

Libertarian, Short & Simple

Voter guide, principles, issues, and action items **all on one sheet!**



If you believe more government can solve our problems, ask yourself:

- Why has America become so prosperous and strong while other countries have not?
 - Why is Hong Kong so rich compared to mainland China which is just miles away?
 - Why does government involvement drive up the costs of things like education and healthcare so rapidly?
 - How well have the governments of Venezuela, Cuba, Zimbabwe, and Sudan protected their people, and why?
- Per capita 2002 GDP: U.S., \$35,935; Hong Kong, \$24,646; China, \$4,672; Zimbabwe, \$2,461; Cuba, \$2,307 (Source: www.nationmaster.com)*

World's Smallest Political Quiz

Take the quiz. Then use the Self-Government Compass to find your political position. Circle **Y** when you agree with a statement, **M** for Maybe,

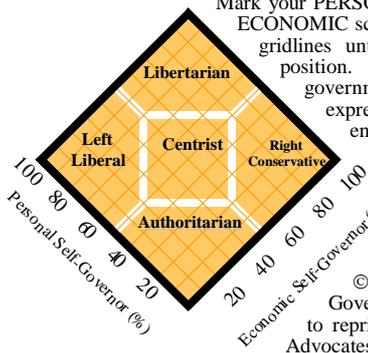
Sometimes or Need-More-Information, or circle **N** for No.

Are you a self-governor on PERSONAL issues?	20	10	0
▪ Military service should be voluntary. (No draft).....	Y	M	N
▪ Government should not censor speech, press, media, Internet...Y	M	N	
▪ There should be no laws regarding sex for consenting adults...Y	M	N	
▪ Repeal laws prohibiting adult possession and use of drugs.....Y	M	N	
▪ There should be no National ID card.....	Y	M	N
My PERSONAL self-governor score: add 20 for Y, 10 for M, 0 for N.			<input type="text"/>

Are you a self-governor on ECONOMIC issues?	20	10	0
▪ End "corporate welfare." No government handouts to business Y	M	N	
▪ End government barriers to international free trade.....Y	M	N	
▪ Let people control their own retirement; privatize Social Security.....Y	M	N	
▪ Replace government welfare with private charity.....Y	M	N	
▪ Cut taxes and government spending by 50% or more.....Y	M	N	
My ECONOMIC self-governor score: add 20 for Y, 10 for M, 0 for N.			<input type="text"/>

How to use the Self-Government Compass

Mark your PERSONAL score on the left and your ECONOMIC score on the right. Then follow the gridlines until they meet at your political position. The compass measures self-expression. Liberals value freedom of expression. Conservatives value free enterprise. Libertarians value both. Authoritarians are against both. Examples: M. Thatcher (right), F.D. Roosevelt (left), Henry David Thoreau and Thomas Jefferson (top), Stalin and Hitler (bottom).



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is adapted from an original idea by David Nolan.

ONLINE Version: www.self-gov.org/quiz

Sept. 2000 Rasmussen Research scientific results: 32% Centrist; 17% on borders; 16% Libertarian; 14% Authoritarian; 13% Liberal; 7% Conservative.

Do you really care?

Most Americans agree that government is inefficient and politicians are crooked. Yet they continue to vote for politicians and political parties who provide more of the same. Why? Most people are caring individuals who are willing to put up with a little waste and craziness in order to help those less fortunate than them, and to occasionally get a little help and security themselves.

Libertarians care about others just as much. However, we understand that caring, even if it involves self-sacrifice, such as giving a lot of our money or personal freedoms to the government, is not enough. What matters are results. Our government has spent trillions of dollars trying to prevent poverty, fight drugs, educate children, and improve healthcare. Libertarians believe the evidence shows that these programs limit opportunity, raise costs, destroy personal character and dignity, and ultimately fail. The programs have failed, yet the politicians appeal to our sense of compassion and even *guilt* for more money to solve these problems.

Sacrificing more to the government may make you feel compassionate, but if there's a god who's good, I'll bet my soul he cares about the results. It's time to care enough to do something that works.

