

(Presented to)

2020 Convention of the Libertarian Party of Georgia

TITLE: Resolution on the End to Prohibition of Cannabis and Cannabis Products

PURPOSE: To present a libertarian solution to the problems associated with government prohibition and criminalization of cannabis and to move the discussion of marijuana “legalization” in a libertarian direction

STATEMENT: In these waning days of federal prohibition, cannabis reform has been dominated by demands to “tax and regulate.” Legalization schemes advanced by the Democrat and Republican majorities (limited dispensary licenses, medical card programs, special taxation, and other variations) generate new powers and revenues for the state without addressing the fundamental injustices of prohibition. The Libertarian position is to remove all restrictions and criminal penalties for cultivation, sale, and use of the cannabis plant and related products.

RESOLUTION:

Whereas tens of thousands of individuals are persecuted each year for the production, distribution and possession of marijuana and other cannabis products;

Whereas such persecution results in the loss of property and liberty either directly to the state or in peripheral ways;

Whereas many of those tens of thousands are locked in prisons, separated from their families, lose their livelihood and/or a substantial source of income and often their futures as productive individuals as well as many other individual rights;

Whereas the mainstream cannabis “legalization” movement has proposed only “solutions” to this problem which maintain criminalization of cannabis, which create and fund additional government agencies and which seek to balance the governments' budgets and fund its boondoggles on the backs of cannabis producers, distributors and users;

Whereas the mainstream cannabis “legalization” movement has not addressed the repair needed to the lives of those who have suffered from persecution;

Whereas a libertarian solution to the prohibition of cannabis would be to allow

consenting individuals to produce, distribute and possess marijuana and other cannabis related products completely without government interference;

Whereas the Libertarian Party's national platform and the platform of the Libertarian Party of Georgia each call for the repeal of all laws creating crimes without victims, including the use of drugs for medicinal or recreational purposes;

Whereas a (more or less) libertarian solution to the prohibition of cannabis was proposed to the Texas state legislature in 2015 by conservative Christian Republican state legislator David Simpson and was passed out of committee by a bi-partisan vote of Democrats and Republicans;

Whereas a libertarian solution has substantial support on the street and even among large numbers of the individuals involved in the mainstream “legalization” movement, despite the “official” positions of the organizations; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the assembled delegates of the Libertarian Party of Georgia, meeting in convention,

1. condemn the past and continued persecution of individuals for engaging in non-violent behavior, specifically for producing, distributing and/or possessing marijuana and other cannabis products;
2. condemn the confiscation of property and the restrictions on liberty as a result of those persecutions;
3. strongly condemn government actions in locking individuals in jails and prisons and destroying their families, their lives and their futures through such persecutions;
4. reject the “regulate and tax” schemes of the mainstream marijuana “legalization” movement and advocate for government policies which avoid the expansion and extension of government interference;
5. advocate for actions which will begin to repair the lives of those ruined through those persecutions, specifically actions which will remove any record of arrests and/or convictions for production, distribution and possession of cannabis and related products from the criminal records of everyone arrested and/or convicted and will effect the immediate and unconditional release of anyone currently in jail or prison as a result of such arrests and/or convictions;
6. advocate for actions to remove any government interference in the production, distribution and possession of cannabis and any related products;
7. urge the Executive Committee of the Libertarian Party of Georgia to create a committee to draft legislation, and recruit legislative sponsors for such legislation, to begin to implement these policies at the state level, specifically to remove the word “cannabis” and all

related terms from the Georgia criminal code and to exonerate and expunge the records of all people who have been arrested and convicted of cannabis related “offenses”;

8. urge the Libertarian National Committee of the Libertarian Party of the USA to do the same with respect to the federal government and further to adopt a legislative template to be made available to state LP affiliates for drafting libertarian legislative proposals in the several states;
9. urge Libertarian Party activists at all levels of LP membership to advocate for a libertarian solution to cannabis prohibition in discussions about cannabis legalization;
10. urge the Libertarian Party of the USA and the Libertarian Party of Georgia to seek allies among other political parties and among the mainstream, and non-mainstream, cannabis legalization and individual rights advocacy movements to advocate legislatively and among the public at large for these policies.