntary servitude any legal requirements forcing employers or business owners to serve as de facto tax collectors for federal, state, or local tax agencies.

We oppose any and all increases in the rate of taxation or categories of taxpayers, including the elimination of deductions, exemptions, or credits in the spurious name of

"fairness," "simplicity," or alleged "neutrality to the free market." No tax can ever be fair, simple, or neutral to the free market.

In the current fiscal situation, default is preferable to raising taxes or perpetual refinancing of growing public debt.

4.3 Government Debt

We oppose government entering into debt obligations on behalf of its constituents and their children for decades to come. No person can rightly enter into a contract on behalf of another person without their consent. When governments accrue debt, they are in essence entering into debt on behalf of their constituents and the children of their constituents.

Until the state deficit is repudiated, the state government must have a balanced budget. To be effective, a balanced budget must provide:

- a. that the budget is balanced exclusively by cutting expenditures, and not by raising taxes;
- b. that all spending is included in the budget;
- c. that neither the Legislative nor the Executive be permitted to override this requirement; and
- d. that no exception be made for periods of so-called "national emergency."

Governments facing fiscal crises must always default on their debt obligations in preference to raising taxes. At minimum, the level of government must be frozen.

4.4 Government Employees

An economy that includes millions of government jobs is not a free market economy.

Having the government acting as an employer distorts the job market as a whole, and creates even greater distortions in those sectors where it dominates. Entire sectors of our economy now operate on what is basically a socialist model. This creates a serious conflict of interest for elected officials, who in their role as employers should be looking out for interests of citizens and taxpayers at large, but depend for their re-election on the support of their own employees, who through their privileged position and numbers have in many cases become major political players.

There is no right to a government job. Current government employees do not "own" those jobs. Nor is it a proper role of government to serve as an "employer of last resort". We support eliminating government jobs through privatization of functions now done by government, abolition of agencies and departments, reductions in force, and hiring freezes.

The best way to eliminate the problems caused by government jobs is to eliminate government jobs. But as long as government continues to act as an employer, we advocate the following reforms to limit the damage to our economy:

- a. Eliminate all special benefits available only to government employees.
- b. Eliminate defined-benefit pensions, which tempt politicians to satisfy the demands of current employees by burdening future generations of taxpayers, in favor of defined-contribution plans which are increasingly the norm for private employers.
- c. Cap total compensation including all benefits at levels no higher than comparable private sector jobs.
- d. Repeal all laws which require or allow collective bargaining with unions of government employees; while government workers have the same right of association as anybody else and should be free to form organizations in which they voluntarily participate for peaceful purposes, they have no right to recognition by government as a special class.
- e. Government workers who express dissatisfaction with their compensation through strikes, work slowdowns, or other interference with public business should be fired and thereby be given the opportunity to find productive work in the free-market economy.

4.5 Government Secrecy

We oppose the government's use of secret classifications to keep information from the public, especially that which exposes government malfeasance.

4.6 Death Penalty

We oppose the administration of the death penalty by the state.

4.7 Government Police and Law Enforcement

Libertarians favor the abolition of government police departments for the same reasons we favor the abolition of other government services: Government operation means they're inefficient, funded by coercion, have distorted priorities (such as revenue farming and prosecuting unconstitutional prohibitions), and lack accountability.

At the federal, state, and local levels, Americans spend in the neighborhood of \$700 billion every year for law enforcement.

Direct spending, however, only tells part of the story. Police have a horrible record of violation of individual rights; killing well over one thousand individuals every year – a third of them either unarmed or running away, or both. Individuals beaten or otherwise unjustly injured by police action number many times the number killed. Yet for all of those killings and other assaults, the number of officers involved who have been prosecuted is minuscule; convictions are even rarer. Even when killer cops go before courts, prosecutors – who work with those same cops every day and have the same paymaster – routinely throw the case, allowing the killers of innocents such as Daniel Shaver, or Timothy Russell and Malissa Williams to go free.

In contrast, there are two to three times the number of individuals who are employed as private security, and the number of people this larger cohort kills every year is a tiny

fraction of the number police kill – and unlike government police, security companies are fully criminally and civilly liable for unjust death or injury.

Another reason the cost of government-run police is simply too high is the effect police brutality has had on race relations. The riots, unrest, protests, racial distrust, and other blowback from brutal policing have an incalculable cost in lives and money. Americans are actually getting along fabulously well, as evidenced by the increasing rates of interracial marriage and other indicators. Police violence, however, has incited racial unrest that undermines the strides peaceful Americans have made in getting along with each other.

The costs of continuing to allow governments to hire police are simply too high.

The only solution is to abolish the police. Returning the cash back to the private sector will leave that \$700 billion of taxpayer wealth with those who earned it – which means neighborhoods and businesses will then be able to use it to hire the security that suits them. Libertarians want individuals to be free to take advantage of all of the benefits a free market in security would offer: Better insurance, better locks and security hardware for one's property, and increasing opportunities for new providers to enter security markets, and other improvements.

4.8 Electoral Systems

Electoral systems matter. The predominant use of "winner-take-all" elections in gerrymandered, single-member districts fosters political monopolies and creates a substantial government-imposed barrier to election of non-incumbent political parties and candidates. We call upon legislative bodies to adopt electoral systems that are more representative of the electorate at the federal, state, and local levels, such as proportional voting systems with multi-member districts for legislative elections and ranked choice or approval voting for single winner elections. Further we oppose implementation of the electoral system known as Top Two.

In order to grant voters a full range of choice in federal, state, and local elections, we propose the addition of the alternative "None of the above is acceptable" to all ballots. We further propose that in the event that "none of the above is acceptable" receives a plurality of votes in any election, either the elective office for that term must remain unfilled and unfunded, or there shall be a new election in which none of the losing candidates shall be eligible.

4.9 Political Parties and Ballot Access

We call for an end to government control of political parties, consistent with individual rights to freedom of association and freedom of expression. Political parties are private voluntary groups, and must be allowed to establish their own rules for nomination procedures, primaries, and conventions. At the same time, political parties must not be given any special privileges or subsidies in their internal decision-making process. To that end, we call for the complete abolition of primary elections that are funded or controlled by any government body. "Voters" do not own political parties – the people

who invest their time and money in them do, and the state must not interfere in their right to run their parties in the manner that suits them.

Many state legislatures have established prohibitively restrictive laws which in effect exclude alternative candidates and parties from their rightful place on election ballots. Such laws wrongfully deny ballot access to political candidates and groups and further deny the voters their right to consider all legitimate alternatives. We hold that no state has a legitimate interest to protect in this area except for the fair and efficient conduct of elections.

