

PROGRAM OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF CALIFORNIA

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As amended in Convention, February 2005

I. FOSTERING QUALITY EDUCATION

Our children deserve the best possible education, as it is they who represent our hope for the future. The combination of market competition and parental choice is the only way to encourage educators to provide the highest quality education for our children. The State of California has historically demonstrated an inability to provide quality education, and has even taken action to violate the personal rights of parents who homeschool their children. Therefore, the Libertarian Party of California supports the following measures to improve education for the children of California.

1. PUBLIC SCHOOL COMPETITION AND OPEN ENROLLMENT

When public schools have to compete for your education dollar, they will provide more caring, quality education for our children.

- ◆ Parents shall have the choice of public schools, anywhere in the state, for their children.
- ◆ Government funding for a child's education shall follow the child.
- ◆ Tax money shall be distributed on a per-pupil basis. Schools shall bill the student's district of residence for a per-pupil fee.
- ◆ Charter schools may be expanded. Local school districts shall issue charters to all qualified applicants with no limit to the number of charters issued.
- ◆ Private schools shall receive contracts to provide quality education.
- ◆ Education regulations shall be regularly reviewed and/or streamlined via the process of sunseting.
- ◆ Teachers shall have autonomy over the portion of their union dues that is allocated to political activities.
- ◆ Parents who choose to homeschool their children shall not be hindered.

2. TAX CREDITS AND DEDUCTIONS FOR NON-GOVERNMENT EDUCATION

- ◆ Parents who send their children to non-government schools or who contribute to scholarship funds or educational savings accounts for non-government schooling shall be granted income and property tax credits, and income tax exclusions, for the secular portions of the children's courses of study at those schools.
- ◆ All funds expended by parents in homeschooling their children shall be eligible for income tax exclusions.

3. EDUCATIONAL SAVINGS ACCOUNTS FOR NON-GOVERNMENT EDUCATION

- ◆ Investments in educational savings accounts for one's children's education at any school shall be eligible for income tax exclusions.
- ◆ All interest, dividends or capital gains in such accounts shall be tax-free.

- ◆ Funds shall be allowed to be withdrawn tax-free from such accounts to pay for the secular portion of one's children's or dependents' course of study at any school.

II. STIMULATING ECONOMIC GROWTH AND CREATING ABUNDANCE

Currently, the State of California is not business-friendly due to high taxes and overly-burdensome regulation. This forces businesses to relocate outside the state, and reduces employment opportunities for Californians. To encourage prosperity for our families and the people of California, the Libertarian Party of California supports the following measures.

1. TAX BURDEN REDUCTION

- ◆ The state income and sales taxes shall be reduced to stimulate consumer spending, thereby creating more jobs and more productivity.
- ◆ The triple taxation that results from corporate income tax, individual income tax on stock dividends, and sales tax shall be eliminated.

2. SAVINGS AND INVESTMENT

Private savings empower individuals and reduce reliance on government, and should be encouraged.

- ◆ So that people could save and invest more of their hard-earned income for retirement, education and recessionary periods, California shall reduce or eliminate taxes on interest, dividends and capital gains.
- ◆ Since people starting businesses create long-term job opportunities and more abundance for everyone, savings for the purpose of starting a business shall be tax-free or deductible from income.

3. REVIEW OF ALL BUSINESS REGULATIONS

- ◆ Private consumer groups and industry associations shall be encouraged to take an active role in monitoring businesses and reporting on practices in lieu of government regulation. All state business and industrial regulations shall be reviewed, amended or repealed to retain only those provisions which materially protect personal safety and the environment.
- ◆ Regulations and licensing laws that unreasonably impede entry into any market or industry shall be amended or repealed.
- ◆ Anti-trust regulations shall be reviewed to determine if they actually improve the competitiveness of the market. Any anti-trust regulation that is not proven to increase competitiveness shall be amended or repealed.

4. STATE SUBSIDIES FOR BUSINESS, REDUCTION AND EVENTUAL ELIMINATION

Ending subsidies will encourage businesses to be more productive because they will not be shielded from market competition.

- ◆ We encourage California to end business subsidies.

- ◆ For every dollar of social welfare that is cut from the state budget, a dollar-for-dollar cut shall be made from business subsidies.
- ◆ All business entities that receive subsidies shall be publicly disclosed.
- ◆ Since taxpayers should not subsidize polluters, government subsidies shall be forfeited for businesses found to be in violation of state environmental laws.

III. INDUCING QUALITY, ACCESSIBLE, AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE

To ensure that all citizens can access adequate, affordable health care, we must remove barriers to a free market and encourage competition. The Libertarian Party of California believes that enabling people to become more self-sufficient and secure will make quality, accessible, affordable health care more available to our families, children, and seniors. Therefore, the Libertarian Party of California supports the following measures to make quality, affordable health care accessible to all citizens.

1. MEDICAL SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

When people have their own independent health plans, they are more secure and less dependent upon their employers. When people have more control over their own health care and are less dependent on third parties, such as their employers, they become empowered to be assertive consumers of health care. This results in more competition that keeps health care affordable and high quality.

