

2019 Platform & Issues Committee Report

Platform & Issues Committee Membership:

David Watson

Joseph Redmon

Bryan Short

Part 1 - Additions from Libertarian National Platform

The vast majority of the LPN Platform is succinct, cogent, prescient and well spoken. The more our platform looks like it the better. Conversation is encouraged as to these additions.

Part 2 - Large edits or swaps. Saucy material herein.

Part 3 - Incomplete or unfinished planks and edits to be passed on to the next Platform and Issues Committee.

Part 4 - Information exchange.

Introduction and Explanation

The goal we have in mind for the tone and readability of the LPKY Platform was to make it understandable to Average Joe 6-pack, as well as to the seasoned Libertarian. The platform is not for us to preach to the choir. It is an outreach mechanism to reach the voters of Kentucky, and to explain what we stand for, in order to get Libertarians elected to public office. We have had this mindset in mind for the past 4 years on the committee, and would hope future platform and issues committees will continue this.

~Dave Watson, Chair, Platform and Issues Committee

Additional Proposal

We believe that these planks are good, but sometimes need further clarification and extrapolation. We propose that we, as Libertarian Party Members, write a series of articles, papers, and essays, further explaining our positions on these subjects. These should come from differing perspectives with the LPKY, explaining why we support these planks. These should be hosted on LPKY.org, and linked on the platform page, directly beneath the corresponding planks.

Legend:

~~Strikethrough Text~~: Proposed Deletions

Italics: New Proposed Language

Normal Text: Existing Language

Color Coding:

New Text on additions from LP National Platform

Notes and commentary not to be included in ratified planks

Part 1 - Additions from National Libertarian Platform

Personal Liberty (this should be listed first after the preamble)

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.

Part 1 - Additions from National Libertarian Platform **(cont)**

Self-Ownership (listed right after personal liberty)

We felt that a minor edit to the LP National plank was in order, shown in in red.

Our most fundamental belief, that all other planks within this platform are built upon, is that 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.

Part 2 - Proposed Swaps/Edits/Removals/Additions

Preamble:

~~Libertarianism is a political philosophy that holds that all people should be free to engage in any peaceful activity of their own choosing. Thus, as long a person doesn't take action against another person's life, liberty, or property, libertarians hold that no government should interfere. In fact, libertarians believe that one primary purpose of government is to prosecute and punish anti-social individuals who initiate force (or fraud) against others. With the tragic exception of slavery and several minor exceptions, the philosophy on which the United States was founded was, by and large, founded on libertarianism, especially with the ideas in the Declaration of Independence and the limitation on government powers in the Constitution. What are some policy ramifications of what has become known as the libertarian "non-aggression principle"? People should be free to engage in any economic enterprise without permission or interference from the state. Thus libertarians oppose all economic regulation of business activity, including occupational licensure. Libertarians also believe that people have the right to keep whatever they earn and decide for themselves what to do with their own money—spend it, invest it, save it, hoard it, or donate it. This then means, necessarily, that libertarians are ardent advocates of laissez faire capitalism and the free market, which is simply a natural process by which people interact peacefully with each other for mutual gain.~~

PREAMBLE Alternate 1: Essentially what we have done here is to “preamble the preamble”. We took the LP National preamble, and added a motivational call to action to it. This is also an attempt to find common ground with non-Libertarians who believe in the basic things that most Kentuckians believe in, and connect the dots to our way of thinking.

We are Kentuckians. We are bred from pioneers, frontiersmen, rugged individualists, and brave souls who seeded a new nation. We look out for our neighbors, take care of those less fortunate, and we do so voluntarily.

The founding fathers of our nation set forth a set of principles defining not rules for its people, but restrictions on what the government may NOT do. Unlike other political organizations, we Libertarians continue to carry the torch of liberty in their stead. We are a free people, and the government needs to be warned from time to time that the people preserve the spirit of resistance.

Libertarianism is a philosophy based on voluntary association and exchange. What this means is that we don't need to be forced, via a nanny state government, to take care of our own. We Kentuckians just do it because it's the right thing to do.

