**Libertarian Party of Georgia**

**Executive Committee Meeting – May 8, 2023**

**Present:** Chair Zach Varnell, Vice Chair Nick Ciesielski, Secretary Zane Placie, Treasurer Gerred Bell, Jack Aiken, Brian Allen, David Barker, Wil Bell, Jeremiah Cantrell, Maxine Cox, Warren Cunningham, Danny Dolan, Amber Howell, Mark Mosley, Matt Panetta, Victoria Salvia, Jim Sheehan, Erica White

**Absent:** Andrew Brasuell, Justin Jones, Alan Hill, Jeffery Shull

The regular monthly meeting of the Executive Committee of the Libertarian Party of Georgia was held virtually over 8x8 on Monday, May 8, 2023, at 7:08 PM.

Zane Placie moved to adopt the agenda. The motion was adopted.

Mark Mosley gave an update on ballot access issues.

Nick Ciesielski, on behalf of the Special Committee appointed after the previous Executive Committee meeting, reported that the Special Committee had not yet produced a report.

Brian Allen moved adoption of *A Resolution to Oppose Government Interference in Channels of Communication*. The resolution was adopted after amendment.

Danny Dolan moved to affiliate the Libertarian Party of Bartow and Polk Counties. The motion was adopted.

Reports were given by Chair Zach Varnell, Executive Director Elizabeth Melton, and Treasurer Gerred Bell.

The meeting adjourned at 7:33 PM.

**A Resolution to Oppose Government Interference in Channels of Communication**

Whereas the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States prohibits the federal government from abridging the freedom of speech; and

Whereas Article I, Section I, Paragraph V of the Constitution of the State of Georgia states that no law shall be passed to curtail or restrain the freedom of speech; and

Whereas speech includes, but is not limited to, written and electronic communication, in addition to verbal communication; and

Whereas the platform of the Libertarian Party of Georgia states that we support full freedom of expression and oppose government censorship, regulation, or control of communications media and technology; and

Whereas in the case of Reno v. American Civil Liberties Union the Supreme Court of the United States ruled that the guarantee of freedom of speech applies to material distributed through the Internet; and

Whereas there can be no freedom of speech if the government controls the channels of communication; and

Whereas both explicit and implicit threats of government regulation constitute forms of control; and

Whereas it has been documented in the Twitter Files that persons affiliated with the government, Democrats and Republicans alike, have sought to influence the policy of private companies operating channels of communication; and

Whereas the Restricting the Emergence of Security Threats that Risk Information and Communications Technology Act, also known as the RESTRICT Act, would grant the Secretary of Commerce expansive powers to regulate channels of communication if passed; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Libertarian Party of Georgia:

1. opposes any and all attempts by government actors to regulate or otherwise control channels of communication, including the Internet and services operating over the Internet such as social media; and
2. condemns the use of explicit and implicit threats by government actors to influence private actors operating channels of communication; and
3. opposes the passage of the RESTRICT Act.