- ◆ Health insurance premiums and co-payments shall be eligible for income tax exclusions without limitation.
- ◆ Contributions to Medical Savings Accounts shall be eligible for income tax exclusions without limitation.

2. FLOODING THE MARKET WITH QUALITY, ACCESSIBLE, AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE

The Libertarian Party of California supports the following measures to increase the supply of quality, affordable health care by increasing the supply of medical professionals, facilities and medical non-profit and for-profit organizations.

- ◆ Medical regulations, licensing standards, which unnecessarily or unreasonably impede the supply of health care, shall be amended or repealed.
- ◆ Tax credits, exclusions and above-the-line deductions (without percentage of income limits) for medical education, educational savings accounts, charitable contributions to medical schools, facilities, service providers, medical research and construction of medical facilities shall be created.
- ◆ County governments shall be required to audit their provision of health care services to individuals on government aid programs; proposals for privatized provision of services shall be requested on a contract basis.
- ◆ Exemptions to zoning provisions shall be granted, and permit processes shall be reviewed and streamlined, for construction of medical facilities and schools.

3. PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY COMPETITION FOR PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION

- ◆ Existing patent laws shall be amended to omit the ability to renew patents for proprietary drugs.
- ◆ Pharmaceuticals developed from state-funded research shall be priced to return tax dollars to the citizens.
- ◆ Our Tenth Amendment right to control pharmaceuticals distributed within the state shall be reclaimed and the function of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration shall be reduced to a merely advisory capacity, rather than a licensing authority.

4. ALTERNATIVE MODALITIES OF HEALTH CARE

- ◆ The California State Attorney General shall be directed to protect and defend from federal prosecution patients who use medical marijuana.

IV. DEMANDING GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY

The government has evolved into an entity with its own instinct of self-preservation and expansion. Voters must assert the proper role of government as one that respects and protects the rights of individuals. In addition, the government must be held accountable for the actions it takes, as it is the people whom it ultimately serves.

1. BUDGETS AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

The State of California is facing a scandalous budget deficit for the year 2003 due to the fiscal irresponsibility of legislators.

- ◆ In the event of a state budget deficit, the most recent spending plan that is less than or equal to current projected state revenues shall be used as a preliminary spending plan for the current year.
- ◆ There shall be no salary increases for top-level and managerial state and local government employees during times of budgetary hardship. State legislators shall forfeit their salaries for any period of time during which the passage of a balanced budget is overdue.
- ◆ Perquisites and benefits (including paid holidays, vacation time, CalPERS, medical and dental benefits) provisioned to government employees shall parallel those available in private industry.
- ◆ To prevent undue influence over the democratic process, government unions and associations shall not lobby the legislature or support political candidates, as this right is reserved for the individual.

2. TAXATION

- ◆ Before new taxes and bond measures may be placed on the ballot, a material need shall first be demonstrated.
- ◆ A minimum two-thirds vote requirement shall be instituted for the passage of bonds, tax increases or tax impositions; a majority vote shall be instituted to reduce or eliminate tax burdens.
- ◆ All new tax legislation shall include a sunset provision.

3. VOTING AND ELECTORAL PROCESS

- ◆ If the state chooses to adopt an electronic voting process, it shall be supported by anonymous paper evidence of individual vote results.
- ◆ Instant Runoff Voting shall be implemented to enable the electorate to express its true preferences.

4. MEDICAL MARIJUANA LAWS (PROP. 215), ENFORCEMENT AND DEFENSE

In recent elections, voters have approved the use of medical marijuana, and the State of California has refused to defend the law against federal encroachment. The Attorney General of California is charged with the responsibility to enforce and defend the law as passed by the electorate, and to seek injunctions, as necessary, against federal interference with state law.

5. GOVERNMENT DISCRIMINATION

- ◆ As long as government is licensing marriages, it shall not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation.
- ◆ The state shall decouple the rights and privileges currently accorded to licensed marriages, in favor of private contractual arrangements between consenting individuals.

6. CIVIL CASES

Government fines, civil commitments and prosecutions can be as damaging as criminal prosecution. While in cases of criminal prosecution, the defendant is entitled to representation, no such right exists in civil cases.

To remedy this, in all cases of government civil prosecution, civil commitment, or regulatory fines, the defendant shall be entitled to representation and funding equal to that of the prosecuting agency's, to be paid from the agency's budget.

V. ADDRESSING SOCIAL CONCERNS

People care more than government does. Since charitable organizations have to compete for your money, they have to care enough to do the job well, in order to earn our money. Government can be as uncaring, unresponsive and inefficient as it wants, and still collect your tax dollars. That is why charitable organizations are more effective than government. Therefore, the Libertarian Party of California supports the following measures to address social concerns.

1. USING MONEY MORE EFFECTIVELY

- ◆ Tax credits shall be provided for contributions to charitable organizations that do the same tasks as government health, welfare and human services programs, and also those that provide additional social services.