

Deletions are indicated as ~~Strikeouts~~. Additions are indicated by inclusion within brackets and all capitals []. Electronic version shows all changes in red.

Libertarian Party of Maryland Program

First Steps Towards Freeing the Citizens of the Free State

The purpose of the Libertarian Party of Maryland is to use the political process to promote freedom as the primary value in the organization of a healthy society. To that end, ~~it~~ [WE] seeks to elect Libertarians to public office, influence ~~other~~ elected and appointed officials, and move public opinion toward supporting increased liberty in our daily affairs. Our liberties were not curtailed overnight and we do not expect them to be restored overnight. This program represents our first steps toward expanding and protecting our freedoms.

Jobs and Wealth Creation

- Reduce government spending and lower the [TAX] burden ~~on Maryland taxpayers.~~
- Restructure the tax system to encourage economic growth. ~~e~~ [E]liminate subsidies and special [INTEREST] tax breaks. ~~to businesses, and end.~~ End public funding and financing ~~for~~ [OF] stadiums, hotels, ~~concert halls, etc.~~ [AND OTHER FACILITIES WHICH ARE PROPERLY PRIVATE ACTIVITIES.]
- Reform licensing laws that unfairly restrict competition and ~~which~~ protect special interests.
- [ENCOURAGE ENTREPRENEURS AND SMALL BUSINESS START-UPS BY ELIMINATING BARRIERS TO ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY.]

Education

- Increase parental choice in education ~~and encourage variety in education.~~
- Support [AND ENCOURAGE SMALLER, MORE AUTONOMOUS NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOLS]. ~~small autonomous schools within the larger school buildings.~~
- ~~Allow K-12 neighborhood schools (reducing busing costs).~~
- Encourage privately funded K-12 scholarships for non-government educational activities.
- Discourage government interference and control with home schooling.
- School boards should be elected, ~~and~~ not appointed.

[HEALTH CARE

- PROMOTE A FREE MARKET SYSTEM THAT RESPECTS THE FREEDOM OF INDIVIDUALS TO CONTROL THEIR OWN HEALTH CARE, HEALTH INSURANCE, MEDICINES AND TREATMENTS. END GOVERNMENT MANDATES AND INTERFERENCE.]

Crime and Public Safety

- ~~Free up our~~ [REDIRECT] law enforcement ~~resources by concentrating efforts~~ [TOWARDS] crimes against persons and property, rather than ~~non-violent offenders.~~ [VICTIMLESS CRIMES.]
- End ~~the~~ [PRE-CONVICTION] use of “asset forfeiture.” ~~until the property owner has been properly convicted of a crime in the judicial system. Seizure of property before a conviction is an un-American policy of “guilty until proven innocent.”~~
- End the drug war. Promote medical treatment, rather than prison sentences, ~~for~~ [SUBSTANCE ABUSE]. ~~those who abuse alcohol or drugs.~~
- Law-abiding citizens have the constitutional right to arm themselves to protect their homes and liberties. Permit the carrying of firearms with training and a background check (shall-issue).

State Government

- [PROHIBIT MARYLAND OFFICIALS FROM FUNDING OR PARTICIPATING IN DOMESTIC ESPIONAGE AND BULK DATA COLLECTION. PROHIBIT MARYLAND FROM USING OR MAINTAINING SUCH DATA EXCEPT IN ACCORDANCE WITH A CONSTITUTIONALLY PROPER WARRANT.]
- ~~Initiate comprehensive reform of Maryland's~~ ELIMINATE] executive and legislative processes to eliminate the preferences [FOR] ~~given to~~ special interests.
- Establish [AN OBJECTIVE] ~~a nonpartisan~~ redistricting process [TO END GERRYMANDERING.] ~~that stops politicians from choosing who votes for them. Create and maintain small, single member districts to encourage politicians to be responsive to their constituents.~~
- Decentralize government in Maryland. Politicians should respect the right of local communities to govern themselves ~~and not micromanage every aspect of peoples' lives. Political decisions should be made at the lowest feasible level~~ to encourage civic participation and account for regional differences.
- End exclusionary ballot access laws to foster a strong and vibrant democratic process.
- Eliminate unfunded mandates on local jurisdictions.

