

Two kinds of freedom

What's a progressive libertarian? It all comes down to freedom. According to the philosopher Isaiah Berlin, there's two kinds of freedom.

Negative freedom

Negative freedom is when government can't stop you from acting. The government:

- can't stop you from speaking
- can't stop you from worshipping
- can't stop you from marrying
- can't stop you from making your own healthcare decisions
- can't stop you from defending yourself
- can't stop you from starting a business
- can't take your property and give it to Donald Trump or Dominion (eminent domain)
- can't seize your property during an arrest without a criminal conviction (civil forfeiture)
- etc. There are many!

Positive freedom

Positive freedom means government must ensure your ability to act on your own behalf. Without positive freedom, you can't follow through on your own decisions. The government:

- must supply you with healthcare when you can't afford it
- must supply you with an education
- must provide strong social safety nets
- must protect you from terrorism
- must protect you from harm and fraud
- must guarantee fair landlord-tenant contracts
- must give you a free, fair and easy vote
- must provide food and housing assistance when you can't afford it
- must fight workplace discrimination and protect fair employment contracts
- must make sure your environment is healthy, and air and water is clean

Pure libertarians believe only in negative freedom.

Conservative libertarians believe in negative freedoms that align with their traditional values.

Progressive libertarians believe in both negative *and* positive freedom. The government must protect our positive freedom without violating our negative freedom.

Examples of Ben's progressive libertarian policy positions:

- medicaid expansion including mental health and addiction treatment
- strong progressive taxation to fund generous social safety nets
- market deregulation except for harm and fraud prevention
- rural broadband and infrastructure reform, e.g. burying rural power lines
- strong environmental protections
- gerrymandering reform, no-excuse absentee voting
- defense of unions, collective rights and bargaining
- cut regressive taxes like car tax, consumption tax
- decriminalization of marijuana
- free community college or trade school
- against common core
- against vouchers and charter schools but defender of homeschooling