



## Platform of the Libertarian Party of Osceola County

### **Statement of Principle**

The Libertarian Party of Osceola County believes in using the private sector and individual responsibility instead of government and coercive solutions to achieve a more prosperous, productive, and peaceful society in Osceola County

### **Preamble**

We, the Libertarian Party of Osceola County, believe in a Central Florida that prospers outside of the power of federal, state, and local governments. We believe in the promotion of free markets, competitive education, social liberalism, and localism to bring about a more prosperous Osceola County.

## **1.0 Government Reform**

### **1.1 Incorporation and Annexation**

The process of incorporating new city governments in Osceola County should be restricted if not wholly abolished. Annexing unincorporated territories into municipalities should be banned. Furthermore, the process to end the incorporation of some territories should be streamlined and made as easy as possible.

### **1.2 Community Development Districts**

The Libertarian Party of Osceola County calls for the abolition of all Community Development Districts, as they are tools used by developers with good political connections to obtain taxpayer subsidies in the form of privileged status as a municipal loan-issuer. The Party also calls on the Board of Commissioners of Osceola County to issue a moratorium on the creation of new Community Development Districts.

### **1.3 Transparency**

County and municipal governments should provide as much transparency as possible, as long as it does not endanger the lives and properties of individuals involved with governments. All minutes of elected and appointed boards should be available online for anyone to see, as should be campaign treasurer reports of all candidates running for office. Public records should be available for free as a crucial service to all citizens.

## **2.0 Budgeting**

### **2.1 Competitive Bids**

The process of determining who is contracted by the local government to provide certain services or rent/buy property from the government should be done using a competitive bidding process in which the best deal offered to taxpayers is the one accepted by local government. No waiver of competitive bidding should be used except in extremely urgent situations. Furthermore, public auditors should make available to the public statistics on the use of waivers of competitive bidding by local governments.

### **2.2 Yearly Budgeting**

The Libertarian Party of Osceola County calls for a yearly decrease in annual county budgets. When creating budgets the Board of County Commissioners should first, consider possible areas to cut so they may free yearly funds for needed county projects. Increase in the annual budget should only be considered when there has been a drastic increase in total county population, and should only take into consideration the added burden created by the increase in population.

## **3.0 Taxation**

### **3.1 Property Taxes**

Property taxes should be decreased in Osceola County and in the various cities in Osceola County.

### **3.2 Special Taxing Districts**

The Libertarian Party of Osceola County calls for an end to the creation of new Special Taxing Districts in Osceola County. The Party believes that such districts are tools used to force a neighborhood to pay for services unwanted by some members of the community. We also call on Osceola County to create a process to allow the people residing within Special Taxing Districts to abolish their own districts.

### **3.3 Licensing Fees**

The Libertarian Party of Osceola County calls for the abolition of all local business licenses, occupational licenses, and franchise fees, thus freeing the members of the public to become clients of whomever they please for whatever price and level of service are mutually acceptable. This action would open the field of voluntary licensing and decrease the short supply of affordable professionals in many services. We call on all levels of government to eliminate all regulations and fees that artificially increase the costs of starting and maintaining a business, or of gaining employment.

## **4.0 Transportation**

The Libertarian Party of Osceola County supports an unrestricted use and growth of free market solutions to transportation problems, such as private ridesharing platforms. Local governments should recognize their existence and end any intervention in the ridesharing industry.

Furthermore, we believe no legislation should exist to favor taxicab drivers and no regulation on the pricing of rides should exist.

## **5.0 War on Drugs**

The Libertarian Party of Osceola County seeks full decriminalization and legalization of all drugs. We support any law that furthers this goal.

## **6.0 Police Reform**

### **6.1 Civilian Oversight**

The Libertarian Party of Osceola County strongly believes in the establishment of a civilian oversight board, completely independent from local Police Departments, with the power to investigate police shootings, make recommendations on the hiring of a police chief, and take disciplinary actions against police officers.

### **6.2 Right to Record**

The Libertarian Party of Osceola County supports the unlimited right of civilians to audio and video record law enforcement officers acting in the line of duty and we believe a policy should be enacted recognizing and enforcing such right. Furthermore, we support any legislation punishing officers that violate such a right.

### **6.3 Civil Asset Forfeiture**

The Libertarian Party of Osceola County supports an immediate end to civil asset forfeiture as an unconstitutional practice encouraging theft by police departments. However, in the event a police department decides to use such a policy, we believe all funds collected through asset forfeiture should be distributed in a municipal general fund, instead of being kept entirely by a police department.

## **7.0 Hospitality and Tourism**

### **7.1 Short-Term Rentals**

The Libertarian Party of Osceola County supports the unrestricted growth of short-term rental platforms that allow individuals to rent housing units for a period not exceeding six (6) months. Furthermore, we oppose the use of zoning rules to ban short-term rentals and we support the

immediate repeal of all legislation barring short-term rental advertisement. We also believe in exempting short-term rentals from the imposition of special taxes.

## 7.2 Bed Tax

The Libertarian Party of Osceola County opposes the special taxation of hotel rooms, also known as the “bed tax”.

## 8.0 Public Corruption

### 8.1 Reimbursing Taxpayers

If a public official uses his or her power to benefit himself or herself financially, while costing taxpayers funds, the Libertarian Party of Osceola County believes that official should be required to reimburse the taxpayers of the jurisdiction impacted by the public corruption, if the value lost by taxpayers can be established.

### 8.2 Strengthening of the Commission on Ethics

The Libertarian Party of Osceola County supports any legislation created by local governments calling for automatic recall elections in the event that an elected official has been found guilty by the State of Florida Commission on Ethics or any similar appropriate public office finds that such an official violated the trust of his or her citizens.

## 9.0 Property Rights

The Libertarian Party of Osceola County calls for more lax zoning laws, allowing citizens to more easily switch the zoning to private property that they own. We support the use of free market solutions, such as neighborhood, homeowners, or condominium associations to make rules on the safety and aesthetics of properties.

## 10.0 Omissions

Our silence about any other particular government law, regulation, ordinance, directive, edict, control, regulatory agency, activity, or machination should not be construed to imply approval.

Adopted this 10<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2017 by vote of the membership:

Chair Marcus D. Marcus Date 10/10/17