15%

Proposal #2: 3.6 Representative Government – change “allowed” to “free”

Purpose: This one-word change is proposed because of the difference between having inherent rights as opposed to only having privileges granted by the good graces of the government. “Allowed” implies that we are requesting the government to give us permission to establish our own rules. “Free” implies that we believe we have that inherent right and government barriers to exercise of that right are improper.

----------START OF PROPOSAL----------

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 ~~allowed~~ 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.

----------END OF PROPOSAL----------

Would you support or oppose this proposal?

- [x] Support
- [ ] Oppose

Comments:

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20%

Proposal #3: Rephrase “neither profits nor losses are socialized” of 2.5 Money and Financial Markets

Purpose: This proposal is an attempt to move away from policy wonk language and towards language used by average voters. Many readers may not immediately grasp what we mean by profits or losses being “socialized”. The new language may not be quite as concise, but it relays the same concept in a way that is hopefully more widely understood.

----------START OF PROPOSAL----------

2.5 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 ~~and neither profits nor losses are socialized~~. Those who enjoy the possibility of profits must not impose risks of losses upon others, such as through government guarantees or bailouts. 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.

----------END OF PROPOSAL----------

Would you support or oppose this proposal?

- [x] Support
- [ ] Oppose

Comments:

I hate the language used in the report actually that those of us who care about precision are using "wonk" language. There is no reason to talk other Party members this way. However, I think this language is an improvement and doesn't lose precision.

Prev Next

25%

Proposal #4: New 2.8 Government Employees Plank

Purpose: To the extent we have government employees they should not be forced to “pay to play”. Membership in a union, just like membership in any other organization, ought to be voluntary. The defined-benefit pension plans offered to many of today’s government employees are a disservice both to taxpayers (because they are a debt imposed on future taxpayers), and to the government employees (because these promises will eventually be defaulted upon). Defined-contribution pension plans require that today’s employee be paid by today’s taxpayer, and they offer more financial security for government workers, who will control their own retirement accounts.

----------START OF PROPOSAL----------

2.5 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.

----------END OF PROPOSAL----------

Would you support or oppose this proposal?

- [x] Support
- [ ] Oppose

Comments:

I support this but I am laughing at adding this level of granularity to the platform when other much more important granularity is rejected by the brevity caucus. Remember this addition when you go on to try to ax the much needed omissions plank. SMH.

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----------START OF PROPOSAL----------

1.6 PARENTAL RIGHTS

Parents, or other guardians, have the right to raise their children according to their own standards and beliefs. This statement shall not be construed to condone child abuse or neglect.

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. ~~Parents, or other guardians, have the right to raise their children according to their own standards and beliefs. This statement shall not be construed to condone child abuse or neglect.~~

----------END OF PROPOSAL----------

Would you support or oppose this proposal?

- [x] Support
- [ ] Oppose

Comments:

Yes. But remember this brevity caucus... it seems that brevity and less planks only counts when you are opposing party radicals.

Proposal #7: 3.6 Representative Government – alternative for first sentence

Purpose: Those of us who are political wonks are familiar with alternative voting methods, but your average neighbor isn't. The first sentence of the existing plank is just too vague to convey any useful information. We need to be a little more specific. Libertarians might have different opinions about which of the options is optimal: approval voting, IRV, single transferable vote, Condorcet, etc., and we don't attempt to pick one in this plank. We think the proposed new wording would let an average reader better understand that we are advocating alternatives to the common scenario in which they can only vote for one in a field of 5 candidates.

----------START OF PROPOSAL----------

3.6 REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT

~~We support election systems that are more representative of the electorate at the federal, state and local levels.~~ We support voting methods that allow voters to select more than one candidate in elections with more than two candidates, and which require a majority for election. As private voluntary groups, political parties should be allowed 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.

----------END OF PROPOSAL----------

Would you support or oppose this proposal?

- ○ Support
- ● Oppose

Comments:

I like the sentiment, the wording is bad. Would support better wording. This one is actually "more wonky" than the prior.

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----------START OF PROPOSAL----------

PREAMBLE

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

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

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

The Liberty of the people, and of the individual, is always the highest concern. Our aim is to keep the Republicans out of your bedroom and the Democrats out of your pockets, so that you can make your own choices and live your life as you choose.

In the following pages we have set forth our basic principles and enumerated various policy stands derived from those principles. The elucidation in this platform of certain positions shall not be construed to deny or disparage any other rights retained by the people.

~~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.~~

----------END OF PROPOSAL----------

Would you support or oppose this proposal?

