

LP News

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LP 2016 Presidential
Nominating Convention

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December 2015

The Official Newspaper of the Libertarian Party

Volume 45, Issue 4

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LP candidates reach 100s of thousands, 23 elected

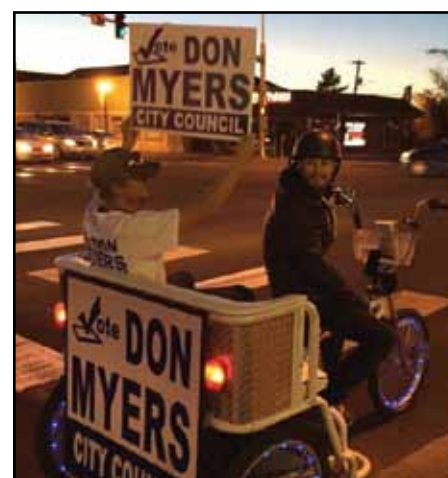
In the face of record low voter turnout during an off-year election, Libertarian candidates offered hundreds of thousands of Americans an alternative to Big Government in elections this fall.

Ninety Libertarian candidates across the country were ballot-qualified to run for office.

Twenty-three Libertarians were elected to 24 offices, including eight incumbents who were re-elected.

Voters also ruled on several ballot measures of interest to Libertarians on topics that included marijuana, Airbnb, and campaign finance.

Virginia, New Jersey, and Mississippi were the only states holding elections for state legislature, where ten Libertarian candidates were on the ballot. Candidates



Making rounds in a pedicab, Jay Lewis & Troy White promote Don Myers for City Council, in Moses Lake City, Washington.

ran in local races in 18 states throughout the country, including for county commissioner, city council, and school board.

Three Libertarian candidates in Mississippi, including two for legislature, won double-digit vote totals, which has not happened “in nearly 30 years,” according to State Chair Aaron Barksdale.

In Washington state, Don Myers was elected councilman of Moses Lake, unseating incumbent Jason Avila. Myers was trailing Avila until the end, when he edged him out by 0.52 percent, just enough to avoid a mandatory recount.

“I’m excited to stop city power-grabs and spread the Libertarian message of personal freedom and a simpler government, which gets out of people’s way,” Myers said.

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LP training gives activists key tools for success

The first offering of the national party’s “LP Activist Training by Libertarians for Libertarians,” held in Alexandria, Virginia, was a hit, offering expert training, fun, and camaraderie.

Participant Mary Phelps of Tennessee wrote, “Please do it more often. It was inspiring and I hope I can fire up my people at home like you’ve helped to fire me up.”

Victor Curbelo of Indiana said, “I would love to see [this] training expand throughout the country!”

Libertarian National Committee member and seven-time Libertarian candidate Sam Goldstein led a session on campaign management where he described key functions of a successful campaign: communications, new media, events, volunteers, fundraising, working districts, treasurer duties, and advisory council. He also led a session on campaign recruiting, which covered organizing and setting goals, ask-

ing Libertarians to run, vetting candidates, and helping them file papers to be on the ballot.

New LP national staff members Lauren Daugherty and Andy Burns talked about how to run a successful Libertarian booth. “Intentional tabling,” repeated Daugherty throughout the session, stressing the need to stay focused on engaging passers-by. Burns focused on outreach fundraising and merchandise sales.

Rachel Mills, who managed Sean Haugh’s 2014 U.S. Senate campaign and was press secretary for former congressman Ron Paul, offered lots of tips on how to get the attention of the media, including how to write a press release.

LP national Political Director Carla Howell led the game she created, “Who’s Driving?” Her session covered how to formulate game-changing Libertarian pro-

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Rachell Mills addresses LP Activist Training participants in Alexandria in October.

Photo by Mary Phelps



LP training participants sightsee in D.C.

CHAIR'S CORNER

Reflection and thanks

by Nicholas Sarwark, Chair

As we come to the end of 2015, it has been a very successful year for the Libertarian Party. Our party came through some financial challenges with revenue over budget and expenses under budget, all while adopting a new logo, bringing on additional staff to help build state affiliates and increase our media outreach, and running ballot access drives in multiple states. This puts us in a great position as we head into a presidential election year with ballot access in more states than we've had in decades, hundreds of candidates gearing up to run for office across the country, and opportunities to grow as more and more Americans get fed up with the tired and petty politics of the old parties.

None of these successes would have been possible without you, our sustaining members. You provide the financial support that keeps our party going strong. You go out and talk to your family, friends, and neighbors about how Libertarian solutions can make their lives and our country better. Many of you are monthly pledgers, whose ongoing support allows us to be the only third party that owns a permanent office with a hardworking staff that helps magnify our impact. If you're not a pledger yet, please consider starting a monthly pledge at \$10 per month; it's a small investment that gives us the support we need to keep growing.



Nicholas Sarwark

A special thank you to all of the Libertarian Party candidates who have run for office across the country in 2015. Libertarians ran for office in regular and special elections in Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Illinois, Louisiana, Maine, Mississippi, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, and Washington. They went out to their neighbors and shared a vision of more freedom for individuals to pursue their own happiness without government interference. If you haven't run for office yet, please visit www.LP.org/run-for-office to get more information on how you can help us meet our goal of over 1,000 candidates around the country in 2016.

On a personal note, my mother-in-law, Melanie Sisson, passed away earlier this year after a fight with cancer. The Christmas season was her favorite time of the year. She went above and beyond to reach out to others and pick out thoughtful gifts and bring family and friends together. She had a terminal prognosis before last Christmas, but didn't tell the family until after the holidays to keep up the spirit of the season. As our family enters our first holiday season without her, it's a reminder to me to keep her spirit alive by being good to others, instead of focusing on my own problems and difficulties.

My holiday wish to you is to cultivate that spirit. Be good to each other. Show your friends and family who Libertarians are this holiday season. Use this time to reconnect, recharge, and prepare for incredible progress in 2016.

Yours in liberty,

The following individual joined the Chairman's Circle:

Richard Winger



The following individuals became Pioneer of Freedom contributors:

Michael Chastain

Daniel Fylstra

The following individuals became Lifetime Founder contributors:

Mark Guidry
Edwin Murray

John Stagliano
Margaret Thomson

The Libertarian Party grants lifetime membership to individuals who contribute at least \$1,500 during any 12-month period. Call 202-333-0008 to find out how much more you would need to donate to become a Lifetime Member today.

David F. Nolan Memorial Office Fund donors, July 10–Oct. 27

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Advocate of Liberty

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Martin Moulton Daniel Paul Wiener

Plaques are now on display at the Libertarian National Committee office space in Alexandria, Va., that recognize our top donors. To have your name appear on a plaque, or if you'd just like to help pay off the mortgage (the LNC has a goal of paying off at least \$60,000 of the principal in 2015), mail in your donation or visit LP.org.

