

Libertarianism and Transhumanism: How Liberty and Radical Technological Progress Fit Together

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<http://www.transhumanist-party.org>

<http://www.rationalargumentator.com/index/nevada-transhumanist-party/>

**TRANSHUMANIST
PARTY**

PUTTING SCIENCE, HEALTH, & TECHNOLOGY
AT THE FOREFRONT OF AMERICAN POLITICS



About the Nevada Transhumanist Party

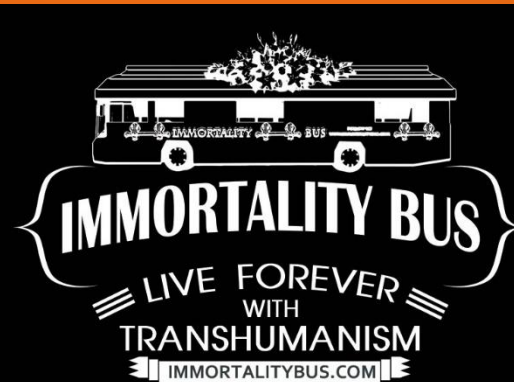


- Registered with the Secretary of State on August 31, 2015.
- Currently has 140 members; membership is free and does *not* conflict with other Party registrations.
- Allied Member category enables anyone with a rational faculty and an ability to express political opinions to join.
- No candidates for the foreseeable future – but we focus on policy and are happy to ally with others who share our aims.
- More explicitly libertarian transhumanist party, as compared to the U.S. Transhumanist Party.
- Detailed [Constitution and Bylaws](#)
- **Article V, Section II:** “The Nevada Transhumanist Party shall focus on campaigns of education, information, discussion, and policy advocacy intended to advance the objectives of the Nevada Transhumanist Party Platform.”
- Vibrant discussions on our [Facebook group](#)
- Emphasis on peaceful activism, inclusivity, civility, and collaborative projects to create a better future.
- No donations for the Party. We are what happens when you take money out of politics!

About the U.S. Transhumanist Party



- Founded by Zoltan Istvan on October 7, 2014.
- Zoltan ran for President in 2016 – write-in candidate in many states.
- Extensive media exposure – over 70,000,000 page views.
- Immortality Bus tour
- Zoltan was the first Chairman, stepped down on November 17, 2016
- Gennady Stolyarov II is the second Chairman, tasked with creating the infrastructure for the Transhumanist Party and cultivate a membership base that will vote on policy and structure and create a self-sustaining movement.
- Many libertarian transhumanists, although not all transhumanists are libertarians. The U.S. Transhumanist Party aims to be broadly representative of perspectives within the transhumanist movement.



DO YOU WANT TO
LIVE FOREVER?

*Immortality
Bus Sticker by
Rachel Lyn*

What is Transhumanism?



- **“Beyond human”** – Overcoming the limitations of the human condition.
- **“Humanity Plus”** – Enhanced humans are still humans – but keeping just the good parts and adding more beneficial possibilities.
- **Logical extension of Enlightenment humanism:** Use reason to improve the human condition. Now we just have better tools to do so.
- Through science, technology, and reason we can push back and remove the obstacles that have plagued the human condition: involuntary death, diseases, poverty, scarcity of basic needs, war, pollution, tribalism, cognitive biases, mob behaviors.
- **Wikipedia:** “an international and intellectual movement that aims to transform the human condition by developing and making widely available sophisticated technologies to greatly enhance human intellectual, physical, and psychological capacities.”