Property Rights

- Forbid government entities from abusing the power of eminent domain in order to transfer private property to privileged individuals.
- Phase out government entities that compete against the private sector, ~~such as the Maryland Economic Development Corporation (MEDCO).~~

Land Use, Transportation, and the Environment

- Eliminate all subsidies to developers.
- ~~Encourage efficient land use by reducing the tax on buildings and property improvements, leaving only assessments on land itself.~~
- Insist on maintaining local control of zoning decisions and limit state zoning mandates on local jurisdictions.
- End the bipartisan practice of raiding the Transportation Trust Fund for non-transportation projects, which increases traffic gridlock.
- Promote free market environmentalism to promote conservation and environmental protection. Prevent pollution and increase environmental awareness by making polluters pay for ~~their irresponsibility~~ [ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE] through civil liability. *(also, switched order of sentences)*

Voting: The recommendations of the Program Committee are separated into separate votes. The first six votes are on matters the Committee designated as substantive changes. The remaining votes are for the purpose of ‘cleanup and presentation’ of the individual sections. The separate votes are set forth below.

Vote 1: New Section-Health Care (placed between Education and Crime and Public Safety):

Proposed Changes:

[HEALTH CARE

PROMOTE A FREE MARKET SYSTEM THAT RESPECTS THE FREEDOM OF INDIVIDUALS TO CONTROL THEIR OWN HEALTH CARE, HEALTH INSURANCE, MEDICINES AND TREATMENTS. END GOVERNMENT MANDATES AND INTERFERENCE.]

Clean Copy if Changes Accepted:

Health Care.

Promote a free market system that respects the freedom of individuals to control their own health care, health insurance, medicines and treatments. End government mandates and interference.

Passed: Yes No

Vote 2: Asset forfeiture (second bullet point-Crime and Public Safety)

Proposed Changes:

- End ~~the~~ [PRE-CONVICTION] use of “asset forfeiture.” ~~until the property owner has been properly convicted of a crime in the judicial system. Seizure of property before a conviction is an un-American policy of “guilty until proven innocent.”~~

Clean Copy if Changes Accepted:

- End pre-conviction asset forfeiture.

Passed: Yes No

Vote 3: Entrepreneurs and small business (add bullet point to end of Jobs and Wealth Creation)

Proposed Changes:

- [ENCOURAGE ENTREPRENEURS AND SMALL BUSINESS START-UPS BY ELIMINATING BARRIERS TO ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY.]

Clean Copy if Changes Accepted:

- Encourage entrepreneurs and small business start-ups by eliminating barriers to economic opportunity.

Passed: Yes No

Vote 4: Domestic spying (add bullet point to beginning of State Government)

Proposed Changes:

- **[PROHIBIT MARYLAND OFFICIALS FROM FUNDING OR PARTICIPATING IN DOMESTIC ESPIONAGE AND BULK DATA COLLECTION. PROHIBIT MARYLAND FROM USING OR MAINTAINING SUCH DATA EXCEPT IN ACCORDANCE WITH A CONSTITUTIONALLY PROPER WARRANT.]**

Clean Copy if Changes Accepted:

- Prohibit Maryland officials from funding or participating in domestic espionage and bulk data collection. Prohibit Maryland from using or maintaining such data except in accordance with a constitutionally proper warrant.

Passed: Yes No

Vote 5: Single member districts (remove the second sentence of the second bullet point of State Government)

Proposed Changes:

- ~~Create and maintain small, single member districts to encourage politicians to be responsive to their constituents.~~

Clean Copy if Changes Accepted:

Note: second bullet point contains proposed changes to be voted on later which modify the first sentence.