Contribute today: LP.org/office-fund

LIBERTARIAN PARTY NEWS
(ISSN 8755-139X) is the official newspaper of the Libertarian Party® of the United States. Opinions and articles published in this newspaper do not necessarily represent official party positions unless so indicated.

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LP News

The Purposes of the Libertarian Party:

The party is organized to implement and give voice to the principles embodied in the Statement of Principles by: functioning as a libertarian political entity separate and distinct from all other political parties or movements; moving public policy in a libertarian direction by building a political party that elects Libertarians to public office; chartering affiliate parties throughout the United States and promoting their growth and activities; nominating candidates for president and vice president of the United States, and supporting party and affiliate party candidates for political office; and, entering into public information activities.

EDITOR: Carla Howell

www.LP.org

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Buckley, Haugh announce 2016 runs for U.S. Senate

By Bob Johnston

Two Libertarian candidates who attracted national attention running for U.S. Senate in the past will be running for Senate seats again in 2016.

Allen Buckley ran for the U.S. Senate in Georgia in 2004 and 2008. In the latter race, he forced a runoff election because no candidate got over 50 percent of the vote. Republican Saxby Chambliss received 49 percent of the vote; Democrat Jim Martin, 47 percent; and Buckley, 3 percent (over 127,000 votes), forcing a runoff. Under Georgia law, if the top vote-getter in a race doesn't receive a majority of the votes, the top two finishers must compete in a runoff 21 days later.

Both Chambliss and Martin asked Buckley for his endorsement in the runoff election. He countered with an offer to endorse the candidate who was willing to sign a contract agreeing to a list of terms, which included cutting federal spending, balancing the federal budget, no pork spending, and a realistic solution to Social Security.

Both refused to sign Buckley's contract.



Allen Buckley

The race drew national media attention because the Democrats had secured 59 senatorial seats. One more would have given them a filibuster-proof majority. Chambliss eventually won.

"I want to do my part, and the only way to prevent an eventual collapse is to reduce government. The two main parties won't do that."

—Allen Buckley, Senate candidate

Allen Buckley is running again in 2016 because of his passionate concern for the economic welfare of Americans.

"I want to do my part, and the only way to prevent an eventual collapse is to reduce government," he said. "The two main parties won't do that."

"Johnny Isakson, the incumbent Senator, is a big-government Republican. According to the *Conservative Review*, Isakson has voted for eight increases in the debt limit, totaling more than \$7 trillion."

Buckley penned several columns since he ran in 2008, some of which were published in the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, Georgia's largest daily newspaper. He also co-authored the book *Why Work: How the Federal Entitlements and Tax Systems*

Equalize Income and Wealth.

The theme of Buckley's campaign is "We need to put FRED on a diet," where "FRED" stands for Foreign intervention, Regulation, Entitlements, and Debt. He believes that these economic issues will resonate more now than they did in 2008, considering the economic mood of the country and the doubling of federal debt in that time. He also feels that many people know about him and what he stands for from his two Senate runs and his writings.

Buckley is a certified public accountant and an attorney dealing with tax, employee benefits, estate planning, and business and administrative law. He is co-counsel in a class-action lawsuit that is challenging the IRS's proposed levying of fees on tax preparers.

Sean Haugh of North Carolina is running for U.S. Senate for the third time, and for office as a Libertarian for the seventh time. In 2014, Haugh received 3.4 percent of the vote against the winner, Republican Thom Tillis, and Democrat incumbent Kay Hagan. His 109,100 votes were more than twice the margin of votes between Tillis and Hagan.

Haugh's race was under the national spotlight because of the possibility that his votes could swing the election, which could have potentially also determined Democratic or Republican control of the Senate. He hit double digits in several

polls, prompting feature coverage of his campaign in national media such as the *Washington Post*, MSNBC TV's "Hardball with Chris Matthews," and a nationally televised debate with Tillis and Hagan.

Haugh being dubbed "the Pizza Man" in media stories, his campaign issued a series of folksy videos shot by his campaign manager, Rachel Mills, in which he drinks craft beer while unapologetically touting his job as a pizza delivery man and discussing issues with alarming insight. He had served as political director for the Libertarian National Committee in 2007–2008.



Sean Haugh

Haugh is running again for the U.S. Senate because he enjoyed his 2014 campaign, and because he believes there needs to be an antiwar message articulated at the federal level. He will also focus more on the economy this time than he did in 2014.

Allen Buckley campaign website:
BuckleyForSenate.com

Sean Haugh campaign website (launching December 2015):
SeanHaugh.com

LP Arkansas sues state over filing deadline, nominates 2016 candidates

New deadlines in place effectively required the Libertarian Party of Arkansas to hold a special nominating convention in October, over a year before the 2016 general election. The party filed suit on Oct. 14 in U.S. District Court seeking injunctive relief to allow for

more time.

As a "new" political party established by petition, the LP is required to choose its candidates by convention but must register those candidates at the same time that the Democratic and Republican candidates are signing up to run in the primary.

Earlier this year, the state legislature adopted new deadlines for their candidates to file, forcing the early LP nominations.

LPAR Chair Michael Pakko noted, "The deadline to register our candidates has been moved twice in recent years. In 2013 it was moved from May to early

March, and now it has been moved from March to early November. The two other political parties are making us select our final candidates when their selection process is just getting underway—all so they can have their early primary.

"We could have had our nominating convention at the last minute, just before filing week, I suppose," said Pakko, "but that would have been Halloween. We decided to take our chances on getting a good attendance one weekend earlier—even if it was a Razorback home-game weekend."

The LP is represented by attorney James Linger, who is confident about the prospects of the case. "It is hard for me to understand what compelling state interest Arkansas would have in having the nominees of minor parties chosen so far in advance of the general election and significantly earlier than the date for picking the nominees of the major parties."

Doing its best to comply with the new early deadline, the LPAR held a Special Nominating Convention on October 24.

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Frank Gilbert for U.S. Senate, one of 23 Arkansas Libertarians nominated to run in 2016 (pictured at a 2014 gubernatorial debate)

**Thinking of running for office?
Just want to learn more?**

Go to LP.org/run-for-office

and send us your inquiry. You'll receive from your state LP affiliate or from the national LP headquarters, information you need to get started, file your campaign, comply with your state's election laws, and get on the ballot.

LP 2015 election results

Election day was Oct. 6 in Arkansas, Oct. 25 in Louisiana, all others Nov. 3.

Major media cover possible Johnson, Ventura bids for Libertarian Party presidential nomination

BY CARLA HOWELL

Newsmax TV, CBS, and Fox News are among the media outlets probing to see if 2012 Libertarian presidential nominee Gov. Gary Johnson or former governor Jesse Ventura will run for president on the Libertarian ticket.

New Mexico Political Report linked to a post from Johnson on his Tumblr page that hinted at his intention to run for president again, noting that he wrote nearly 2,000 words about his history running for office, the state of the current political parties, and what he believes the country might be ready for in a candidate.