Historical Transhumanism

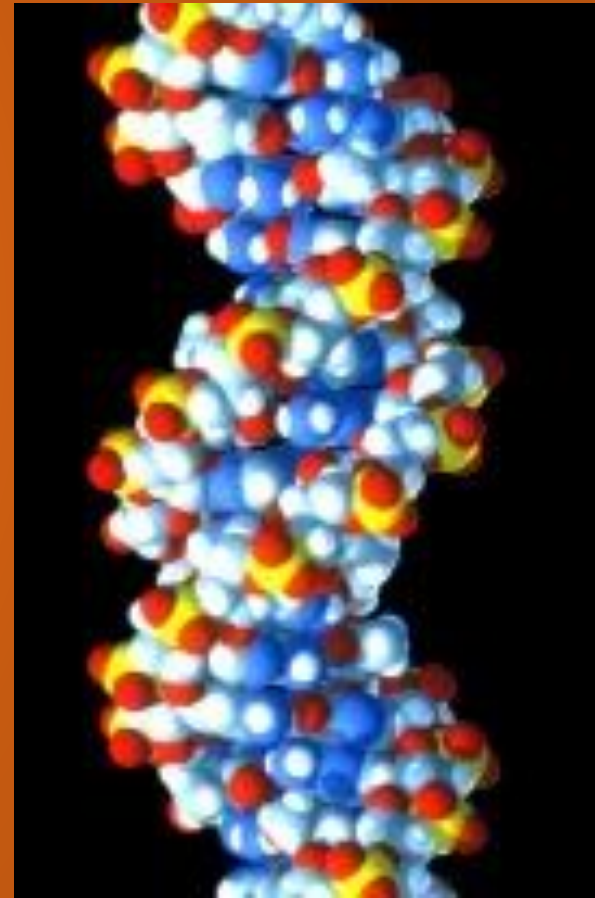


- “Up till now human life has generally been, as Hobbes described it, ‘nasty, brutish and short’; the great majority of human beings (if they have not already died young) have been afflicted with misery... we can justifiably hold the belief that these lands of possibility exist, and that the present limitations and miserable frustrations of our existence could be in large measure surmounted... The human species can, if it wishes, transcend itself — not just sporadically, an individual here in one way, an individual there in another way, but in its entirety, as humanity.” ~ **Julian Huxley, 1957**
- “Transhumanism is a class of philosophies that seek to guide us towards a posthuman condition. Transhumanism shares many elements of humanism, including a respect for reason and science, a commitment to progress, and a valuing of human (or transhuman) existence in this life. [...] Transhumanism differs from humanism in recognizing and anticipating the radical alterations in the nature and possibilities of our lives resulting from various sciences and technologies [...]” ~ **Max More, 1990**
- “Humanity will be radically changed by technology in the future. We foresee the feasibility of redesigning the human condition, including such parameters as the inevitability of ageing, limitations on human and artificial intellects, unchosen psychology, suffering, and our confinement to the planet earth.” ~ **The Transhumanist Declaration, Article 1, 1999**

Core Ideals of the Transhumanist Party



- **Ideal 1.** The Transhumanist Party supports significant life extension achieved through the progress of science and technology.
- **Ideal 2.** The Transhumanist Party supports a cultural, societal, and political atmosphere informed and animated by reason, science, and secular values.
- **Ideal 3.** The Transhumanist Party supports efforts to use science, technology, and rational discourse to reduce and eliminate various existential risks to the human species.





Liberty or Death: A New Interpretation

- **Factual statement:** You cannot be free if you are dead!
- We wish to actually *live* in a free society someday.
- Within our lifetimes, we will either have death and no liberty, or liberty and no death.
- Libertarians should see the defeat of senescence through medical progress to be an indispensable component to achieving liberty.
- **Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness:** While the right to life is a negative right – the right not to have others infringe on one's life – it is nonetheless indisputable that the positive condition of life is the prerequisite for the exercise of any kind of liberty and the pursuit of any kind of happiness.





Achieving the Libertarian Ideal

- **It will take a long time!** See the 2016 Election results.
- **Gary Johnson:** 4,125,595 votes (3.2%) – 3.23x 2012 count
- Impressive gains – but are most people today really libertarians who just don't know it?
- **Meanwhile, oppression is on the rise.**
- **Oppressive policies:** Mass surveillance, intrusive airport security, police militarization, civil asset forfeiture, protectionism, cronyism.
- **Informal oppression:** Racial/xenophobic violence and harassment, driver aggression, online threats/trolling, vandalism/vigilantism – chilling effect on speech.
- Rise of nativist / racist “far right” parties in Europe and the U.S.: Will they undo what progress has been made?