Passed: Yes No

Vote 6: Land Value Tax (remove second bullet point from Land, Transportation, and the Environment)

Proposed Changes:

- ~~Encourage efficient land use by reducing the tax on buildings and property improvements, leaving only assessments on land itself.~~

Clean Copy if Changes Accepted:

(complete removal of bullet point)

Passed: Yes No

The remaining votes are on 'clean-up and presentation' recommendations.

Vote 7: Opening Paragraph

Proposed Changes:

First Steps Towards Freeing the Citizens of the Free State

The purpose of the Libertarian Party of Maryland is to use the political process to promote freedom as the primary value in the organization of a healthy society. To that end, ~~it~~ **[WE]** seeks to elect Libertarians to public office, influence ~~other~~ elected and appointed officials, and move public opinion toward supporting increased liberty in our daily affairs. Our liberties were not curtailed overnight and we do not expect them to be restored overnight. This program represents our first steps toward expanding and protecting our freedoms.

Clean Copy if Changes Accepted:

First Steps Towards Freeing the Citizens of the Free State

The purpose of the Libertarian Party of Maryland is to use the political process to promote freedom as the primary value in the organization of a healthy society. To that end, we seek to elect Libertarians to public office, influence elected and appointed officials, and move public opinion toward supporting increased liberty in our daily affairs. Our liberties were not curtailed overnight and we do not expect them to be restored overnight. This program represents our first steps toward expanding and protecting our freedoms.

Passed: Yes No

Vote 8: Jobs and Wealth Creation Section

Proposed Changes:

Jobs and Wealth Creation

- Reduce government spending and lower the [TAX] burden ~~on Maryland taxpayers.~~
- Restructure the tax system to encourage economic growth. ~~e~~ [E]liminate subsidies and special [INTEREST] tax breaks. ~~to businesses, and end.~~ End public funding and financing ~~for~~ [OF] stadiums, hotels, ~~concert halls, etc.~~ [AND OTHER FACILITIES WHICH ARE PROPERLY PRIVATE ACTIVITIES.]
- Reform licensing laws that unfairly restrict competition and ~~which~~ protect special interests.
(Note: bullet point on entrepreneurs and small business may be added here due to vote 3)

Clean Copy if Changes Accepted:

Jobs and Wealth Creation

- Reduce government spending and lower the tax burden.
- Restructure the tax system to encourage economic growth. Eliminate subsidies and special interest tax breaks. End public funding and financing of stadiums, hotels, and other facilities which are properly private activities.
- Reform licensing laws that unfairly restrict competition and protect special interests.
- (Note: bullet point on entrepreneurs and small business may be added here due to vote 3)

Passed: Yes No

Vote 9: Education Section

Proposed Changes:

Education

- Increase parental choice in education ~~and encourage variety in education.~~
- Support [AND ENCOURAGE SMALLER, MORE AUTONOMOUS NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOLS]. ~~small autonomous schools within the larger school buildings.~~
- ~~Allow K-12 neighborhood schools (reducing busing costs).~~
- Encourage privately funded K-12 scholarships for non-government educational activities.
- Discourage government interference and control with home schooling.
- School boards should be elected, ~~and~~ not appointed.

Clean Copy if Changes Accepted:

Education

- Increase parental choice in education.
- Support and encourage smaller, more autonomous neighborhood schools.
- Encourage privately funded K-12 scholarships for non-government educational activities.
- Discourage government interference and control with home schooling.
- School boards should be elected, not appointed.

Passed: Yes No

Vote 10: Crime and Public Safety Section

Proposed Changes:

Crime and Public Safety

- ~~Free up our [REDIRECT] law enforcement resources by concentrating efforts [TOWARDS] crimes against persons and property, rather than non-violent offenders- [VICTIMLESS CRIMES.]~~
- End ~~the [PRE-CONVICTION] use of “asset forfeiture.” until the property owner has been properly convicted of a crime in the judicial system. Seizure of property before a conviction is an un-American policy of “guilty until proven innocent.”~~
- End the drug war. Promote medical treatment, rather than prison sentences, for [SUBSTANCE ABUSE]. ~~those who abuse alcohol or drugs.~~
- Law-abiding citizens have the constitutional right to arm themselves to protect their homes and liberties. Permit the carrying of firearms with training and a background check (shall-issue).