The Australian ballot system, introduced into the United States in the late nineteenth century, is an abridgment of freedom of expression and of voting rights. Under it, the names of all the officially approved candidates are printed in a single government sponsored format and the voter indicates their choice by marking it or by writing in an approved but unlisted candidate's name. We advocate for a strict separation of ballot and state, and call for a return to the previous electoral system where there was no official ballot or candidate approval at all, and therefore no state or federal restriction of access to a "single ballot." Instead, voters submitted their own choices and had the option of using "tickets" or cards printed by candidates or political parties.

4.10 Campaign Finance

We call for an end to all government subsidies to candidates or parties and the repeal of all laws which regulate or restrict voluntary financing of election campaigns.

4.11 Candidate Debates

Competition in ideas and government policies is important to the electoral process and is a cornerstone of fundamental freedoms. The right to form a party for the advancement of political goals means little if that party's nominee can be arbitrarily excluded from debates and denied an equal opportunity to win votes. While we support the abolition of all intrusive election and other laws affecting the operation of private political parties, to the extent that these laws exist, they must not be manipulated to benefit the dominant parties to the exclusion of minority parties or independent candidates and to the ultimate detriment of the voters who are not presented with the range of potential choices. This effectively disenfranchises voters and violates First Amendment freedoms. Therefore, in accordance with current ballot access laws, we call upon all organizations that host debates to have fair and objective debate criteria that must include all candidates who are legally qualified to serve and whose names appear on the ballot

4.12 Secession

We recognize the right to political secession by political entities, private groups, or individuals. We believe that individuals must be allowed to decide for themselves if and how they will be governed, if at all. Exercise of this right, like the exercise of all other rights, does not remove legal and moral obligations not to violate the rights of others.

4.13 Immigration

We hold that one of the basic core principles of a free market is the freedom to move about voluntarily, and as such, borders are artificial barriers to trade and movement. A free market cannot exist with a closed or restricted border.

Non-citizens, whether "documented" or "undocumented", must not be denied the fundamental freedom to labor and to move about unmolested, nor should citizens be denied the right to assist in whatever manner they choose. Furthermore, immigration must not be restricted for reasons of nationality, race, religion, political creed, age, or sexual preference.

We therefore call for the elimination of all restrictions on immigration, the abolition of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Border Patrol, and the declaration of a full pardon for all people who are in the country without government permission. We oppose government welfare and resettlement payments to non-citizens just as we oppose government welfare payments to all other persons. We aim to restore a world in which there are no passports, visas, or other papers required to cross borders.

We oppose any construction of a government fence, government wall, or other government separation between California and Mexico.

5. Omissions

Our silence about any other particular government law, regulation, ordinance, directive, edict, control, regulatory agency, activity, or machination, including the existence of any particular governmental system, must not be construed to imply approval. In every matter, we adhere to the consistent application of the principle of the non-initiation of physical force or fraud.

Proposal #3: Taxation

insert "*Taxation is theft and a form of slavery.*" as the first sentence of the current document's Taxation plank.

#4: Reform the current platform

I. Statement of Principles of the Libertarian Party of California

We, the members of the Libertarian Party, 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 rights 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 the 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 governments to abridge the freedoms of speech and press, as well as government censorship in any form; and
- (3) the right to property – accordingly, we oppose all government interferences with private property, such as confiscation, nationalization, and eminent domain, and support the prohibition of robbery, trespass and fraud.
- (4) 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.

II. Individual Rights

Only individuals have rights. There are no group rights, community rights, or rights accruing to any government body. Individuals, whether acting alone or as part of a group or government, must not interfere with the exercise of rights by others. We hold that no one has an inherent right to anything which requires access to the life, property or labor of another person. Thus, there can be no right to health care, jobs, housing or other benefits.

We recognize the following rights:

- **Right to Life:** People have the right to be free from those who would physically injure or kill them. No one has the right to take the life of an innocent person. The right to life does not preclude the right to self-defense or the defense of another under imminent attack.

- **Right to Liberty:** People have the right to exercise sole dominion over their own lives, to pursue any lifestyle or course of action they wish, while taking responsibility for their actions and not violating the rights of others in the process.

- **Right to Property:** “Property rights” are inseparable from “human rights.” To lose property is to lose that portion of life expended for that property. Property is an extension of self-ownership and comprises those goods, services, materials, products of labor, and real property which are acquired without the use of coercion, trespass or fraud. One has the right to use, maintain, improve, control, protect, consume, destroy, or dispose of one’s own property as one sees fit, recognizing that one may not violate the rights of others. The defense of property is a form of self-defense.

Members of the Libertarian Party do not necessarily advocate or condone any of the practices which our policies would make legal. Libertarian policies will create a society where people are free to make and learn from their own decisions.

III. Implementation

Recalling the observation of abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison that “gradualism in theory is perpetuity in practice,” the actions called for in the planks that follow are to be taken as quickly and efficiently as possible without interruption or delay, unless otherwise stated.

IV. Individual Rights and Civil Order

No individual, group, or government may initiate force against any other individual, group or government. Governments must be unconditionally limited to prevent the infringement of individual rights.

1. Victimless “Crimes”

To commit a crime, one must infringe upon the rights of another. Victimless “crime” laws are a legislative attempt to forcibly limit the lifestyle choices of individuals. We therefore assert all laws which restrict voluntary exchanges of goods and services, or which interfere in the personal decisions of an individual who has not harmed anyone, are immoral and should be immediately repealed. We call for the immediate pardon and release of all persons convicted of victimless crimes.

2. Freedom of Expression

We hold that obscenity is a matter of individual taste and that government should not prohibit something merely because some people are offended by it. We support the complete deregulation of television, radio, cable, the Internet and all other forms of communication. We oppose the enactment of speech codes that ban language that is deemed offensive or policies which prevent students from hearing views that are unpopular. Government proposals to finance and control political campaigns are an encroachment upon freedom of expression.

3. Protection of Privacy

We oppose any government restriction, regulation, or censorship of speech, literature, or any other medium of expression. We oppose any use of governmental law enforcement agencies to violate the privacy of, or interfere with, those engaged in peaceful activities. The individual's privacy, property, and right to speak or not to speak should not be infringed by the government. No congressional committee, government agency, or grand jury shall have the power to compel any person to appear or testify. We support policies that will leave the electronic transmission of data and information in the hands of the people. Therefore, we oppose government encryption policies that would guarantee that the government could conduct surveillance of electronic transmissions by mandating or encouraging readable methods of encryption. We favor repeal of prohibitions on the export of any mathematics, including encryption.

