

How the Justice section of the platform would look if all of the proposals to amend or add to that part of the platform were adopted. (Compare it to the platform as it stands here: [http://www.lpnc.org/our\\_principles/platform.html](http://www.lpnc.org/our_principles/platform.html))

## **I. JUSTICE**

### **Self-protection and Mutual Defense**

Self-protection, or self-defense against aggressors, is a natural human right and the only objective that warrants interference with the liberty of others. Individuals have the right to defend themselves and to join with others in mutual defense against acts of aggression.

### **Crime**

Deliberate acts that seriously threaten or violate the natural rights of others constitute real crime. The Libertarian Party of North Carolina calls for the vigorous prosecution of crimes that result in direct harm to the person or property of others. We support victim restitution at the expense of the perpetrator and oppose immunity for government officials involved in criminal acts.

### **Prisons and Alternative Sentencing**

Prison sentences punish not only the offenders, but also the taxpayers required to pay the high costs of incarceration. For minor offenses, we support replacing prison sentences with less expensive and more just alternatives, such as restitution and community service. In more serious cases, supervised probation and curfews enforced with electronic monitoring prevent repeat offenses while allowing the offender to maintain employment and connections with family and friends. Imprisonment should be considered a last resort to prevent habitually violent offenders from continuing to inflict violence against others.

### **Death Penalty (NO CHANGES PROPOSED TO THIS PLANK)**

The LPNC opposes execution of prisoners. We believe that state-sanctioned revenge never serves the cause of justice.

### **Regulation of Morality**

With the exception of actions against real crime, regulation of morality is not a legitimate function of government. However unhealthy or immoral a community may deem personal habits or practices like smoking, drinking, gambling and using drugs, these activities are personal choices, not true crimes. We call for the repeal of all laws that create victimless crimes out of personal choices and consensual acts between adults. The state has no right to treat as criminal any actions that involve only competent adults and no unwilling participants or victims.

### **Prohibition of Drugs**

Use of banned and controlled substances persists despite harsh punishments for dealers and users alike. In support of individual rights and to relieve prison overpopulation, we call for the elimination of substance laws that create victimless crimes, and for the immediate pardon of individuals convicted solely of charges under such laws. As steps to mitigate the injustices of continuing drug prohibition, we support decriminalizing possession and moderating the punishments for other nonviolent drug infractions.

Possible amendment to this Prohibition of Drugs plank Substitute for the last line:

“As long as drug prohibition continues, we favor legalization and acknowledge decriminalizing possession and commuting sentences as positive ways to keep non-violent individuals out of prison.”

**Selective Service** (move here from Freedom section)

Compulsory military service is involuntary servitude. The LPNC holds that all aspects of such conscription are both unconstitutional and violations of our unalienable Rights. The State of North Carolina, by making its driver's license conditional on Selective Service registration is abetting this human rights violation. This arrangement and all similar practices must end.

**Takings** (NO CHANGES PROPOSED TO THIS PLANK)

**Environment** (NO CHANGES PROPOSED TO THIS PLANK)

**Pollution**

Polluters, either public or private, should be required to make full compensation for any personal injuries or property damages that they cause. Criminal penalties may be appropriate when deliberate or willfully negligent pollution poses a serious threat or causes serious harm to innocent people or their property.

(..... **Justice section continues with Roadblocks and Searches, etc. ....**)

Some rationales for proposed changes to this section:

Prisons and Alternative Sentencing

Rationale: Prison sentences are not usually needed for the purpose of mutual defense from aggression. In most cases, alternative sentences work just as well as prison sentences to prevent further violations of rights, and they also save the people from being forced to pay the high costs of incarceration.

Self-protection and Mutual Defense

Rationale: We don't have a plank on the right to self-defense, and we need one. This is different from the Right to Keep and Bear Arms, which comes from the natural right to self-defense. This addition is background for the section on Justice, especially the planks on crime and is needed to make our positions in the platform more understandable.

