

# 2024 LPWI Convention

April 12-14 – Madison, WI



Platform Plank Submissions

# 1

## Self-Ownership, Freedom, and Responsibility

*Author: Tyler Danke*

### New Plank

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, provided those choices do not violate the rights of others.

# 2

## Freedom of Religion

*Author: Tyler Danke*

### New Plank

We defend the rights of individuals to engage or not engage in any religious activities which do not violate the rights of others. In order to defend religious freedoms, we advocate a strict separation of church and state. We oppose government actions which define, aid, or attack any religion or religious membership. We oppose taxation of church property for the same reason we oppose all taxation.

Legislative, regulatory, or judicial decisions about what is a crime must not discriminate on the basis of religious belief or membership. No religious test must ever be required to assert the right to act in a way that does not violate the rights of others, and similarly there must be no religious exemption from responsibility for actions which violate the rights of others.

# 3

## The Community

*Author: Tyler Danke*

### New Plank

Current problems in such areas as energy, pollution, health care delivery, decaying cities, and poverty are not solved, but are primarily caused, by government. The welfare and protection state, supposedly designed to aid the poor and protect the public, is in reality a growing and parasitic burden on all productive people, and injures, rather than benefits, the poor themselves, while violating the rights of peaceful persons to be free to keep the fruits of their labors and to trade freely.

**New Plank**

We believe that every individual has a natural and unalienable right to food and to acquire food for that individual's own nourishment and sustenance by hunting, gathering, foraging, farming, fishing or gardening or by barter, trade or purchase from sources of that individual's own choosing, and every individual is fully responsible for the exercise of this right.

Current plank "Agriculture" to be changed to "Food Freedom and Agriculture" and read as follows:

We believe that every individual has a natural and unalienable right to food and to acquire food for that individual's own nourishment and sustenance by hunting, gathering, foraging, farming, fishing or gardening or by barter, trade or purchase from sources of that individual's own choosing, and every individual is fully responsible for the exercise of this right.

We advocate a free, dynamic agriculture market with every possible and desirable crop being produced and sold using any method that meets with the approval of the buying public that does not spread external harm. Private sector labeling must be allowed to replace government-mandated labeling — consumers will be better served with competitive certification and labels and the ability to reject products whose labeling fails to meet their personal standards. Private individuals or corporations must bear full responsibility for damages they inflict on their neighbors with unwanted externalities including pesticides, herbicides, and genetic modifications.

## Change to Existing Plank

### **The existing plank “Environment” which reads:**

A clean environment is in everyone’s interest. Our legal system should protect public and private property from pollution. The right of property owners to prosecute any polluter under trespass, nuisance, and negligence laws should be reinstated. It follows that bureaucracies should not be allowed to harass alleged environmental violators or restrict their direct access to just treatment under the judicial system.

### **would be replaced by this submitted text:**

Good stewardship of our natural world is best accomplished through a system of voluntary exchange with a clear definition and enforcement of property rights and responsibilities. Through market-based incentives, private property owners and conservation groups can maintain natural resources, protect the environment, and make restitution to injured parties where damages are proven and quantified through legal procedures. Pollution of air, water, and land violates people's rights to their lives and property, since harm to health or property due to pollution is as real as harm due to assault or theft.

Therefore, we support:

- a. The ability of private individuals and organizations to acquire natural resources for the purpose of conservation, provided they do not violate individual rights in the process.
- b. The use of private deed restrictions to conserve natural resources.
- c. The transfer of all currently unowned and government-owned property, including waterways and airspace, to private ownership.
- d. An extension of the laws governing torts, such as trespass and nuisance, to include substantial damage caused by air, water, soil, radiation, and noise pollution.
- e. The abolition of the Environmental Protection Agency and similar state agencies and a return of all questions related to violations of the rights to life and property to the jurisdiction of the courts.
- f. Holding property owners fully liable for damages caused when they pollute.
- g. Holding governments legally responsible for being major contributors to pollution.