4. Discrimination

No government should deny or abridge the rights of any individual on account of sex, race, color, creed, age, national origin, economic status, marital status, sexual preference, physical ability, mental ability, or place of employment.

5. Immigration

We hold that all human beings have rights, not merely the citizens of a particular country. Although private owners have the right to restrict others from trespassing on their property, government restrictions on the liberty of travel, residence, and employment, such as immigration and emigration laws, mandatory identification papers, and work permits, are violations of human rights, and we call for their Abolition. We defend the rights of noncitizens of the U. S. to seek work, trade, and live within this country, just as we defend current citizens when they wish to exercise these same rights. We oppose attempts to violate the rights of so-called illegal aliens. We uphold the right of private property owners to provide sanctuary to persons who face arrest and deportation as aliens, and we applaud those who offer such Sanctuary.

6. Official Language

We oppose the forced imposition or designation by government of any particular language as the official language of society.

7. Judicial

All persons should be equal before the law and entitled to due process of law. Due process should determine innocence or guilt in a manner designed to protect the individual rights of all persons concerned, both the accused and the accuser. We hold that individuals may settle their differences outside the court, if both so agree. Until such time as persons are proven guilty of crimes, their individual rights shall be accorded full respect.

8. Police

The government monopoly on police protection puts the power of violence in the hands of society's dominant groups, a practice which inevitably harms minority groups. We therefore call for decentralization of police protection to the neighborhood level whenever full privatization is not possible. We oppose the expansion of federal police forces anywhere, and particularly into California.

9. Sovereign Immunity

We favor an end to the doctrine of "sovereign immunity," which implies that the State, and its agents, can do no wrong, and holds that the State, contrary to the tradition of redress of grievances, may not be sued without its permission nor be held accountable for its actions under civil law. Neither government agencies nor their representatives shall be exempted from laws, statutes and regulations applicable to the citizenry. We oppose payment of government (tax) dollars to satisfy judgments against agents of the State.

10. Health and Medicine

The health and physical well-being of individuals should be matters of personal choice and responsibility. The State should not be involved in the regulation of medical care or in the delivery of health care. An individual should have the right to choose among any available health practices. Similarly he or she has the right to refuse, accept or modify treatment or other care.

11. Reproductive Rights

The State of California should not regulate, prohibit, subsidize or encourage any reproductive choice. We defend the right of all persons to privacy in and control over every aspect of their biological nature, such as contraception, termination of pregnancy, surrogate motherhood, artificial insemination, cloning and free choice in all consensual sexual relations.

12. Military

We oppose the deployment of the California National Guard and California Air National Guard beyond the borders of the United States, absent a formal declaration of war by the Congress.

We oppose the draft, registration for the draft, and any form of compulsory service as slavery, the most fundamental violation of individual rights and also unnecessary for the maintenance of a strong national defense. We support the creation of volunteer militias, independent of the National Guard.

13. Marriage

We support the rights of individuals to form private relationships as they see fit, either by contract or by mutual agreement. We regard marriage as one such private

relationship. The State of California should not dictate, prohibit, control, or encourage any such private relationship.

14. Family Life

We support the rights of families and households as contractual institutions to be free of government interference. Moreover, we condemn the usurpation by government of activities long carried on by families and households. We further accuse government of designing educational programs that place civic and moral education under the control of politicians, and of designing welfare laws that destroy families and households.

15. The Right to Keep and Bear Arms

We believe, as our founders did, that an armed citizenry is the final line of defense against government tyranny. We therefore oppose all restrictions on the individual right to bear arms.

16. Freedom of Religion

We defend the rights of individuals to engage in any religious activities which do not violate the rights of others. We advocate a strict separation of church and state. We oppose taxation of church property for the same reason we oppose all taxation.

17. Involuntary Commitment

We oppose the involuntary commitment of any person to a mental institution. The power of the State of California to institutionalize an individual who has not been convicted of a crime is a violation of the individual's rights.

18. Alcohol and Tobacco

We oppose the regulation of alcohol and tobacco by the State of California. We further oppose all government imposed age restrictions on the use of such products.

19. Marijuana

We support full decriminalization of marijuana, and call for the immediate release of all inmates in CA convicted of marijuana-related charges. We oppose restrictions on dispensaries and other cannabis related industries.

20. Election Reform

We oppose the Top Two voting system in California which disenfranchises voters who support alternative parties, and call for its repeal. We oppose the system of tax-financed primary elections and call for the nomination of all candidates without governmental supervision or intervention, as a private matter involving only the members of the party concerned. We oppose any limitation on the amount of money an individual, group, or corporation can spend supporting any candidate or ballot issue on the federal, state, or local level. We also oppose the public financing of election campaigns and the mandatory reporting of campaign donations and expenditures.

21. Legislature

It is the position of the Libertarian Party that the people should have adequate representation in their legislature and that the number of representatives should increase as the population grows. Additionally, we oppose a full-time legislature in California and support efforts to make the job of legislator at most a part-time one with drastically reduced salaries, staff, and expenses.

22. Secession

We recognize the right to political secession. This includes the right of secession by political entities, private groups, or individuals. Exercise of this right, like the exercise of all rights, does not remove legal and moral obligations not to violate the rights of others.

V. Individual Rights and the Economy

Each person has the right to offer goods and services to others. Government interference can only harm such free activity. Thus we oppose all government intervention in the economy. Any law enforcement in economic matters must be limited to protecting property rights, adjudicating disputes, enforcing voluntary contracts, and providing a framework in which voluntary trade is protected. All efforts by the State of California to redistribute wealth or to control or manage trade are inconsistent with a free society.

1. Taxation

Taxation is government's confiscation of property of its citizens. Because of its non-voluntary nature, it cannot be justified, regardless of the purpose for which the proceeds are to be used. Therefore, we oppose taxation of any kind. To that end, we support any and all initiatives to cut or abolish any tax, and oppose any initiatives to increase taxes or add new ones. We advocate that so-called "public services" be funded in the same manner as private organizations – through voluntary contributions and charges for services for which the user has voluntarily contracted.

2. Government Fiscal Responsibility

We believe the State of California should only adopt balanced budgets and eliminate its debt and unfunded obligations.

3. Land Use and Public Property

We recognize the right of property owners to control, use, transfer or dispose of their property in any manner that does not violate the rights of others. We believe that rights to land and any related water, oil or mineral rights are entitled to the same respect and protection. We reject any governmental assertion of "police powers" to regulate private property under the guise of "furthering the public health, safety, morals, or general welfare."

4. Education

We reject the idea that the financing and control of education is a proper function of government, and call for the privatization of public education in California.

