

# Mises Caucus Convention Strategy 2024 Decentralize DC

## General Recommendations

- Always vote **AGAINST** motions to extend debate. This is **NOT** the same thing as always calling the question, we will only do that strategically.
- Have Angela's back on all appeals of the ruling of the chair.
- Pay attention to the Caucus Discord and Caucus signs.
- Do not party too hard on Thursday, Friday, or Saturday nights. You'll need to be in the convention hall and ready for business at 9 AM the following day.
- Items to bring:
  - A hoodie or other jacket
  - Water and snacks
  - Backup battery and charging cable for your phone

## Delegate Manual

Caryn Ann Harlos has put together a [Delegate Manual](#), which includes lots of generally useful information on how the convention will be run. We recommend reading it over and downloading both it and this document to your phone and any other devices you'll have with you in the event there are internet connectivity issues in the convention hall.

## Caucus Goals

1. The top priority is getting the caucus-endorsed Presidential & Vice-Presidential candidates nominated, and the caucus-endorsed LNC candidates elected. See the **LNC Elections and Presidential/Vice-Presidential Nominations** sections for details.
2. We want to select the Presidential candidate before the close of business on Saturday. This will allow that candidate to be the person to respond to the Trump speech without any meaningful pushback.
3. The Bylaws and Rules report as well as the Platform report are more favorable than they were in Reno, most of the proposals contained within both are items that the caucus would like to see passed. See the **Bylaws Committee Report section** and the **Platform Committee Report** section for details.
4. While not part of the convention itself, we want to make sure Clint Russel is selected as the Vice-Presidential candidate to debate Vivek Ramaswami on Friday evening.

## **Presidential, Vice-Presidential, & Platform Deletion Tokens**

Presidential debate participation will be determined by a donation drive that the LNC is running. If you feel inclined please support Michael Rectenwald [here](#).

Please turn in your Vice-Presidential debate tokens for Clint Russel as soon as possible. Our goal is to select Clint as the VP candidate to debate Vivek Ramaswami and getting those tokens turned in will go a long way towards that.

The caucus is targeting two planks for deletion this convention, Plank 3.4 - Free Trade and Migration and Plank 2.10 - Sex Work.

- **Please devote 3 of your tokens to delete Plank 3.4 - Free Trade and Migration.**
  - Free trade and migration are two separate things and the nature of immigration varies depending on private or government owned borders. "Human capital" can be easily twisted to mean endorsement of human trafficking. Free trade is also covered in Plank 2.0, so deleting this plank will not eliminate the platform's overall position as pro-free trade.
- **Please devote 2 of your tokens to delete Plank 2.10 - Sex Work.**
  - The Platform already addresses victimless crimes—including sexual services—in Plank 1.7. Giving Sex Work its own plank grossly inflates its importance in Libertarian Philosophy. Deleting this plank removes the false impression that plays into the worst stereotypes of Libertarians as being primarily concerned with Libertinism.

## **Credentialing**

- **Michigan**
  - The Michigan JC has ruled that 13 delegates to the LPML convention were improperly seated, invalidating 27 of the delegate selections that were made at that convention.
  - An updated delegate list without those 27 names has been sent to the national Credentials Committee, how the Credentials Committee responds to that is yet to be determined.
  - If the Credentials Committee accepts that list then we will be voting against any challenge to the Michigan delegation on the convention floor.
  - If the Credentials Committee does not accept that list, then we will be challenging the Michigan delegation to remove the invalid 27 delegates.
- **Oklahoma**
  - They are trying to seat out-of-state haters in their delegation after the close of their convention. Adding delegates after their state convention but before the opening gavel of their national convention, while allowable under the national bylaws, contravenes their state bylaws. We expect the credentials committee to rule that the delegation that was selected at their convention is their delegation without additions, but we will provide further instructions as the situation develops.
  - If there is a challenge, then we shut it down. If there is an attempt to add more people after the credentials report has been approved (7/8 vote) then we vote it down.
- **Wyoming**
  - Given that they have [no bylaws on their party website](#) and the [most recent available \(2022\) bylaws](#) require 15 days notice, we plan to challenge this delegation for failing to properly hold their convention.
  - Ideally this will be handled by the national Credentials Committee. If anyone shows up from Wyoming and it hasn't been handled in committee then we challenge it.
- **All other states**
  - Shut down all challenges.