Johnson told MNPR, “I hope to be the Libertarian nominee,” and that he hopes “to be able to announce.”



Governor Gary Johnson

Johnson acknowledged to MNPR that the Libertarian nomination is not a guarantee for him and that it is “up for grabs.”

MNPR suggested that Johnson has not yet announced his candidacy because of campaign finance laws and noted that in 2012, he held off announcing his run so he could continue as honorary chair of Our America Initiative.

“I hope to be the Libertarian nominee,” Johnson told MNPR.

Sunshine State News also ran a feature story on Johnson.

Regarding his experience running as the nominee in 2012, Johnson told SSN, “I firmly believe that the majority of Americans are, in fact, ‘conservative’ when it comes to the size and cost of government, while being socially ‘liberal’ when it comes to individuals being free to make their own choices and control their own lives.

“Running as the candidate who could unapologetically advocate those principles was, well, liberating.”

Johnson laid out what he would offer voters in the areas of personal freedom, the risk of an economic collapse, and foreign policy. “Americans who are rightfully and deeply concerned that a feckless foreign policy is allowing the likes of ISIS to not only threaten our safety, but humiliate us, may be ready for a candidate who will put politics aside and engage in reality-based foreign and military policies that

actually fulfill government’s most basic responsibility to keep us—and our freedoms—safe.

“Maybe, just maybe, America is ready. And maybe that’s why I would want to run for president.”

Jesse Ventura appeared on Fox News Radio’s “The Alan Colmes Show,” where he said he was open to running as a Libertarian and that he “voted last time for Governor Johnson, the Libertarian candidate.”

When asked if he would challenge Johnson for the nomination, Ventura told Colmes, “No, I would try to team up with him.”

He told Colmes he has not talked to Johnson about the idea directly, but that “Libertarians have contacted me, and have opened the door for me to come to the convention.”

When asked about his dislike of party labels, he said, “I’ll clear with [the Libertarian Party] that I’m only using their party to get ballot access. I won’t join the party because I want that to be my main running thing. If I run, I will run on this issue: I will challenge the American people to make history with me and elect the first president since George Washington, the father of our country, that doesn’t belong to a political party.”

Apparently, Ven-

tura was not aware that the Libertarian Party bylaws state, “No candidate may be nominated for President or Vice-President ... who is not a member of the Party.”

When asked if he would challenge Johnson for the nomination, Ventura told Colmes, “No, I would try to team up with him.”

Ventura affirmed on the CBS affiliate WCCO-TV (Minneapolis) that he’s considering a run for the Libertarian nomination. He explained that he is a “true independent” and that he would “pull us completely out of the Middle East.”

On both the Colmes and WCCO-TV appearances, Ventura punctuated his lack of allegiance to any party by noting his

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Jesse Ventura interview on CBS affiliate WCCO-TV (Oct. 15, 2015)

Lawsuits to open presidential debates proceed

On Sept. 29, Fair Debates, a project of Our America Initiative, headed by LP 2012 presidential candidate Gov. Gary Johnson, filed a lawsuit aimed at the Commission on Presidential Debates. It seeks fair rules for determining which candidates are included in debates, based on candidates’ ballot status in the states.

Another lawsuit against the CPD was filed by Change the Rules, headed by Peter Ackerman, earlier this year. The Libertarian Party is a co-plaintiff in both lawsuits, along with the Green Party.

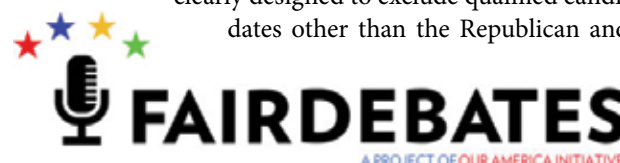
Meanwhile, on Oct. 29, the CPD issued its rules for inclusion in the 2016 debates. Not surprisingly, they’re un-

changed from 2012: The CPD, stacked with Democratic and Republican operatives, gets to pick five national opinion polls in which candidates must average at least 15 percent.

Ron Nielson, senior advisor to Our America Initiative, said, “It is disappointing that the CPD is doggedly hanging on to an unfair and arbitrary polling requirement that is clearly designed to exclude qualified candidates other than the Republican and

Democrat from the nationally-televised debates. However, it is certainly not shocking, given that the CPD was created by and is, in reality, a product of the Republican and Democratic national parties.”

The Fair Debates lawsuit aims to force dissolution of the CPD and prevent formation of other entities that would unfairly exclude competition. The lawsuit will allow for discovery, which, it is hoped, will reveal the secret dealings and contractual arrangements between the Commission and the Republican and Democratic parties.



Libertarian Party 2016 presidential candidates

Below are the statements of seven Libertarian candidates who have declared their intention to seek the LP nomination for president in 2016. Each was given the opportunity to submit a statement of up to 300 words. They have not been edited by *LP News*.

Marc Allan Feldman

I have never been a Democrat or a Republican. I honor the Non-Aggression Principle as a moral and ethical imperative. My central political axiom is the Pro-Empowerment Principle:

"Maximize the power of individuals to control themselves, their property, and their environment, as long as they do not infringe on the rights of others."

There are 10,000 Libertarians with the political organization to get any candidate on the ballot in all 50 states, but we don't have the numbers to get them elected.



Marc Feldman

There are 100 million non-voters who have the numbers to get anyone elected, but don't have the political organization to get someone who represents them on the ballot.

I want to represent the 100 million non-voters. My campaign is Votes Not For Sale. I accept no more than five dollars from anybody, so that any person who can donate \$5 can be my largest contributor.

We have always been the party for LGBT empowerment. We should also be the party of women's liberation and Hispanic education, #BlackLivesMatter and environmentalism, the party for all individuals who struggle for the power to control themselves, their property, and their environment, without force or infringing on the rights of others.

The plan is to make changes in fiscal and tax policy to realign the incentive system of our government, through Balance and Credit.

1. Balance the budget and keep it balanced.

2. Change charitable contributions from deductions to taxable income to 100% dollar for dollar tax credits. This allows each taxpayer to choose how to cut

the federal budget, and what private social safety nets to fund.

This plan dramatically shrinks our Federal Government while building up the private social safety nets so as not to put the vulnerable at risk. It's time to tell our government, "Don't worry, we got this."

Website: www.VotesNotForSale.com

Cecil Ince

I am Cecil Ince, candidate for the Libertarian Party Presidential Nomination. I am a professional film actor, business owner and father. It's my love and passion for the integrity of the Constitution that has inspired me to run. And it's time to offer a true Libertarian option.

My history in the LP began in Missouri; in 2000 I started collecting signatures to get Harry Browne on the Ballot. Afterwards, I helped with several Candidate Campaigns and held positions within the local and state party, which lead me to running for office myself.