Prohibition of Drugs

Rationale: Reducing prison population should be an important goal of a party whose platform calls for funding of government by voluntary means only, and this amendment includes that goal. It also states the central position in a very clear way and conveys that we acknowledge steps in the right direction on this issue.

Crime / Regulation of Morality (2 planks from Crime plank)

Rationale: This amendment is designed to make the distinction between true crimes and government regulation of morality more clear. The issues are divided into two planks in order to be more specific about vice and non-criminal consensual acts rather than just referring to them as victimless crimes. Libertarian Party of North Carolina is written out since this is the first time that reference appears in the body of the platform.

Substitute for preamble to the platform If adopted, the platform would begin:

## **Platform of the Libertarian Party of North Carolina**

“We hold that all individuals 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.”

-- Our Statement of Principles

### **Introduction**

We Libertarians of North Carolina aspire to a society that is freer and more prosperous, based on respect for our differences and acknowledgment of the creative potential of a free market. We honor individual rights, including unalienable Rights and property rights, and we uphold economic freedom as essential to personal liberty. With equal resolve, we oppose the use of coercion, except when necessary for the protection of person or property. Our political positions reflect the value we place on individual liberty as well as our opposition to the use of political power to either manipulate the economy or interfere in the private moral decisions of individuals.

Compare to preamble:

### **PREAMBLE**

We hold that every person has a natural right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness and property.

We hold that the purpose of government is the protection of the rights and property of peaceful individuals.

We hold that the initiation of force or fraud for political or social reasons is always immoral, and it is contrary to the principles of legitimate government.

We hold that the guarantor of personal liberty is economic freedom;

Accordingly, the Libertarian Party of North Carolina seeks:

- Federal Government that is limited to the powers specifically enumerated for it in the U.S. Constitution.
- Federal, state and local government that does not attempt to manipulate the economy or interfere in the private moral decisions of any individual.
- A society that is freer and more prosperous, based on the respect for our differences, acknowledgement of the creative potential of a free market, and optimism for the future.

Rationale: The quote from the Statement of Principles is a very easily understandable statement of the principle that underlies many of the platform planks, so it makes sense to highlight it in our platform. The introductory paragraph conveys important libertarian values without using libertarian-specific terminology isn't familiar to the general public. Instead of emphasizing desired purposes and specific forms of government, it shifts the focus to our common value, individual liberty, and to our opposition to misuse of political power.

## **Order if the changes are adopted:**

### **I. JUSTICE**

Self-protection and Mutual Defense • Crime • Prisons and Alternative Sentencing  
Death Penalty • Regulation of Morality • Prohibition of Drugs • Selective Service  
Takings • Environment • Pollution • Roadblocks and Searches • Militarization of Police  
Trial by Jury

### **II. SOCIAL ISSUES**

Education • Daycare and Elder Care • Welfare • Housing • Healthcare • Marriage  
Water Rights • Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies

### **III. THE FREE MARKET**

Corporate Welfare • Business and Labor • Commercial Free Speech • Privatization  
Zoning • Transportation • Agriculture and Forestry • Alcohol Sales

### **IV. GOVERNMENT AND TAXATION**

Democracy • Fair Campaigns • Legislation • Annexation • Taxation • Federal Grants  
Bonds • Sale of Government Lands and Assets

### **V. FREEDOM**

Real ID • Privacy • Right to Keep and Bear Arms • Boating, Hunting and Fishing Rights  
Consensual Relationships • Adoption • Immigration • Free Association

### **VI. MISCELLANEOUS**

National Libertarian Party Platform • Omissions

## **The existing order of issues:**

### **I. JUSTICE**

Crime • End the War on Drugs • Death Penalty • Prisons • Takings • Environment  
Pollution • Roadblocks and Searches • Militarization of Police • Trial by Jury

