

## Faith in Government

A key difference between Libertarians and others is that Libertarians have little faith in government to do what is right.

## The Libertarian Party

The Libertarian Party (LP) was created in 1971 because politicians had strayed from the original libertarian foundation for the United States, with disastrous consequences.

The purpose was consistent with intentions of the U.S.'s founders: to establish a society in which individuals are free to follow their own interests and to pursue happiness and prosperity in their own way.

LP policy positions reflect what is known as classical liberalism.

The LP recently adopted the porcupine as an important symbol: they are friendly but armed and ready for defense against aggressors.



## Natural Rights

The Libertarian Party is the only political party whose credo explicitly includes respect for your rights as a unique individual.

The party platform is based on the moral principle of self-ownership: Each person has the natural or, if you prefer, God-given right to control their body, speech, behavior, and property, to the extent that others are not harmed.

Libertarians want a social system with a limited government that allows all people to live, work, play, love, and hope in their own way.

No political philosophy will prevail without compromise, cooperation, tolerance and sharing. But matters can be much better if Libertarians influence the political system, so it has a stronger emphasis on personal and economic freedom.

# What is Libertarian?



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## Peace

Libertarians prefer non-violent means to address disagreements. Consider the Libertarian Party pledge: *I hereby certify that I do not believe in or advocate initiation of force for social or political purposes.*

Unfortunately, there is too little peace in the world partly because of 1) poor governance in many countries, 2) U.S. foreign policy and 3) a U.S. military that is used for purposes other than for defense.

To preserve peace the U.S. should maintain 1) a strong military for defense against attack by foreign enemies and not for foreign adventurism and 2) domestic policing that is less militarized.

The oversized U.S. military is expensive and too big for *defense*. Plus, military intervention in other countries — often for dubious reasons — adversely affects many people's lives.

## Tolerance

A peaceful world requires tolerance of other people's beliefs and behavior, to the extent that those beliefs and behavior do not reduce the freedom and safety of others.

## Prosperity

Libertarians have high regard for free enterprise, markets and entrepreneurship because they lead to the most prosperity for the most people.

Government should enable prosperity, not provide or guarantee it. So, people should be free to pursue prosperity in any way that does not infringe on the rights of others and that does not include fraud or use of force.

Government that is right sized allows people to keep more of their hard-earned wages and profit from their businesses. That because smaller government means less government spending and thus less taxation.

Government that is right sized does not encumber businesses with onerous rules and regulations.

Government should avoid all forms of special treatment and "winner picking" for businesses including subsidies, special tax treatment and special rules/regulations. All businesses and industries should be treated the same.

## Pursuit of Happiness

Although it is not the role of government to provide happiness, government should seek circumstances that best enable peoples' pursuit of happiness

Happiness comes in many forms. So, government should not forbid behavior as people pursue happiness in their own unique way, unless the behavior clearly harms, endangers or negatively affects other people's freedom.

## Personal Responsibility

Consistent with a desire for more limited government; personal responsibility is an important cornerstone of a free society. Afterall, the more people depend on government the more government can ask of and take from the people.

Ideally government enables people to be responsible for their own well-being. Arguably, government takes on too many responsibilities and prerogatives related to people's well-being. Of course, more limited government leaves more for people, thus enabling personal responsibility.