As President, I will work to Restore Liberty by working to dismantle the mercantile economy, repeal the Federal Reserve Act, abolish the I.R.S., abolish all unconstitutional agencies, close all military bases abroad, bring all troops home, turn Social Security and Medicare over to the States, open U.S. Borders, turn immigration and nationalization over to the U.S. District Courts, reinstate the gold and silver standard, and restore the Federal Government to its constitutional limitations.

Website: Restore-Liberty.weebly.com

Steve Kerbel

Greetings Fellow Libertarians! I am pleased and honored to be working with you all to advance the cause of Liberty. The 2016 election will be a pivotal one. This opportunity is unique. Over half of Americans now strongly desire a viable third party option. The Republicans and the Democrats are struggling to identify a potential nominee that they feel

would be beneficial to them. The voters are sick of them both.

The question that arises should be, how do we best take advantage of this situation, to move the bar forward in large scale? The answer is simple... First, we stick together to deliver the message. Each and every group within the Libertarian Party has a voice, and their voices need to be heard. If we all are working with synergy we make a better team, as we are all rowing in the same direction. Second, we need to recognize the need to make the voters understand who we are and what we really stand for. We accomplish this through clear and effective communication, with terms and ideas that are not only just understandable ... the terms in which we need to speak are terms that make it clear that everyone in some way is a Libertarian.

If I am the LP nominee for President of the United States in 2016, I will be aggressive, edgy, tireless and creative in growing the party and the associated voter base. I will build the bridge between where we stand today, and where we ultimately need to go to create a result of true liberty for all. The bases are loaded and if you choose to let me bat for us, there is no reason why we will not achieve major party status and beyond in this election.

Yours in Liberty,
Steve Kerbel

Website: SteveKerbel2016.com



Steve Kerbel

Darryl W. Perry

Over Memorial Day weekend in Orlando, FL, members of the Libertarian Party will decide not only on a Presidential nominee, but also on the future of the Libertarian Party. The question to be decided, and it will be answered not only by the Presidential nomination, but also by platform amendments: Will the Party actually be the Party of Principle in 2016 and beyond?

The Libertarian Party Platform Preamble states Libertarians seek "a world in which all individuals are sovereign over

their own lives and no one is forced to sacrifice his or her values for the benefit of others." And the Statement of Principles states, "We, the members of the Libertarian Party, challenge the cult of the omnipotent state and defend the rights of the individual."

However, in the past couple of years I've encountered members of the Party who support taxation, regulation, and licensing in the name of "the greater good." I've met Party members who want to restrict human migration, and members who want the military to intervene in conflicts around the globe. This hardly sounds like "challeng[ing] the cult of the omnipotent state and defend[ing] the rights of the individual!"

For too many election cycles the Libertarian Party has nominated Presidential candidates who have claimed they can bring more members to the Party or get a certain vote percentage by delivering a watered down message of liberty. I say, now is the time to try something different. I say, now is the time for the Libertarian Party to again be the Party of Principle. If you believe as I believe, please join me in stating as loudly as possible, and as often as possible: "Libertarians support freedom on every issue, every time!"

In Peace, Freedom, Love & Liberty,
Darryl W. Perry

Website: DarrylWPerry.com

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Darryl W. Perry

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LPNews@LP.org

Restrictions apply.

Libertarian Party 2016 presidential candidates

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Derrick Michael Reid, B.S.E.E., J.D.

Libertarians, 2016 presents the Libertarian Party with a truly historic opportunity, not seen in the US for over the last 150 years, to capture the White House and save the nation from social anarchy and economic collapse, caused by 110 years of Democrat Party leftist proposing and Republican Party rightist enabling, resulting in national bankruptcy, economic stagnation, social strife, bastardization of our Constitution, and the concentra-



Derrick Michael Reid

tion of totalitarian socialistic fascist political power in DC, suppressing our liberties and freedoms from government. The two major pandering political machines have selfishly locked up the voting booth as two sides of the same coin, by corrupting our federalism, by unconstitutionally mixing social programs with federal responsibilities at the federal level, so as to enhance their political pandering abilities and increase their money elitist campaign contributions, causing wealth transfers from the 99% to the top 1%, income inequalities, destruction of the middle class, destruction of our manufacturing base, enslavement of all Americans as tax mules or state dependents, confused ineffectual government, destruction of our once real honest money, and destruction of our once honest price-discovery markets. The United States titters at the precipice of national ruination. The call is made to all my libertarian friends to unite and stand up together as one, for this noble purpose, to lead the nation and all Americans and all political groups, in Restoring Americana Greatness, Constitution, Republic, Liberties, Freedoms, Prosperity and Peace. Rarely in generations do confluences align offering national salvation by so few freedom lovers as now. Now is our time, our time to rise up and stand united for this noble purpose. Please join me. Now is our time in history to fulfill our destiny and restore our great nation. WE ARE AMERICANS, WE CAN DO!

Website: www.TotalitarianDemocracy.com

Rhett Smith

First, thank you for your attention to liberty and free thinking.

Second, Let me introduce myself, Rhett Rosenquest Smith, born and raised in Eastland county, Texas.

Third, I apologize to you, the reader, in that, I was not aware of Libertarian initiatives until the past few years.

I have been very alarmed about public policy and global politics since Sept. 11, 2001, and I know, now, that you, also, are alarmed.

Basically, I have taken a pro-peace movement approach, but it has been only marginally effective.

I admire and appreciate the history, which I have learned, about the Libertarian Party in the United States. I have been a candidate for office since 2004, and Libertarian since 2013; I have served local Boards and organizations in Texas:

- Americans United for Separation of Church and State
- Interreligious Council of San Antonio
- American Legion, Alamo Post #2
- (NAACP) — Education comm. Chairperson
- National Organization for Women (NOW),
- Esperanza Peace & Justice Center — San Antonio, Human and Civil Rights Coalition, Non-Discrimination
- San Antonians for the Peace (Alliance) — (Dept. of PeaceBuilding)
- San Antonio Coalition for Life/ 40 Days for Life
- League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)
- Interfaith Welcome Coalition/ The Interfaith Welcome Coalition (IWC) is a broad network of community organizations, faith networks as well as concerned individuals.

We advocate in our local, state, and federal governments to push for the end of family imprisonment.

Finally, I refer to the First Amendment as First Freedom — Thomas Jefferson authored the Virginia Statute on Religious Freedom. Tragically, the two-party po-



Rhett Smith

litical monopoly abandoned the Declaration of Independence, and Constitutional Bill of Rights and, in the Middle East, the Bush/Clinton foreign policy panders to the Islamic States and Sharia law.

You and I face great obstacles and many tasks to improve our world.

First Freedom Now!

Website: RhettForPresident.com

Joy Waymire

It is an honor to seek the Libertarian Nomination for President in 2016. The Libertarian Party that was built upon Integrity & Principles; which the two dominant parties seem to have lost in the passing of time. My Integrity & Principles cannot be shaken. I stand strong in my Wisdom, Strength & Confidence to serve the needs of the People.

