

## **FREEDOM TO THINK**

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

## **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.

## **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 ASSOCIATION AND DISCRIMINATION**

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deny, abridge, or enhance any individual's inherent rights for any reason and any laws which currently do so must be repealed rather than extended to all groups.

The right to trade includes the right not to trade – for any reasons whatsoever; the right of association includes the right not to associate – for any reasons whatsoever, for exercise of these rights depend upon mutual consent. Individuals and private organizations, including businesses, retain their rights to set whatever standards of association and terms of voluntary interaction they deem appropriate, and other individuals and private businesses are free to respond with ostracism, boycotts, and other free market solutions.

## 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 the issues see the LPRC Platform at  
<http://LPRadicalCaucus.org/platform>



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## A LIBERTARIAN PERSPECTIVE



## THERE AIN'T NO SUCH THING AS A FREE LUNCH