



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**AT 2016 PRESIDENTIAL CONVENTION, PRO-CHOICE LIBERTARIANS FIGHT TO
KEEP ABORTION PLANK IN LIBERTARIAN PARTY PLATFORM**

From May 26 til 30, 2016 the national Libertarian Party (lp.org) is holding its presidential nominating convention in Orlando, Florida. Pro-Choice Libertarians are fighting to keep the abortion plank in the party's platform - and thus save the party's reputation as a party that stands up for individual liberty, self-determination, private property and limited government.

Heated platform discussions are expected on the floor Friday afternoon and/or Saturday morning. Pro-choice activists organizing with leaflets and buttons will be available to media.

Of the 18 announced presidential candidates, two leading candidates, Governor Gary Johnson and entrepreneur John McAfee, are pro-choice candidates, as is Vice-Presidential candidate Governor William Weld. Activist Austin Petersen supports states outlawing abortion. See our "2016 Race" chart of all candidates' positions at our website.

Most libertarians believe that state imposed compulsory pregnancy is slavery. Now that so many Republican-led states are passing laws to restrict abortion services and shut down clinics, women increasingly are turning to dangerous self-induced abortion or terminating pregnancies much later because of the financial burden of traveling to other states for abortions.

However, after years of badgering by abortion prohibitionists, as well as party "reformists" who want to appeal to disgruntled Republicans, the LP has whittled down its formerly strong pro-choice platform plank. It now reads: "*Recognizing that abortion is a sensitive issue and that people can hold good-faith views on all sides, we believe that government should be kept out of the matter, leaving the question to each person for their conscientious consideration.*" In 2012 even that abortion plank survived complete removal only because of last minute impassioned speeches from the floor.

Pro-Choice Libertarians was formed in 1987 when it was feared that anti-abortion Representative Ron Paul would try to change the Libertarian Party's position on the issue.

See our website <http://pro-choicelibertarians.net>