Clean Copy if Changes Accepted:

Crime and Public Safety

- Redirect law enforcement towards crimes against persons and property, rather than victimless crimes.
- End pre-conviction asset forfeiture.
- End the drug war. Promote medical treatment, rather than prison sentences for substance abuse
- Law-abiding citizens have the constitutional right to arm themselves to protect their homes and liberties. Permit the carrying of firearms with training and a background check (shall-issue).

Passed: Yes No

Vote 11: State Government Section

Proposed Changes:

State Government

- (Note: bullet point on domestic spying may be added here due to vote 4)
- ~~Initiate comprehensive reform of Maryland's ELIMINATE] executive and legislative processes to eliminate the preferences [FOR] given to special interests.~~
- Establish [AN OBJECTIVE] a nonpartisan redistricting process [TO END GERRYMANDERING.] ~~that stops politicians from choosing who votes for them. (Note: previous second sentence may be removed due to vote 5).~~
- Decentralize government in Maryland. Politicians should respect the right of local communities to govern themselves ~~and not micromanage every aspect of peoples' lives. Political decisions should be made at the lowest feasible level to~~ encourage civic participation and account for regional differences.
- End exclusionary ballot access laws to foster a strong and vibrant democratic process.
- Eliminate unfunded mandates on local jurisdictions.

Clean Copy if Changes Accepted:

State Government

(Note: bullet point on domestic spying may be added here due to vote 4)

- Eliminate preferences for special interests.
- Establish an objective redistricting process to end gerrymandering. (Note: previous second sentence may be removed due to vote 5).
- Decentralize government in Maryland. Politicians should respect the right of local communities to govern themselves to encourage civic participation and account for regional differences.
- End exclusionary ballot access laws to foster a strong and vibrant democratic process.
- Eliminate unfunded mandates on local jurisdictions.

Passed: Yes No

Vote 12: Property Rights Section

Proposed Changes:

Property Rights

- Forbid government entities from abusing the power of eminent domain in order to transfer private property to privileged individuals.
- Phase out government entities that compete against the private sector, ~~such as the Maryland Economic Development Corporation (MEDCO).~~

Clean Copy if Changes Accepted:

Property Rights

- Forbid government entities from abusing the power of eminent domain in order to transfer private property to privileged individuals.
- Phase out government entities that compete against the private sector.

Passed: Yes No

Vote 13: Land Use, Transportation and the Environment Section

Proposed Changes:

Land Use, Transportation, and the Environment

- Eliminate all subsidies to developers.
- ~~(Note: bullet point on land value taxation may have been deleted here due to vote 6)~~
- Insist on maintaining local control of zoning decisions and limit state zoning mandates on local jurisdictions.
- End the bipartisan practice of raiding the Transportation Trust Fund for non-transportation projects, which increases traffic gridlock.
- Promote free market environmentalism to promote conservation and environmental protection. Prevent pollution and increase environmental awareness by making polluters pay for ~~their irresponsibility~~ [ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE] through civil liability. *(also, switch order of sentences)*

Clean Copy if Changes Accepted:

Land Use, Transportation, and the Environment

- Eliminate all subsidies to developers.
- ~~(Note: bullet point on land value taxation may have been deleted here due to vote 6)~~
- Insist on maintaining local control of zoning decisions and limit state zoning mandates on local jurisdictions.
- End the bipartisan practice of raiding the Transportation Trust Fund for non-transportation projects, which increases traffic gridlock.
- Promote free market environmentalism to promote conservation and environmental protection. Prevent pollution and increase environmental awareness by making polluters pay for environmental damage through civil liability.

Passed: Yes No