In addition, we oppose:

- a. Government-mandated conservation and laws that control or regulate the use, development, sale, or production of resources – e.g., land, minerals, and woodlands.
- b. Laws providing for governmental protection of endangered species – private wildlife and conservancy groups should assume responsibility for such efforts.
- c. Laws mandating the recycling of waste products, imposing anti-litter taxes or bottle deposits, and offering government loans to finance recycling plants.
- d. The creation of governmental funds, backed by the taxing power, to finance pollution clean-up.

## Change to Existing Plank

### The existing plank "Taxes" which reads:

We advocate phasing out taxes on incomes, personal property, and real property, along with corresponding decreases in the size of government. We advocate phasing out taxes on corporations and businesses.

### would be renamed "Taxation" and the text would read:

Taxation is theft.

Since we believe that all persons are entitled to keep the fruits of their labor, we oppose all government activity that consists of the forcible collection of money or goods from individuals in violation of their individual rights.

Specifically, we:

- a. recognize the right of any individual to challenge the payment of taxes on moral, religious, legal, or constitutional grounds;
- b. support the repeal of the Sixteenth Amendment and the elimination of the Internal Revenue Service;
- c. oppose any increase in existing tax rates and the imposition of any new taxes;
- d. support reductions in existing tax rates;
- e. oppose all taxation, including but not limited to, property, personal income, corporate income, capital gains, inheritance, sales, use, and value-added (VAT) taxes; and
- f. support a declaration of unconditional pardon or amnesty for all those individuals who have been convicted of, or who now stand accused of, tax resistance.

As an interim measure, all criminal and civil sanctions against tax evasion must be terminated immediately including, but not limited to, imprisonment and asset forfeiture.

We oppose as involuntary servitude any legal requirements forcing employers or business owners to serve as de facto tax collectors for federal, state, or local tax agencies.

We oppose any and all increases in the rate of taxation or categories of taxpayers, including the elimination of deductions, exemptions, or credits in the spurious name of "fairness," "simplicity," or alleged "neutrality to the free market." No tax can ever be fair, simple, or neutral to the free market.

# 7

## Juries

*Author: Tyler Danke*

### **New Plank**

We advocate replacing mandatory jury duty with voluntary juries and private arbitration.

We support the Fully Informed Jury Amendment, which would require judges to inform juries of their traditional right to decide the rightness or wrongness of the law in the given case, as well as the guilt or innocence of a person relative to the law.

# 8

## Foreign Policy

*Author: James Rohrer*

### **New Plank**

Libertarians believe that war is justified only in defense. Therefore, we support the following.

1. Maintenance of a sufficient military to defend the United States against aggression with no intention of using those forces to engage in conflicts where the USA is not directly threatened.
2. Reducing the number of military bases located in other countries.
3. Avoiding entangling alliances.
4. Refusing to conduct proxy wars against our adversaries.
5. Strongly encouraging peace negotiations to end present and future wars as soon as possible to avoid further loss of life and economic damage.
6. Strictly limiting the quantity and cost of weapons and munitions supplied to other nations at the expense of the US taxpayer.
7. Rejecting the goal of being the world's supreme military superpower.

## Change to Existing Plank

### The existing plank "Education" which reads:

Since private education is today outperforming public education at half the cost, we call for the phase out of all state and federal involvement in education. We therefore endorse "School Choice".

### would be replaced with the following text:

#### 1.1 Responsibility For The Education Of Wisconsin Youths

The responsibility for educating the youth of this state is the responsibility of the parent(s)/guardians(s) of said youth. We endorse the elimination of the US Department of Education and the WI Department of Public Instruction. We further endorse the elimination of mandatory school attendance beyond the 6th grade.

We recognize local school boards and the citizens who reside within those school districts as the sole authority for determining the best curriculum for their children. We therefore endorse the elimination of all state and national government mandates to local school boards with regards to curriculum.