5. Arts and Society

Artistic expression and its development should not be a concern of the State. Such a concern is an attempt to mandate aesthetic judgment and taste. There should be no involvement of the State in the arts, neither a supportive nor negative role. As we oppose censorship, so we oppose government subsidies, grants and commissions to both individual artists and organizations such as tax-supported museums.

6. Welfare

Government welfare programs violate the individual rights of two groups: those who have their property coercively taken from them and given to others, and those who receive this stolen property and whose economic lives are, thus, extensively controlled by the State. The need of one person is not a claim on another, and we therefore urge an end to government welfare programs. We advocate the development of private voluntary programs to aid the dependent and oppressed to become truly independent, self-supporting, productive individuals.

7. Disaster Relief

When fires, floods, earthquakes and storms bring disaster, Californians should look to self-help, mutual aid, charity and voluntarily purchased private insurance for relief. To seek relief through government subsidies is to impose a further disaster on taxpayers and on the economy as a whole. Such government subsidies also encourage people to live and work in disaster-prone areas (at the expense of others who are more prudent). Those who choose to dwell in or start businesses in risky areas should, when disaster comes, assume the responsibility for their choices.

8. Money and Banking

We call for the repeal of all legal tender laws and reaffirm the right to private ownership of, and contracts for, gold. We favor abolition of government fiat money and compulsory government unit of account. We favor the use of a free-market commodity standard, such as gold coins denominated by units of weight. We favor deregulation of financial institutions and other businesses.

9. Tort Law Reform

Fundamental principles of justice require that persons be held accountable for the harm they cause others. We therefore call for individuals to be liable for damages intentionally or negligently (and proximately) caused by themselves or their property. We hold that fault and causation should be the basis of liability in tort. We therefore oppose all governmental no-fault programs. We further oppose government-imposed rules that would base tort liability on any sort of cost-benefit analysis.

10. Bankruptcy

We hold that individuals and business firms that declare bankruptcy are not fulfilling their contractual obligations to their creditors. The government should cease providing an avenue through bankruptcy laws for violation of the rights of those creditors who have provided goods or performed services and are entitled to payment under the terms of the contract. Accordingly we call for reform of existing bankruptcy law to severely restrict the extent and nature of assets that may be exempted from distribution to creditors.

11. Transportation and Mass Transit

We recognize that transit service has become a major problem in many areas. This problem can be solved properly only through voluntary action in the free market. Governmental interference in transit services has been characterized by monopolistic restrictions and gross inefficiency.

12. Subsidies

In order to achieve a free economy in which government victimizes no one for the benefit of anyone else, we oppose all government subsidies. Relief from taxation is not a subsidy. We call for the elimination of the state government's principal dispenser of welfare to business, the Department of Commerce, and with its demise, the elimination of the Office of Business Development, the Office of Small Business with its government loan programs, the Office of Local Development, the Office of Foreign Investment, the Office of Competitive Technology, the California Film Commission, and the Office of Tourism.

13. Licensing Laws

We advocate the repeal of all licensing laws, whether for the purpose of raising revenue or for the purpose of controlling any profession, trade, or activity. No individual should be legally penalized for not possessing certification, including laws requiring persons holding elected public offices, such as judge or Attorney General to be lawyers, sheriffs to be law enforcement officers, or county treasurers to be certified public accountants. No consumer should be legally restrained from hiring non-certified individuals.

14. Consumer Protection

We advocate the use of private civil litigation, as opposed to regulation by government agencies, to combat product mislabeling, misrepresentation, and default of contract. The right to produce and purchase products and services must not be restricted by law.

15. Labor Relations

As we support the right of all individuals to enter into contracts, so we oppose all government interference in employer-employee relationships. Therefore, we oppose government-mandated "right of access" to private property for purposes of union organizing, government-sponsored elections on establishing unions, and government-defined collective bargaining units. We support an employer's and labor

union's unrestricted right to exercise freedom of speech, consistent with private property rights, during a labor-organizing campaign. We support the right of persons to voluntarily establish, associate with, or not associate with labor unions. An employer has the right to recognize, or refuse to recognize, a union as the collective bargaining agent of some or all employees. Therefore, we oppose "right to work" laws because they prohibit employers from making voluntary contracts with unions. We repudiate the notion that the government should decree wages in accordance with its arbitrary political notions of comparable worth, and oppose all laws based on this concept.

16. Conservation

We support the right of private citizens and organizations to rightfully acquire natural resources for the purpose of conservation. However, the desire to conserve natural resources is not a valid excuse for the violation of individual rights, and we therefore oppose such violations.

17. Water

We advocate basing water rights on principles of appropriation and transferability. We also advocate the transfer of all water works to private ownership. We oppose the tax financing and eminent domain land acquisitions for all projects and facilities in the state water plan, including the Peripheral Canal. We favor repeal of all government drought and flood emergency powers and all government ability to impose water rationing.

18. Agriculture

Federal government subsidies to producers, state and federal regulation, and state and federal taxes have distorted the market in the agricultural business. Farmers and consumers alike should be free from the meddling and counter-productive measures of the state and federal governments.. We therefore call for the abolition of the state Department of Agriculture, and an immediate end to state subsidies of the farming industry.

19. Pollution

Pollution of air, water and land violates the rights of individuals to their lives and property. Physical harm to health or property by pollution is as real as harm due to assault or theft, and must be dealt with through objective legal procedures. In order to handle the problems of air, water, soil, radiation, and noise pollution, we call for an extension of the laws governing such torts as trespass and nuisance to cover persons who cause substantial damage by intruding on the persons or property of Others. Governments, being major contributors to pollution, must be held legally responsible for their waste products.

20. Energy

California's energy crises are caused by the state's interference in energy markets. We support:

- A. The creation of free markets for all energy types through the repeal of all government controls over energy prices to consumers and costs to distributors.
- B. The right of persons to build, own or use refineries, pipelines, power-generation units, or any other asset, as long as they don't violate the rights of others.
- C. The abolition of the federal Department of Energy and the California Public
- D. Utilities Commission and their component agencies, without the transfer of their powers elsewhere in government.
- E. Privatizing all government-owned energy assets such as the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, the power marketing agencies, and mineral-bearing onshore and off-shore lands.

21. Government Monopolies

Government-operated or supported monopolies abridge individual rights to free trade and should be abolished. We call for the repeal of all laws which establish or support monopolies. Specifically, we call for privatization of water supply, garbage collection, transit systems, and telecommunications. We call for repeal of any law which prohibits competition with government monopolies. Therefore, we condemn the government-enforced monopolistic practices of the medical, legal, and other trade and professional associations or to open a casino.