## **Preferred Agenda**

Members of the Caucus will be moving to amend the agenda. We will be putting forward the following agenda:

1. Call to order
2. Credentials Committee report
3. Adoption of agenda
4. LNC Chair Debate
5. Election of Party officers and at-large members of the National Committee
6. Presidential Debate
7. Nominations of Party candidates for President and Vice-President
8. Bylaws and Rules Committee report
9. Platform Committee report
10. Resolutions
11. Treasurer's report
12. Audit Committee report
13. Other and unfinished business

The changes as compared to the Convention Rule 1 standard agenda are:

- Move the Treasurer's report and the Audit Committee report to the end of the agenda.
- Insert the Chair Debate into the business section, immediately prior to the LNC elections.
- Insert the Presidential Debate into the business session, ideally on Saturday morning.
- Move the Bylaws and Rules Committee report and the Platform Committee report after the nominations of Party candidates for President and Vice-President.

The intention of these changes is to construct an agenda that is more likely to pass the required 2/3 vote due to limited deviation from the standard agenda, while also greatly increasing the likelihood that the Presidential candidate will be nominated before the close of business on Saturday. This will help facilitate that candidate providing the response to Donald Trump's speech on Saturday evening.

If this agenda does not pass, please pay close attention to the MC Discord as the floor team will be providing instructions.

## LNC Elections and Presidential/Vice-Presidential Nominations

Caucus leadership endorses and strongly recommends Michael Rectenwald for President and Clint Russell for Vice-President. Each presidential election presents an opportunity for the LP to create new libertarians and build institutions within the liberty movement that last beyond the election itself. We ask that you take the time to read [The Case for Michael Rectenwald](#) on the Mises Caucus website if you haven't already.

Some caucus members may have another candidate as their top pick, but six years from now it won't matter who the presidential candidate was in 2024, what will matter is how the infrastructure built as a result of the campaign has been used. If what you want to see is infrastructure built to support [Project Decentralized Revolution](#) and to recruit Ron Paul/Mises Institute-style libertarians into the LP, then your choice for presidential ticket should be clear.

Additionally, the makeup of the regions may change. If your state party is no longer part of the same region it was in during the 2022-2024 term please find your state organizer to determine which regional representative and alternate candidates will be running in your new region.

**LIBERTARIAN PARTY**  
**MISES**  
CAUCUS  
Proudly endorses

**Michael Rectenwald**  
President  
LIBERTARIAN

**Clint Russell**  
Vice President  
LIBERTARIAN

**LIBERTARIAN '24**  
NATIONAL CONVENTION  
**MISES Endorsements**

Member Name	Role
Angela McArdle	Chair
Hannah Goodman	Vice-Chair
Caryn Ann Harlos	Secretary
Patrick Mitchell	Treasurer
Andrew Watkins	At-Large
Steven Nekhaila	At-Large
Kathy Yeniscavich	At-Large
Travis Bost	At-Large
Robert Vinson	At-Large
Adam Harman	Region 1
Roman Garcia	Region 1
Jonathan McGee	Region 2
Meredith Hays	Region 4
Gary Alvstad	Region 4
Otto Dassing	Region 5
Paul Bracco	Region 5
Jim Humay	Region 6
Jacob Bradley	Region 7
Pat Ford	Region 8
Ben Weir	Region 8

## **Larry Sharpe**

Larry Sharpe has announced that he is seeking the Vice-Presidential nomination as the running mate of Lars Mapstead. However, Mr. Sharpe is already the stand-in candidate for New York's presidential petition drive. Bylaws Article 14.2 (see below) explicitly limits stand-in candidates from being nominated for President or Vice-President. If he is nominated this would be in violation of our bylaws, which puts the LP ticket at risk of being sued off the ballot, especially in swing states. There is precedent for this as the Green Party was successfully removed from the ballot in Pennsylvania and Wisconsin in 2020 for failing to adhere to their bylaws.

To mitigate this risk, we need to ensure that Larry Sharpe is deemed ineligible to be nominated for the office of Vice-President. When Vice-Presidential nominations are opened a caucus member will raise the following point of order:

**Point of Order:** Mr. Sharpe is ineligible to run for the office of Vice-President as he is the stand-in candidate for New York.

Given the existing bylaws we expect the chair to rule this point well taken. In the likely event that the ruling of the chair is appealed, vote to sustain the ruling of the chair.

