

**Q: How do Libertarians feel about the Patriot Act?**

A: Libertarians are very concerned about the Patriot Act. It is obvious that something is wrong when New York City, the site of the September 11 atrocities, passes legislation in opposition to the Patriot Act, as *The Washington Post* reported February 5. Libertarians worry about giving the government the power to search your home without your knowledge and to take whatever they want with only the façade of judicial review. Section 215 also contains a gag order that restricts your ability to speak about these orders for 15 years, limiting the free speech to protest. Clearly, that is an infringement of free speech that is intolerable for a free people.



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*"They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety."  
Benjamin Franklin*

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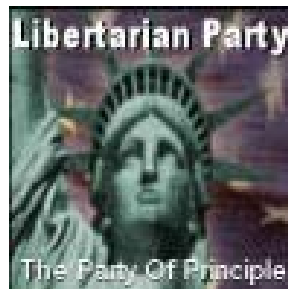
**Q: What is a Libertarian?**

A: A Libertarian is, as the name implies, someone who believes in liberty. Libertarians believe that each person owns his own life and property, and has the right to make his own choices as to how he lives his life - as long as he simply respects the same right of others to do the same.

Another way of saying this is that libertarians believe you should be free to do as you choose with your own life and property, as long as you don't harm the person and property of others.

Libertarianism is thus the combination of *liberty* (the freedom to live your life in any peaceful way you choose), *responsibility* (the prohibition against the use of force against others, except in defense), and *tolerance* (honoring and respecting the peaceful choices of others).

*For more information, visit  
[www.libertarianism.com](http://www.libertarianism.com).*



# LIBERTARIANS AT VIRGINIA TECH: AN ALTERNATIVE TO CONSIDER



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## Libertarians at Virginia Tech

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*"What is ominous is the ease with which some people go from saying that they don't like something to saying that the government should forbid it. When you go down that road, don't expect freedom to survive very long."*  
Thomas Sowell

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**Q: What is the Libertarian position on affirmative action?**

A: Libertarians believe that private businesses, schools, and organizations should be able to hire or admit whomever they choose without government interference. Government entities, however, should not discriminate on the basis of race, national origin, or gender, so Libertarians are opposed to affirmative action policies in government schools or agencies.



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*"...if we wish to preserve a free society, it is essential that we recognize that the desirability of a particular object is not sufficient justification for the use of coercion."*  
F.A. Hayek

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**Q: What about gay marriage?**

A: In general, Libertarians believe that for a crime to occur, there must be a victim. If two consenting adults want to enter into marriage, where is the victim? Why should it be illegal? Marriage, of course, is both a legal and a religious concept. Libertarians support the rights of religious organizations to set their own rules of membership and standards of conduct. However, most Libertarians would reject the notion that the state should endorse one type of relationship over another.



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**Q: What kinds of economic policies do Libertarians support?**

A. Libertarians support free markets, free trade, minimal taxes, and self-regulation. If you have taken even a basic economics class, you know that these policies lead to greater prosperity and peace for all. History has proven that the freer a society, the higher the standard of living.



**Q: What is the Libertarian stance on the war in Iraq?**

A. Libertarians do not believe in the *initiation* of force to achieve social goals. Libertarians thus believe, as did George Washington, that it is not a proper function of our government to become involved in foreign entanglements. Most Libertarians view the war in Iraq as an initiation of force and consequently reject it.

A sizeable minority, however, view the war as a response to a threat, which is necessary for the defense of the United States, and therefore justifiable as a measure for self-preservation.



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*"I never consider a difference of opinion in politics, in religion, in philosophy, as cause for withdrawing from a friend."*  
Thomas Jefferson

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