We are farmers, schoolteachers, police officers, independent contractors, entrepreneurs, small business owners, veterans, factory workers, homemakers, preachers; we are the people. We believe in freedom, and we believe that the more government we have, the less free we are.

Kentucky has a long history of thumbing its collective nose at federal overreach. We have never needed the Federal government, or even Frankfort for that matter, to tell us how to live our lives.

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.

Preamble Alternate 2: This option is a complete re-write, with no borrowed text from LP national.

The Libertarian Party of Kentucky exists as a peaceful vehicle for institutional knowledge. Libertarianism is a political philosophy of non aggression. An individual, without harming someone, causing damage to property or violating a contract is left in the capable hands of their sovereign rational mind and divine intelligence. The purpose of governance is to protect innocence, protect natural rights and facilitate justice to wicked individuals. Libertarians oppose all forms of government intervention into the economy outside this scope. In the following pages we have set forth basic principles and various policy stances derived therefrom. These specific policies are not exhaustive or the end goal. Our end goal is liberty and peace in abundance for today as well as tomorrow. It is to these ends that we take these stands to address different topics or issues. Always remembering, whenever any form of government becomes destructive of individual liberty, it is the right, and the duty, of the people to alter or to abolish it. To agree to such new governance as they deem best in creating new guards for their future security.

Preamble Alternate 3: This version is a truncated form of option #1

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.

As Kentuckians, we share a tradition of independence and personal responsibility, and we stand against any government that would tell us how we should live our lives. We take care of each other, and we do so voluntarily. We believe in freedom, and we believe that the more government we have, the less free we are.

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.

Part 2 - Proposed Swaps/Edits/Removals/Additions **(cont)**

Drugs

~~Today: Jails are bursting at the seams with non-violent drug offenders. With limited space for incarceration, and state and local budgets in jeopardy due to economic concerns, it makes sense to allow non-violent drug offenders out of jail first, followed by those who commit property crimes. Those who do physical harm to others should never be released early, in lieu of a non-violent drug offender.~~

~~Tomorrow: The decades-long war on drugs has proven to be highly injurious to a free society. People have a natural right to engage in peaceful, even self-destructive behavior as long as their conduct harms no others, even if some disapprove. Addiction should be viewed as a social, medical, and/or psychological problem; not a criminal one. Legalizing drugs would put an end to drug lords, street gangs, corruption, and the violence associated with the drug war—that is, the burglaries, robberies, thefts, etc. associated with the exorbitant black-market prices that drug users must pay to finance their habits.~~

Drugs and Alcohol

Today: Since 1971, the United States government has been at “war” with drugs. There has been a “war” on alcohol for even longer. This has stifled our liberties, which are intended to protect us FROM the government. In actuality, there has not been a “war on drugs and alcohol”, but a war on individuals’ behavior. As we saw with alcohol prohibition between 1920-1933, this leads to a violent black market that in this case is very destructive to society.

Tomorrow: We believe that the government should let individuals transact with others when and how they see fit, even when it is self-destructive, and that we should not have the state intervening to protect us from ourselves. We call for the full legalization of all drugs, as well as alcohol, their use, distribution, and their manufacture. Given that we believe that if there isn’t a victim, a crime hasn’t been committed, a crime against one’s self is not a crime at all. That being said, crimes committed concurrently, that do have a victim, should be prosecuted appropriately.

Part 2 - Proposed Swaps/Edits/Removals/Additions **(cont)**

Due Process

Today: The US Constitution states that “no State shall deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law”; yet property is commonly seized from citizens with no charge, trial, or any semblance of due process. This is commonly known as civil asset forfeiture, where the police or the courts can and do seize property without charge or trial.

Tomorrow: Like with many other issues, we need to return to the principles laid out in the United States Constitution. To deprive anyone of any property, liberty, or even their life, due process (which means being charged with a crime based on evidence, then a trial by jury), is an absolute necessity to prevent arbitrary confiscation of property and violation of liberties of the innocent, policing for profit, and tyranny.

Part 2 - Proposed Swaps/Edits/Removals/Additions **(cont)**

Prior Constraint

Today: Many of our laws are ostensibly written to prevent bad actions from happening before they occur. Certain actions are banned to prevent those bad actions from occurring. Unfortunately, this assumes that the bad action is always or nearly always going to occur following the banned action.