If elected, I intend to take government out of marriage, medical coverage, etc.; any & all things that are an Individual's Freedom to chose. I believe in Non-Intervention in other countries. A true leader has the capability of being able to set aside their personal differences & with respect; work together on their commonalities for the Common Good of All people. Very few can achieve this for their ego's get in the way. I do not have an ego to serve, I serve the People, PERIOD!

A divided Nation will NEVER stand strong & I will be working tirelessly to eliminate any & all aspects the government set in place to create more & more divisions. For example; the census truly only needs to know the number of adults & minors in a household; everything else just creates another division.

There is not enough space to touch on all the aspects facing the people. You can learn more from my website with regards to all the issues. Thanks for the opportunity to serve the people & may the best candidate become the Party's Nomination no matter whom that maybe.



Joy Waymire

Website: www.Joy4thePeoplesVoice.com

Claire Ball for comptroller seeks gov't transparency

Claire Ball, who has a master's degree in accounting and finance and works as a corporate accountant, is running for Illinois comptroller in 2016, an office that has never been held by an accountant in the state's 197-year history. Instead, it has been used as a political stepping stone or political reward for those in established parties.



Claire Ball with her trademark jelly beans; her "bean counting" credentials were cited in the *Chicago Tribune's* campaign coverage.

Ball is running to create a new era of government transparency and accountability, by opening the books.

She explained to *LP News* her goals for the office of comptroller.

"I will establish clear rules for who gets paid and *why*, and then back up that rationale with action and documentation. The checkbook is already posted online, but there is no more clarity than before. There is no reasoning given for why some payments are made over others.

"Governmental accounting should be just as transparent as any business — more so since there are few motives to drive better behavior.

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LP election results

...continued from page 1

Josh Penner was re-elected to Orting City Council, unopposed, and was also elected to a charter review commission, winning 58.6 percent of the vote.

Barbara Brenner was re-elected to Whatcom County Council. Rob Gibbs was unopposed for Kelso School Director race.

Washington has a top-two voting system, in which only two candidates may run in the general election. Nine Libertarians survived the primary and appeared on November ballots. They received a total of just over 93,000 votes, averaging 35 percent of the vote.



Joshua Penner

Steven Nielson, chairman of the Washington LP, said, "We should applaud the efforts of our many Libertarian candidates who



Indiana Libertarians celebrate on election night.

sought office under the banner of personal freedom and limited government. These results are the culmination of months of preparation and perspiration, and the efforts of the candidates, their families, and their many volunteers is worthy of a unified 'congratulations.'

"We now have the largest delegation of Libertarians elected in Washington state since before the 2000 elections."

In Pennsylvania, six candidates were elected to office for positions of borough council, auditor, constable, and school director. Three were elected to city council:

Ryan Ketelsen, Nathan Gentry, and Roann Swanson. All races in the state are partisan.

Andy LeCreau was re-elected to the Hazel Park City Council in Michigan, and Bob Mills was re-elected Biddeford Councilor in Maine. In North Carolina, T.J. Rohr was re-elected to the Lenoir City Council.

In Indiana, six Libertarians were elected, all in partisan races. Larry Walters, Jessica Whitfield, Renee Sweeney and Dennis Denney were elected to town councils; Denney was re-elected. Susan Bell was elected to another term as judge in Hagerstown. Elizabeth Brewer was elected clerk-treasurer.

Sam Goldstein, running in Indianapolis City Council's District 2, won 360 votes, twice the margin of victory between his

Democratic and Republican opponents.

Virginia Libertarian Brian Suojanen won 343 votes in his race for Virginia House of Delegates, District 87, also beating the margin between his Democratic and Republican rivals.

Volunteers Connie Hannigan-Franck and Ryan Martinez published videos for Suojanen's campaign on YouTube, featuring his positions on asset forfeiture, school choice, and health care.

In Virginia, Libertarian Andy Bakker,

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Brian Suojanen for Delegate reached out to voters on his campaign's Internet video.

Libertarian Party vs. Donald Trump

No hair jokes, just issues.

Nicholas Sarwark, chair of the Libertarian National Committee, issued the following statement:



Libertarianism is the idea that you have the right to pursue happiness in any way you wish as long as it doesn't hurt people or take their stuff. We support the fundamental rights of all people, all of the time. We do not denigrate or disparage any group. We respect the humanity of all people.

Unfortunately, the only policy position addressed on Mr. Trump's official campaign webpage is immigration. Thus, we are limited to piecing together Mr. Trump's positions on policy issues based on recent quotes in the news media.

Let's compare and contrast Donald Trump's views with those of the Libertarian Party:

National Security: Mr. Trump likes tough talk and seems to think that wars are an effective solution to many of our problems.

Libertarians think that war often creates more problems than it solves, that wars are bankrupting our nation, and that violence is justified only when used for defense.

Foreign Policy: Mr. Trump advocates more sanctions on Iran, more support for Israel, and being tough all around. Libertarians think the United States should both avoid entangling alliances and abandon its attempts to act as policeman for the world.

Trade: Mr. Trump thinks that foreign countries are getting the better end of trade deals and says that he would negotiate more favorable deals. Libertarians support free trade and think that U.S. citizens and businesses should be allowed to negotiate the deals that they find favorable without the interference of the U.S. government and government officials.

Healthcare: Fifteen years ago Mr. Trump claimed he was for a government run single-payer Canadian-style healthcare system. Mr. Trump now says Obamacare is ineffective and should be repealed and replaced, but he's not specific. Libertarians have always opposed government run healthcare, and support a free market.

Immigration: Mr. Trump advocates building a wall along our Southern border and has said disparaging things about immigrants. Libertarians believe that people

should be able to travel peacefully across borders to work, trade, or live.

Eminent Domain: Mr. Trump has taken advantage of eminent domain laws to build his real-estate empire. Libertarians think that eminent domain is often exploited by the wealthy at the cost of average Americans and is a violation of our most basic rights.

War on Drugs: Mr. Trump has, in the past, advocated ending the "war on drugs" because it is ineffective and wasteful. Lately, he seems to be adjusting his stance and claiming that it's an issue for states to decide. Libertarians also think that the "war on drugs" is ineffective and wasteful. In addition, we think the "war on drugs" is one of the biggest violations of Americans' civil liberties as it has been used to put hundreds of thousands of non-violent people in prison.

Gay Marriage: Mr. Trump also has said that he thinks that gay marriage is an issue for the states. Libertarians think that the government has no business regulating anyone's marriage.

Justice System: Mr. Trump says he would be tough on crime via anti-crime policies. Libertarians also want to decrease crime but likely disagree with Mr. Trump on the nature of "crime." Libertarians are careful to differentiate between violent crimes and non-violent crimes, and also between

crimes which involve a victim and those that do not. Currently, a huge percentage of our prison population is imprisoned for non-violent, victimless crimes such as marijuana use. Libertarians think that this is unjust to everyone: the taxpayer, the incarcerated, and society more broadly. Prison should be reserved for violent criminals.

