

Libertarian Viewpoint

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Imagine a BETTER AMERICA

Imagine an America where a healthy free-market economy creates a rising tide of prosperity, helping the disadvantaged lead better lives.

Imagine an America where children have access to a broad spectrum of world-class educational opportunities. Where schools spark the imagination and teach the fundamentals — consistent with your values.

Imagine an America where politicians don't dole out billions of tax dollars to wealthy companies like General Motors, AT&T, and Exxon. Where the rich never get richer with your tax money.

Is that the kind of America you want to live in?

Imagine an America where police work, swiftly and fairly, to protect your family from violent criminals — instead of arresting people whose "crimes" harm no one but themselves.

Imagine an America where the worst polluters — who dump radioactive waste in drinking water and sewage in national parks — are brought to justice for their crimes. And are forced to clean up their environmental devastation.

Beacon of freedom

Imagine an America that is respected around the world as a beacon of opportunity and freedom, instead of being seen as meddling and arrogant.

Are those values you share?

Imagine an America where the government can't decide what personal decisions you are allowed to make, which books you can read, or what you can do with your property.

Imagine an America where tolerance is a way of life, and where no one uses the power of government to discriminate against — or show favoritism to — any racial, ethnic, or religious group.

Imagine an America where the federal government is small and effective — because its activities are limited to the few functions the Constitution says it should perform. And where power is decentralized, not concentrated in the hands of a few politicians.

Imagine *that* kind of better America.



■ **Imagine an America where children have access to a broad spectrum of world-class educational opportunities. Where schools spark the imagination and teach the fundamentals — consistent with the values most important to your family.**

Now, imagine a political party that is working to accomplish those goals.

That party is the Libertarian Party.

That's our vision of the kind of America we want to live in.

That's the kind of nation we're working to build.

There's a common theme running through our vision of a better America. In every case, Libertarians want to put choice and responsibility back into *your* hands.

No matter the issue, we ask one question: Who decides? Should

you make the decisions that are important to your life? Or should politicians make them for you?

Our answer is clear: We say you have the right...and the responsibility.

Better choices

Why? Because it's your life, liberty, and happiness that are at stake. And because we recognize that you can make important choices about your life, your money, your family, and your business *better* than the government can.

In other words, we respect the

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independence of every American.

Given this approach, how do Libertarians strike a balance between the rights of the individual and the powers of government?

We understand that in a free society, government is supposed to protect our rights — and keep us secure from the threat of assault, theft, civil injustice, and foreign attack.

The Declaration of Independence makes that clear. All people, it says, "are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness..."

To secure those rights, it

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AMERICA...

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continues, "Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed..."

Note what comes first: Your unalienable rights. The government follows.

Today, that equation has been reversed. Too frequently, the government comes first. And our "unalienable rights" come second. Or not at all.

Libertarians are working to change that. In fact, we have some bold, innovative ideas about

how to start building a better America.

In this newspaper, you'll find an overview of how we would address some current political issues. In a brief publication like this, we can't touch on every issue, or cover any issue in depth. So think of this as a starting point. A way to see how Libertarians approach problems.

We don't claim to have all the answers.

But we do have a vision of a better America. We invite you to share it.

Ending CORPORATE WELFARE and Waste GOVERNMENT

It's time to kick Ronald McDonald off welfare.

The red-haired clown is the mascot for McDonalds—the fast-food corporation that runs 30,000 restaurants in 121 countries and earns \$40 billion a year in revenue.

But even as McDonalds rakes in massive profits, it's also cashing welfare checks from the government. A few years ago, politicians gave the corporation \$1.6 million to help it advertise Big Macs in Europe.

It was part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Market Access Program, which takes taxpayers' money and funnels it to wealthy corporations in the name of "promoting" American products.

McDonalds isn't the only corporation that gets taxpayers' money. In recent years, politicians doled out \$300,000 to Campbell's Soup, \$1.4 billion to IBM, \$4.9 million to the Ernest & Julio Gallo winery, \$671 million to General Electric, and \$3 million to the

California Raisin Board.

It's called corporate welfare, and it's how Democratic and Republican politicians enrich their big-business friends — at taxpayers' expense.

The cost is staggering. All told, there are more than 100 corporate welfare programs on the books, costing taxpayers \$87 billion per year. And corporate welfare is just the tip of the government waste iceberg.

