

# PRESS RELEASE

Liberal Socio-Capitalist (LiSCa) Platform

David Petty - Independent Candidate

Constituency 20: Pembroke South West

To whom it may concern,

I will be running as an independent candidate in Constituency 20: Pembroke South West (C20). My political views fall within the realms of Liberal Socio-Capitalism (LiSCa) and this platform has been created in that context. The platform will be refined and prioritised as I canvass and receive input from the constituents of C20 regarding their needs.

For those of you who support my platform, I invite you to vote for me if you are registered to do so in C20 or contact me if you wish to support me in my bid to represent C20 in Parliament.

If you are particularly supportive of this platform, I invite you to adopt it as your own and run under it as an independent candidate in your constituency. To paraphrase the great philosopher Lao Tse, "The longest journey begins with a single step". We need to change the political and parliamentary landscape in Bermuda, and you can... if you run... or when you vote.

Kind regards

David Petty

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# Liberal Socio-Capitalist Platform for the Bermuda Parliamentary Election 2012

## Liberal (Li) – Equal human rights

We must establish equal human rights in Bermuda for everyone, no matter their religious beliefs, perceived class, colour, nationality or sexual orientation.

The prohibition of discrimination in all its forms in Bermuda, both negative and that which has been sold as positive is pivotal in our being able to develop equality in our country. Discrimination is discrimination, no matter how it is framed and should not be tolerated.

## Social (S) – Protecting and supporting our people

### Good Governance

We have to institute good governance in Parliament and the Civil Service to create a transparent view, delivery and adherence to policy and to control cronyism, favouritism, fraud and unsubstantiated spending by everyone in our public sector.

We need to extend good governance to the development of hotel properties and other major developments in Bermuda. The process surrounding development of hotels in Bermuda over the last two decades has been woefully inadequate and full of unnecessary and possibly corrupt practices.

The Auditor General must be given teeth to not only review and question public spending, but to be able to apply sanctions to create a powerful independent supervisory presence.

General Orders in the Civil Service should be reinstated immediately to re-establish good governance, risk management, controls and independence from politicians.

Government boards that are truly independent should be created and on which there are no individuals who have a conflict of interest. This will allow the Bermuda Government to bring our infrastructure into the 21st century, particularly in telecoms, energy and technology that will allow Bermuda to compete more effectively in the international market place.

We must pass a freedom of information act with teeth that will be meaningful and effective.

Our government information infrastructure should be centrally compiled and stored to provide a single source of the truth, allowing easier and quicker access to information by the Civil Service, Parliament, Cabinet, the Premier, and the public. This will allow Bermuda to respond quicker and more efficiently to the needs of the public and private sectors.

A Parliamentary Elections Act should be passed that allows for and supports absentee ballots for Bermudians overseas, extends the advanced poll, makes elections fixed term, allows the public to elect the Premier put forward to the Governor, reduces the number of MPs to 20, mandates referenda on major issues (such as gaming, capital punishment, legalisation of marijuana or independence), and does away with constituency boundaries being determined by whichever party is in power or by anyone else with a conflict of interest in the matter.

## **Home Ownership**

We must prevent repossession of homes by mortgage providers without having explored all other alternatives (consider what is currently being implemented in Spain as an example).

We should repeal any discriminatory legislation that prevents some Bermudians from having the right to own as much property as another Bermudian simply because they have chosen to widen our gene pool by marrying a spouse from overseas.

The passing of property from one generation to the next should not be taxed – at all. This is an underhanded money-grabbing practice which takes advantage of vulnerable people in their time of grieving and strips them of assets their family and quite possibly they, themselves, have worked hard to gain during their parents lifetime.

## **Community**

It has recently been said by various public figures that Bermudians have a misplaced sense of entitlement. It is any wonder? This is what we are taught as we are raised – “Bermuda is the greatest country in the world”, which is true of course, yet somehow this has translated into “we are better than everyone else”, which is not true.

We need to make sure that we establish fair yet consistent expectations and boundaries for our children. This is pivotal in developing successful, conscientious and capable Bermudians.

## **Education**

We must get back to basics. Drop the frills and focus on the single curriculum that we as a country are going to follow.

Bermuda industry sector leading companies should be consulted to make sure that the curriculum meets their needs as they are the ultimate beneficiaries of the skills and capabilities provided by that curriculum.

Have informed management who are experts in that curriculum, supervise and make sure that the curriculum is being delivered effectively.

Provide our teachers with lesson plans and resources that are already created for that curriculum by companies that are accredited to provide those resources.

Make sure that the BEC is empowered with the teeth to provide effective independent good governance and assessment of schools to confirm that our expectations of our educational standards are being met.

Make sure that the BEC is truly independent and that there are no conflicts of interest between assessors and the schools they assess.

## **Youth**

The youth of Bermuda will become our adults of the future and we must make sure that we continue to set the appropriate expectations and boundaries for them to be successful in society.

Our youth need to have a roster of activities that will stretch them and help them prepare for the adult world. The service providers that give our young people these opportunities should be supported and lauded. They are an essential part of the mix in making sure are youth are well adjusted to be successful in the future.

## **Crime**

A crime committed is a failure of not only the individual who must take responsibility for their own actions, but it is also evidence of the lack of boundaries and expectations set for them as they grew up and as they move through adulthood.

