

Correspondence Report on Platform Committee for April 2013 LPM Newsletter

From Steve Mace 3-22:

To add/amend "State Government" Section I, add Item 11 as follows:

"While recognizing the constitutional right(s) of every individual, the Libertarian Party of Michigan is not engaged, does not condone, nor advocate for the complete elimination and/or eradication of the State and/or State Government -- The Libertarian Party of Michigan promotes a minimal, responsible, transparent and accountable State government, of the People, by the People, for the People."

{End from Steve Mace }

From Jim Fulner 3-7:

Article I. Section 9

Strike the whole thing.

{Begin comments }

A section about Federal Separation of powers has no role in an Article about State Government.

If the committee or the delegates want to put it somewhere else in the platform that would be acceptable.

{end comments }

Article XI Section 1.

Recommend Striking the last line.

"1. The most fundamental property right is an individual's right to own and control his or her own body. All individuals have the right to determine their own health care needs and treatment. Government has no constitutional authority to interfere with the practitioner/patient relationship."

{Begin comments }

This is simply not a true statement. If this were a NATIONAL platform this may be accurate, but as this is the platform of the Libertarian Party of Michigan, the Michigan State Constitution clearly states in Article IV § 51 that the state government does have authority to interfere with such if and only if it is for the protection and promotion of public health.

Whether or not the above is adopted Recommend adding this to the end of the section:

{end comments }

Article XI Section 1.

"Exercise of this right does not remove the moral obligations not to violate the rights of others. We recognize the state, when it exists, has a duty to protect the rights of others, particularly those in society whom are the most vulnerable, including: the very old, the

very young, and the mentally handicapped. The state, where it exists, does have a duty to protect the life of all individuals, from conception to natural death, and should prosecute those who utilize force or fraud to end life."

{Begin comments}

I believe this wording would allow us to reach out to the vast number of Michiganders who are libertarian in nearly every way, but are turned off by the Libertarian Party due to a perceived notation that we are pro-abortion. This still reserves the rights of individuals to make their own health choices, and promotes the libertarian ideal that the state has duty only to protect rights and prosecute force and fraud, not to be used to regulate individual's choices.

{End comments}

{End from Jim Fulner}

From Scotty Boman 2-3:

The idea of replacing LPM planks with national planks is superfluous and redundant. If it is decided that the national plank is sufficient, and inclusion of alternative Michigan language is not needed, then simply striking the plank from the state platform is good enough.

Please note the following clause is a long-standing part of the platform:

XIII. INCLUSION

The Libertarian Party of Michigan ratifies and hereby includes in this document the platform of the national Libertarian Party.

As a related (though different) note, I think the less the state platform says about abortion, the better. I have found this to be as much a liability as an asset to candidates and the party. Unlike other controversial issues, this one is a matter of contention between principled libertarians who are well-grounded in the non-aggression principal. Given the 98% of the issues such libertarians agree on, including a position on abortion in the platform serves to invalidate the convictions of the libertarians who have the opposite view.

Our candidates should be free to clearly make this issue their own and not feel impeded by a platform. The inclusion clause along-side the national platform already gets in the way, but putting it into the state platform would be even worse.

I am not a big tent Libertarian when it comes to being soft on some popular statist policies to make us seem less extreme, but I do support a big enough tent for sincere libertarians to unite under so they may take on the cult of the omnipotent state.

{End from Scotty Boman}

From Chris Sharer 1-28:

1. Strike plank XII from our platform and replace it with plank 3.7 from the national party platform. The passages follow:

LPM - "XII. SECESSION We recognize the right to political secession. Exercise of this right, like the exercise of all other rights, does not remove legal and moral obligations not to violate the rights of others."

LP of the US - "3.7 Self-Determination. Whenever any form of government becomes destructive of individual liberty, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to agree to such new governance as to them shall seem most likely to protect their liberty."

2. Add plank 1.4 from the national party platform to the LPM platform. The passage reads:

"1.4 Abortion Recognizing that abortion is a sensitive issue and that people can hold good-faith views on all sides, we believe that government should be kept out of the matter, leaving the question to each person for their conscientious consideration."
{End from Chris Sharer}