Libertarians want to turn off the Washington, DC money spigot, which enriches multi-billion dollar corporations at the expense of working people. Here's what we would do first:

■ **End all direct federal business handouts, subsidized**



■ **On the government gravy train: In recent years, politicians doled out \$300,000 to Campbell's Soup, \$1.4 billion to IBM, \$4.9 million to the Ernest & Julio Gallo winery, \$671 million to General Electric, and \$3 million to the California Raisin Board.**

loans, and industry research programs. Ending the Export-Import Bank's corporate loan program would save \$800 million per year. Abolishing the Overseas Private Investment Corporation would save \$50 million. Scrapping the Market Access Program would save over \$80 million. If McDonalds thinks it can make a profit by selling Big Macs to Europeans, let it do so without taxpayers' dollars.

■ **Return the federal government to its limited, Constitutional functions,** which would allow us to slash the federal bureaucracy and eliminate wasteful programs. Since layers of federal administration have proliferated in recent decades, abuse and unaccountability have become the norm.

In his book, *The Government Racket: 2000 and Beyond*, Martin L. Gross estimates that the government wastes about \$375 billion per year. A smaller, more focused government would have fewer opportunities to squander our money.

FACT FILE

Wealthy people who receive farm subsidies from the federal government:

- Billionaire David Rockefeller.
- Former U.S. Senator Bob Dole.
- Billionaire Charles Schwab.
- Chicago Bulls star Scottie Pippen.
- TV anchorman Sam Donaldson.
- Billionaire Ted Turner.

Why? Because they all own farms or ranches. And because "the handouts are based not on need but on acreage," wrote Paul Jacob in *Common Sense* [July 1, 2002].

"And who owns the most acres? People with money. It isn't right. But as long as politicians continue to benefit from dishing out corporate welfare, you and I are going to keep footing the bill."

Delivering WORLD- CLASS EDUCATION

St. Adalbert School scores a "zero" in categories parents care most about.

Zero gangs. Zero drugs. Zero pregnancies. Zero violence. Zero guards. Zero metal detectors.

What's its secret? It's not the location: St. Adalbert School is situated right in the heart of inner-city Cleveland. And it's not sky-high tuition fees. Tuition at St. Adalbert is only \$975 per year; which covers about half the total cost per student. By comparison, the average cost-per-student in public schools is \$6,857.

Yet, St. Adalbert School outscores government-run schools in almost every category. Including crucial areas like school violence where "zero" is the best possible score.

What's the secret? It's simple: St. Adalbert School is not run by the government.

So, it either produces a good "product" (that is, educated students), or its "customers" (parents) go somewhere else.

Compare this to government schools. The *worse* they do, the more money politicians pour into the system. For example, American high school SAT scores fell by an average of 50 points between 1970 and 1995. During the same time, federal education spending nearly doubled from \$19 billion to \$35 billion.

In other words, private schools are rewarded when they succeed. But government schools are rewarded even when they fail.

Libertarians don't think we're getting our money's worth from the government-run school system. To begin restoring full control and responsibility to parents so that every child has

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EDUCATION...

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the opportunity to get a good education, we will:

■ **Enact a dollar-for-dollar tax credit** for any individual (or company) who pays for a child's education. Such a program in Arizona allows taxpayers to donate up to \$500 for scholarships and get that money back, dollar for dollar, at tax filing time. The program has raised \$32 million since 1997, and funded more than 19,000 scholarships — 80% for children from "financially needy" families. Nationally, such a program will allow parents to buy the educational services that are best for their children.

■ **Get the federal government out of education**, which would return decision-making and money to states, communities, and parents. Since 1980, more than \$550 billion has been routed through federal bureaucrats in the Department of Education. Their principal contribution to your child's

education: More regulations. The federal government only accounts for about 6% of all education spending, but one-third of all regulations. More regulations don't improve education. But putting more money — and choices — in the hands of parents would help guarantee that America truly "leaves no child behind."

QUOTE

"The Libertarian Party is a political party gaining momentum. It seeks reform — not power."

— *The Sentinel-Tribune*
(Bowling Green, Ohio),
May 17, 1999



■ **It's time for innovative thinking to reform education in America. Libertarians would enact a dollar-for-dollar tax credit for any individual (or company) who pays for a child's education. Such a program in Arizona allows taxpayers to donate up to \$500 for scholarships and get that money back, dollar for dollar, at tax filing time. The program has raised \$32 million since 1997, and funded more than 19,000 scholarships — 80% for children from "financially needy" families. Nationally, such a program could allow parents to buy the educational services that are best for their children.**

Keeping Americans SAFE from CRIME

In January 2000, a 29-year-old woman in Sequim, Washington heard a muffled sound, reported the *Peninsula Daily News*.