Education: Mr. Trump has stated that he is against Common Core and supports school choice. Most Libertarians would agree. Libertarians think that the federal government should not have the authority to dictate to Americans how we should educate our children.

Second Amendment: Mr. Trump has said that he is against limits on Americans' Second Amendment rights, but has supported the ban on so-called assault weapons and longer waiting periods to buy guns. Libertarians oppose all laws at any level of government that attempt to restrict, register, or monitor the ownership, manufacture, or transfer of firearms or ammunition.

In the first debate, Trump said, "Our leaders are stupid. Our politicians are stupid." Libertarians think big-government policies are the problem, and smarter politicians with the same policies won't help. America needs new policies and a new perspective focusing on smaller government, more liberty, and peace.

2016 Libertarian Party National Presidential Nominating Convention

LEGALIZE FREEDOM!

May 27–30, 2016
Rosen Centre Hotel & Resort • Orlando, FL

Convention 2016: *Legalize Freedom!*

By J.J. McCURRY

The 2016 Libertarian Party National Convention will be May 27–30 at the Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando, Florida. You, the membership, decided on a theme:

Legalize Freedom

We at the Convention Oversight Committee are planning to create the best convention yet. Besides the opening reception, banquet,

Take advantage of our pre-earlybird discounts: register by December 31.

and presidential debate, we are planning a masquerade/cos-play event and film screening. Dress up as your favorite Libertarian, presidential candidate, or superhero!

Convention packages, schedule, room reservations, and hospitality suites are all available now at LP.org/convention, and will be updated as we get closer. Take advantage of our

pre-earlybird discounts: *register by Dec. 31!*

We are pleased to be inviting to the 2016 convention some of the most prominent and experienced libertarian leaders and activists to inspire you. Stay tuned as our exciting speaker lineup takes shape.

There is much more work to do! We seek support volunteers for the National Convention. Those interested in volunteering should contact Vicki Kirkland.

We also still have slots for speakers. Those who are interested or have suggestions should contact Daniel Hayes.

For general questions and sponsorship opportunities, contact BetteRose Ryan.

See you in Orlando in May!

Contact:

Daniel Hayes: Daniel.Hayes@LP.org
BetteRose Ryan: 2016Convention@LP.org
Vicki Kirkland: Vicki.Kirkland@LP.org

Our convention will be in exciting Orlando, Florida. Thrills and attractions such as Sea World, Walt Disney World, and Universal Studios are only minutes away. To encourage you to bring the whole family, the LP's room rates run 3 days before and 3 days after our convention.

Location

Rosen Centre Hotel & Resort

9840 International Dr., Orlando, FL 32819
(407) 996-9840; www.RosenCentre.com



Rosen Centre has extended us a very special rate of only \$95 per night (up to four guests per room; regularly \$173.75). To receive the LP's special rate, make your reservation no later than May 4!

Special 2015 discounts!

We have set some very special *pre-earlybird package discounts, only through Dec. 31*, to encourage you to register early, and to help us plan the very best convention experience.

On Jan. 1, our standard earlybird rates kick in, good only through March 15, after which our regular prices will go into effect.

Convention Packages

Our convention team has designed several convention package for every need. Package features are shown on our web site, at www.LP.org/convention/register. Book now!

Gold: \$399 in 2015 (\$499 at door)
Silver: \$349 in 2015 (\$429 at door)
Bronze: \$259 in 2015 (\$319 at door)
Basic ticket: \$139 in 2015 (\$179 at door)
Attendee ticket: \$95 (regular price)

To register by phone, call:
202-333-0008 x233

Nab our pre-earlybird rates!
REGISTER BY DECEMBER 31!

For online registration, visit:
www.LP.org/convention/register

Johnson and Ventura

...continued from page 5

willingness to run as Donald Trump's running mate, if asked.

WCCO-TV reported that Ventura indicated that he will decide whether to run in March.

"Why get in now?" asked Ventura WCCO-TV reporter Esme Murphy. "Wait for the pikers to be gone, wait until there is two left. Then you get the press, you will be the focus, then Jesse will steal the election in the last four months."

Ventura told host Steve Malzberg on Newsmax TV that he would run as a Libertarian because Republicans and Democrats are a "two-party dictatorship."

"I want to destroy them," he said, "and when I say destroy them, I want to destroy the current stranglehold these two parties have on our elected system, of turning it into a system based upon bribery. ... [In the] private sector, you go to jail for that."

He added that if he is tapped by the LP, he would love to run "because I'll win." On WCCO-TV, he clarified that he'd win if he is included in the presidential debates.

LP election results

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who ran for House of Delegates District 46, ran a vigorous campaign featuring "Legalize It" yard signs, to promote his key issue: ending marijuana prohibition. He received five percent of the vote in a three-way race.

In New Jersey, Joe DeLong won 9.6 percent of the vote in his race for mayor of South Bound Brook, where he "helped to unseat the corrupt incumbent," Tom Ormosi, according to LP state chair Patrick McKnight. Democrat Chris Shoffner won the election by just three votes.

Arkansas lawsuit

...continued from page 3

Despite the difficulty of finding potential candidates who could commit so far in advance of the election, 23 candidates were selected, including candidates for all four Arkansas congressional districts.

Frank Gilbert, who was the party's candidate for governor in 2014, will run for U.S. Senate. Nathan LaFrance, Chris Hayes, Mark West, and Kerry Hicks are

Alaska Libertarian Richard Robb won his race for Bethel City Council on Oct. 6.

Ballot Measures

In Ohio, voters turned down a ballot measure to legalize marijuana by a two-to-one margin. However, it was not a clean, pro-freedom measure. The Ohio LP opposed it, calling it "crony capitalism," because it granted a monopoly to just one group of marijuana growers.

In Colorado, voters approved a measure allowing state lawmakers to keep and spend the \$66 million collected annually in taxes on marijuana. Voters did not have

a strong incentive to oppose it, since it would have given them a tax refund of just \$6–16 per year.

In Maine, voters approved a measure to strengthen an existing campaign finance law, dubbed "Clean Elections" by its proponents. The measure increases taxpayer funding of elections to \$3 million—a 50% increase—adds regulations, and increases penalties for violating disclosure rules.

In San Francisco, voters rejected a measure to restrict Airbnb, which would have drastically curbed the right of property owners to offer short-term rental of extra space in their homes.

running for U.S. House. LaFrance and Hayes ran in 2014 for U.S. Senate and state treasurer, respectively.

"We are hopeful that we'll have another chance to reconsider our nominations after the judge's ruling on our case," said Pakko. "We were operating on such a tight schedule — we were hard-pressed to come up with a full list of candidates."

The LPAR completed its ballot access

drive in June, becoming a "new" political party for the third time in the last six years. To achieve this, the party was required to gather the signatures of 10,000 registered voters in Arkansas. In order to maintain their ballot status, the Libertarian candidate for president must receive three percent of the popular vote in the November 2016 general election.