- ○ Support
- ● Oppose

Comments:

This is the worst thing I have read in a long time. And I read Facebook. The preamble has been part of our Platform since 1984 and is beautifully crafted and has had the support of thousand and thousands of delegates. It further allow for a very clear incremental approach to be advocated in our planks with its final sentence, which has also served a peace-keeping function between

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May 6, 2016 at 7:42 AM

This is the worst thing I have read in a long time. And I read Facebook. The preamble has been part of our Platform since 1984 and is beautifully crafted and has had the support of thousand and thousands of delegates. It further allow for a very clear incremental approach to be advocated in our planks with its final sentence, which has also served a peace-keeping function between party moderates and party radicals. This new re-write is not only ideologically barren it is artistically barren and reads like a terrible bumper sticker mash-up. And if we are going to talk about language no one uses... I may use the word "elucidate" - most people don't. The only way this suggestion could be worse would be to delete the preamble and replace it with a Grumpy Cat meme.

What a way to try to destroy an inspiring summary of what we believe and try to replace via Orwell's Versificator.

----------START OF PROPOSAL----------

~~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.~~

----------END OF PROPOSAL----------

Would you support or oppose this proposal?

- [x] Support
- [ ] Oppose

Comments:

I absolutely support the deletion of the abortion plank and have agitated for this myself.

rebuilding a replacement plank.

----------START OF PROPOSAL----------

1.5 ABORTION

Taxpayers should not be forced to pay for other people's abortions.

----------END OF PROPOSAL----------

Would you support or oppose this proposal?

- [x] Support
- [ ] Oppose

Comments:

I reluctantly support this. I think we should just delete the plank and LEAVE IT ALONE.

1.5 ABORTION

Taxpayers should not be forced to pay for other people's abortions. Moreover, we advocate eliminating regulations that prohibit over-the-counter sales of contraceptives, which prevent unwanted pregnancies.

----------END OF PROPOSAL----------

Would you support or oppose this proposal?

- [x] Support
- [ ] Oppose

Comments:

I reluctantly support this. I think we should just delete the plank and LEAVE IT ALONE.

----------START OF PROPOSAL----------

1.5 ABORTION

While we may respectfully disagree on the subject of when individual rights begin, we are united in our belief that ~~Taxpayers~~ taxpayers should not be forced to pay for other people's abortions. Moreover, we advocate eliminating regulations that prohibit over-the-counter sales of contraceptives, which prevent unwanted pregnancies.

----------END OF PROPOSAL----------

Would you support or oppose this proposal?

- ○ Support
- ● Oppose

Comments:

You are starting the fight all over again. NO TEN THOUSAND TIMES NO.

----------START OF PROPOSAL----------

1.5 ABORTION

Libertarians along the spectrum present logical arguments in support of their principled positions on abortion. While we may respectfully disagree on the subject of when individual rights begin, we are united in our belief that taxpayers should not be forced to pay for other people's abortions. Moreover, we advocate eliminating regulations that prohibit over-the-counter sales of contraceptives, which prevent unwanted pregnancies.

----------END OF PROPOSAL----------

Would you support or oppose this proposal?

- ○ Support
- ● Oppose

Comments:

You are starting the fight all over again. NO TEN THOUSAND TIMES NO.

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Proposal #10: New 1.7 File Sharing and Copyright plank

Purpose: Approximately half of Americans engage in file sharing of copyrighted music, films, etc, which is now a federal offense punishable by five years in prison. Calling for a return to violation of copyright as a matter of civil rather than criminal law would give us an additional opportunity to reach out to the predominantly young people who are politically homeless by addressing an issue that these voters care about.

----------START OF PROPOSAL----------

1.7 FILE SHARING AND COPYRIGHT

Copyright is a government granted monopoly on intellectual work for the purpose of promoting progress in arts and science. File sharing and other personal-use infringements of copyright law should be a matter of civil law, not criminal law, with penalties limited to a reasonable multiple of the retail price of the copyrighted item. The term of copyright should be limited to the longer of twenty years or the life of the author.

----------END OF PROPOSAL----------

Would you support or oppose this proposal?

- [x] Support
- [ ] Oppose

Comments:

Reluctantly support. There is no such thing as intellectual property but as an interim step I could support this. BUT I COULD NOT SUPPORT IF THAT MONSTROSITY OF A PREAMBLE rewrite was done since you will have closed the door to any increments and entrenched any future battles.

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Proposal #11: 2.10 Retirement & Income Security – insert "even"

Purpose: The rationale behind this seemingly small change might not be immediately obvious. Consider the following progression of wording options. If we said "society will become charitable…", it would imply that society is generally not charitable now. If we instead say (as the current plank does) "society will become more charitable…", it could be implying that society engages in some charity, but we're criticizing the low level of charity and calling for more. This proposed change would say "society will become even more charitable…", which gives our society credit for already being quite charitable, but acknowledges that they would do even more if government got out of the equation.

----------START OF PROPOSAL----------

2.10 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.