She was at home with her young children on a late Sunday night. She heard the noise again. It sounded like someone was inside the house. She didn't pause. She called 911. Whispering, she informed the police about the break-in. She then awoke her children and hurried them into her bedroom.

Next, she took out her 9mm pistol. With her children behind her, she pointed it at the door of her bedroom. When the intruder stepped through the doorway, the business end of that pistol was pointing at him. He spun around and fled before she could fire.

When the police arrived later, she was safe. Her children were safe. A privately-owned firearm had foiled another potential robbery, or rape, or murder. That

incident in Sequim, Washington was a vivid illustration of one reason why Libertarians support the right to keep and bear arms. The more citizens who have the opportunity to own a gun, the safer we all are.

Statistics bear this out. According to a study by John Lott and David Mustard at the University of Chicago, the 31 states with concealed carry laws (which allow law-abiding citizens to carry a

FACT FILE

Every year, 2.5 million Americans use guns to protect themselves or their families. That works out to five lives protected by guns per minute.

weapon), saw their murder rates fall 8.5% faster than states without such laws. If such right-to-carry laws were in effect all across the USA, there would be 1,600 fewer murders every year.

Over the past decade, crime rates have been falling. Even so, tens of millions of Americans (one of

every four households) are victimized by criminals each year. That's too many victims. To reduce the crime rate, Libertarians will:

■ **Protect the right to self-defense.** Americans use guns approximately 2.5 million times a year to stop crime — in most cases without firing a shot. It works. For example, law-abiding citizens in Florida have been able to carry concealed weapons since 1987. During that time, the murder rate in Florida declined more than 20% faster than the national rate.

■ **Get tough on real crime.** We support swift and certain justice for those guilty of committing crimes of violence, theft, or fraud against others. But, unfortunately, police spend billions of dollars a year to arrest people for victimless crimes like drug use, gambling, and prostitution. As a result, our prisons are filled beyond their capacity, often forcing the early release of violent felons. Police resources should be redirected to focus on criminals who prey on innocent Americans — not people who commit "crimes" that harm no one but themselves.

Protecting OUR ENVIRONMENT

There's an environmental villain loose in America.

This criminal has leaked radioactive waste into drinking water, dumped sewage into national parks, poured PCBs into rivers and contaminated at least 61,155 sites around the USA.

Who is this environmental villain? Is it Exxon? DuPont? General Motors?

No. It's the federal government. According to the *Boston Globe*, the federal government has become "the worst polluter in the land."

Experts say the cost of cleaning up the damage done by federal agencies and the military could exceed \$300 billion. That's

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■ **Libertarians don't trust the government to always show proper care and respect for the environment. So, they're willing to take action themselves. For example, in 2001, Massachusetts Libertarian Ilana Freedman started the Liberty Land Trust, a non-profit organization, to buy land and "preserve it in its natural state."**

ENVIRONMENT...

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five times the cost of environmental harm done by all private businesses combined.

Even more chilling, many federal agencies are exempt from environmental laws; individual bureaucrats are immune from criminal prosecution; and Congress even passed a law that protects the military from having to pay environmental fines.

As a result, the *Boston Globe* noted, the federal government "has a license to pollute."

If you've never heard about these violations, you're not alone. Environmental activists like to criticize private companies, while pretending that only government can "save" us from polluters.

Libertarians know better. We want our families to be able to drink clean water and breathe clean air. And we know that trusting the environmental scofflaws in the federal government to make that happen is like trusting a fox to guard the hen house.

Here's what Libertarians will do to promote a cleaner, healthier environment:

■ **Make government officials personally liable for the**

FACT FILE

Governments already own 900 million acres — 40% or more — of the total land area of the United States. Nearly 200 million acres are designated as "wilderness," off-limits to humans. More than 50 bills have been introduced in Congress to expand the wilderness area, and another 50 bills are now being considered to authorize more land acquisition by governments.

— Henry Lamb
Environment & Climate News
August 2002

environmental damage they do. We can no longer afford to turn a blind eye as the government poisons America's lakes, lands, and skies. Government officials should pay a price if they endanger our health with radiation, chemicals, and other toxins.

