

KENNETH R. KAPLAN

Libertarian

WHAT ARE LIBERTARIANS?

Libertarians believe strongly in individual liberty. We're both socially tolerant and fiscally responsible. Individuals should have broad discretion in their personal and business lives as long as they don't attack or defraud their neighbors.

Here are some specifics:

TAXES

New Jersey's broad-based taxes (property, income, and sales) are out of control. We need to move away from these broad-based taxes in favor of user fees. A user fee is simply a fee paid for a service that is actually used. Funding services in that manner will result in some services being performed by the private sector rather than by government. That will make government smaller, and enable us to cut those taxes. It will also give individuals the power to save money by not paying for services they don't want or don't need. The rate of the income tax can be stepped down in tandem with each reduction in the size of government until that tax vanishes. Then we can get to work reducing the sales tax.

MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION

This is an issue of personal freedom. Every adult should have the right to make his or her own choices as to what to ingest—be it alcohol, marijuana, nicotine, or cherry pie. Although marijuana is not yet legal for all New Jerseyans, we do have a medical marijuana law, but Governor Christie has been a roadblock to its full implementation. All 6 allowed dispensaries need to be open, and those facilities should have discretion to grow more than just 2 varieties, and be able to distribute the drug in ingestible forms.

GUN RIGHTS

The right to keep and bear arms is just as important as freedom of the press, freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, and freedom of religion. They are all guaranteed in the Bill of Rights, and must be guarded with equal vigor.

MARRIAGE EQUALITY

This is a civil rights issue. All New Jersey couples should enjoy the same rights and the same access to federal benefits. Same sex couples should be allowed to marry in New Jersey.

EDUCATION

Public education is failing in many districts, and is unfair to taxpayers who have no children or who home school or send their children to private or religious schools. Privatization of education, whereby diverse schools, supported by tuition payments instead of taxes, would compete for students, will force schools to improve their quality and efficiency or lose enrollment to those that do. Vouchers can be a useful transitional tool to give parents more choices immediately.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

NJ has an unfair system of allocating a limited number of liquor licenses. We should allow the free market to determine how many businesses sell package goods or serve alcohol. I have a plan that would allow that to happen, while compensating existing license owners for their license investments out of fees paid by their newly permitted competitors.

More information: visit www.kaplanforgovernor.com

Also see <https://www.facebook.com/Kaplan4Gov> and www.njlp.org

Take the World's Smallest Political Quiz and see where you stand: <http://www.theadvocates.org/quizp/index.html>