

PLATFORM OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF KANSAS

For Consideration at 2011 LPKS Convention

PREAMBLE - The Libertarian Party of Kansas is part of the worldwide movement for liberty. It is an affiliate of the Libertarian Party of the United States. The Libertarian Party of Kansas supports and endorses the National Libertarian Party Platform. However, the following Platform, created and adopted by the Libertarian Party of Kansas, addresses issues and positions as they apply to Kansas.

ARTICLE I - PERSONAL PROPERTY, RIGHTS and DUTIES

Libertarians hold that inviolable individual sovereignty and personal property rights are central to a free society. Kansans should work to strengthen the ownership of all forms of personal property. Government control of property is not conducive to conservation or good stewardship.

1. We stand opposed to government seizure and sales of property under the guise of law enforcement, environmental protection, tax collection, or economic development. No one should be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law.
2. We oppose the use of taxpayer funds to pay for abortion, family planning, birth control, or the provision of contraceptive devices. The right to privacy and the obligation for responsibility in reproductive matters rests with the individual and their families.
3. We believe children are the responsibility of their parents until such time as they have reached the age of majority. We deny the State's right to remove a child from the family or either parent except in cases of gross, verifiable, documented abuse or neglect. This state of facts must be determined under due process of law including trial by jury.
4. The Libertarians of Kansas understand that the education of the children of Kansas is the responsibility of parents and teachers of Kansas. We support parental and local community control of education. We passionately advocate the preservation and expansion of school choice for all Kansans.

ARTICLE II - TAXES and ECONOMICS

Libertarians support spending and tax limiting measures because economic growth occurs when productivity and investments are not penalized.

1. We support a state constitutional amendment ending the legislature's power to tax without limit. We propose keying taxes to specific projects and purposes with sunset clauses attached to taxes wherever possible. We support voter approval as a requirement for all new and incremental taxes.

2. We believe sales taxes should be eliminated on all food and medicines. The property and state personal income tax should be reduced immediately.

3. We believe that government has no business in business. Employers and entrepreneurs should not be burdened with excessive regulations, quotas, and licensing requirements.

4. We support the free market system. Businesses and individuals must assume responsibility for their financial affairs and reap the rewards or suffer the consequences of their choices. We oppose both corporate and individual welfare. We oppose the use of public funds for financing private endeavors of any sort.

ARTICLE III - GOVERNMENT and ELECTIONS

The Libertarians of Kansas believe in the people of Kansas. We are very pro-individual and pro-community. We believe in treating Kansans like adults capable of deciding what is best for themselves, their families and their communities. This belief system naturally leads to maximized individual and local power and limited government powers.

1. We oppose the use of tax funds to pay lobbyists.

2. We support sunset provisions for all laws and State agencies thus requiring the state to reassess the effects of existing laws and activities on a continuing basis.

3. The Libertarians of Kansas will fight to assure that solutions are found and implemented on the most local possible level where those solutions can be more efficient, effective and compassionate.

4. We support the elimination of all government activities that would be better performed by the private sector.

5. We oppose unfunded federal or state mandates. Libertarians favor state sovereignty as afforded by the ninth and tenth amendments to the Constitution of the United States. Federal meddling in state affairs must be firmly rejected.

6. We oppose the use of taxpayer's money to fund primary elections and create matching campaign funds. The various political parties should bear the cost of nominating and running their candidates at their own expense.

ARTICLE IV - PERSONAL LIBERTIES

Libertarians believe that each individual has the right to choose how to live his or her life and reap the rewards or face the consequences of that chosen lifestyle.

1. We believe that the sacrosanct primary right, duty, and privilege of individual protection lies with the individual and cannot be performed by government. Citizens must have the right to carry concealed or unconcealed loaded firearms for self-protection. We strongly support the provision in the Kansas and US Constitutions preserving private ownership of personal firearms.

2. We believe that driving a motor vehicle is not a privilege as asserted by the State, but a right. We oppose removal of that right for any reason except the demonstrated inability to safely operate a motor vehicle on public thoroughfares. We also oppose mandatory motorcycle helmet and seat belt use laws for adults.

3. We advocate ending drug prohibition for adults. Violence, gang activity, over crowded prisons, funding of terrorism, and other problems are caused by drug prohibition. These problems will continue to increase until the law recognizes that drug use is a personal and medical issue and not a legal one.

ARTICLE V - JUDICIAL REFORM

Kansas Libertarians believe that present state judiciary is unresponsive to citizens' concerns and is exploiting the very people it claims to protect and serve. We must find a way to bring the truth into a courtroom and receive justice from it.

1. We believe that restoring a sound judicial system is critical to preserving our independence. An empowered jury system gives citizens direct involvement in and oversight of both legislature and judiciary. This concept is a crucial component of our system of government. Juries must be informed of their right to judge not only the facts of the case but the law itself without abrogation or restriction. This is a citizen's last veto of an unfair law. We believe a Fully Informed Jury provision must be enacted as law in Kansas.

2. We strongly defend property rights and, in the case of crimes against property, advocate restitution for victims of crime to be paid for by the wrongdoer. The criminal justice system should concentrate upon crimes against people and property. It should not concern itself with private, consensual activity among adults. All laws pertaining to victimless crimes should be repealed.

3. We oppose the present plea bargaining system which is regularly abused to further the records and careers of public officials, circumventing real justice.

4. We oppose mandatory minimum sentences, which usurp the power of the people and the judiciary to fit the punishment to the severity of the crime.

5. We support the right to trial by jury in all cases, criminal, civil, and administrative