■ **Repeal taxes and regulations that discourage free-market environmentalism.**

Already, individuals and community groups have made enormous progress in protecting endangered species. For example, the American Bison Association helped increase the number of bison from only 25 a century ago to over 100,000 today — with 90% of them living on private land. By reducing taxes and regulations, America can encourage more entrepreneurial environmentalism.

■ **Make polluters pay for their crimes.** When corporations act irresponsibly — by dumping

QUOTE

"The Libertarian Party is the feistiest, most opinionated, most high-minded party in the political universe."

— Barry Farber
Talk America Radio Network
January 19, 2000

poisons on others' property or by risking people's health with toxins — they should face strict civil liability. This is already the case in some other countries, where common-law statutes protect not just private property, but also rivers and streams. In the United Kingdom, the English Anglers Cooperative Association defends fishing rights by suing upstream polluters who damage fish stocks. It's a more efficient solution than "one size fits all" government regulations.

Ending the DESTRUCTIVE WAR on DRUGS

In 1997, Charles Manson, America's most notorious convicted mass murderer, was caught dealing drugs in California's Corcoran State Prison. Locked in a steel cage, watched by armed guards, and subject to random drug testing and strip searches, Manson was still able to build a flourishing narcotics business.

It makes you wonder: If the government can't even keep drugs out of prison, how can it keep them out of an entire nation?

The simple answer: *It can't.*

Not for lack of effort. In 2001, the federal government spent \$18 billion fighting the War on Drugs. More than 19,000 state and local police officers work full-time on drug cases. Despite all this money and firepower, 82% of high school seniors say getting marijuana is "fairly" or "very" easy — a number that hasn't budged in 20 years.

But the War on Drugs isn't just a failure. It's also a threat to your safety.

In 2000, for example, 734,497 Americans were arrested on marijuana-related charges. That

FACT FILE

Today, African-Americans make up nearly two-thirds of those sent to state prison for drug offenses, according to Human Rights Watch. This despite the fact that white drug users outnumber African-Americans by more than five to one. In 1996, African-Americans were 33 times more likely to go to jail for drug offenses than whites; African-American youths were 55 times more likely than whites to be sent to adult prisons for drug offenses.

— Jill Soffiyah Elijah, *Boston Globe*, October 13, 2002

same year, only 625,243 violent criminals were arrested for murder, rape, robbery, or aggravated assault, according to FBI figures. In other words, the War on Drugs is making your family less safe because police spend their time arresting marijuana smokers instead of apprehending brutal thugs.

Libertarians don't claim that ending the War on Drugs will solve every problem. Some people will always make bad choices about drugs, whether legal or illegal. But the War on Drugs isn't working. It's time for America to declare a Drug Peace. To begin this process, we will:

■ **End federal prosecution of medical marijuana patients.** Seven states have made it legal to

use marijuana (recommended by a doctor) to treat glaucoma, curb chemotherapy nausea, and improve AIDS patients' appetites. But the federal government continues to arrest AIDS and cancer victims for the "crime" of trying to save their own lives. Arresting sick and dying people is inhumane. It must stop.

■ **Repeal federal drug laws, beginning with those against marijuana.** States should be able to adopt alternatives to today's punitive drug laws without encountering heavy-handed interference from Washington. The War on Drugs has failed. It's time to repeal federal drug laws and take the problem out of the hands of federal politicians. It's not a perfect solution to America's drug problem — but it's a step in the right direction.

Lifting AMERICANS out of POVERTY

In 1996, JoAnne Cornwell decided to open an African hair-braiding service in San Diego. Cornwell, an African-American, had learned a unique technique of African hair-braiding from her grandmother. She wanted to use her skill — and her love of her African heritage — to start a new business.

California bureaucrats had other ideas.

The state's Department of Consumer Affairs brusquely informed Cornwell that she would have to attend 1,600 hours of schooling at a cost of \$5,000 to obtain a cosmetology license from the state. This was the law, even though African hair-braiding was not taught in cosmetology classes.

Cornwell was lucky. She found a public interest law firm willing to help her. After two years in court, she finally won the right to open her hair-braiding shop. Others aren't so lucky.

A myriad of regulations, licensing requirements, taxes, and fees keep thousands of poor Americans from starting small businesses and lifting themselves and their families out of poverty.

Since President Lyndon Johnson declared a "War on Poverty" in the mid-1960s, the U.S. government has spent \$5.4 trillion on programs to help the poor. Despite this outpouring of cash, the official poverty rate has been stubbornly stuck at about 14% for the last 40 years. However well intentioned these programs may have been, they failed in their most fundamental task: To lift Americans out of poverty.

