

Libertarian Party of Maryland Platform

Preamble

As Marylanders, we share a tradition of independence and personal responsibility. We stand against any government that would tell us how we should live our own lives. We take care of each other and do so voluntarily. We believe the more intrusive our government is, the less liberties we retain.

1.0 Personal Liberty

1.1 Consent

Consent occurs when one person, or group of persons, voluntarily agrees to the proposal of another. No individual, group, or government may initiate force against any other person to seek to attain their values.

1.2 Private Property

Individuals should be free to own and trade property, so long as their choices do not harm or infringe on the rights of others. Eminent domain, civil asset forfeiture, and price controls violate personal property rights. You should be free to choose with whom you trade and on what terms, without government interference.

1.3 Self Defense

Individuals have an inherent right to defend themselves against aggression by any necessary means, including the ownership and use of firearms. We denounce and oppose the violation or infringement of this basic human right through state restrictions, monitoring, registries, and limitations in any capacity whatsoever.

2.0 Civil Liberty

2.1 Freedom of Speech

Marylanders have the freedom to express any opinions without fear of censorship from the government. This includes unpalatable and repugnant speech because the government has no right to prior restraint over what is said on the commons. The remedy for the harmful effects of criminal speech such as incitement, libel, or “shouting fire in a crowded theater” can and must be addressed by after-the-fact prosecution and due process of law.

2.2 Freedom of Movement

Marylanders and visitors have the freedom to travel the state, cross its boundaries, and assemble. The government cannot stop or detain you without just cause of aggressing upon another. The government cannot arbitrarily or indefinitely detain anyone. If an individual is arrested, they must be charged with a crime that has a victim.

2.3 Privacy

We advocate for individual privacy and government transparency. We support the rights recognized by the Fourth Amendment to be secure in our persons, homes, property, and communications.

2.4 Freedom from Interference

Government does not have the right to prevent peaceful persons from earning an honest livelihood. We seek to eliminate government permits and occupational licensure to be replaced with voluntary certification.

3.0 Public Policy

3.1 Localization

In general, we oppose the concentration of power in Annapolis, who is often distant and unaccountable to the citizenry. We favor decisions that do not clearly benefit from statewide uniformity be made at the municipal level, as local leaders and local deliberative bodies are more accessible and accountable to the electorate.

3.2 Taxes and Government Spending

Taxation violates consent and is theft. We call for the elimination of the burden of taxation on Marylanders, as well as a reduction in government spending. Eliminate subsidies and special tax breaks. End public funding and

financing of stadiums, hotels, and other facilities, which are properly private activities. Eliminate unfunded mandates on local jurisdictions.

3.3 Education

Parents should control their children's education, not the government. Government interference and control over homeschooling and private schooling should be eliminated. Insofar as government taxes for education, the money should follow the child, including in cases of homeschooling and private schooling.

3.4 Policing and Drugs

Redirect law enforcement towards crimes against persons and property, rather than victimless crimes. End pre-conviction asset forfeiture. End qualified immunity for police officer misconduct. End the drug war. Promote medical treatment, rather than prison sentences for substance use disorder. Legalize and deregulate all drugs, including natural plants and medicines, such as cannabis and entheogens.

3.5 Elections

Voters should pick their politicians; politicians shouldn't pick their voters. End gerrymandering. Implement ranked choice voting to foster a strong and vibrant democratic process that ensures candidates represent the majority of the electorate.

3.6 Maryland National Guard

The Maryland National Guard should not be deployed for combat outside the state unless there has been a congressional declaration of war.

3.7 Separation of Church and State

The state of Maryland should be neutral with respect to religion, and allow unhindered assembly of church goers on private land. All state laws and municipal ordinances should be secular, that is, they should neither privilege nor disadvantage any particular religion nor prevent the free exercise thereof.

3.8 Jury Nullification

Promote jury nullification to disregard laws that violate the rights of nonviolent individuals. Judges should instruct juries that they have the right to acquit a defendant who violates a law that they deem to be unjust. Individuals should not be punished for promoting jury nullification on public grounds.

3.9 Whenever any form of government becomes destructive of individual liberty, it is the right of the people to alter, abolish, or withdraw from it, and to agree to such new governance, or none, as to them shall seem most likely to protect their liberty.

4.0 Omissions

This platform is a sampling of commonly agreed upon Libertarian positions. The omission of any platform position is not to be construed as tacit rejection or approval by the Libertarian Party of Maryland.

Approved by Central Committee, April 9, 2022