Libertarians believe that free markets are the best way to create wealth, unrestricted voluntary trade is the best way to distribute wealth,

and a society where people are free to act on their own free will is the only society where they can exhibit virtuous behavior.

If you really care, make sure what you advocate really works.

How can they possibly agree?

Libertarians are black, white, young, old, straight, gay, Christian, atheist, yuppie, hippie, vegetarian, meat-and-potatoan, rich, poor, conservative, liberal, greedy, generous, eccentric, and just plain average.

What do they agree on? Actually, very little. They agree to disagree, and they want a government that lets them do that. Therefore, as libertarians, they agree that the only legitimate role of government is to protect people's personal and economic freedoms.

Libertarians believe limited government will result in the best society for all people to live in. It will not be a utopia free of disease, poverty, and other problems. Utopias are impossible. But libertarians want to make things better.

Libertarians believe that each and every person should be able to decide for himself where to attend school, what to believe, what to say, who to associate with, what to eat, and what to buy, provided he is willing to accept the consequences and pay his own way.

Libertarians believe in using persuasion to achieve social and political goals, rather than coercion through regulation, taxes, courts, the military, or threat of arrest by armed officers.

Libertarians on the Issues

If you agree with many of the issues, but question a few, please visit the web resources listed at the end in *Action Item #2* for thorough and thoughtful explanations. They changed my mind on a few issues.

Taxes. It's your money. Re-privatize government services to improve quality and reduce costs. Drastically reduce taxes. Is it greedier to want to keep your own money, or to want to take someone else's?

International Free Trade. Almost all economists agree international trade benefits all parties involved. Tariffs and trade barriers are favorites of large corporations and unions who want you to pay for their over-priced products. Eliminate all barriers to trade.

Social Security. Our country must meet its promise to retired or nearly retired persons who are counting on social security. For all younger people and older people who choose it, the system should be privatized similarly to the successful privatization in Chile.

Welfare. Both corporate and personal welfare corrupts people's motivation. A strong economy is the best welfare. Private organizations and individuals are best at determining who truly needs help, and they encourage behavior that leads towards self-sufficiency.

Unions. Any group has the right to assemble and take peaceful action. Employers have the right to hire or fire or expel from private property whomever they please. Initiation of violence by either group is wrong.

Guns. Hunting is not the issue. The "right to bear arms" was intended to provide people the capacity to protect themselves from criminals and a government that attacks its citizens. Contrary to what you hear, crime actually drops where gun ownership increases. Libertarians respect the rights of citizens to hunt on private property where owners allow it.

Sex. Not the government's business, despite politicians' experience. ©

Drugs and Crime. Drugs are a problem, but the "War on Drugs" makes things worse. It is difficult for some to accept, but ending drug prohibition would make our citizens safer, especially minorities and children. Private entities like schools, businesses, and individuals should set their own policies for drug use and/or drug testing instead of leaving this matter up to the government.

Military. Our soldiers should be well equipped to protect Americans in America. We have soldiers in over 100 foreign countries. What if 100 countries had soldiers in America? Our excessive intervention in foreign countries' affairs creates resentment and attracts terrorism.

Education. Government schools are monopolies that cost double what private schools cost, often teach viewpoints that parents don't like, and generally provide an inferior education. Some libertarians suggest that we start with tax credits and/or vouchers for private schools, but the ideal is "total separation of school and state." Let parents choose which schools are best for their children based on the curriculum and other programs offered.

Free Speech. Absolutely! Prohibit any speech you want on YOUR private property, but leave others alone. Sticks and stones break bones, words don't.

Environment. Most Americans care about the environment. Did you ever notice how it's the government-owned property that is the most polluted? Who owns the lakes, rivers, roadsides, and most air emission rights? Eliminate the EPA and treat pollution like a trespass. Market-oriented reforms will provide a cleaner environment at lower costs.

Healthcare. Everyone wants good, affordable healthcare. If HMOs scare you, a national healthcare system will be like one big bureaucratic HMO that you absolutely will not be able to sue. Eliminate government regulation and allow private regulation and competition.