The Libertarian Party knows it is time for a new approach to fighting poverty, based on opportunity, work, and individual responsibility. We will:

■ **Tear down barriers to work and job creation.** A job is always better than a welfare program. Yet, to start a business, you need a battery of lawyers to deal with an alphabet soup of government agencies: OSHA, EPA, FTC, and so



■ **Since the mid-1960s, the U.S. government has spent \$5.4 trillion on poverty programs.**

on. Zoning and licensing laws also throw up barriers to starting a business. It's time to repeal any government regulation or tax that cuts the bottom rungs off the economic ladder, and makes it more difficult for poor people to find jobs and start businesses.

■ **Establish a dollar-for-dollar tax credit for contributions to private charity.** Americans are the most generous people on earth, contributing more than \$125 billion annually to charity. We'd give even more if the government offered dollar-for-dollar tax credits for contributions to charities that provide social-welfare services. For every dollar you contribute to effective groups like Habitat for Humanity and the Red Cross, you would be able to deduct a dollar from your tax bill.

■ **End failed federal welfare programs.** Vibrant, compassionate private charity works better than ponderous government bureaucracies. Private charities are more likely to offer counseling and one-

FACT FILE

Once, when working in Texas in a parish, I was asked by the pastor to manage the parish's outreach to the poor.

It was a simple program, consisting of organizing the collection of food, clothing, and money from the parishioners and getting to know the people who came to us in their need. The program was completely voluntary, from beginning to end.

I recall getting a phone call one day from a lady who had three children and whose husband had left them in their trailer home in a remote suburb of Austin. She wondered if we could help them with some food.

"Yes, of course," I replied. "What do the kids like?"

"They love pork and beans," she said. Because her husband took the car when he left, she asked if it would be possible for us to bring the groceries to her.

I got the directions and arranged with a colleague to take the food out to the family. When we arrived, we placed the boxes of food in the kitchen and I proceeded to go outside and play catch with the kids, who seemed delighted to interact with a male visitor who was not yelling at them.

When I came in to bid the lady a good evening, she was sitting on the kitchen stool crying. In her hand was a 39¢ can of pork and beans that she had taken out of one of the boxes.

The beleaguered and abandoned mother was overwhelmed with gratitude for the kindness of people she had never met, but who cared for her family's well-being. It was not the material subsidy that touched this woman and her family so deeply; rather, it was the concern of a community.

No governmental program, no matter how generous, could even begin to meet the deepest human needs for love and truth.

— Rev. Robert A. Sirico, *Acton Notes*, September 2002

on-one follow-up rather than simply mailing a check. And private charity tends to provide short-term emergency assistance, rather than long-term depen-

dence. Thus, private charity provides a safety net, but not a way of life — and helps break the cycle of welfare dependency and hopelessness.

Ensuring RETIREMENT SECURITY

Who wants to retire as a millionaire? You would have the opportunity to do so — if you were allowed to opt out of the Social Security system, and invest your money in a private retirement account.

Now, you don't have that choice. By law, the government collects Social Security taxes — 12.4% from every employee and employer combined — and pours it into a system that is headed for

economic collapse.

Even the Social Security Board of Trustees admits this. According to the board, the Social Security system will start running a deficit by 2016. By 2032, the so-called

QUOTE

"You have to respect Libertarians for their respect of principle and ideas."

— *Newsday* (New York),
October 20, 1998

Social Security Trust Fund will be depleted, and the system will be insolvent.

Fortunately, there's a better way. Instead of relying on a bankrupt government system, we could allow individual Americans to control their own retirement accounts. Under such a system, average wage-earners could retire in comfort and security, with more than \$1 million in the bank.

Sound too good to be true? The Cato Institute crunched the numbers. Over the past 70 years, Wall Street investments have returned an average of 7% a year (after inflation). By contrast, Social Security pays an average family a paltry 1.2% annual return. Over the years, thanks to compound interest, the difference between those two numbers adds up to staggering amounts of money.

For example, a typical single wage-earner with an income of \$36,000 could accumulate \$1.2 million in a stock-invested pension fund by retirement, according to the Cato Institute. That would pay an annual retirement income of \$124,000. Under Social Security, such a wage-earner would get one-fifth as much: \$24,000 per year.