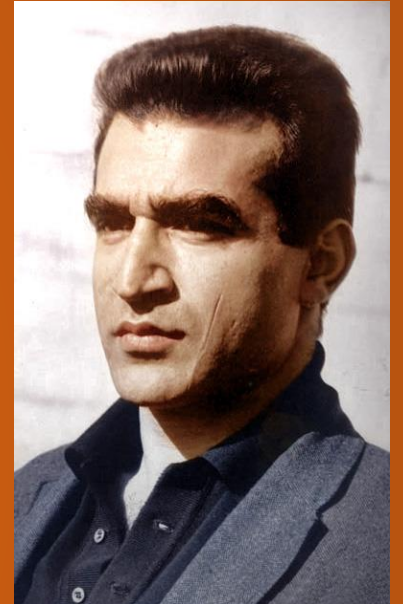


Gary Johnson, *Official
2016 Campaign Photo*



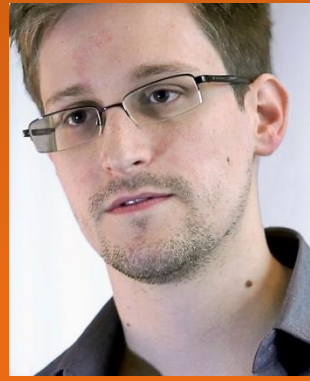
Left and Right Are Obsolete. The New Dichotomy: Open vs. Closed

- **Fereidoun M. Esfandiary** (FM-2030; 1930-2000), *UpWingers: A Futurist Manifesto* (1973), “Up-Wing Priorities” (1981).
- “Throughout the 20th century the world has veered Left. In the coming years we will wing beyond Left and Right. We will move up.”
- **But**, 2010 did not turn out quite as FM-2030 had predicted.
- **Virginia Postrel**, *The Future and Its Enemies* (1998) – Conflict between **dynamism** (progress, freedom, exploration) and **stasisism** (fear of change, central planning, top-down control).
- **But**, in 2013, Bradley Doucet [noted](#), “If technology has not stopped evolving, the dynamist coalition Postrel envisioned to defend the future does not yet appear to have become a significant player on the political scene. Part of the reason is surely the 2001 destruction of the World Trade Centre in New York.”



The Spectrum in 2016

Open / Dynamist / Upwing



You? Enough of You?

The Conflicted Middle
(Centrist / Progressive)



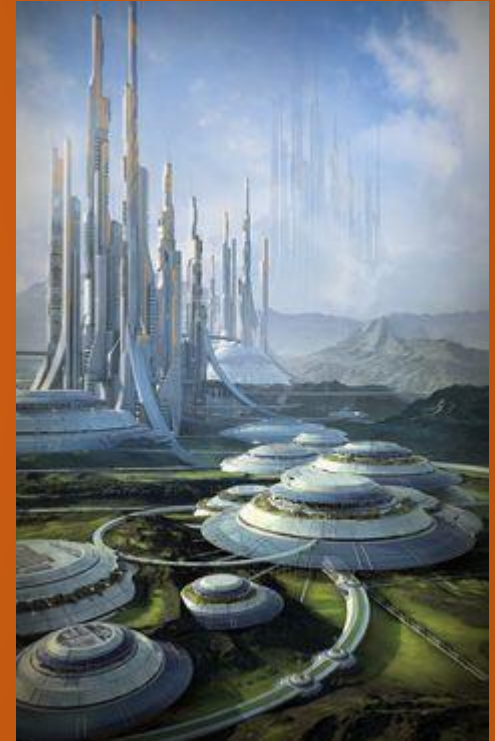
Closed / Stasisist / Downwing





Emerging Technologies to Promote Liberty

- Biotechnology / Genetic Engineering / Life Extension
- Nanotechnology
- Artificial Intelligence
- Space Colonization
- Seasteading
- Vertical Farming
- Economical Alternative Energy (e.g., Solar, Geothermal, Nuclear)
- Automation of Production → Radical Abundance
- Autonomous / Electric Vehicles
- Flying Cars
- Augmented Reality
- Encryption
- Blockchain / Cryptocurrencies / Smart Contracts / Distributed Autonomous Organizations
- Ectogenesis