#### 1.2 Failure Of The Public Education System

Since public education in the state of Wisconsin is being outperformed by private education providers at far-less cost, we endorse the concept of "School Choice".

#### 1.3 Funding of Education

We recognize that education requires funding, however we believe that funding needs to be user-based, not tax-based. We therefore endorse the complete elimination of taxation at the local, state, and federal levels. We endorse the local implementation of "fee for service" as the primary source of funding. Further, we endorse the concept of voluntary contributions by private sources to supplement basic education and expand curriculum choices based upon local need.

#### 1.4 Higher Education

We recognize the role of advanced education (beyond local basic education) is necessary to the personal growth of our youth, the improvement of the quality of life for the citizens of Wisconsin, and the healthy growth of economic opportunities within our communities and state. We oppose the use of taxes to support higher education.

We support the concept of use-based fees, institutional fund raising, private donations, alumni contributions, and private enterprise to fund higher education. We endorse the elimination of all taxes

used to support higher educational institutions. We endorse the elimination of the state-wide university system and the elimination of the UW Chancellor and Board of Regents positions. We support the complete privatization of higher education.

**New Plank**

We defend the rights of individuals to unrestricted freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and the right of individuals to unfettered expression. Language that is deemed offensive is not a cause for legal action. The possibility that some listeners may become disorderly and commit criminal acts is not a valid excuse for censorship. We oppose government-imposed or subsidized speech codes as well as laws against "hate speech."

Freedom of conscience holds that individuals reserve the right to remain silent in any circumstance.

Governments should not force anyone to speak, either by torture or any other means. Any attempt to threaten or force someone to speak involuntarily is a serious abridgement of individual rights and human dignity.

We recognize that freedom of expression is possible only as part of a system of full property rights and recognize that freedom of communication does not extend to the use of other people's property to promote one's ideas without the voluntary consent of the owners. We oppose government ownership, control, funding, and subsidization of any communications organization or medium.

**New Plank**

Who or how many somebody loves is none of the government's business. Government must acknowledge the right of all consenting adults to form marriages without regard to gender, sexual preference, blood relationship, or number of parties.

We support separation of marriage and state. Government marriage license regimes were introduced as tools of control like any other license, and therefore we call for their immediate abolition. No free individual should be expected to obtain a "permission slip" from the state in order to marry.

Those who want to formally define their relationship should do so by contract – either one of their own devising or, if they prefer some "traditional" arrangement, by making use of a standard contract offered by an institution of their choice. With respect to control and disposition of financial assets, married people can also make use of the same kinds of shared ownership options used by unmarried people.

To implement these principles, we advocate recognition in law of marriage contracts, repeal of all other marriage and marriage dissolution laws, removal of provisions that make "community property" the default, and repeal of all alimony laws.



## Change to Existing Plank

### **The existing plank “Health Care” with the text:**

We believe the problems with our current health care system are due to government interference and mandates and that any government program to “provide” health care to some at the expense of others will most certainly reduce the overall quality, responsiveness, and individuality of health care for everyone. It would also reduce the influx of the most talented people our society has to offer into the medical profession and diminish the exemplary worldwide progress and leadership our medical system has demonstrated. For these reasons, we advocate the free enterprise system as the only system capable of making quality, affordable, individualized medical care available to all.

### **would be replaced by the following text:**

We advocate a complete separation of medicine from the state. Accordingly, we support a free market health care system and oppose government mandates in insurance and healthcare. We recognize the freedom of individuals to determine the services they want (if any) and all other aspects of their medical care.

We advocate replacing compulsory or tax supported plans to supply health services or insurance with voluntarily supported efforts. We also oppose government-imposed insurance mandates for employers, and tax and other incentives to link medical coverage to employment, which distorts the market for health insurance, making it essentially a tool of government policy. This discourages individual or mutual group insurance purchases and job mobility for workers, and hinders companies' ability to grow and to employ workers in full time positions, which hurts both employers and employees.