Other countries like Chile, Mexico, Britain, and Australia have already made the transition from failing social security systems to secure individual retirement accounts. Libertarians say it's time to follow their lead. We will:

■ **Move America toward a private, nongovernment retirement system.** It would not only solve the problem of a sputtering Social Security system, but it would help create a nation of millionaires. And, most importantly, it would mean you and your family would no longer have to depend on politicians' promises for a secure retirement.



■ Libertarians want to make sure all voters understand how Libertarian proposals can help them. Shown here, Bruce White talks to a senior citizen during his 2001 campaign for Kent city council in Washington state. With 59% of the vote, White beat a two-term incumbent to win a seat on the council.

Defending AMERICA *against* FOREIGN THREATS

The September 11 terrorist attack was a national tragedy that cost 3,062 people their lives. But it was also an opportunity for our nation to thoughtfully reexamine its foreign policy, in order to reduce the likelihood of future attacks.

Of course, there is no guarantee that evil will not strike again. However, a foreign policy that limits our intervention in the quarrels of other nations will reduce the chance that terrorists will ever again target America.

FACT FILE

In 1821, Secretary of State John Quincy Adams declared that this country “goes not abroad in search of monsters to destroy.” Now, however, it seems that doing so, by means of aggressive “pre-emptive” attacks, is to be the government’s official policy.

If the American people accede to this policy, we will suffer the fate that Adams feared would ensue. The maxims of [U.S.] policy would change from liberty to force.

— Robert Higgs
The Lighthouse
August 12, 2002

Friendship, non-intervention, and free trade with all nations is a time-honored prescription for an America that is at peace with the world. Unfortunately, that is not a policy most Democratic and Republican politicians have supported.

The U.S. currently has troops deployed in 144 nations and territories around the world. In most cases, our deployment has nothing to do with national security. American troops were sent to dig wells in Haiti, supervise a cease-fire in Morocco, and renovate schools in Belize.

Over the last decade, the U.S. has sent troops into numerous war zones. In 1993, we dispatched 16,000 troops on a “temporary” mission to end ethnic warfare in

Bosnia. In 1994, we sent 20,000 troops to “ensure 18 democracy” in Haiti. In 1999, we launched a bombing campaign in Kosovo to “end genocide.”

Libertarians know there is a better way. We understand that America must be a fully engaged participant in the world economy — but should not interfere in the affairs of other nations.

Such a foreign policy would enable us to maintain a strong, vigilant defense while significantly reducing our military spending. To achieve this, we will:

■ **Withdraw American troops from foreign nations** (unless those troops are directly responding to an attack against the United States by a foreign power). We could start with the wealthy nations of western Europe, where about 100,000 American troops are stationed.

■ **Remove barriers to trade.** International trade is good for consumers, business, and American workers, since nearly 20% of our economy is now fueled by trade with other nations. By contrast, trade restrictions like tariffs and quotas reduce our standard of living, and cost Americans at least \$70 billion per year.

There’s another benefit to trade: Nations that trade with each other rarely go to war — since commerce promotes cooperation, cross-cultural exchanges, and economic benefits. That’s why the United States should take the lead in removing barriers to trade.

QUOTE

“The Democrat/Republican Consortium views government as Big Doctor, Big Cop, Big Teacher, Big Daddy, and Big Brother. Libertarians cherish smaller government, as did the Founding Fathers.”

— David Brudnoy
The Boston Globe
September 7, 2002

Making HEALTH CARE SAFE and AFFORDABLE

In June 2000, World Wrestling Entertainment star Val Venis traveled to the United States to get hip surgery. A Canadian citizen by birth, the buff, 250-pound WWF wrestler was entitled to “free” health care in his home country.

But like thousands of other Canadians every year — some estimate tens of thousands — Venis crossed the border to get the prompt, high-quality health care he could only find in the United States.

In Canada, he explained, he would have to wait months (or even years) for the “non-critical” surgery that would allow him to walk again without pain. And many Canadian hospitals don’t have the state-of-the-art equipment their U.S. counterparts do. So Venis chose to pay for his surgery, rather than settle for slow, questionable care in Canada.

Unfortunately, Republican and Democratic politicians don’t seem to have the same grasp of medicine and economics that professional wrestler Val Venis does. Through regulations and mandates, they are trying to mimic Canada’s failed system. In doing so, they are damaging what was once the best health care system in the world.

As recently as the 1960s, low-cost health insurance was available to virtually everyone in America — including people with existing medical problems. Doctors made house calls. A hospital stay cost only a few days’ pay. And charity hospitals were available to take care of families who couldn’t afford to pay for health care.

