

1. Personal Liberty

Individuals should be free to make choices for themselves and to accept responsibility for the consequences of the choices they make. Our support of an individual's right to make choices in life does not mean that we necessarily approve or disapprove of those choices. We support full freedom of expression, and oppose government censorship, regulation or control of communications media and technology. We favor the freedom to engage in or abstain from any religious activities that do not violate the rights of others. We support the protections provided by the Fourth Amendment to be secure in our persons, homes, and property. Only actions that infringe on the rights or damage the property of others can properly be termed crimes. We favor the repeal of all laws creating "crimes" without victims, such as the use of drugs for medicinal or recreational purposes. Consenting adults should be free to choose their own sexual practices and personal relationships. Parents, or other guardians, have the right to raise their children according to their own standards and beliefs, without interference by government -- unless they are abusing the children. We oppose all coercive measures for population control.

Government exists to protect the rights of every individual including life, liberty and property. Criminal laws should be limited to violation of the rights of others through force or fraud, or deliberate actions that place others involuntarily at significant risk of harm. Individuals retain the right to voluntarily assume risk of harm to themselves. We oppose reduction of constitutional safeguards of the rights of the criminally accused. We favor all-volunteer juries and assert the common-law right of juries to judge not only the facts but also the justice of the law. The only legitimate use of force is in defense of individual rights -- life, liberty, and justly acquired property -- against aggression, whether by force or fraud. This right inheres in the individual, who may agree to be aided by any other individual or group. We affirm the right to keep and bear arms.

2. Economic Liberty

A free and competitive market allocates resources in the most efficient manner. Each person has the right to offer goods and services to others on the free market. The only proper role of existing governments in the economic realm is to protect property rights, adjudicate disputes, and provide a legal framework in which voluntary trade is protected. We oppose all government interference with voluntary and contractual relations among individuals. People should be allowed 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 owners of property have the full right to control, use, dispose of -- or in any manner enjoy -- their property without interference, until and unless the exercise of their control infringes the valid rights of others. Property rights are entitled to the same protection as all other human rights. We oppose all controls on wages, prices, rents, profits, production, and interest rates. We oppose all violations of the right to private property, liberty of contract, and freedom of trade. The right to trade includes the right not to trade -- for any reasons whatsoever.

Where property, including land, has been taken from its rightful owners by the government or private action in violation of individual rights, we favor restitution to the rightful owners. Pollution of other people's property is a violation of individual rights. We support the development of an objective system defining resource rights, including riparian rights, as individual property rights. Individuals have the right to homestead unowned resources, both within the jurisdictions of national governments and within unclaimed territory.

We favor continuously reducing taxes as the functions of government are privatized or made voluntary. Government should not incur debt, which burdens future generations without their consent. We support the passage of a "Balanced Budget Amendment" to the US Constitution that restricts Congress from spending any more than it collected in revenue the previous year. We call for the repeal of the income tax, the abolishment of

the Internal Revenue Service and all federal programs and services not required under the US Constitution. We favor free-market banking, with unrestricted competition among banks and depository institutions of all types. Individuals engaged in voluntary exchange should be free to use as money any mutually agreeable commodity or item. We call for the abolition of all regulation of financial and capital markets. What should be punished is the theft of information or breach of contract to hold information in confidence, not trading on the basis of valuable knowledge. We seek to divest government of all functions that can be provided by non-governmental organizations or private individuals.

We defend the right of individuals to form corporations, cooperatives and other types of companies based on voluntary association. We oppose government subsidies to business, labor, or any other special interest. Nuclear power, transportation, and other industries should be governed by free markets and held to strict liability. We seek the elimination of occupational licensure. We support the right to associate or not associate in labor unions. An employer should have the right to recognize or refuse to recognize a union. We advocate the separation of education and State. As an interim measure to encourage the growth of private schools and variety in education, including home schooling, we support tax credits for tuition and other expenditures related to an individual's education. We advocate the separation of medicine and State. We favor restoring and reviving a free market health care system. We recognize the freedom of individuals to determine the level of health insurance they want, the level of health care they want, the care providers they want, the medicines and treatments they will use and all other aspects of their medical care. Retirement planning is the responsibility of the individual, not the government. The proper source of help for the poor is the voluntary efforts of private groups and individuals.

3. Securing Liberty

The principles which guide a legitimate government in its relationships with other governments are the same as those which guide relationships among individuals: no individual, group, or government may initiate force against any other individual, group, or government. We support the maintenance of a sufficient military to defend the United States against aggression. We oppose the government's use of secret classifications to keep from the public information that it should have, especially that which shows that the government has violated the law. We oppose any form of compulsory national service. American foreign policy should seek an America at peace with the world and the defense -- against attack from abroad -- of the lives, liberty, and property of the American people on American soil. We recognize the right to unrestricted trade and travel. We recognize the right of all people to resist tyranny and defend themselves and their rights.

Political freedom and escape from tyranny demands that individuals not be unreasonably constrained by government in the crossing of political boundaries. Economic freedom demands the unrestricted movement of human as well as financial capital across national borders. However, we support control over the entry into our country of foreign nationals who pose a threat to security, health or property. Government should not deny, abridge or enhance any individual's rights at the expense of other people's rights based on sex, wealth, race, color, creed, age, national origin, personal habits, political preference or sexual orientation. We support electoral systems that are more representative of the electorate at the federal, state and local levels. In order to grant voters a full range of choice in federal, state and local elections, we propose proportional voting systems with multi-member districts for legislative elections and instant runoff voting (IRV) for single-winner elections.