

CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

A WRITTEN CONSTITUTION FOR BRITAIN

“That government is best which governs least.”

- attr. Thomas Jefferson

The Libertarian Party believes:

- In having a written Constitution that holds the Individual to be above the State.
- That a limited government with both horizontal and vertical separation of powers, and vigorous checks and balances, will best preserve the Liberty of the People.
- That Great Britain should be a Confederation of Free States, and that the People determine their own polities.
- That it should be confirmed in Law that the People are Sovereign.
- That the Monarchy should be permitted only as long as it has the formal approval of the People, and should be subordinate to the Constitution.
- That all public servants should swear allegiance to upholding the Constitution, and be liable in Law for misconduct and fraud.
- That the First Past the Post voting system should be replaced with a form of Proportional Representation.

The Libertarian Party's proposed written constitution embodies the following basic concepts, namely that:

- The Constitution be federal in nature, with each participating State sovereign and with an equal voice in the compact.
- The people of each state are the ultimate sovereign body of each State.
- All individuals are possessed of inalienable natural rights to life, liberty, property, and all other rights that derive from them.
- The political entity this Constitution creates be called the Confederation of the Free States of Britain.
- The purpose of the Constitution is to restrain and limit the general government as well as to define its delegated powers.
- There is a separation of powers horizontally between the Executive, Legislative and Judicial branches, and vertically between the general government and the States.
- The Constitution is a legal document with fixed meaning, not a living or flexible document open to interpretation.
- All officers shall be bound by an oath to the Constitution, and that breach of that oath be considered a serious matter.
- The Confederation will aid in preservation from external attack and from conflict between the States.

- The general government be funded equally by the States.
- The general government shall consist of a bicameral legislature, a Constitutional Court, and an Executive.
- The Monarchy continue only in a private manner, subject to the will of the people.
- The lower house of the Legislative branch consist of a chamber elected by the people of each State to be a guardian of the rights of the people, a reflection of the broad range of values and attitudes of the people, and to hold the key of the treasury of the Confederation.
- The upper house of the Legislature consist of a chamber elected by the State legislatures to be a guardian of the sovereignty of the States and the presiding body of the Confederation, especially tasked to the Confederation as a whole and to foreign matters, and of approving appointments made by the Executive.
- The Chief Executive and his deputy be elected by an electoral college so as to allow the people of each State a say, avoid demagoguery, and keep the States from being disenfranchised.
- The Chief Executive be First Ambassador, have a line-item non-blocking veto over laws, and be commander-in-chief of military forces in time of declared war.
- Officers be susceptible to impeachment; elected officials to expulsion; members of the upper house open to recall by State legislatures.
- Only the Legislative branch shall have power to declare war.
- Military power be the bailiwick of the States and not the general government.
- The general government have no power to borrow money.
- The general government have no power to erect corporations.
- Bills require passage in both houses, can be vetoed by the Executive, must be short and pertain to one subject, and have a sunset clause of not more than 10 years.
- A yearly budget bill list spending and costs for the year.
- The State court in any state is the final court of appeal in that State, and that no case can be appealed or brought to the Constitutional Court unless it is strictly a matter of a federal nature.
- A two-thirds vote of State Legislatures can veto a decision made by the Constitutional Court; and individuals and states can sue for injunctive relief against laws deemed unconstitutional.