Then the federal government

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■ **A sick system:** Today, more than 50% of all healthcare dollars are spent by the government. Health insurance costs are skyrocketing. And government health programs are heading for bankruptcy.

FIXING HEALTH CARE...

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moved in — with Medicare, Medicaid, the HMO Act, and tens of thousands of regulations on doctors, hospitals, and health-insurance companies. Medicare regulations alone run more than 100,000 pages.

Today, more than 50% of all healthcare dollars are spent by the government. Health insurance costs are skyrocketing. And government health programs are heading for bankruptcy.

Rather than roll back the government obstacles to affordable health care, politicians continue to pile on more regulations.

However, the Libertarian Party knows the only health care reforms that will make a real difference are those that draw on the strength of the free market. We will:

■ **Establish Medical Savings Accounts.** Under this program, you could deposit tax-free money into a Medical Savings Account (MSA), in the same way that you currently save money in an IRA. Whenever you needed money to pay medical bills, you could withdraw it. And for individuals without an MSA, Libertarians

FACT FILE

According to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), getting a new drug approved costs a pharmaceutical company \$300 million on average, and can take as long as 10 years.

This not only boosts the price of drugs, but it keeps potentially life-saving medicines off the market. As a result, patients suffer and die.

Take the case of Propranolol. In 1968, the FDA approved this drug, but, for almost a decade, refused to allow it to be used for angina or hypertension.

A study by Arthur D. Little, Inc. estimated that roughly 10,000 Americans died for lack of the drug each year the FDA prevented doctors from prescribing it.

would make all health care expenditures 100% tax deductible.

■ **Deregulate the health care industry.** We should repeal all government policies that increase

health costs and decrease the availability of medical services. For example, every state has laws that mandate coverage of specific disabilities and diseases. These laws reduce consumer choice and increase the cost of health insurance. Surveys show that the high price of health insurance is the major reason why small businesses don't offer health benefits to employees. By making insurance more expensive, mandated benefits increase the number of uninsured.

■ **Remove barriers to safe, affordable medicines.** We should replace harmful government agencies like the Food & Drug Administration (FDA) with more agile free-market alternatives. The mission of the FDA is to protect us from unsafe medicines. In fact, the FDA has driven up health care costs and deprived millions of Americans of desperately needed treatments. For example, during the 10-year delay in approving propranolol (a heart medication that treats angina and hypertension), approximately 100,000 people died who could have been treated with this one lifesaving drug. Bureaucratic roadblocks should not kill sick Americans.

FACT FILE

How are Libertarians different from Republicans or Democrats?

Libertarians believe Americans have the right to live their lives as they wish, without the government interfering — as long as they don't violate the rights of others. Politically, this means Libertarians favor rolling back the size and cost of government and eliminating laws that stifle the economy and control people's personal choices.

Does that mean that Libertarians are conservative? No — unlike conservatives or liberals, Libertarians advocate a high degree of *both* personal and economic liberty. You might think of it this way: Libertarians “borrow” from both sides of the traditional political spectrum to come up with a logical whole.

For example, Libertarians agree with conservatives on the need for economic freedom; in favor of reducing taxes, less regulation of business, and *charitable* — rather than government — welfare.

But Libertarians agree with liberals on freedom and tolerance in personal matters; in favor of people's right to choose their own personal habits and lifestyles.

If there's a problem, the first question a Libertarian asks is not: “How can government solve it?” Instead, Libertarians ask: “What government program *caused* this problem to begin with, and what government program must be eliminated to fix it?”

Does the Libertarian Party have a chance to succeed? Consider:

- In the last presidential election, 90 million eligible voters didn't bother to go to the polls.
- Only one in four Americans trust their government to do what's right most of the time, according to a *Washington Post* poll.
- A poll by Maricopa Research about life in the next century found that more Americans think we will be able to beam people back and forth like they do in *Star Trek* (31%) than think we will be able to end the political corruption of Republicans and Democrats (15%).

Here's the good news: Although many Americans have given up on this government, they haven't given up on making positive changes via the political system — more than 60% want to see a new political party.

The question is, what kind of new party are they demanding?

Whatever it is, it's nothing like either of the two older parties. Most surveys show that nearly half of the American electorate is registered as neither a Democrat nor a Republican.

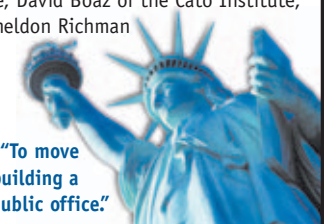
And more and more Americans are demanding a smaller, less intrusive government — which is why the most likely candidate for that new major political party is the Libertarian Party.