Challenging signature drives in Oklahoma, South Dakota

Petitioners have been working hard to put a Libertarian presidential candidate on the ballot next year in **Oklahoma** after the legislature cut by 40 percent the state's very high signature requirement for third parties last year, making success feasible.

Even with the reduction, petitioners still need to collect a hefty 24,745 valid signatures by March 1, 2016. As of late October, approximately 16,000 raw signatures had been collected.

Petitioning has been far more challenging than usual. Authorities have been hostile to petitioners, denying them access to college campuses, post offices, and other public venues throughout the state.

LP Oklahoma, being helped by the national LP, remains steadfast in its determination to make the ballot.

Signature gatherers are also working hard in **South Dakota**, where the legislature made an already difficult process even harder, by moving up to March 1 the deadline for turning in signatures to put the party on the ballot. However, the new early deadline will not go into effect in 2016, due to a referendum to repeal it, which will be on the 2016 ballot.

The existing deadline of March 29 is still quite early, especially with the state's harsh winter weather setting in. As of late October, approximately 2,000 raw signatures have been collected; 6,931 valid signatures are needed.

A majority of the [California] legislature is currently opposed to top two because it has dramatically increased the cost of winning a primary election.

In other ballot-access news:

Alabama: LP Alabama has submitted just over half of the almost 5,000 valid signatures needed to put Libertarians on the ballot in Jefferson County, the most populous county in the state and home to Birmingham. The filing deadline is March 1, 2016.

In recent years, Libertarians have opted to put their candidates on the ballot in individual counties, because Alabama's statewide petitioning requirements are some of

the most difficult in the nation.

Independent presidential petitions require 5,000 signatures and are due Aug. 18, 2016.

California: In a setback, the U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear *Rubin v. Padilla*, a lawsuit that challenges the state's top-two open-primary system. "Top two" requires all candidates to be placed on all voters' primary election ballots. Only the top two finishers, regardless of party, may appear on the general election ballot.

This puts alternative parties at a severe disadvantage, because candidates from the old parties will likely be the top two finishers in any competitive race. This blocks challengers from the general election.

While disappointing, the decision comes as no surprise. LP California members remain determined to field as many candidates as possible in 2016, with the goal of breaking through to the general election in races where incumbents are weak or have no competition.

Meanwhile, on Oct. 8, the ACLU filed a new lawsuit against the California top-two law, which challenges one aspect of it: some candidates can have a party label on the ballot, but other candidates can't. The law says the legislature shall adopt rules about party labels, which currently force non-qualified party candidates to falsely identify themselves as "Party Preference: None." If the legislature won't fix this flaw, the top-two law could be held unconstitutional.

A majority of the legislature is currently opposed to top two because it has dramatically increased the cost of winning a primary election. However, it was passed as a constitutional amendment, so it can only be overturned in court or with another constitutional amendment, which must be approved by voters.

Connecticut: The Connecticut LP, via the ACLU, is negotiating with the state to stop enforcing its law prohibiting out-of-state circulators. If successful, it will remove a significant impediment to ballot-access petitioning.

Indiana: In response to a complaint from Madison County Republicans, the Elections Board removed a slate of five LP candidates running for various offices in the town of Anderson this November, because their declarations of candidacy were not certified by the state party chairman.

LP Indiana state chair Joe Hauptman

asserts that the decision was arbitrary and a break from precedent, since this law had not been enforced in the past.

"In Indiana we have learned to live with oppressive election laws and rules. It is when they keep changing the rules as they go that we have a problem," he said.

According to former LP candidate Andy Horning, campaign laws are routinely broken by Democrats and Republicans, and are not enforced.

Despite the setback, LP Indiana fielded thirty candidates on the Nov. ballot.

Pennsylvania's chilling practice of charging third parties hefty fees when they lose a challenge of their signatures has ended.

Maine: A registration drive that started in April to get the LP onto the ballot looks like it will be successful. As of October, the LP had 5,000 registrations in hand, the amount needed to qualify for ballot access. They aim to collect 6,000 registrations in total.

Minnesota: The secretary of state has agreed to ask the legislature to ease many ballot-access laws next year, including the vote test for qualified-party status, which is 5 percent for any statewide office. If the level is reduced to 2 percent, the LP would be ballot-qualified. In 2014, Libertarian for Secretary of State Bob Odden received 2.1 percent of the vote.

New Hampshire: In August, a U.S. District Court judge upheld a 2014 New Hampshire law that makes it illegal for a group to circulate a petition in odd years to get itself onto the ballot. This adds to the already very difficult ballot-access requirements in the state, which heavily favor entrenched parties.

The Libertarian Party has managed only twice to successfully pull in the required signatures since the law was instituted in 1996. Both times, the petition took a year to complete. Now the petitioning time will be cut in half.

To complete a party petition for 2016, the LP will need to collect 14,566 signatures. A petition for only the 2016 LP presidential nominee will require 3,000 signatures.

Ball for comptroller

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"I will get comptroller-related reporting out by the due dates. The 2014 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report from the comptroller's office was 255 days late, among the top five latest states (New Mexico was the worst—407 days late). The states are already given twice as long as SEC-compliant companies, who have 180 days after the end of the fiscal year. That should be plenty of time to get the financials out."

Ball contends that the role of comptroller should not be political, but rather one of recordkeeping and authorization of payment, headed by someone with the financial background required in every other area of business.

"The person keeping track of taxpayer money should be independent in mind and action. I don't care who can do what for me; if either side tries to take advantage for the political/personal gain of their party, I will call them out on it."

She says the strict rules for independence required of a CPA should apply to the comptroller.

Even though her name will appear on the general election ballot in November, her race is a special election to fill part of the term left vacant after the death of Comptroller Judy Baar Topinka. The office will be up for grabs again in 2018.

This is Claire Ball's second run for office. She ran for College of DuPage trustee in April of this year.

Claire Ball's website:

www.ClaireBallForIllinois.com

The national GOP had submitted an amicus brief in defense of the new law. The *Union Leader*, the newspaper of record in New Hampshire, sided with Libertarians in voicing its disapproval of the court ruling.

Pennsylvania: Pennsylvania's chilling practice of charging third parties hefty fees when they lose a challenge of their signatures has ended. In late July, a U.S. District Court judge ruled the process unconstitutional.

In 2004, presidential candidate Ralph Nader was ordered to pay over \$81,102 in court costs after his petition was invalidated. Two years later, Green Party U.S. Senate nominee Carl Romanelli was also ordered to pay \$80,407 when his petition was deemed invalid.

LP Activist Training

...continued from page 1

posals and sell them effectively in the short span of an interview. A number of participants then came to the front of the room to practice media interviews, with a focus on staying on message and selling the benefits of liberty.

Two of the party's best fundraisers led a session on this all-important topic. LP Executive Director Wes Benedict went over the nuts and bolts of direct-mail fundraising, and LP national staff member Bob Johnston focused on key aspects of telephone fundraising.