22. Insurance

We call for complete deregulation of the insurance industry, including abolition of the Department of Insurance and the office of Insurance Commissioner. We oppose government-mandated insurance, including automobile liability insurance. We advocate the freedom of all individuals to engage in voluntary informed consent agreements which do not violate the rights of third parties.

VI. Omissions

Our silence about any other particular law, regulation, ordinance, directive, edict, control, agency, activity, condition, or machination of government should not be construed to imply our approval of such. Nor does our advocacy of the right to perform certain activities imply an endorsement of the activities themselves.

#5: Replace the current platform with the National Platform

PREAMBLE

As Libertarians, we seek a world of liberty: a world in which all individuals are sovereign over their own lives and are not forced to sacrifice their 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 set forth our basic principles and enumerate 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.

Note: The Statement of Principles was approved at the Convention in Dallas in 1974.

1.0 PERSONAL LIBERTY

Individuals are inherently free to make choices for themselves and must accept responsibility for the consequences of the choices they make. Our support of an individual's right to make choices in life does not mean that we necessarily approve or disapprove of those choices. No individual, group, or government may rightly initiate force against any other individual, group, or government. Libertarians reject the notion that groups have inherent rights. We support the rights of the smallest minority, the individual.

1.1 Self-Ownership

Individuals own their bodies and have rights over them that other individuals, groups, and governments may not violate. Individuals have the freedom and responsibility to decide what they knowingly and voluntarily consume, and what risks they accept to their own health, finances, safety, or life.

1.2 Expression and Communication

We support full freedom of expression and oppose government censorship, regulation, or control of communications media and technology. We favor the freedom to engage in or abstain from any religious activities that do not violate the rights of others. We oppose government actions which either aid or attack any religion.

1.3 Privacy

Libertarians advocate individual privacy and government transparency. We are committed to ending government's practice of spying on everyone. We support the rights recognized by the Fourth Amendment to be secure in our persons, homes, property, and communications. Protection from unreasonable search and seizure should include records held by third parties, such as email, medical, and library records.

1.4 Personal Relationships

Sexual orientation, preference, gender, or gender identity should have no impact on the government's treatment of individuals, such as in current marriage, child custody, adoption, immigration, or military service laws. Government does not have the authority to define, promote, license, or restrict personal relationships, regardless of the number of participants. Consenting adults should be free to choose their own sexual practices and personal relationships. Until such time as the government stops its illegitimate practice of marriage licensing, such licenses must be granted to all consenting adults who apply.

1.5 Abortion

Recognizing that abortion is a sensitive issue and that people can hold good-faith views on all sides, we believe that government should be kept out of the matter, leaving the question to each person for their conscientious consideration.

1.6 Parental Rights

Parents, or other guardians, have the right to raise their children according to their own standards and beliefs, provided that the rights of children to be free from abuse and neglect are also protected.

1.7 Crime and Justice

Government force must be limited to the protection of the rights of individuals to life, liberty, and property, and governments must never be permitted to violate these rights. Laws should be limited in their application to violations of the rights of others through force or fraud, or to deliberate actions that place others involuntarily at significant risk of harm. Therefore, we favor the repeal of all laws creating “crimes” without victims, such as gambling, the use of drugs for medicinal or recreational purposes, and consensual transactions involving sexual services. We support restitution to the victim to the fullest degree possible at the expense of the criminal or the negligent wrongdoer. The constitutional rights of the criminally accused, including due process, a speedy trial, legal counsel, trial by jury, and the legal presumption of innocence until proven guilty, must be preserved. We assert the common-law right of juries to judge not only the facts but also the justice of the law. We oppose the prosecutorial practice of “over-charging” in criminal prosecutions so as to avoid jury trials by intimidating defendants into accepting plea bargains.

1.8 Death Penalty

We oppose the administration of the death penalty by the state.

1.9 Self-Defense

The only legitimate use of force is in defense of individual rights — life, liberty, and justly acquired property — against aggression. This right inheres in the individual, who may agree to be aided by any other individual or group. We affirm the individual right recognized by the Second Amendment to keep and bear arms, and oppose the prosecution of individuals for exercising their rights of self-defense. Private property owners should be free to establish their own conditions regarding the presence of personal defense weapons on their own property. We oppose all laws at any level of government restricting, registering, or monitoring the ownership, manufacture, or transfer of firearms or ammunition.

2.0 ECONOMIC LIBERTY

Libertarians want all members of society to have abundant opportunities to achieve economic success. A free and competitive market allocates resources in the most efficient manner. Each person has the right to offer goods and services to others on the

free market. The only proper role of government in the economic realm is to protect property rights, adjudicate disputes, and provide a legal framework in which voluntary trade is protected. All efforts by government to redistribute wealth, or to control or manage trade, are improper in a free society.

2.1 Property and Contract

As respect for property rights is fundamental to maintaining a free and prosperous society, it follows that the freedom to contract to obtain, retain, profit from, manage, or dispose of one's property must also be upheld. Libertarians would free property owners from government restrictions on their rights to control and enjoy their property, as long as their choices do not harm or infringe on the rights of others. Eminent domain, civil asset forfeiture, governmental limits on profits, governmental production mandates, and governmental controls on prices of goods and services (including wages, rents, and interest) are abridgements of such fundamental rights. For voluntary dealings among private entities, parties should be free to choose with whom they trade and set whatever trade terms are mutually agreeable.

2.2 Environment

Competitive free markets and property rights stimulate the technological innovations and behavioral changes required to protect our environment and ecosystems. Private landowners and conservation groups have a vested interest in maintaining natural resources. Governments are unaccountable for damage done to our environment and have a terrible track record when it comes to environmental protection. Protecting the environment requires a clear definition and enforcement of individual rights and responsibilities regarding resources like land, water, air, and wildlife. Where damages can be proven and quantified in a court of law, restitution to the injured parties must be required.

2.3 Energy and Resources

While energy is needed to fuel a modern society, government should not be subsidizing any particular form of energy. We oppose all government control of energy pricing, allocation, and production.

2.4 Government Finance and Spending

All persons are entitled to keep the fruits of their labor. We call for the repeal of the income tax, the abolishment of the Internal Revenue Service and all federal programs and services not required under the U.S. Constitution. We oppose any legal requirements forcing employers to serve as tax collectors. We support any initiative to reduce or abolish any tax, and oppose any increase on any tax for any reason. To the extent possible, we advocate that all public services be funded in a voluntary manner.

2.5 Government Debt

Government should not incur debt, which burdens future generations without their consent. We support the passage of a "Balanced Budget Amendment" to the U.S.

Constitution, provided that the budget is balanced exclusively by cutting expenditures, and not by raising taxes.