### **II. SOCIAL ISSUES**

Education • Daycare and Elder Care • Welfare • Housing • Healthcare • Marriage

### **III. THE FREE MARKET**

Corporate Welfare • Business and Labor • Privatization • Zoning • Transportation  
Agriculture and Forestry • Alcohol Sales

### **IV. GOVERNMENT AND TAXATION**

Democracy • Fair Campaigns • Legislation • Annexation • Taxation • Property Taxes  
Federal Grants • Bonds • Sale of Government Lands and Assets

### **V. FREEDOM**

Privacy • Right to Keep and Bear Arms • Selective Service • Boating, Hunting and Fishing  
Rights • Consensual Relationships • Adoption • Immigration • Free Association

### **VI. MISCELLANEOUS:**

National Libertarian Party Platform • Omissions

## Proposals to add other planks with their rationales

Note: rationales are not added to the platform.

Add a new plank under the heading THE FREE MARKET just after the section on Business and Labor

### **Commercial Free Speech**

The LPNC calls for the end to all restrictions on advertising and public relations, except for those which may disallow false representations, or those which protect the right to property or the right to privacy. We recognize that, just as political free speech is essential to a free political arena, so commercial free speech is essential to a free market.

Rationale: While the public accepts the notion of freedom of speech, as it applies to political speech, a freedom to inform the public about products or services offered by an economic enterprise is not well accepted. Most restrictions on commercial free speech involve restrictions on advertising by businesses at the state or local level. While such laws are usually portrayed by their supporters as making things more "beautiful", they usually function to add costs to advertising and thus restrict the choices available to both businesses and their potential customers. While we recognize a right to commercial speech, we also recognize that the doctrine of non-initiation of force or fraud (NIOFF) means that we do not support false advertising as a right, nor any right to use other's property to post messages, nor any right to invade an individual's privacy in an effort to promote a product or service.

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Add to the 'Social Issues' section:

### **Water Rights**

Water received from paid water services or from privately-owned wells is the property of the individual who receives it, and that property may be used as the owner sees fit provided that the owner is not infringing on the rights of others. This includes, but is not limited to, the right of individuals to reuse their own water in an effort to conserve water resources. We favor repealing state regulations that prohibit the reuse of privately owned water on private property.

Rationale: The drought has increased efforts to conserve water, but the state actually interferes with conservation by prohibiting the reuse of "greywater". Water rights in general are becoming an important issue in NC with lawmakers considering requiring users of private wells to report on how much water they consume.

Add to the 'Social Issues' section right after Water Rights:

**Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies**

The LPNC calls for an end to fluoridation of public water supplies within the state. Fluoride supplementation should be left up to families and individuals, not provided by one-size-fits-all dosing of public water supplies.

Rationale: The American Dental Association, a long time advocate of community water fluoridation, now suggests that fluoridated tap water not be used to prepare infant formula, due to increased risk of fluorosis. As long as provision of water is funded by taxpayers, the water should be suitable for consumption by all the local residents.

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Insert this new plank right before the plank on Privacy in the Freedom section:

**Real ID**

The LPNC opposes any form of a national ID card. North Carolina officials should refuse to implement the Federal Real ID program or any national identification system that the U.S. Congress may attempt to enact.

Rationale: Real ID is a new intrusion into personal privacy that is a threat to liberty. The RFID tags contained in Real ID cards (new drivers' licenses in NC) allows the government to track people by RFID readers like those used to track inventory and tagged livestock. Many state legislatures have passed resolutions opposing Real ID. NC is one of the few states charging ahead to comply, even though the the program treats people like animals and the standardization of all 50 state licenses will likely result in increased identity theft.

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**Proposal to delete a plank**

Delete the plank on property taxes.

Rationale: The plank on Taxation is a strong statement by itself, and there are no separate planks about time-wasting and privacy-invading income taxes or about the most regressive form of taxes, sales taxes. Having a separate plank only for property taxes, but not on the income or sales taxes, makes it look like we are more serious about opposing local property taxes than we are about opposing federal and state income taxes and sales taxes.