We need to make sure that the punishment fits the crime and that a potential criminal will actually shy away from committing a crime as they fear the consequences. We have to provide our judiciary with stronger powers and options of sentencing to create consequences that are deterrents in their own right. Our law enforcement officials must be given the teeth to deter and effectively prevent crimes.

Liberty and equality are rights that if one person encroaches upon another person's rights and commits a crime, they forfeit until the books are balanced and they earn those rights again. Criminals should have to work for and earn their reinstated liberty. We should make sure they are an asset even while earning that right. For some lesser crimes they should be conscripted into the Regiment instead of having a random draft as we do today and put to work so that societal boundaries and expectations that were not instilled into them as youth can be done so as adults. Anyone committing a minor crime that identifies them with a "gang" clearly wants to "belong" to an elite group and as such should immediately be inducted into the regiment. Then they can truly learn what it means to be a part of an elite group.

Any assets confiscated under proceeds of crime legislation should be given to the victims of those crimes.

## **Vulnerable**

Our social agencies are often stretched with very little funding. It is essential to empower them to be effective. Tent or "shanty" towns are absolutely unnecessary in Bermuda. We must care for all of our people.

Medical care for the vulnerable should be readily available and free. The way we choose to care for the most vulnerable in our society is a true reflection of who we are.

## **Seniors**

Social pension plans the world over have been plundered by governments looking to fund initiatives without being seen to borrow excessively. This must not be allowed to happen in Bermuda going forward. Our seniors have worked hard and deserve not to have to do so once they have the opportunity to retire.

Affordable healthcare for seniors is essential and a sustainable Future Care scheme is an integral part of this.

## **Health**

We have excellent medical professionals, and with our new hospital we will have some of the best care health facilities in the world. What we need is independence and good governance in our hospitals board and informed leadership in our health sector who are empowered to provide the best health care possible to our community.

We need to make sure the spending that occurs is appropriate and focussed where it is most needed, so that patients can get the care they need, when they need it.

Our medical professionals should be incentivised to improve the health of our population rather than just to treat illness. This, in time, will result in reduced health insurance premiums for our people.

## **Sustainability**

Our oil burning power plant in Hamilton has now passed its "sell by date", and the need for Bermuda to find other forms of power, such as using wave power, wind power, saline conversion power, combined heat and power, (e.g. the incinerator) and solar power really should be more than just explored or dabbled in. We need to set up an independent Renewable Power Agency tasked with moving us to sustainable power at the rate of 10% per decade. We should incentivise the adoption of sustainable energy by businesses and homes. This is a realistic goal which is entirely achievable.

The cost of utilities in Bermuda is becoming unrealistic. We need an independent Utilities Pricing Commission with the mandate to keep the cost of power within reasonable levels and to encourage and, if necessary, enforce competition in our utilities sector wherever possible.

The efforts being expended in creating Blue Halo should be lauded and Government should pursue the establishment of St. Georges as a global centre for Ocean Sciences Excellence. This may lead to the growth of Eco-tourism at the eastern end of our island, thereby boosting that economy.

We need to enforce the protection of our flora and fauna as well as stronger regulation regarding the protection of our natural spaces and heritage properties.

Having said that, we also need to improve our Planning laws to be able to fast-track sustainable developments and so reduce the overall costs of building houses for our people.

Our infrastructure, particularly public roads, has started to become decrepit in certain areas of the island and we must start an island wide prioritised improvement programme if we are to continue to be considered a desirable and well cared for destination to visit and in which to live. This is the face we present to the world and we need to look after it.

## **Transport**

The regulations on taxis, tour buses and other related passenger vehicles have become unbalanced. We need to bring equality back to this sector and its service providers.

GPS for taxis should be repealed immediately. Not only is it unworkable given the current technology in place, it is also dangerous. Most taxi drivers are seniors for whom reading a small screen while driving is a virtual impossibility. Radio as a communication medium is perfectly effective. The issue that generated the GPS solution was more about good governance, fairness and service standards, not the technology is used for communicating between dispatch and drivers.

## **Capitalism (Ca) – Turning our economy around to consistent growth**

An aggressive programme to reduce our debt needs to be introduced immediately to bring the government books back into balance. We must preserve Bermuda's reputation as a safe jurisdiction in which to invest. This will create a surplus to allow investment into opportunities for our people.

Performance based pay should be introduced in parliament and the public sector, and on private sector government contracts.

A Concierge Service should be introduced to fast track foreign investment into Bermuda, including:

- A quick turnaround for key person work permits and associated hires (e.g. CEO's Nanny)
- Support in locating living and working accommodation, facilities, technology and telecoms infrastructure.
- Fast tracking bank account setups, driving licences, etc. with due diligence.
- Training on cultural norms.

We need to revamp our legislation, where appropriate, to create an agile government service for public and business stakeholders.

We should reduce the employers' portion of payroll tax on all Bermudian employees and their spouses by up to 50%, to encourage the hiring and training of Bermudians. We need to reward employers for hiring locally.

The sheer size of the civil service and quasi-governmental bodies should be reduced through attrition and reallocation of resources as appropriate.

A central Government Procurement Agency through which all government spending is routed should be empowered to both control spending more effectively, and to gain the best prices from suppliers.