2.6 Government Employees

We favor repealing any requirement that one must join or pay dues to a union as a condition of government employment. We advocate replacing defined-benefit pensions with defined-contribution plans, as are commonly offered in the private sector, so as not to impose debt on future generations without their consent.

2.7 Money and Financial Markets

We favor free-market banking, with unrestricted competition among banks and depository institutions of all types. Markets are not actually free unless fraud is vigorously combated. Those who enjoy the possibility of profits must not impose risks of losses upon others, such as through government guarantees or bailouts. We support ending federal student loan guarantees and special treatment of student loan debt in bankruptcy proceedings. Individuals engaged in voluntary exchange should be free to use as money any mutually agreeable commodity or item. We support a halt to inflationary monetary policies and unconstitutional legal tender laws.

2.8 Marketplace Freedom

Libertarians support free markets. We defend the right of individuals to form corporations, cooperatives and other types of entities based on voluntary association. We oppose all forms of government subsidies and bailouts to business, labor, or any other special interest. Government should not compete with private enterprise.

2.9 Licensing

Libertarians support the right of every person to earn an honest and peaceful living through the free and voluntary exchange of goods and services. Accordingly, we oppose occupational and other licensing laws that infringe on this right or treat it as a state-granted privilege. We encourage certifications by voluntary associations of professionals.

2.10 Sex Work

The Libertarian Party supports the decriminalization of prostitution. We assert the right of consenting adults to provide sexual services to clients for compensation, and the right of clients to purchase sexual services from consenting sex workers.

2.11 Labor Markets

Employment and compensation agreements between private employers and employees are outside the scope of government, and these contracts should not be encumbered by government-mandated benefits or social engineering. We support the right of private employers and employees to choose whether or not to bargain with each other through a labor union. Bargaining should be free of government interference, such as compulsory arbitration or imposing an obligation to bargain.

2.12 Education

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. Parents should have control of and responsibility for all funds expended for their children's education.

2.13 Health Care

We favor a free market health care system. We recognize the freedom of individuals to determine the level of health insurance they want (if any), the level of health care they want, the care providers they want, the medicines and treatments they will use and all other aspects of their medical care, including end-of-life decisions. People should be free to purchase health insurance across state lines.

2.14 Retirement and Income Security

Retirement planning is the responsibility of the individual, not the government. Libertarians would phase out the current government-sponsored Social Security system and transition to a private voluntary system. The proper and most effective source of help for the poor is the voluntary efforts of private groups and individuals. We believe members of society will become even more charitable and civil society will be strengthened as government reduces its activity in this realm.

3.0 SECURING LIBERTY

The protection of individual rights is the only proper purpose of government. Government is constitutionally limited so as to prevent the infringement of individual rights by the government itself. The principle of non-initiation of force should guide the relationships between governments.

3.1 National Defense

We support the maintenance of a sufficient military to defend the United States against aggression. The United States should both avoid entangling alliances and abandon its attempts to act as policeman for the world. We oppose any form of compulsory national service.

3.2 Internal Security and Individual Rights

The defense of the country requires that we have adequate intelligence to detect and to counter threats to domestic security. This requirement must not take priority over maintaining the civil liberties of our citizens. The Constitution and Bill of Rights shall not be suspended even during time of war. Intelligence agencies that legitimately seek to preserve the security of the nation must be subject to oversight and transparency. We oppose the government's use of secret classifications to keep from the public information that it should have, especially that which shows that the government has violated the law. We oppose the use of torture and other cruel and unusual punishments, without exception.

3.3 International Affairs

American foreign policy should seek an America at peace with the world. Our foreign policy should emphasize defense against attack from abroad and enhance the likelihood of peace by avoiding foreign entanglements. We would end the current U.S. government policy of foreign intervention, including military and economic aid. We recognize the right of all people to resist tyranny and defend themselves and their rights. We condemn the use of force, and especially the use of terrorism, against the innocent, regardless of whether such acts are committed by governments or by political or revolutionary groups.

3.4 Free Trade and Migration

We support the removal of governmental impediments to free trade. Political freedom and escape from tyranny demand that individuals not be unreasonably constrained by government in the crossing of political boundaries. Economic freedom demands the unrestricted movement of human as well as financial capital across national borders.

3.5 Rights and Discrimination

Libertarians embrace the concept that all people are born with certain inherent rights. We reject the idea that a natural right can ever impose an obligation upon others to fulfill that "right." We condemn bigotry as irrational and repugnant. Government should neither deny nor abridge any individual's human right based upon sex, wealth, ethnicity, creed, age, national origin, personal habits, political preference, or sexual orientation. Members of private organizations retain their rights to set whatever standards of association they deem appropriate, and individuals are free to respond with ostracism, boycotts, and other free market solutions.

3.6 Representative Government

We support election systems that are more representative of the electorate at the federal, state and local levels. As private voluntary groups, political parties should be free to establish their own rules for nomination procedures, primaries and conventions. We call for an end to any tax-financed subsidies to candidates or parties and the repeal of all laws which restrict voluntary financing of election campaigns. We oppose laws that effectively exclude alternative candidates and parties, deny ballot access, gerrymander districts, or deny the voters their right to consider all legitimate alternatives. We advocate initiative, referendum, recall and repeal when used as popular checks on government.

3.7 Self-Determination

Whenever any form of government becomes destructive of individual liberty, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to agree to such new governance as to them shall seem most likely to protect their liberty.

4.0 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.

#6: Replace the current platform with National Platform with the California specific language

PREAMBLE

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free market. The only proper role of government in the economic realm is to protect property rights, adjudicate disputes, and provide a legal framework in which voluntary trade is protected. All efforts by government to redistribute wealth, or to control or manage trade, are improper in a free society.

2.1 Property and Contract

As respect for property rights is fundamental to maintaining a free and prosperous society, it follows that the freedom to contract to obtain, retain, profit from, manage, or dispose of one's property must also be upheld. Libertarians would free property owners from government restrictions on their rights to control and enjoy their property, as long as their choices do not harm or infringe on the rights of others. Eminent domain, civil asset forfeiture, governmental limits on profits, governmental production mandates, and governmental controls on prices of goods and services (including wages, rents, and interest) are abridgements of such fundamental rights. For voluntary dealings among private entities, parties should be free to choose with whom they trade and set whatever trade terms are mutually agreeable.

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Competitive free markets and property rights stimulate the technological innovations and behavioral changes required to protect our environment and ecosystems. Private landowners and conservation groups have a vested interest in maintaining natural resources. Governments are unaccountable for damage done to our environment and have a terrible track record when it comes to environmental protection. Protecting the environment requires a clear definition and enforcement of individual rights and responsibilities regarding resources like land, water, air, and wildlife. Where damages can be proven and quantified in a court of law, restitution to the injured parties must be required.