Monopolies. Only the government has sponsored successful monopolies that have harmed consumers, like the Post Office, utilities, and schools. The 19th century "robber barons" are a myth. They actually reduced prices drastically and expanded services rapidly. They only hurt consumers when they enlisted the government to prevent competition. Repeal antitrust laws, licensing, and trade barriers that protect special interests.

Regulations. Regulations help order the economy and protect consumers from dangerous products. Much existing regulation is private and enforced by associations and third parties, such as Underwriters Laboratories, kosher foods, *Consumer Reports*, Standard & Poors, and seals of approval. More regulatory functions should be re-privatized to promote innovation, reduce costs, and allow individuals to choose not to follow regulations they deem harmful to themselves.

Famous libertarians

Milton Friedman – Nobel prize in economics (*Very Smart!*)
 John Stossel – ABC 20/20 reporter (*Courageous and original!*)
 Clint Eastwood – actor (*Better make his day!*)

Do Libertarians have a chance to win?

The Libertarian Party is the third largest and most persistent third party. The Reform and Green parties have had celebrity leaders, but Libertarians have much stronger nationwide grassroots support. About 600 Libertarians hold office nationwide, more than all other third

parties combined. We have thousands of active members and contributors, and receive millions of votes each election season.

Is it a wasted vote?

Republicans and Democrats have passed laws requiring new parties to wage extremely expensive ballot access petition drives in order to get on the ballot, while exempting themselves. Many people agree with the Libertarians, but feel like they are wasting a vote for those who don't have a chance. However, with recent growth and the current projected growth in the party, there is no time like the present to join the Libertarians.

As our party approaches the 7% mark, three things will happen.

- 1) Others will join when they see we swing elections and have a credible chance to win.
- 2) With increased numbers, Libertarians will receive more free press coverage.
- 3) Either the two older parties will adopt libertarian ideas, or an enlightened public will put Libertarians in office. "Free at last!"

Who is most to blame for freedom's slide?

Democrats? Republicans? Special interests? No, they're fighting for what they believe in. The biggest fault lies with those who know better, but are silent. Freedom lovers naturally tend towards passivity. This is a grave mistake, one I've made too often. Preserving freedom requires a continuous effort. Because your enemies are taxing you, just "going with the flow" means you're feeding and arming your own enemies. Let's get out there and do something—our opponents certainly are!



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 Website: www.lptexas.org
 E-mail: director@lptexas.org
 Chair: Pat Dixon, chair@lptexas.org

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 PO Box 49054, Austin, TX 78765
 Website: www.austinliberty.org
 Chair: Wes Benedict, wesliberty@aol.com

Action Items for You

1. Join the Libertarian party **now** (see below). Your vote and contribution motivates us who volunteer our time.
2. Visit the following web sites:
 - Introduction to Libertarianism (www.libertarianism.com)
 - National Libertarian Party (www.lp.org)
 - Advocates for Self-Government (www.self-gov.org)
 - Christians, see (www.self-gov.org/christian)
 - CATO Institute (www.cato.org) for heavy-duty analysis
3. Contact your local Libertarians and attend meetings.
4. Vote Libertarian—and start changing the world.

National Libertarian Party: (202) 333-0008; www.lp.org
 For free information from the Libertarian Party: 1-800-ELECTUS

Join the National Libertarian Party (call 1-800-ELECTUS):

____ \$25 Basic LP member/subscriber (includes 12 issues of *LP News*)
 ____ \$100 Sustaining LP member/subscriber

"I hereby certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals." (Signature required for national membership):

I want to contribute to your efforts! Enclosed is my contribution of \$_____.
 The IRS (enemy #1) requires us to mention contributions are not tax deductible.

Libertarian Short & Simple - 2006

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____ Check enclosed \$ _____

VISA _____ or MasterCard _____ # _____ exp _____

Signature for credit card: _____

Occupation & Employer: _____
 (FEC requires info for contributions over \$200 per year.)
 Make checks payable to Libertarian Party
 Mail to: Libertarian Party
 2600 Virginia Ave NW Suite 200, Washington, DC 20037