

Analysis of LP Presidential Candidates' Issue Positions

The Pro-Life Libertarian Caucus, the LP Christian Caucus, and the Center for Natural Law conducted interviews with 5 LP Presidential Candidates and their positions are outlined in the attached chart. Below is a summary analysis of their policy positions focused on the Abortion question. The analysis includes both Lars Mapstead and Chase Oliver, pro-choice candidates who opted not to be interviewed, but does not include Josh Anderson, who was interviewed but should not be considered a serious candidate given his lack of organization, resources, and campaigning.

Clearly, the most pro-life candidate is Joshua Smith who distinguishes himself from the rest of the pack with a solidly enunciated pro-life position on his website, believes that Abortion should be banned at the Federal level, and that the National and State Libertarian Parties should take a firmly pro-life position in their Platforms.

Jacob Hornberger also claims the pro-life mantle and lists abortion as an issue on his campaign website but doesn't really flesh out his pro-life views online. Based on our conversation, he does believe States are correct to restrict Abortion but does not believe the Federal Government nor the National Libertarian Party should be involved in this issue. He says it is up to the State LPs as to whether they want to take a position on Abortion.

Michael Rectenwald does not mention abortion on his website but his policy positions regarding Abortion are identical to Jacob Hornberger's. However, on the non-abortion issue of immigration, they take very different positions.

Mike Ter Maat also falls into the Pro-Life category but is the weakest on this issue of those interviewed. The discussion of Abortion on his campaign website is limited to the statement that "no government shall have the authority . . . to inhibit access to abortion prior to viability." Nevertheless, he does believe that State restrictions on Abortion are legitimate but that both the National and State LPs should simply take a position that the Federal Government should not be involved in this issue. Otherwise, he prefers that the National and State LPs not elaborate further on this issue.

Based on their public stances, both Lars Mapstead and Chase Oliver fall into the "pro-choice" category. Chase Oliver has publicly advocated for the Federal legislative codification of *Roe v. Wade*, which would prohibit States from restricting Abortion. Chase Oliver also distinguishes himself as the only LP candidate who would make transgender procedures available to minors.

Issues/Candidates	Michael Rectenwald	Josh Anderson	Joshua Smith	Mike Ter Maat	Jacob Hornberger	Lars Mapstead Invited but no interview	Chase Oliver Invited but no interview
Claim to be Pro-Life?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No. Pro-Choice.	No. Pro-Choice.
Willing to put it on website?	Yes	Yes	Yes. Pro-Life	Yes. No restriction prior to viability.	Yes	N/A	N/A
Actually on website?	No	N/A	Yes. Pro-Life	Yes. No restriction prior to viability.	Yes. Pro-Life	N/A	N/A
Was Dobbs a good decision?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unknown	No
Codify Roe v. Wade?	No	No	No	No	No	Unknown	Yes.
Federal restrictions on Abortion?	No	No	Yes	No	No	No.	No.
State Restrictions on Abortion?	Yes	Yes	Yes	No restriction prior to viability.	Yes	No.	No.
National LP take position on Abortion?	No	Yes.	Yes. Pro-Life	That Fed Govt not be involved.	No	Unknown	Unknown
OK for State LPs to take Abortion position?	Yes	Yes.	Yes. Pro-Life	Prefer State LPs not be involved.	Up to State LPs	Unknown	Unknown
Drugs causing abortion available for sale?	Not Asked.	No	No	Not Asked.	Yes	Unknown	Unknown
Should transgender procedures be available to minors?	No	No.	No. Prosecute doctors	No.	No	No.	Yes.
Open-borders immigration?	No (Invitation basis process)	No (invitation basis)	No. Favorable to invitation	Yes, but proper vetting for security.	Yes, Open Borders.	Yes, but proper vetting	Unknown
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