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While energy is needed to fuel a modern society, government should not be subsidizing any particular form of energy. We oppose all government control of energy pricing, allocation, and production.

2.4 Government Finance and Spending

All persons are entitled to keep the fruits of their labor. We call for the repeal of the income tax, the abolishment of the Internal Revenue Service and all federal programs and services not required under the U.S. Constitution. We oppose any legal requirements forcing employers to serve as tax collectors. We support any initiative to reduce or abolish any tax, and oppose any increase on any tax for any reason. To the extent possible, we advocate that all public services be funded in a voluntary manner.

2.5 Government Debt

Government should not incur debt, which burdens future generations without their consent. We support the passage of a "Balanced Budget Amendment" to the U.S.

Constitution, provided that the budget is balanced exclusively by cutting expenditures, and not by raising taxes.

2.6 Government Employees

We favor repealing any requirement that one must join or pay dues to a union as a condition of government employment. We advocate replacing defined-benefit pensions with defined-contribution plans, as are commonly offered in the private sector, so as not to impose debt on future generations without their consent.

2.7 Money and Financial Markets

We favor free-market banking, with unrestricted competition among banks and depository institutions of all types. Markets are not actually free unless fraud is vigorously combated. Those who enjoy the possibility of profits must not impose risks of losses upon others, such as through government guarantees or bailouts. We support ending federal student loan guarantees and special treatment of student loan debt in bankruptcy proceedings. Individuals engaged in voluntary exchange should be free to use as money any mutually agreeable commodity or item. We support a halt to inflationary monetary policies and unconstitutional legal tender laws.

2.8 Marketplace Freedom

Libertarians support free markets. We defend the right of individuals to form corporations, cooperatives and other types of entities based on voluntary association. We oppose all forms of government subsidies and bailouts to business, labor, or any other special interest. Government should not compete with private enterprise.

2.9 Licensing

Libertarians support the right of every person to earn an honest and peaceful living through the free and voluntary exchange of goods and services. Accordingly, we oppose occupational and other licensing laws that infringe on this right or treat it as a state-granted privilege. We encourage certifications by voluntary associations of professionals.

2.10 Sex Work

The Libertarian Party supports the decriminalization of prostitution. We assert the right of consenting adults to provide sexual services to clients for compensation, and the right of clients to purchase sexual services from consenting sex workers.

2.11 Labor Markets

Employment and compensation agreements between private employers and employees are outside the scope of government, and these contracts should not be encumbered by government-mandated benefits or social engineering. We support the right of private employers and employees to choose whether or not to bargain with each other through a labor union. Bargaining should be free of government interference, such as compulsory arbitration or imposing an obligation to bargain.

2.12 Education

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. Parents should have control of and responsibility for all funds expended for their children's education.

2.13 Health Care

We favor a free market health care system. We recognize the freedom of individuals to determine the level of health insurance they want (if any), the level of health care they want, the care providers they want, the medicines and treatments they will use and all other aspects of their medical care, including end-of-life decisions. People should be free to purchase health insurance across state lines.

2.14 Retirement and Income Security

Retirement planning is the responsibility of the individual, not the government. Libertarians would phase out the current government-sponsored Social Security system and transition to a private voluntary system. The proper and most effective source of help for the poor is the voluntary efforts of private groups and individuals. We believe members of society will become even more charitable and civil society will be strengthened as government reduces its activity in this realm.

3.0 SECURING LIBERTY

The protection of individual rights is the only proper purpose of government. Government is constitutionally limited so as to prevent the infringement of individual rights by the government itself. The principle of non-initiation of force should guide the relationships between governments.

3.1 National Defense

We support the maintenance of a sufficient military to defend the United States against aggression. The United States should both avoid entangling alliances and abandon its attempts to act as policeman for the world. We oppose any form of compulsory national service.

3.2 Internal Security and Individual Rights

The defense of the country requires that we have adequate intelligence to detect and to counter threats to domestic security. This requirement must not take priority over maintaining the civil liberties of our citizens. The Constitution and Bill of Rights shall not be suspended even during time of war. Intelligence agencies that legitimately seek to preserve the security of the nation must be subject to oversight and transparency. We oppose the government's use of secret classifications to keep from the public information that it should have, especially that which shows that the government has violated the law. We oppose the use of torture and other cruel and unusual punishments, without exception.

3.3 International Affairs

American foreign policy should seek an America at peace with the world. Our foreign policy should emphasize defense against attack from abroad and enhance the likelihood of peace by avoiding foreign entanglements. We would end the current U.S. government policy of foreign intervention, including military and economic aid. We recognize the right of all people to resist tyranny and defend themselves and their rights. We condemn the use of force, and especially the use of terrorism, against the innocent, regardless of whether such acts are committed by governments or by political or revolutionary groups.

3.4 Free Trade and Migration

We support the removal of governmental impediments to free trade. Political freedom and escape from tyranny demand that individuals not be unreasonably constrained by government in the crossing of political boundaries. Economic freedom demands the unrestricted movement of human as well as financial capital across national borders.

3.5 Rights and Discrimination

Libertarians embrace the concept that all people are born with certain inherent rights. We reject the idea that a natural right can ever impose an obligation upon others to fulfill that "right." We condemn bigotry as irrational and repugnant. Government should neither deny nor abridge any individual's human right based upon sex, wealth, ethnicity, creed, age, national origin, personal habits, political preference, or sexual orientation. Members of private organizations retain their rights to set whatever standards of association they deem appropriate, and individuals are free to respond with ostracism, boycotts, and other free market solutions.

3.6 Representative Government

We support election systems that are more representative of the electorate at the federal, state and local levels. As private voluntary groups, political parties should be free to establish their own rules for nomination procedures, primaries and conventions. We call for an end to any tax-financed subsidies to candidates or parties and the repeal of all laws which restrict voluntary financing of election campaigns. We oppose laws that effectively exclude alternative candidates and parties, deny ballot access, gerrymander districts, or deny the voters their right to consider all legitimate alternatives. We advocate initiative, referendum, recall and repeal when used as popular checks on government.

3.7 Self-Determination

Whenever any form of government becomes destructive of individual liberty, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to agree to such new governance as to them shall seem most likely to protect their liberty.

4.0 SPECIFIC ISSUES IN CALIFORNIA

Although the previous sections above have set out our positions both in general and with regards to the federal government, recognizing that all politics is local, we want to emphasize the following specific issues in California.