Tomorrow: We need to treat each act by individuals as an individual act, rather than a foregone conclusion. For example, drug use or gun ownership are not automatically going to lead to violent crime. The only exception to this would be where someone is engaging in a reckless activity, which is causing an imminent risk of harm to others, such as driving under the influence, shooting a firearm with no regard for the safety of others, etc. Because of this, we call for a repeal on all laws engaging in prior constraint.

Part 2 - Proposed Swaps/Edits/Removals/Additions **(cont)**

Transparency and Accountability

Today: Kentucky is 5th most corrupt state in the nation, where meetings that should be public are done in secret; government officials engage in violations of the law that are being ignored, and their fines and settlements are being paid by the people.

Tomorrow: Fines and penalties from the misconduct of politicians should not be paid by taxpayers. Kentucky must adhere to the 1976 Open Records Act (KRS 61.870), and establish a website with an online, searchable database with all applicable meetings, sessions, etc available on demand, and administered by the Kentucky Legislative Research Commission. No government official, elected or appointed, can be exempted from any law or regulation. If the law is unjust, it needs to be repealed. The government exists to protect individual rights, not to act as a permanent ruling class.

Part 2 - Proposed Swaps/Edits/Removals/Additions **(cont)**

Farm to Table Agriculture

~~Today: Currently all animals slaughtered for sale for human consumption in Kentucky are subject to USDA Inspection.. Anyone Individuals can sell vegetables, fruits, nuts and herbs or other fructus naturales from their backyard or commercial gardens personal property without government hinderance interference. On the other hand, direct sales of meat from farmers producers to consumers is unconseionably cost prohibitive. Currently all animals slaughtered for sale for human consumption in Kentucky are subject to USDA Inspection. For small producers this is a costly impediment which requires taking the live animal to a slaughterhouse, often a hundred miles or more away. Processing of the animal can then take 23 weeks and the farmer must then make the round trip again. Farmers can sell whole live animals then process the animal as a favor to the customer, but the customer must own the animal and the farmer cannot charge for the processing. Consumers often do not want to buy an entire animal, particularly in the case of pigs or cattle because of the upfront costs and the amount of meat and the storage required. This produces a burden both for the producer and the consumer.~~

~~Tomorrow: Meat should be direct to consumer, not for retail or commercial use, and the consumer should be informed. This will allow consumers to buy from a direct source whom they are confident in, and allow the producers to sell their produce with less overhead.~~

Agriculture

Today: Kentucky farmers face many government restrictions on their free trade which unnecessarily raise costs for both producer and consumer. "Food safety" laws, many of which are arbitrary, written by lobbyists have created a market that favors factory farms over smaller family farms, distorting the market, without actually making food safer at all.

Tomorrow: We seek to remove these obstacles and permit farmers and consumers to engage in trade at terms of their own choosing.

Part 3 - Incomplete - To be submitted to the Next Platform and Issues Committee

Tragedy of the commons - today kentucky common areas such as parks are governed by the national park service and or the UNESCO world heritage fund

Tomorrow the commons shall be returned to the commonwealth

US Constitution, Article 1, Section 8: "...To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States, and to exercise like Authority over all Places purchased by the Consent of the Legislature of the State in which the Same shall be, for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings..."

Quis custodiet ipsos custodes. KAR

separation of powers - checks and balances between legislative bodies, executive committees, judicial precedent, political organizations, administrative associations or other corpocratic quasi governmental metastaseés of bureaucratic bloating.

Codification without consent of the governed and or other governance by fiat should be scrutinized or nullified where possible particularly relating to the public trust.

New Planks

- Identity politics
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Part 4 - Information Exchange

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Participation in this process is encouraged by party leadership. ***Anybody*** who wants on the LPKY Platform & Issues Committee should inform the chair. It would be nice to see representation from all districts.

Questions? Comments? Concerns?

Final adopted language WILL appear on lpky.org in the future. Thank you for your time and considerations.

Planks Tabled and Sent Back to Committee