

TAXATION

Taxation is theft.

Since we believe that 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. Specifically, we:

- a. recognize the right of any individual to challenge the payment of taxes on moral, religious, legal, or constitutional grounds;
- b. support the repeal of the Sixteenth Amendment and the elimination of the Internal Revenue Service;
- c. oppose any increase in existing tax rates and the imposition of any new taxes;
- d. support reductions in existing tax rates;
- e. oppose all taxation, including but not limited to, personal income, corporate income, capital gains, inheritance, sales, use, and value-added (VAT) taxes; and
- f. support a declaration of unconditional pardon or amnesty for all those individuals who have been convicted of, or who now stand accused of, tax resistance.

As an interim measure, all criminal and civil sanctions against tax evasion must be terminated immediately including, but not limited to, imprisonment and asset forfeiture.

We oppose as involuntary servitude any legal requirements forcing employers or business owners to serve as de facto tax collectors for federal, state, or local tax agencies.

We oppose any and all increases in the rate of taxation or categories of taxpayers, including the elimination of deductions, exemptions, or credits in the spurious name of "fairness," "simplicity," or alleged "neutrality to the free market." No tax can ever be fair, simple, or neutral to the free market.

In the current fiscal situation, default is preferable to raising taxes or perpetual refinancing of growing public debt.



GOVERNMENT DEBT

We oppose government entering into debt obligations on behalf of its constituents and their children for decades to come. No person can rightly enter into a contract on behalf of another person without their consent. When governments accrue debt, they are in essence entering into debt on behalf of their constituents and the children of their constituents. We therefore call upon both houses of the United States Congress to promptly pass, and call upon the state legislatures to ratify, an amendment repealing Section 4 of the Fourteenth Amendment, prohibiting future indebtedness and deficit spending on the part of the federal government, and repudiating all federal government debt and debt service obligations accrued prior to the ratification of said amendment.

Until the national debt is repudiated, the federal government must have a balanced budget. To be effective, a balanced budget must provide:

- a. that the budget is balanced exclusively by cutting expenditures, and not by raising taxes;
- b. that all spending is included in the budget;
- c. that neither the Legislative nor the Executive be permitted to override this requirement; and
- d. that no exception be made for periods of

so-called "national emergency."

Governments facing fiscal crises must always default on their debt obligations in preference to raising taxes. At minimum, the level of government must be frozen. Additionally, the Federal Reserve must be forbidden from acquiring any additional government securities, thereby helping to eliminate the inflationary aspect of the deficit.

SUBSIDIES

In order to achieve a free economy in which government victimizes no one for the benefit of any other, we oppose all government subsidies. Subsidies can take the form of so-called public-private partnerships, government contracting, mandatory insurance, and similar policies.

We oppose all government guarantees of loans. Such guarantees transfer resources to special interests as effectively as actual government expenditures and, at the national level, exceed direct government loans in total amount. Such government meddling also distorts decisions about lending risk, as we have seen with recent crises relating to housing and student loans. All national, state, and local government agencies whose primary function is to guarantee loans must be abolished.

Relief or exemption from taxation or from any other involuntary government intervention must not be considered a subsidy.

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

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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TAXATION AND DEBT



A LIBERTARIAN PERSPECTIVE



THERE AIN'T NO SUCH THING AS A FREE LUNCH