### **ARTICLE 14: PRESIDENTIAL AND VICE-PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGNS**

1. Nominations of candidates for President and Vice-President of the United States may be made only at the regular convention immediately preceding a Presidential election.
2. **No candidate may be nominated for President or Vice-President** who is ineligible under the United States Constitution, who has not expressed a willingness to accept the nomination of the Party, **who served as a stand-in candidate during the current election cycle**, or who is not a sustaining member of the Party. A stand-in is an individual who has agreed to be placed on a state affiliate's nomination petition prior to the selection of nominees by the Libertarian Party at convention.
3. In the event of the death, resignation, disqualification, or suspension of the nomination of the Party's nominee for President, the Vice-Presidential nominee shall become the Presidential nominee. Two-thirds of the entire membership of the National Committee may, at a meeting, fill a Vice-Presidential vacancy, and, if necessary, a simultaneous Presidential vacancy.
4. The National Committee shall respect the vote of the delegates at nominating conventions and provide full support for the Party's nominee for President and nominee for Vice-President as long as their campaigns are conducted in accordance with the platform of the Party.
5. A candidate's nomination may be suspended by a 3/4 vote of the entire membership of the National Committee at a meeting. That candidate's nomination shall then be declared null and void unless the suspended candidate appeals the suspension to the Judicial Committee within seven days of receipt of notification of suspension. The resolution of suspension must state the specific reasons for suspension and must be signed by each member of the National Committee agreeing thereto. The Judicial Committee shall meet and act on this appeal within 30 days and before the election.



## **Bylaws Committee Report**

This lists all the bylaws proposals accepted by the LP National Bylaws Committee that will be on the agenda at the convention in Washington DC. We will describe in short what the change does, whether we support or oppose it, and why. If the proposal is a fundamentally good idea that could be executed better, we will include amendment language. The Mises Caucus accomplished major, critical Platform changes in 2022. Now it is time for Bylaws changes in 2024 that make the party run better.

**APPROVE** - We will vote for the proposal as it is.

**AMEND** - We like the general idea of the proposal and will vote for it with good amendments.

**DISAPPROVE** - We will not vote for the proposal in any form.

**LINK TO REPORT:**

[https://lpedia.org/w/images/5/5a/2024 Bylaws and Rules Committee Report.pdf](https://lpedia.org/w/images/5/5a/2024_Bylaws_and_Rules_Committee_Report.pdf)

### **Proposal 1 – Standardize Committee Language - APPROVE**

This proposal consolidates and standardizes the rules surrounding voting on the Bylaws and Rules Committee and Platform Committee reports. These rules are currently separate and create different procedures for each committee. It also prevents minority proposals (but NOT minority reports) from being presented by the Platform committee at convention. This section defeats the entire purpose of a Platform Committee, namely to vet proposals before presentation to the delegates and reject those not worth hearing. Besides this, the minority proposals were effectively never heard at convention due to time constraints.

### **Proposal 2 – Rising Seconds - APPROVE**

In RONR, a motion only requires one person seconding a motion for it to be taken up. This raises the bar to requiring twenty people to second a motion. This prevents trolling and time wasting behavior. If it's serious enough to be taken up, it's serious enough to require whoever is proposing it to have at least 2% of a 1000 person delegation to support it.

### **Proposal 3 – Change Timing of Committee Appointments - APPROVE**

This proposal gives the platform committee the same length of time as the bylaws and rules committee and also gives the credentials committee an additional three months to do its work. The earlier start dates provides these two committees critical time to train new members and do the work necessary to accomplish their purpose.

### **Proposal 4 – Removal From Office - APPROVE**

This proposal raises the standards required to remove someone from the LNC by requiring due process before any removal can take place. LNC members elected by the delegates should have due process before they would be removed by the LNC, this proposal now requires it. This also flips the result of JC inaction from removal of the LNC member to reinstatement of the LNC member, eliminating the possibility of the JC pocketing the removal.

### **Proposal 5 – Restructure LNC - APPROVE**

Viewing the likely structure of the regions for the 2024-2026 term, the existing structure of the LNC is advantageous to the MC for this term. While the caucus is in favor of removing regions, cumulative voting is likely to produce a less favorable LNC makeup then leaving the structure

intact. Given this, and given that the proposal does include a proviso delaying the implementation of the change in LNC structure to 2026, we are in favor of passing this proposal.

### **Proposal 6 – Limit Committee Alternates - APPROVE**

Limits the # of alternates to the number of actual committee members. As the custom in the LP is to allow alternates on committees full debate rights, this limits the opportunity for a single state to gain outsized influence on committees (particularly the Platform Committee) by appointing multiple alternates.

