

Libertarian Party of Allen County, Indiana – County Platform

Vision Statement

We believe in governmental fiscal responsibility at all levels. We believe that the citizens of Allen County should be allowed to live their lives with minimal governmental intrusion, so long as the individual is not harming someone else.

We believe that small business is the backbone of any community, including Allen County. We hold that governmental intrusion into business practices should be reduced to minimum levels while allowing the free market to guide business practices.

We support the Constitution of the United States with all of the rights and protections granted by this, the highest law in the land.

We support the passage of laws that promote individual responsibility and would seek to repeal those laws that remove from the citizenry their responsibility to lead their own lives as they see fit. As such, we hold to the following Platform regarding the specific topics on the next page.

Platform Summary

Crime: Law enforcement should focus on crimes that harm another person and/or another person's property.

Absolute Presumption of Innocence: No person shall suffer loss of property until proven guilty in a court of law.

Eminent Domain: Property ownership is nearly absolute. While we recognize that the Constitution allows the use of Eminent Domain we believe that property taken should never be put to commercial or private use.

Fiscal Responsibility & Taxation: Government should show greater resistance to taxing and spending than currently exists.

Protection of Civil Liberties: The greatest job of our Government to protect the liberties guaranteed under the Constitution of the United States.

Small Business: We understand that it is the small businesses of our community that create the greatest amount of job growth, thus contributing to the overall well being of our community.

Education: We believe that the education of our citizens is of critical importance to our community.

Crime & Punishment

Crime:

We acknowledge that Law Enforcement has limited resources. As such, we want to redirect Law Enforcement's limited resources away from victimless crimes such as seat belt violations and instead focus these resources on:

- Crimes of violence against people such as: murder, rape, child molestation, assault, battery, etc.
- Crimes of violence against property such as: theft, vandalism, etc.

Absolute Presumption Of Innocence:

We understand the judicial system needs to be able to compel citizens to appear before judicial proceedings. However we hold that no further restrictions should be placed upon citizens, such as:

- Loss of residence. There should be no forced evictions of individuals who have been accused of committing a crime. As all Americans are innocent until proven guilty by a court of law, eviction proceedings should only begin after a person has been found guilty of a crime.
- Loss of employment and/or employability.
- No governmental seizure of property unless/until proof of guilt has been made by a court of law except as may be needed for evidentiary use.

Government Operation

Eminent Domain:

We understand the government's occasional need to compel private citizens to sell their property for public use. This power is granted under the Fourth Amendment of the Constitution. We believe that in case after case, government has abused this authority. We propose the following limitations be placed upon the local government:

- Property seized will be used only for public use. The whole of the property seized must go to public use, not just a section.
- The government must state exactly what the property will be used for in a written document to be filed publicly. If it cannot be used for what the government stated within 365 days of seizure, or at the very least construction starts on the stated project, then it must revert to the previous owner, allowing that owner to keep whatever consideration received from the initial governmental purchase.
- The governmental body affecting the use of eminent domain must already have acquired funding for the stated project.
- The property or any subsection thereof taken by eminent domain cannot be sold to any private group or organization for 25 years after the property was forcibly taken from a private citizen or business.
- Eliminate the use of "blight" as a rationale for using eminent domain to seize private property.
- Eminent Domain should only be used by officials elected by the public.
- When eminent domain is legitimately used, the person or business should be reimbursed for the cost of the real property purchased plus all other costs incurred by a move.

Fiscal Responsibility & Taxation:

We believe that the government spends too much money. Bonds are issued too frequently and the people of Fort Wayne and Allen County pay too much of their taxpayer dollars towards the interest on existing bonds.

- We propose that no new bonds be issued or granted until previous bonds are paid off OR an emergency demands such spending.
- We believe that when elected officials make a promise they should keep it. The citizens of Allen County were told that the Food and Beverage Tax (aka Restaurant Tax) would be temporary and used to serve one specific goal. That has not happened. Therefore the Food and Beverage Tax must be repealed immediately to return honesty and respectability to local government.
- We support the elimination of government programs that do not show themselves to be economically viable.

Protection of Civil Liberties:

We believe that it is the responsibility of government to restrain and resist any infringement on Liberties granted under our social and legal system from any source.

As such it is incumbent upon local government to challenge and/or resist laws that infringe upon the liberties of local citizens.

Community

Small Business:

We believe that all efforts must be made to support and assist the small businesses of our community. Small businesses are vital to our economic health. We therefore support:

- Helping small businesses grow by removing local governmental rules and regulations that impede small business growth or expansion.
- Tax incentives should be given to all businesses equally irregardless of size. Government needs to make greater effort at due diligence when offering incentives.
- The lowering of all taxes in our area to ease the burden on businesses so they can better contribute to the economic health and well being of our community.
- The simplification of those rules necessary so as to allow small businesses to start and grow in our community.
- The abolishment of personal property tax for businesses in Allen County.
- Each business owner should have the right to determine whether they allow smoking or not.

Education:

We believe that education is of critical importance to helping an individual secure a better job and greater versatility in the job market. We therefore support:

- Increasing the quality of teachers in our educational system.
- Decreasing the ratio of students to teachers.
- Schools need to be held accountable both to the parents of the children attending and to all taxpayers.

- We support the rights of parents to make the best educational choices for their children.

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