4.1. Housing and Homelessness in California

Despite relatively low population growth, California has been unable to build sufficient housing to keep sale prices and rents affordable – especially near the Coast – due to government interventions. State and local government’s approach to homelessness, a problem caused by mental illness and substance abuse as well as high housing costs, has been expensive and unsuccessful. Radical policy changes will be required to adequately house both the homeless and those struggling to afford decent accommodation.

- A. Rent controls and regulations should be abolished.
- B. Homeowners and renters (if permitted by their lease) should be free to rent part or all of their homes without government interference.
- C. Land use restrictions should be relaxed to allow residential construction on a portion of the 90% of land that is undeveloped.
- D. Zoning laws which often restrict construction of multi-unit housing should be relaxed not only near transit facilities, but throughout the state.
- E. The cost and bureaucracy associated with obtaining building permits should be minimized.
- F. Minimum unit sizes, restrictions on the placement of manufactured homes and prevailing wage laws – all of which make home construction more costly – should be abolished.
- G. Rather than use bond proceeds to construct affordable housing at costs upwards of \$700,000 per unit, government should permit and facilitate the placement of manufactured tiny homes on unused land to provide housing for unsheltered homeless individuals.

4.2. Transportation, Energy and Climate Change in California

Because California produces only 1% of global greenhouse gas emissions, state policies cannot meaningfully impact climate change.

Consequently, we are skeptical of measures that increase costs and reduce choices in the name of global warming.

- A. The California High Speed Rail Authority should be abolished, and its projects wound down in a cost-effective manner.
- B. Gasoline tax revenues should not be used to subsidize transit or bike lanes and should be reduced to the minimum level necessary to properly maintain roads.
- C. State and local governments should remove barriers that prevent private firms from adding road capacity funded by toll revenues.
- D. Homeowners should not be required to put solar panels on their properties.

- E. Utilities should be permitted to generate electricity from nuclear, natural gas and hybrid gas/solar facilities.
- F. Fees on the generation of carbon and other greenhouse gases should be sole approach to reducing emissions, allowing individuals to conserve in their own way.

4.3. Water and Wildfires in California

As it has historically, California will likely experience weather conditions that cause wildfires and water shortages. The state should allow individuals to ameliorate these problems through innovation and private stewardship rather than by imposing costly, top-down solutions.

- A. The Waterfix project should be cancelled. Priority should be given to increasing the supply of potable water over redistributing the scarce water we currently have.
- B. Restrictions on the private construction of desalination plants should be relaxed. Seawater desalination should be part of a diversified approach to water supply stability that also includes water recycling and water banking.
- C. Mismanaged public lands should be turned over to private owners who will have an incentive to protect their properties from wildfire by thinning out vegetation and working with electric utilities to move power lines underground.

4.4. Immigration to California

Due to out-migration and low birth rates, California faces population loss unless it welcomes immigrants. Although immigration is primarily a federal issue, we believe that:

- A. California state and local government should not assist Immigration and Customs Enforcement with finding, detaining and deporting undocumented residents who have not committed any offenses aside from illegally entering or remaining in the country.
- B. State and local governments should take no action to prevent undocumented residents from working or otherwise contributing to the economy. For example, we oppose efforts to deny drivers' licenses to these individuals.

4.5. Jobs in California

Although a strong national economy has lowered unemployment, California state and local governments have introduced rigidities that will drive up joblessness during a future recession. We call for a freer employment market by:

- A. Allowing workers of all types to operate as independent contractors under any terms they find acceptable.
- B. Eliminating restrictions on wages, shifts and hours.
- C. Eliminating requirements to provide leave – whether paid or unpaid.

4.6. Healthcare in California

Because the concept of positive rights is incoherent, there can be no “right” to healthcare, but, in an affluent society like ours’, affordable quality healthcare is a reasonable expectation. The state can make healthcare more affordable by:

- A. Liberalizing procedures for licensing out-of-state and international doctors.
- B. Allowing nurse practitioners and other “mid-level practitioners” to practice without supervision from doctors.
- C. Eliminate limits on telemedicine, which will allow patients to obtain diagnoses from practitioners operating in lower cost areas.
- D. Provide incentives to Medicaid beneficiaries to seek lower cost treatment in Mexico.

4.7. Education in California

Although it is generally believed that the state must fund K-12 education, we believe this funding should not be accompanied by government control. This entitlement should not extend to higher education.

- A. Parents with children in traditional public schools should be free to send them to charter or private schools. School districts should not have the power to deny or terminate charters to operators who are qualified and responsible. The state should offer vouchers to parents of public-school children, enabling them to use Local Control Funding Formula dollars associated with their children to pay private school tuition.
- B. Taxpayers should not be expected to subsidize higher education especially for students who can afford to pay tuition and living costs. We thus oppose free community college or free tuition at public colleges.
- C. Public colleges must not restrict freedom of expression or freedom of thought. UC or CSU campuses should be denied funding if they impose political litmus tests for speakers or sanction students for expressing politically incorrect views.

4.8. Fiscal Sustainability in California

Government should pay all operating costs during the year in which they are incurred rather than burdening future taxpayers.

- A. Bonds must only be issued to build infrastructure and must always be approved by voters. Governments must not circumvent the need to obtain voter approval for borrowing by using of loans or leases. To ensure that voters receive unbiased information, ballot language for bond measures should be written by non-governmental third parties that have no ties to the financial industry.
- B. Governments must make the full actuarially defined contributions to public employee pension plans each year, and the actuarial determination should be based on conservative assumptions. If retiree health benefits are to be offered, these must also be fully prefunded. If public employee salaries, pensions and benefits are too costly, governments should either negotiate lower compensation packages or contract out services.

4.9. Government Transparency in California

Because governments are accorded the right to deprive individuals of property, life and liberty, they must be accountable to the greatest degree possible. To hold governments accountable, the public must have convenient and unfettered access to their records.

- A. All California governments should default to openness, by automatically publishing all their financial and administrative records – including employee compensation data - in machine readable formats on their public web site. Comprehensive web site publication would obviate the need for Public Records Act requests, but this act should remain on the books.
- B. Law enforcement officers must use body cameras whenever interacting with members of the public and body cam footage should be released to any requestor within one business day.

4.10. Personal Freedoms in California

California is witnessing an unsettling resurgence of nanny state interventions into individual liberties. We affirm the principle that all adult Californians own their bodies.

- A. Cannabis production and sales should be deregulated, and cannabis products should not be subject to excessive taxation.
- B. State and local governments must not restrict sales of vaping products to adults.
- C. Personal use of all drugs should be decriminalized, but government should not encourage drug addiction by providing free needles.
- D. Adults should be allowed to provide and advertise sexual services without government interference.
- E. State and local governments should not impose closing hours on drinking establishments.

5.0 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.