### **Proposal 7 – Sustaining Membership Dues Update - APPROVE**

Inflation has caused the old National Membership fee of \$25 to be less profitable than in years past. The first known instance of the membership fee being set to \$25 annually is [1993](#)! Without the membership dues keeping pace with inflation it has become a steady drag on LP revenue. The proposal raises the membership fee to \$50. The caucus is in favor of this proposal. We prefer that the proposal pass as written, but we would support any dues increase in the event the proposal is amended to a lower number.

### **Proposal 8 – Add Notice Requirements - APPROVE**

This proposal requires that committees to give reasonable notice (30 days) and time for delegations to peruse their reports. Also allows 50 members to sign on to a proposal that goes around the committee, which have a position on the agenda and do not require a suspension of the rules to be heard. Proposals that are neither offered by the committees nor petitioned for by members will require a  $\frac{3}{4}$  vote to pass. The proposal is intended to prevent surprise proposals either from the floor or from committees unless there is overwhelming agreement, encourage members who wish to make a proposal to vet that proposal ahead of time, and gives membership proposals which have been sufficiently supported agenda time on the standard agenda. We recommend approving this change to protect the party from surprise proposals as well as to remove the committees as a bottleneck for hearing well supported proposals.

### **Proposal 9 – Amend Voting Procedures - APPROVE**

This proposal clarifies an ambiguity with the existing rules for dropping candidates between rounds. More importantly it explicitly disallows write-in votes, which would close the door on some of the delaying tactics that were used in Reno.

### **Proposal 10 – Ranked Choice Voting for Officers - DISAPPROVE**

This proposal would adopted Ranked Choice Voting. There are two problems with RCV: One, it takes longer to determine the winner of a given vote. Two, because the RCV vote happens all at once, instead of in successive rounds of voting, it can cause undesirable outcomes. It is better for us to have successive rounds of voting where losers are eliminated, than to do one vote with RCV. Similar to Approval Voting, RCV has a tendency to favor middle of the road, moderate candidates.

Any solution that makes RCV expedient- namely, adopting electronic balloting- would make successive rounds of runoffs trivial to conduct as well. The trade off of time in doing runoffs instead of RCV is worth it, as it most accurately reflects the will of the members, and is less confusing.

### **Proposal 11 – Authorize Electronic Voting - APPROVE (as is)/ DISAPPROVE (if initial proposal fails, vote down all amendments and extensions of debate)**



This proposal adds a simple section to the bylaws that allows for electronic votes to be taken. Any proposed electronic balloting method is required to include a physical ballot, which would be used in the event of a recount. Additionally any method is required to approved by a majority vote of the convention body before it can be used at a future convention.

We recommend approving this proposal as written, but if it is not initially approved we oppose any amendment and moving on as quickly as possible. Any electronic voting proposal will be debated to death if we allow it to be, we must not let the convention get bogged down on this proposal even if it means not passing it.

### **Proposal 12 – Affiliate Endorsements - APPROVE**

This proposal allows for fusion candidates under certain circumstances (such as requiring Libertarian voter registration, where applicable). We recommend approving this proposal both to clear up an existing ambiguity and to allow for some additional strategies for getting candidates elected at the local level.

### **Proposal 13 – Delegate Allocation Formula - APPROVE**

This proposal bases delegate allocation purely on national LP sustaining members residing in a given state. It prevents states that have had ballot access taken from them by government policy from having their representation crippled. Any state that performs well in the presidential election is probably also fairly active and engaged in the process and can add recruiting sustaining members to its efforts. This also separates non-libertarian protest voters from serious libertarian voters in considering allocation. Finally, it helps the national LP generate revenue, which is good.

### **Proposal 14 – Clarify Quorum Issues – APPROVE**

This clears up an existing ambiguity in the quorum requirement, the new language would explicitly disallow delegate checkouts. We recommend approving this change to take some burden off the credentials committee.

### **Proposal 15 – Judicial Committee and Appeal of LNC – APPROVE**

This proposal would allow a petition to the JC to be filed in the event the LNC fails to take an action required of them by the bylaws (such as failing to provide delegate allocations). This proposal also removes the path to call a JC appeal with the support of 10% of past convention delegates, as this path has been rarely used historically. JC appeal by 1% of sustaining members remains in place.

