**Libertarian Party of Georgia**

**Executive Committee Meeting – October 9, 2023**

**Present:** Chair Gerred Bell, Vice Chair Zach Varnell, Secretary Zane Placie, Treasurer Alex Moldenhawer, Jack Aiken, Brian Allen, David Barker, Scott Boykin, Warren Cunningham, Danny Dolan, Jake Green, Amber Howell, Mitch Johnson, Colin McKinney, Mark Mosley, Victoria Salvia, Sabrina Sawyer, Jim Sheehan

**Absent:** Seth Benton, Doug Craig, Steven Hilton, Halima Monds, Jeffery Shull

The regular monthly meeting of the Executive Committee of the Libertarian Party of Georgia was held virtually over 8x8 on Monday, October 9, 2023, at 7:02 PM.

The agenda was adopted without objection.

Mark Mosley gave an update on ballot access issues.

The Conasauga Valley Libertarian Party failed to submit proof of membership as required by a motion at the previous meeting. Brian Allen then moved to void the charter of the Conasauga Valley Libertarian Party. The motion was adopted after debate.

Brian Allen moved to authorize the Libertarian Party of Bartow and Polk to expand to include Floyd County and to amend its bylaws accordingly. The motion was adopted after debate.

Brian Allen moved to adopt *A Resolution to Recommend Certificate of Need Elimination*. The motion was adopted after debate.

Chairman Gerred Bell gave the Chair’s Report.

Brian Allen moved to direct the Executive Director to request that the Libertarian Party of Spalding County submit proof of membership at the next regular meeting of the Executive Committee. The motion was adopted after debate.

Reports were given by Executive Director Elizabeth Melton and Treasurer Alex Moldenhawer.

The meeting adjourned at 8:06 PM.

**A Resolution to Recommend Certificate of Need Elimination**

*Whereas* the platform of the Libertarian Party of Georgia states that each person has the right to offer goods and services to others on the free market; and,

*Whereas* the platform of the Libertarian Party of Georgia states that all efforts by government to redistribute wealth, manage trade, or establish regulatory or bureaucratic offices to those ends are improper in a free society; and,

*Whereas* the platform of the Libertarian Party of Georgia states that we oppose occupational and other licensing laws that infringe on the right of every person to earn an honest and peaceful living through the free and voluntary exchange of goods and services or treat it as a state-granted privilege; and,

*Whereas* in 1979 the Georgia General Assembly passed a Certificate of Need law which requires healthcare providers to seek approval from the state in order to operate as currently outlined in Georgia Code Title 31, Chapter 6, Article 3; and,

*Whereas* the empirical evidence shows that Certificate of Need laws are ineffective at their stated goals of controlling costs and ensuring access to healthcare services; and,

*Whereas* in actuality Certificate of Need laws serve to cartelize the healthcare industry by creating barriers making it difficult and costly in terms of both time and money for new providers to enter the market; and,

*Whereas* this cartelization harms consumers by reducing supply, increasing costs, and stifling innovation; and,

*Whereas* on March 27, 2023 the Georgia Senate passed Senate Resolution 279 creating the Senate Study Committee on Certificate of Need Reform; and,

*Whereas* on March 29, 2023 the Georgia House of Representatives passed House Resolution 603 creating the House Study Committee on Certificate of Need Modernization; and,

*Whereas* these study committees have sought to gather information and recommendations from the public on how to reform Georgia’s Certificate of Need laws; and,

*Whereas* we support reforms that fall short of our own recommendation so long as they are moving policy towards our ultimate goal;

*Therefore, be it resolved,* that the Libertarian Party of Georgia:

1. recommends the complete elimination of Certificate of Need laws in the State of Georgia; and,
2. supports creating additional Certificate of Need exemptions for healthcare providers including but not limited to acute care hospitals, ambulatory surgery centers, birth centers, and nursing homes; and,
3. supports reducing the ability of existing providers to object to the granting of a Certificate of Need; and,
4. opposes making Certificate of Need reforms dependent upon increased government spending or regulation including but not limited to Medicaid expansion, hospital subsidies, and greater licensure requirements.