"The 12th Colony"
by Stefan Morrell



Why a Political Party?

- Widespread public acceptance of emerging technologies is crucial.
- **Hope versus fear:** We are the party of hope.
- Fill the relative vacuum in the open / upwing / dynamist policy space.
- More flexibility with advocacy than a nonprofit organization.
- There exist some institutional barriers to technological advancement, but attitudinal barriers are even more important to overcome. Institutions will shift with public opinion.
- Most people's attitudes toward technology are a function of what they are familiar with. (See the reaction to Google Glass.)
- Mainstream politics currently neglects the crucial role that emerging technologies play in shaping the possibilities of everyday life. We need to raise awareness.
- Combine technological advocacy with support of freedom, tolerance, cosmopolitanism.



How is Transhumanist Politics Different?

- Today's politics is shaped by scarcity and competing special-interest groups, and the animosity we observed in this election is ultimately driven by a zero-sum mentality, where many believe that others must lose for them to win.
- Transhumanism promises a future of widespread abundance that overcomes today's major sources of scarcity – particularly the scarcity of time that arises with today's woefully short lifespans.
- People who are more prosperous, more comfortable, more fulfilled in their lives, are less likely to react with vicious hostility toward others.
- Ultimately, we seek to transform politics into what it always should have been: a constructive focus on which policies are best for improving human well-being and solving the problems that confront us.



The Political System Poses Obstacles

- Ugly political rhetoric that reiterates centuries-old fallacies that appeal to the lowest common denominator.
- **Major fallacies:** Fear of technology or trade taking jobs, or the incessant “us versus them” mentality of pitting some groups of people against others.
- We would like to see candidates who are thoughtful, creative, and forward-looking in discussing not just the issues of the day, but the future Americans will face in decades and centuries to come.
- The biggest obstacle to constructive policy-oriented discourse in American politics today is the **two-party system**.
- **Specific barriers:** ballot-access laws, control of the Commission on Presidential Debates, non-inclusive polling, “wasted vote” mentality.
- This system does not represent the interests of genuine human well-being, nor does it represent a constructive approach toward solving problems.



Positions on Specific Nevada Issues

- **Question 1: Vote your conscience.** Gun rights / background checks are not a specifically transhumanist issue.
- **Question 2: Support.** Any structure of taxation and regulation is superior to the current prohibition enforced by overwhelming violence.
- **Question 3: Support.** Eliminate the coercive energy monopoly currently held by NV Energy and allow individuals to choose their utility and source of energy, much like they are able to choose which furniture or which cars to buy today.
- **Question 4: Support.** Eliminate burdensome taxes on medical devices. We support any measure that helps make medical equipment affordable and more widespread.



The Future of Nevada

- **Advanced technologies** offer the best potential for growth and diversification of Nevada's economy.
- Nevada's excellent reputation in hospitality and high quality of infrastructure render it ideal to host events and businesses focused on emerging technologies.
- **Small businesses** should receive the same favorable tax and regulatory treatment as large corporations. Small startups have often been the sources of massive innovation.
- **Educational technology** is crucial for both public and private schools, as well as for the general public. Tools that emphasize **gamification of learning**, **identification of logical fallacies**, and **rational critical thinking** are essential.
- Nevada is and should remain **cosmopolitan, tolerant, and diverse**. We need to make common cause with anyone who can help advance the future of individual liberty and technological progress.

Questions?

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