# **Platform Committee Report**

## **Proposal #1 - Update Preamble - APPROVE**

### **Preamble (AMEND)**

**Problem:** The Preamble still references “pages,” which is out-of-date for the modern electronic world.

**Solution:** Amend the Preamble to update the wording to reference the document, not its pages.

**Benefits:** Updates the wording by removing old terminology.

**Amend something previously adopted as follows:**

### **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~~ In this Platform, 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.

## **Proposal #2 - Repudiate Government Debt - APPROVE**

### **2.5 Government Debt (AMEND)**

**Problem:** The platform's current prescription for dealing with government debt (saying it “burdens future generations without their consent” and calling for a Balanced Budget Amendment) is indistinguishable from a mainstream “fiscal conservative” pipe dream which went out the window decades ago, as well as focusing on the federal level and implying that people currently living consented to the debt. As the problem of government debt continues to grow out of control, Libertarians should have a solution that is neither moderate nor laughably unachievable (nor exclusive to the federal level), as well as make clear that the people don't consent to government debt like they do private debt.

**Solution:** Replace the current “fiscal conservative” denouncement of burdening future generations and calling for a Balanced Budget Amendment with a Rothbardian denouncement of all government debt as illegitimate, all people as non-consenting, and call to default on it at all levels.

**Benefits:** This will radically differentiate Libertarians from “conservative Republicans” as it will make clear that it's not just future generations who are being burdened without their consent, and it will provide a solution to uncontrolled government spending which is radical yet can be adopted at any level at any time.

**Amend something previously adopted as follows:**

### **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.~~

Government debt is wholly illegitimate, as it burdens the people without their consent. We support repudiating all government debts at all levels as a means of both relieving unjust financial burdens and limiting the growth of government.

## **Proposal #3 - Presumption of Health - APPROVE**

### **2.13 Health Care (AMEND)**

**Problem:** The plank is out of date post-COVID. People were assumed to be sick instead of healthy and treated terribly because of that bad assumption. The Party was inexcusably silent on this issue and should not be if it is truly respectful of the individual. This is especially relevant considering recent events in New York, where the Governor is attempting to implement Rule 2.13 to forcibly quarantine people in “sick camps” solely on the whim of the government.

**Solution:** Add language to presume health instead of sickness.

**Benefits:** Declares support for people by presuming health over sickness in the same way innocence is presumed over guilt.

**Amend something previously adopted as follows:**

### **2.13 Health Care**

We favor a free market health care system. Medical facilities, medical providers, and medical products (including drugs) must be freely available in the marketplace without government restrictions or licenses. 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. We oppose governments either mandating, or restricting voluntary access to, medical treatments or procedures including vaccines. Individuals have a presumption of health and should not be subjected to forced quarantine, isolation, or other restrictions of their rights and freedoms.

## **Proposal #4 - Agorism - APPROVE**

### **2.15 Agorism (ADD)**

**Problem:** The Platform lacks a plank on Agorism.

**Solution:** Add one.

**Benefits:** Strengthens the Platform in a bold and radical way to separate exercise of individual rights from permission to do so under the law (which makes it the exercise of a privilege, not the exercise of a right!), with the proper limitation of such exercise being that it does not violate the rights of others.

**Amend something previously adopted as follows:**

### **2.15 Agorism**

We affirm the right of individuals and businesses to peacefully subvert government regulation, taxation, and restrictions through black and gray market activity.

## **Proposal #5 - Taxes are Still Theft, by Any Name - APPROVE**

### **2.4 Government Finance and Spending (AMEND)**

**Problem:** The plank neglects to address new taxes and taxes that have other names applied to them. This is especially important given recent discussions by the statists to add wealth taxes and taxes on unrealized capital gains. It also does not address use of taxes as behavior and economic influencers.

**Solution:** Add language to address new taxes and taxes that have other names, and to address behavior taxes.

**Benefits:** Fills gaps in the plank and strengthens it. Calls out that taxes of any name or vintage are still theft, er, taxes. Opposes vice and sin taxes. Opposes new taxes.

**Amend something previously adopted as follows:**

## **2.4 Government Finance and Spending**

Since 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. [We contend that a tax by any other name is still a tax](#) and strive for the eventual repeal of all taxation. To further that end, 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 the use of taxation as a punitive measure against certain goods or services, such as “vice” taxes, and](#) oppose forcing employers to serve as tax collectors. We support any initiative to reduce or abolish any tax, and oppose any increase on any tax [or creation of any new tax](#) for any reason. To the extent possible, we advocate that all public services be funded or allowed to be provided in a voluntary manner.

