

FREEDOM OF RELIGION

We defend the rights of individuals to 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.

Freedom of religion also includes freedom from religion and the right to not believe or engage in religious activities. Individuals may choose which belief system or lack thereof they find most suitable, provided they do not impose on the rights of others.

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. Similarly there must be no religious exemption from responsibility for actions which violate the rights of others. Those who choose not to practice a faith should have the same rights and responsibilities as those who do.

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. 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."

Freedom of conscience holds that individuals reserve the right to remain silent in any circumstance. Governments should not force anyone to speak, either by torture or any other means. Any attempt to threaten or force someone

to speak involuntarily is a serious abridgement of individual rights and human dignity.

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 and call for the abolition of the Federal Communications Commission.

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, firearm accessories, ammunition, or any other tool that could be used for self-defense, including any requirements for background checks. Accordingly, we support abolishing the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (BATFE) and favor the implementation of fully-legal carry of weapons, open or concealed, without any permit requirement.

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 national

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

We support the right of individuals to defend their private property, including the right to terminate perceived threats such as surveillance balloons or drones operated by domestic or foreign governments or other hostile entities.

We support the right of individuals to own land and property collectively, if they so choose, for the purpose of living together (e.g., hippie communes, Israeli kibbutzim) or other activities (e.g., community gardens), and to decide amongst themselves how that collective ownership works in practice.

LIBERTARIAN PARTY 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 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.

The **Libertarian Party** was founded as a radically different alternative to the old, established political parties.

We don't pick our positions on issues based on polls.

As **The Party of Principle**, we base them on a consistent framework of ideas.

Help promote our ideas and our candidates by getting involved in the **Libertarian Party** today!

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION
LP.ORG
800-ELECT-US
800-353-2887

YOUR STATE AFFILIATE
LP.org/states

For libertarian perspectives on more issues see the LPRC Platform at
<http://LPRadicalCaucus.org/platform>



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TRADITIONAL CIVIL LIBERTIES



A LIBERTARIAN PERSPECTIVE



THERE AIN'T NO SUCH THING AS A FREE LUNCH