

2019 Platform & Issues

PREAMBLE

As Kentuckians, we share a tradition of independence and personal responsibility, and we stand against any government that would tell us how we should live our lives. We take care of each other, and we do so voluntarily. We believe in freedom, and we believe that the more government we have, the less free we are.

Personal Liberty

Individuals are inherently free to make choices for themselves and must accept responsibility for the consequences of the choices they make. Our support of an individual's right to make choices in life does not mean that we necessarily approve or disapprove of those choices. No individual, group, or government may rightly initiate force against any other individual, group, or government. Libertarians believe rights only belong to the individual.

Self-Ownership

Our most fundamental belief is that individuals own their bodies and have rights over them that other individuals, groups, and governments may not violate. Individuals have the freedom and responsibility to decide what they knowingly and voluntarily consume, and what risks they accept to their own health, finances, safety, or life. On this, our platform is built.

Drugs and Alcohol

Today: Since 1971, the United States government has been at "war" with drugs. There has been a "war" on alcohol for even longer. This has stifled our liberties, which are intended to protect us from the government. In actuality, there has not been a "war on drugs and alcohol", but a war on individuals' behavior. As we saw with alcohol prohibition between 1920-1933, the "war on drugs" leads to a violence and encourages a criminal element, which very destructive to society.

Tomorrow: We believe that the government should let individuals transact with others voluntarily when and how they see fit, even when it is self destructive, and that we should not have the state intervening to protect us from ourselves. We call for the full legalization of all drugs, as well as alcohol, their use, distribution, and their manufacture. Given that we believe that if there isn't a victim, a crime hasn't been committed a crime against one's self is not a crime at all. That being said, crimes committed concurrently, that do have a victim, should be prosecuted appropriately.

Due Process

Today: The US Constitution states that "no State shall deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law"; yet property is commonly seized from citizens with no charge, trial, or any semblance of due process. This is commonly known as civil

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asset forfeiture, where the police or the courts can and do seize property without charge or trial.

Tomorrow: Like with many other issues, we need to return to the principles laid out in the United States Constitution. To deprive anyone of any property, liberty, or even their life, due process (which means being charged with a crime based on evidence, then a trial by jury), is an absolute necessity to prevent arbitrary confiscation of property and violation of liberties of the innocent, policing for profit, and tyranny.

Transparency and Accountability

Today: Kentucky is one of the most corrupt states in the nation. Meetings that should be public are done in secret. Government officials engage in violations of the law that are ignored, or their fines and settlements are paid by the people.

Tomorrow: Fines and penalties from the misconduct of politicians should not be paid by taxpayers. Kentucky must adhere to the 1976 Open Records Act (KRS 61.870). We call the create of a website with a searchable database with all applicable meetings, and record available on demand, free of charge. The government exists to protect individual rights, not to act as a permanent ruling class. No government official, elected or appointed, can be exempted from any law or regulation. If the law is unjust, it needs to be repealed.

Agriculture

Today: Kentucky farmers face many government restrictions on their free trade which unnecessarily raise costs for both producer and consumer. "Food safety" laws, many of which are arbitrary and/or were written by lobbyists have created a market that favors factory farms over smaller family farms, distorting the market without actually making food safer at all.

Tomorrow: We seek to remove these obstacles and permit farmers and consumers to engage in trade at terms of their own choosing.