## **Proposal #6 - Stand Your Ground and Shoot Back - APPROVE**

### **1.9 Self-Defense (AMEND)**

**Problem:** The 1.9 plank does not mention support of castle doctrines or similar affirmative defenses against aggression and prosecution for defending oneself and others and property. Not every state has these self-defense laws. They should.

**Solution:** Add language for those specific instances.

**Benefits:** Closes a gap in the plank and indicates stronger support for the right to self-defense against aggression in all places.

**Amend something previously adopted as follows:**

### **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 support stand-your-ground and castle doctrines.](#) 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, ammunition, or firearm accessories.

## **Proposal #7 - Space, the Final Frontier...of Freedom - APPROVE**

### **1.X Space Exploration (ADD)**

**Problem:** The Platform doesn't address state control of space exploration and use. Private space service has supplanted government-sponsored space service in several key areas. What

was once a matter of science fiction has become reality. New innovations from private companies include better, reusable, rocket designs and efficient cost-savings measures. These advances by the private sector have injected new interest into space exploration and made possible missions which were not possible a decade earlier. Increasingly, it appears that many space services and exploration will in the future be driven by private industry rather than by NASA. NASA may always have a role in space investigations, but in the near future private industry and/or organizations may set the pace for exploratory as well as routine space missions.

**Solution:** Add a plank to address it.

**Benefits:** This new plank would allow the Party to communicate to the public that Libertarians welcome a new space age for private organizations and individuals, one which is unencumbered by burdensome government regulations.

**Amend something previously adopted as follows:**

### 1.X Space Exploration

We oppose all government restrictions upon voluntary, peaceful use of outer space.

## **Proposal #8 - Intellectual Property - APPROVE**

### 2.X Intellectual Property (ADD)

**Problem:** No matter what position any person takes on intellectual property, it is nearly universally acknowledged that the government's handling of this has been stifling and ham-handed. There are better free market solutions that can be allowed to flourish if the government would stay out. The market has already pioneered the way with the creation of items such as creative commons licensing.

**Solution:** Create a new platform plank that makes clear that Libertarians do not view ideas as property, and do not believe disputes between parties should be resolved by government. In addition, also makes clear that Libertarians view fraudulent misrepresentation as immoral aggression against others.

**Benefits:** This would solidify the Libertarian Party position on IP. It would also differentiate the Party both from Republicans—who have a platform with rigid intellectual property protections and considers it a “national security issue,” and Democrats—who have a platform that also embraces government safeguards on intellectual property, and opposes the theft of intellectual property only by foreign governments.

**Add new plank:**

### 2.X Intellectual Property

As we believe that ideas are not property, we favor the repeal of intellectual property laws but oppose fraudulent misrepresentation about goods and services. Disputes between inventors, creators, authors, artists, businesses and other such entities should be resolved according to principles of any contractual obligations between the parties involved.

## **Proposal #9 - War, Invasion, and Occupation - APPROVE**

### 3.3 International Affairs (AMEND)

**Problem:** The plank mentions peace but forgets about ending war, invasion, and occupation of other nations.

**Solution:** Add those into the plank.

**Benefits:** Fills a major gap in the plank and strengthens it.

**Amend something previously adopted as follows:**

### 3.3 International Affairs

American foreign policy should emphasize peace with all nations, entangling alliances with none. We would end the current U.S. government policies of foreign intervention including military and economic aid; tariffs; economic sanctions; aggressive war, invasion, and occupation; and regime change. 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.

## Proposal #10 - No Standing Army - **APPROVE**

### 3.1 National Defense (AMEND)

**Problem:** The current platform arguably endorses a standing government military, which has long been used to carry out aggressive wars of imperialism that undermine American (and global) security and increase tyranny at home. Libertarians ought to expressly support the de-monopolization/de-socialization of defense services.

**Solution:** Amend plank 3.1 to oppose a standing government military rather than vaguely endorse one; endorse a transitory policy of armed neutrality and opposition to military deployment outside United States territory.

**Benefits:** This would hold up the radical ideal of non-governmental defense forces while also endorsing transitory policies which would minimize if not end American imperialism in the meantime.