----------END OF PROPOSAL----------

Would you support or oppose this proposal?

- ○ Support
- ● Oppose

Comments:

Stop it. This is silly. "More" already implies there is "some."

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Proposal #12: Delete Last Sentence of 2.5 Money and Financial Markets

Purpose: The first three sentences of this plank are quite powerful on their own, and may already say all we need to say. The last sentence seems to create confusion and arguments. If we're recommending that the government change how it manages its fiat currency, does that imply that we are supportive of the existence of a fiat currency? Are legal tender laws actually unconstitutional, or do we just oppose them? Are we saying that all legal tender laws are unconstitutional, or that we only oppose the ones that are? Since the first part of the plank is sufficient on its own, we recommend deleting the final sentence.

----------START OF PROPOSAL----------

2.5 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 and neither profits nor losses are socialized. 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.~~

----------END OF PROPOSAL----------

Would you support or oppose this proposal?

- [x] Support
- [ ] Oppose

Comments:

I believe we should oppose unlibertarian laws not unconstitutional ones. However, I don't have a huge issue with it as it is... since our current preamble (not the Carling monstrosity rewrite) allows for us to use the constitution, even where not libertarian, as an increment.

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Looking at the first section we propose to delete (“since only actions that infringe…”), the first clause of it is redundant with the second sentence. The second clause (“Individuals retain the right…”) is redundant with the new Plank 1.1 we adopted in 2014 titled “Self-Ownership”, which addresses the right to accept risk of harm to yourself. The concepts in the next sentence proposed for deletion (“We opposed reduction of”) have been merged into the following sentence in a way that uses positive language rather than negative language.

There are also a few purely editorial tweaks.

----------START OF PROPOSAL----------

1.6 CRIME AND JUSTICE

~~Government exists~~ The prescribed role of government is to protect the rights of every individual, including the right to life, liberty and property. Criminal 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. ~~We~~ Therefore, we favor the repeal of all laws creating "crimes" without victims, such as the use of drugs for medicinal or recreational purposes~~, since only actions that infringe on the rights of others can properly be termed crimes. Individuals retain the right to voluntarily assume risk of harm to themselves~~. We support restitution to the victim to the fullest degree possible at the expense of the criminal or the negligent wrongdoer. ~~We oppose reduction of constitutional safeguards of the rights of the criminally accused.~~ 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 ~~not~~ be ~~denied~~ preserved. We assert the common-law right of juries to judge not only the facts but also the justice of the law.

----------END OF PROPOSAL----------

Would you support or oppose this proposal?

- ○ Support
- ● Oppose

Comments:

sections are valuable as well and the alternate wording is weak. If the PlatComm really wanted to unite the party in a dramatic way, it would have proposed a return to the pre-2006 language of "the role of existing governments is to..." Heck, you could probably even get a compromise with party radicals if you were willing to say "The prescribed role of existing governments" or "The prescribed role of governments, where they exist...."

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May 6, 2016 at 7:55 AM

This is another back door attempt to get a shot across the bow against party radicals and to abrogate the Dallas Accord. You really should be ashamed of yourselves for trying this year after year. Use the Statement of Principles language not your agenda-laden language. Those of us entrenched in this debate know full well this is a way to get around the argument that the current platform merely describes government and does not prescribe it - you are trying to further marginalize certain people by entreating a prescription language. No. (now, I personally don't use that describe v prescribe distinction but many do, and those on the PlatComm that proposed this know this full well, and this WILL come up on the Convention floor). The deleted sections are valuable as well and the alternate wording is weak. If the PlatComm really wanted to unite the party in a dramatic way, it would have proposed a return to the pre-2006 language of "the role of existing governments is to..." Heck, you could probably even get a compromise with party radicals if you were willing to say "The prescribed role of existing governments" or "The prescribed role of governments, where they exist...."

75%

Proposal #14: New 1.7 Death Penalty plank

Purpose: It is inappropriate for the LP platform to fail to address the issue of the death penalty when it is a major political issue. Libertarians may argue for or against the inherent morality of death penalty on general principle, but we should be willing to agree to a moratorium on the death penalty under the current circumstances: this irreversible punishment is systematically used against the most vulnerable. The frequency of false convictions, combined with the biased application of that punishment constitutes an unconscionable racist massacre of innocents by the state, in our name.

----------START OF PROPOSAL----------

1.7 DEATH PENALTY

The death penalty is irreversible and no recompense can be made for an execution later found to be in error. Since 1973 there have been more than 155 exonerations of individuals wrongfully sentenced to death in the United States. Further, the death penalty is not fairly and uniformly applied, but disproportionally imposed based on the race of the victim. Given the fallibility of any judicial system, punishments that cannot be reversed or compensated for should not be levied. Apart from differences reasonable people may have as to the morality of the death penalty, the government's record in unfair execution of innocents requires an indefinite suspension of the death penalty.