LibertarianViewpoint

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The Libertarian Party's Mission Statement: “To move public policy in a libertarian direction by building a political party that elects Libertarians to public office.”



Reducing AMERICANS' TAX BURDEN

How would you like to purchase a new \$23,000 Ford Taurus for only \$12,650? That's the price you would pay, if the government didn't tax every product you buy, at every stage of its production, reports Americans for Tax Reform (ATR).

According to an ATR study, hidden taxes significantly boost — by as much as 26% to 75% — the price of every consumer product you buy.

That's because the federal, state, county, and local governments don't just slap a sales tax on a product when you buy it. They also tax that product during every step of its production and distribution.

The accumulated tax burden is staggering. For example, the government hits Ford with at least 20 different taxes when it builds a Taurus. That includes federal, state, and local income taxes for employees; workmen's compensation and unemployment taxes; state and local property taxes; energy taxes; and gas, tire, truck, and highway taxes to get the car to the dealer's showroom.

The bottom line: It costs only \$12,650 to manufacture a car, including the dealer's profit. But you pay \$23,000. The difference — a whopping \$10,350 — is pocketed by the government.

It doesn't stop with cars. Taxes account for 28% of the price of a restaurant meal; 75% of the cost of a pack of cigarettes; 43% of the cost of beer; 40% of the cost of an airline ticket; 31% of the cost of a loaf of bread; and 54% of the cost of gasoline.

These "hidden" taxes — along with state and federal income taxes — are the reason why the average American family now pays 42% of their income in taxes. That's more than they pay for food, clothing, shelter and transportation — combined.

Today, the average American wage-earner works 117 days a year just to pay his or her taxes.



Only Libertarians are willing to say that taxes are shamefully high. And only the Libertarian Party has a specific plan to slash your taxes. We will:

- **Return the federal government to its limited, Constitutional functions.** If government's role were limited to protecting our lives, rights, and property, then it would be small and effective — instead of the unwieldy, inefficient, bloated conglomerate it has become. And, instead of relying on distant Washington, DC politicians and bureaucrats to try to solve every problem, we'd be able to return power to states, local communities, and individuals.

- **Repeal the income tax and abolish the IRS.** As we implement Libertarian-style reforms, the federal government will become far smaller and much less expensive. We'd be able to phase out the income tax and allow every American to keep his or her income.

What would you do with that extra money? Would you start your own business? Buy high-quality health care? Put your child in a better school? Increase your donations to your church or favorite charity? Invest more in your retirement account? In a Libertarian America, the choice would be up to you.

FACT FILE

Ask the president or any congressman: How much debt does the federal government owe? Nine will get you 10 that they'll tell you that it's \$3.5 trillion. If they had just a tad of sophistication or honesty, they might add intragovernmental debt that'd bring the "total debt" to slightly more than \$6 trillion.

[In fact], as of 2001, the accumulated federal obligations are \$12.9 trillion for Social Security and \$16.9 trillion for Medicare. Combined with the public and intragovernmental debt, the total federal debt burden is an unimaginable \$35 trillion. That amounts to roughly \$120,000 for every man, woman and child in America.

— Walter Williams
TownHall.com, July 3, 2002

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Working for a BETTER AMERICA

Earlier, we asked you to imagine a better America. You've just read a brief outline of how Libertarians would start to build that better America. Perhaps you share our vision. Perhaps yours is a little different.

But do you agree that government has gotten too big, too costly, and too intrusive? That government's role should be limited to securing our rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness? That the government should be "bound by the chains of the Constitution," in Thomas Jefferson's immortal words?

If so, we are allies in a great cause: Building a more prosperous, more safe, more civil, more free nation.

There isn't a single path toward that goal. And, of course, government has spent decades growing in size, power, cost, and intrusiveness. That growth can't be reversed overnight. But it's critical we begin the process now.

That's why Libertarian Party

members are working to elect candidates who are committed to moving public policy in the direction of liberty.

We need your help. The more individuals who share our vision, the faster we can work to build a nation that respects American traditions of limited government, individual freedom, and personal responsibility.

We invite you to join us. Become a Libertarian Party member. Make a contribution. Volunteer to help one of our state or local parties. Work to help elect a Libertarian candidate. Run for office yourself. Whatever you do will be appreciated.

Working together, we can turn our vision of a better America into reality.

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