

## **GOVERNMENT POLICE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT**

Libertarians favor the abolition of government police departments for the same reasons we favor the abolition of other government services:

Government operation means they're inefficient, funded by coercion, have distorted priorities (such as revenue farming and prosecuting unconstitutional prohibitions), and lack accountability. The costs of continuing to allow governments to hire police are simply too high.

At the federal, state, and local levels, Americans spend in the neighborhood of \$700 billion every year for law enforcement.

Direct spending, however, only tells part of the story. Police have a horrible record of violation of individual rights; killing well over one thousand individuals every year – a third of them either unarmed or running away, or both. Individuals beaten or otherwise unjustly injured by police action number many times the number killed. Yet for all of those killings and other assaults, the number of officers involved who have been prosecuted is minuscule; convictions are even rarer. Even when killer cops go before courts, prosecutors – who work with those same cops every day and have the same paymaster – routinely throw the case, allowing the killers of innocents such as Daniel Shaver, or Timothy Russell and Malissa Williams to go free.

In contrast, there are two to three times the number of individuals who are employed as private security, and the number of people this larger cohort

kills every year is a tiny fraction of the number police kill – and unlike government police, security companies are fully criminally and civilly liable for unjust death or injury.

Another reason the cost of government-run police is simply too high is the effect police brutality has had on race relations. The riots, unrest, protests, racial distrust, and other blowback from brutal policing have an incalculable cost in lives and money. Americans are actually getting along fabulously well, as evidenced by the increasing rates of interracial marriage and other indicators. Police violence, however, has incited racial unrest that undermines the strides peaceful Americans have made in getting along with each other.

The only solution is to abolish the police. Returning the cash back to the private sector will leave that \$700 billion of taxpayer wealth with those who earned it – which means neighborhoods and businesses will then be able to use it to hire the security that suits them. Libertarians want individuals to be free to take advantage of all of the benefits a free market in security would offer: Better insurance, better locks and security hardware for one's property, and increasing opportunities for new providers to enter security markets, and other improvements.

## **JURIES**

We assert the common-law right of juries to judge not only the facts but also the justice of the law. Without the ability to judge the law, juries can do nothing to protect the people against government oppression. Since the jury trial is a crucial element to the judicial system of checks and balances against some of the more ludicrous legislative creations, juries need to be informed of their right to nullify all laws that are unjust or oppressive, and find against the government and the law by voting "not guilty."

We oppose the current practice of forced jury duty and favor all-volunteer juries.

## **DEATH PENALTY**

We oppose the administration of the death penalty by the state.

## 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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# LAW ENFORCEMENT



## A LIBERTARIAN PERSPECTIVE



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