----------END OF PROPOSAL----------

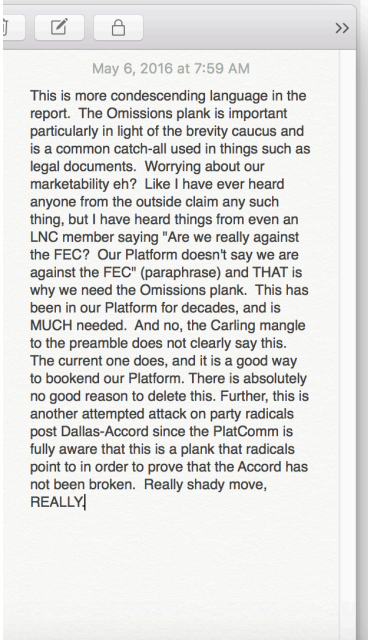
Would you support or oppose this proposal?

- [x] Support
- [ ] Oppose

Comments:

The wording is less than ideal, but I support. We should be playing identity politics here.

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2016 Libertarian Party Platform Committee Report

80%

Proposal #15: Delete 4.0 Omissions

Purpose: This proposal is to simply delete the current "Omisisons" plank. Where we are silent on an issue, our platform's preamble and statement of principles already provide a framework for addressing our general view on policy matters. The preamble, whether in its current form, or whether the proposal in this survey is adopted, already says that our platform is not all-inclusive, and our principles also apply to other subjects not directly addressed. We don't have to again explain that we are also libertarian on issues that we have not included in our platform. This plank does little to improve our marketability with the outside world; it's more designed to appeal to an internal constituency. To outsiders, it merely looks like we're pounding our chest, stomping our foot, and saying "No!"

----------START OF PROPOSAL----------

~~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.~~

----------END OF PROPOSAL----------

Would you support or oppose this proposal?

- ◯ Support
- ◯ Oppose

Comments:

does not clearly say this. The current one does, and it is a good way to bookend our Platform. There is absolutely no good reason to delete this. Further, this is another attempted attack on party radicals post Dallas-Accord since the PlatComm is fully aware that this is a plank that radicals point to in order to prove that the Accord has not been broken. Really shady move, REALLY.

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Proposal #16: Delete 2.3 Energy and Resources

Purpose: This proposal is to simply delete the Energy and Resources plank. It doesn't add substance to what we've already said elsewhere in the platform. If we want to take the fundamental principles and repeat them under different subject headings, we could easily add 100 planks to the platform that way.

Plank 2.6 already says, "We oppose all forms of government subsidies and bailouts to business, labor, or any other special interest."

Plank 2.1 already says, "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."

----------START OF PROPOSAL----------

~~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.~~

----------END OF PROPOSAL----------

Would you support or oppose this proposal?

- ○ Support
- ● Oppose

Comments:

Our Platform should be more comprehensive, and this is hot button topic. People scan for answers for the things that concern them.

would you prefer to have this content as opposed to no plank at all on the subject?

----------START OF PROPOSAL----------

2.3 ENERGY AND RESOURCES

While energy is needed to fuel a modern society, government should not subsidize any particular form of energy. We oppose all government control of energy pricing, allocation, and production. Ethanol subsidies, in particular, have caused market misallocations that have led to higher food prices and demonstrate the tragic consequences of charging bureaucrats with the task of overruling the discipline of markets. Likewise, the use of military power to assure the supply of crude oil from foreign sources stifles innovation by US energy companies who would otherwise be driven to develop alternative energy supplies.

----------END OF PROPOSAL----------

Would you support or oppose this proposal?

- ○ Support
- ● Oppose

Comments:

Too wordy and utilitarian in a way that adds no ideological value. And wait.... I thought you said this was already covered and we could add 100 planks if we wanted. You can't have it both ways.

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government under the Articles of Confederation, prior to the adoption of the U.S. Constitution.

----------START OF PROPOSAL----------

2.4 ~~GOVERNMENT FINANCE AND SPENDING~~TAXATION

~~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.~~So that States shall serve as a check and balance against expanding government, we advocate the repeal of the income tax and the abolishment of the Internal Revenue Service, and advocate that the U.S. Government be funded solely by States in proportion to population.

2.5 BALANCED BUDGET

~~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. No government should incur debt, which burdens future generations without their consent and is therefore a form of taxation without representation.

----------END OF PROPOSAL----------

Would you support or oppose this proposal?

- ○ Support
- ● Oppose

Comments:

While "taxation is theft" is one the lips of multitudes, the PlatComm wants us to become even less libertarian on the issue of taxation. The Party has been historically against all coercive taxation. SAY IT. And no, no, no, no in making the State's the Federal tax collector.

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