

The Importance of Tolerance

A peaceful world requires tolerance of others' beliefs and behavior to the extent that those beliefs and behavior do not infringe on the freedom, safety, and well-being of others.

The need for tolerance is especially keen given



the widening chasm between people on different sides of the culture wars. If you disagree with other people's behavior, then the libertarian response is that you should not engage in that behavior.

Pursuit of Happiness

Although it is not the role of government to *provide* happiness, government should 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
a) clearly harms or endangers others or
b) infringes on other people's freedom.

Natural Rights

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

The party's 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 a) other people are not harmed and b) others' freedom is not negatively affected.

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

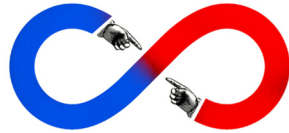
No political philosophy will prevail without compromise, cooperation, tolerance and sharing. But matters can be much better if Libertarians influence the political system so it has a stronger emphasis on personal and economic freedom.

Culture Wars



Abortion

One of libertarians' foundational beliefs is self-ownership. So, libertarians believe in women's right to self-autonomy as well as the right to life for a baby. Unfortunately, regarding abortion these rights collide.



While libertarianism does not provide a concrete resolution to the central disagreement – where life, and therefore, where rights begin – it does provide insight regarding how to rationalize the issue: Rights for all people should be protected.

Libertarians' positions span the spectrum from pro-choice to pro-life and includes evictionism (i.e., a fetus may be “evicted” from the woman's body, but all efforts to save its life must be made).* Those positions coexist within the Libertarian Party, as there are good faith arguments for each.

Of course, there is no mention of abortion in the Constitution. So, consistent with the Tenth Amendment, the recent Dobbs versus Jackson Women's Health Organization decision by the Supreme Court, states were given the prerogative to confer the right.

*See mereliberty.com/lci/evictionism-walter-block-abortion/

Religion

Religion is a private matter that should play no role in politics or governance, except to protect religious freedom.

Contraception

Government should have no role – regarding people's access to and use of contraceptives – based on religious or any other beliefs.

Race Relations

Libertarians tend to believe that immigration is a net positive given the many ways that immigrants make our society richer and more diverse.

A core libertarian belief is that government should always err on the side of freedom. Government should not use force to limit people's freedom to protest peacefully.

And who can blame people of color for peaceful protests related to, for example, police excesses, “driving while black,” lingering effects of slavery and Jim Crow laws, effects of the ineffective and unfair drugs war, vilification of immigrants and significant mistreatment of native Americans?



Education

Government should not exclude any age-appropriate topics from education curricula and should not “ban” any books from school libraries as culture warriors want.

Marriage Equality and LGBTQ Rights

Consistent with the equal protection clause in the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, libertarians believe that people must be treated equally without regard to sexual orientation, marriage status, or where their spouse is on the gender spectrum.

Libertarians believe that government should not have any role in marriage or gender identity matters including gender affirmation treatment, same gender marriage, adoptions, special tax treatment for married persons, marriage licenses, spousal Social Security, and voluntary polygamy.

Most certainly, consistent with the libertarian non-aggression principle**, government should not be authorized to discriminate against LGBTQ people.

**LP member pledge: *I oppose the initiation of force to achieve political or social goals.*