**Amend something previously adopted as follows:**

### 3.1 National Defense

~~We support the maintenance of a sufficient military to defend the United States against aggression.~~ We oppose the existence of a standing government military as a threat to peace and security. In the meantime, we support a policy of armed neutrality and oppose the stationing of military assets inside foreign territory. 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.

## Proposal #11 - Separation of Family and State - **APPROVE**

### 1.5 Parental Rights (AMEND)

**Problem:** The 1.5 plank refers to “other guardians” without referring to them as not being state guardians ad litem. The Platform itself is silent on the role that families should have in lieu of the state in raising children and supporting each other outside of the state.

**Solution:** Add language that puts emphasis back on the family unit and away from the state.

**Benefits:** Stronger pro-family language with an emphasis on people and away from the state.

**Amend something previously adopted as follows:**

### 1.5 Parental Rights



**We support the separation of family and state.** 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. **We reject state ownership or guardianship of children and we support families choosing to support each other regardless of their composition. Permanent separation of family members must be adjudicated by true due process, not in administrative hearings.**

## **Proposal #12 - Veterans - REJECT**

### **3.1 National Defense (AMEND)**

**REASONING:** This proposal is already covered in other areas of the platform, Plank 3.1 amongst others. Additionally, the blanket statement "...recognizing the difference between veterans and the policies they are sent out to implement." goes too far in abdicating all individual responsibility for all veterans. While the statement can be true of some veterans who feel remorse for past actions, there are also other veterans who would gladly go out and "implement policy" against innocent people again.

**Amend something previously adopted as follows:**

### **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. **We believe in honoring our veterans by crafting and implementing policies to end aggression, undeclared wars, invasions, and occupations, while recognizing the difference between veterans and the policies they are sent out to implement.**

## **Proposal #13 - Separation of State and State - APPROVE**

### **3.X Separation of Federal, State, and Local Governments (ADD)**

**Problem:** An important yet neglected concept of shrinking and abolishing government is the necessity to also separate the various layers of government from each other. Currently the federal government funds and mandates state and local governments, and state governments fund and mandate local governments, and all of them infringe upon the people. To roll back this mess, it also needs to be separated out into its component parts so that they can be addressed individually. The platform does not address this essential concept.

**Solution:** Add a plank to address it.

**Benefits:** Fills in a huge gap in the platform and illustrates that the Party has an understanding of the real scope of the problem of mixed and tangled levels of governance, beyond pure rhetoric, and what is needed to be done with it to achieve its goals.

**Amend something previously adopted as follows:**

### **3.X Separation of Federal, State, and Local Governments**

**We support the untangling of the layers of government from each other, including removal of mandates, subsidies, and commandeering, such that federal, state, county, municipal, and district governments are separate and independent from each other, in both function and funding, in order to facilitate their reduction or repeal. We support the nullification of unjust laws.**

## **Proposal #14 - Gender Identities and Self-Expression - REJECT**

**REASONING:** This proposal is an explicit endorsement of transgender ideology, which is part of an ongoing communist social revolution that libertarians should oppose.

#### **1.4 Personal Relationships (AMEND)**

**Problem:** The current wording of this plank remains somewhat ambiguous on rights to transgender expression. It proclaims that the government should not be able to interfere with such rights but makes no statement about whether educational institutions or employers or merchants might be able to decide what a person's gender is, in contradiction of the person's own view.

**Solution:** Add language to address it.

**Benefits:** Removes the state from the equation and strengthens free expression while offering support to the transgender community.

**Amend something previously adopted as follows:**

#### **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. Individuals have the sole authority to determine and express their own gender identities. Government does not have the authority to define, promote, license, or restrict self-expression or 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.

### **Proposal #15 - Delete Sex Work Plank - APPROVE**

#### **2.10 Sex Work (DELETE)**

**Problem:** The Platform already addresses victimless crimes—including sexual services—in Plank 1.7. Giving Sex Work its own plank grossly inflates its importance in Libertarian Philosophy.

**Solution:** Delete it.

**Benefits:** Removes the false impression that plays into the worst stereotypes of Libertarians as being primarily concerned with Libertinism.

**Amend something previously adopted as follows:**

#### **~~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.**~~

## Emergency Procedures

In the event that business is disrupted to the point that we need to vacate the room, then if possible we will reconvene in front of the hotel.

If we are required to vacate the premises entirely, then we will reconvene the convention at Mitchell Park, which is roughly a half-mile walk. This is an emergency method only, but we're ready for your bullshit you leaking fuckers.