We oppose expansion of existing tax supported plans to cover more people, including any form of "Medicare for All". We oppose any government restriction or funding of private medical or scientific research. We support the reduction or elimination of state granted drug patent monopolies and protectionist government bans on medication imports, which hurt patients, especially the poor, by prohibiting manufacturing and importation of less expensive pharmaceuticals, resulting in astronomically inflated prices.

We oppose all Certificate-of-Need laws. Such laws only limit access, degrade quality, and increase costs. In a free-market healthcare system, consumers (not state regulatory mechanisms) will decide how many hospitals are needed in a particular region, how many beds are needed at healthcare facilities, and will never obstruct ambulatory services entering a market.

## Change to Existing Plank

### **The existing plank “Transportation” which reads:**

We support the maximum possible privatization of all publicly owned transportation systems and therefore oppose the creation of any new publicly funded or managed transportation systems.

### **would be replaced by the following text:**

The transportation industry must not be treated differently from any other industry, and must be governed by free markets and held to strict liability.

We call for the privatization of airports, air traffic control systems, railroads, rail passenger services, seaports, canals, and all public roads.

We advocate an immediate end to government regulation of private transit organizations and to government favors to the transportation industry. We advocate an immediate end to all government subsidies related to transportation.

We support the immediate repeal of all laws restricting and regulating transit competition such as the granting of taxicab and bus monopolies.

We support the immediate repeal of any regulation or prohibition of ride-share transportation services such as Uber and Lyft.

We urge immediate deregulation of the trucking industry.

We call for the repeal of the Merchant Marine Act of 1920 which restricts the carriage of goods or passengers between United States ports to US-built and flagged vessels.

# 14

## The War on Drugs

*Author: Tyler Danke*

### New Plank

The so-called "War on Drugs" is in reality a war on people. We deplore the suffering that drug misuse has brought about; however, drug prohibition is more dangerous than drugs themselves and comes with a staggering cost in both money and human lives. The War on Drugs is a grave threat to individual liberty, to domestic order, and to peace in the world; furthermore, it has provided a rationale by which the power of the state has been expanded to restrict greatly our right to privacy and to be secure in our homes. Therefore, we call for a complete end to the War on Drugs.

While we do not advocate drug misuse, we are in favor of alternative solutions that do not increase the power of the state. We favor the elimination of the Marihuana Tax Act of 1937, the Controlled Substances Act, and all other laws establishing criminal or civil penalties for the use of drugs, and the abolition of bureaucracies like the Drug Enforcement Agency.

Alcohol fits the definition of a drug just as much as any other drug, legal or illegal, but gets a free pass and is widely promoted, sold, and consumed. Big Alcohol, in bed with Big Government, not only shuts out competition from other drugs but makes government inconsistent and hypocritical as to who gets locked into a cage for their choice of recreational substances.

Many states have recently legalized recreational marijuana. However it is heavily regulated and highly taxed. Some sales at marijuana stores are ultimately taxed over 70%. So now marijuana is being relied upon to support the same governments which label it as a "gateway drug". The fact that marijuana is now legal in some situations but illegal in other situations, within the same state, makes it very hard for users to navigate the system legally – another reason why we favor the elimination of all laws establishing criminal or civil penalties for the use of drugs. We advocate the total and swift repeal of all taxes and regulations associated with these substances for the same reasons we oppose taxes and regulations on all other goods and services.

# 15

## Sexual Rights

*Author: Tyler Danke*

### New Plank

Consenting individuals have the right to private choice in sexual activity.

We support the repeal of all laws and policies which are intended to condemn, affirm, encourage, or deny sexual lifestyles or any attitudes about such lifestyles. Further, we oppose any government attempts to dictate, prohibit, control, or encourage any private lifestyle, living arrangement, or contractual relationship.

We support the repeal of all laws prohibiting or regulating sex work including prostitution, whether practiced by individuals or in the form of businesses such as those operating brothels, massage parlors, or other facilities.