LNC at-large member Doug Craig offered plenty of insights into how to use social media, focusing on Facebook.

Several speakers also led a panel discussion on how to form and maintain strong state and local affiliates. And five speakers

led an open session in which participants picked the topics to discuss and explore.

The weekend included plenty of playtime. Friday night, the national LP hosted a reception and party at the headquarters in Alexandria. Saturday night, participants took a boat cruise up the Potomac River from Old Town Alexandria, past D.C.'s famed monuments, to Georgetown for dinner. Sunday afternoon, Wes Benedict played tour guide and took participants to the Washington Mall for sightseeing.

"I am a new Libertarian and was happy to attend the training with the heavy hitters of the Libertarian Party, who have inspired me to return to my community and fight for issues of liberty," said Corey Fauconier of Virginia. "I hope these sessions happen often."

"I strongly support doing more of these types of training seminars," said participant Eric Blitz of Maryland.



Trainer Carla Howell



Trainer Sam Goldstein



Trainer Doug Craig



Participant Mary Phelps



Trainers Andy Burns and Lauren Daugherty



Trainers Bob Johnston and Wes Benedict



Participants & trainers cruised on the Potomac River Boat Tour from Old Town Alexandria.



Dinner in Georgetown



Participants Martin Moulton and Melanie Folstad



For locations and dates of the next LP Activist Training sessions, visit:

LP.org/training

AFFILIATE NEWS AND EVENTS

Affiliate news and events are provided to LP News by Libertarian Party state affiliates.

Alabama

Major ballot drive under way

The fall of 2015 has been teeming with activity for the members and volunteers of the Libertarian Party of Alabama. Between paid petitioners and our volunteers staffing numerous fall festivals, over 6,500 ballot access signatures have been submitted to the Jefferson County Board of Registrars. Unfortunately, only 41 percent of the collected signatures were accepted by the Registrar's office, leaving another 2,400 valid signatures to be collected by the filing deadline of March 1, 2016. To raise funds for additional ballot access petitioning, our team has developed an unauthorized "Cards Against Humanity" game expansion pack, titled "Citizens Against Hypocrisy." The Alabama LP is making the cards available to other affiliates. If interested, please write to *Leigh.LaChine@LPAlabama.org*.

In August, LP Alabama hosted our first volunteer meal at the Firehouse Shelter. Our group raised the funds and prepared a meal of barbecue pork, slaw/salad, potatoes, corn, and dessert, to feed approximately 75 homeless men. We accomplished this with your generous donations

and a little hard work to show that private charity can provide for our needy if given the chance.

Planning continues for LP Alabama's 2016 joint convention with LP Mississippi, to be held on the weekend of Feb. 27 at the Beau Rivage Casino and Resort in Biloxi, Miss. A Libertarian presidential candidates' debate is being planned in conjunction with the conventions, allowing the candidates to speak with two delegations in a single setting. At this year's convention, the Libertarian Party of Alabama will be electing our new Executive Committee, voting on bylaws amendments, electing delegates for the National Convention, and nominating candidates to run for Jefferson County office.

California

Record attendance expected at April convention

The 2016 state convention will be held on April 1–3 at the Hilton Los Angeles Airport. We're lining up an exciting array of speakers and panels, including a forum for our presidential candidates that will be a refreshing change from the Republican and Democratic debates on television. Our convention speakers will offer a libertarian take on current events, and the panels will address campaigning and outreach. A more detailed program will be available soon. We are offering discounts on

convention packages for "early birds" who want to sign up now. The details are on our website, at *Ca.LP.org/2016-convention*. Many thanks to Mark Hinkle, convention committee chair, for finding the hotel and putting these events in motion.

Campaign 2016 is coming up very fast, and we intend to have as many Libertarian candidates on the ballot as possible. Do you think that your state legislator is a tax-and-spend, rights-violating statist? Well, you can run against that person — and promote the Libertarian alternative. If you're interested in running, contact Ted Brown at *TBrown@Ca.LP.org*, and we'll make a battle plan. Or if you would rather work on someone else's campaign, that would be terrific! Our members should be hearing from me or another candidate recruiter in the coming days.

The Libertarian Party's visibility is quite low in California at the moment, and we intend to change that. Our executive director, Janine Kloss, will be doing public relations — especially sending press releases to the media and getting Libertarians onto radio and TV shows. We're looking for Libertarians with media contacts or who can be spokespersons for our views, so do share any information you have in these areas.

Colorado

Over 32,000 registered Libertarians

LPCO grew over 28 percent in 2014. We added 1,955 registered Libertarians in the first seven months of 2015. There are now 32,312 registered Colorado Libertarians. And just as important, there are over one million unaffiliated voters in Colorado. Our Facebook page "likes" are currently at 6,199. The 11 people on our full board are together working hard to reach out to the public, recruit volunteers, and raise money.

The local newspaper recently covered Chair Lily Tang Williams's opposition to Parker Ballot Initiative 2A, which seeks to increase the sales tax from 8 to 8.5 percent, and take on new debt of \$39 million (*ParkerChronicle.net/stories/Residents-debate-proposed-tax-increase,200742*). Her opposition was also published in the Blue Book (the official voter guide).

2016 is going to be a big year, and LPCO is proud to represent Libertarians in a state that has already made history twice on Libertarian issues.

One of those issues is marijuana legalization, a huge win for our state. It re-

minds us of other times in which freedom eventually won, and that is why the theme of our 2016 convention is going to be the Roaring Twenties and Prohibition. The prohibition of alcohol in this country was such a monumental failure that it has its own mythic iconography that resonates to this day. But this convention is not just about speakeasies and jazz music; it is about taking back victories that Libertarians played a big part in creating. It is also about creating momentum for a very important election cycle. All Libertarian presidential candidates are also invited to debate their opponents, and a few have already confirmed. Even if you're not a Coloradoan yourself, this would be the perfect excuse to visit the Rocky Mountain State. Please check out our website for more info: *www.LPColorado.org*

Hawaii

Skype links LP conventioners on two islands

Hawaii's Libertarian Party had its state convention on Nov. 8. Problematic in organizing statewide in Hawaii is the separation of the counties by sections of the Pacific Ocean and a lack of inexpensive surface transportation. With a growing party on the island of Hawaii, it seemed unfair to do yet another convention on Oahu. The solution has been to link two convention sites with Skype on a large screen. The Hawaii Party has been using this technology for a couple of years now for executive committee meetings which include members on several islands.

The Oahu gathering took place at the Ala Moana Hotel, where a number of LPH conventions have been held over the decades. It is a more expensive venue than those used recently, but provides more space, parking, and generally a more professional feel. Image is important in gathering support, funding, and press attention. The Hawaii County event took place at the Hilo Hawaiian Hotel. The county chair works with the hotel and has been able to help schedule a number of cost-effective events for us there. (Note: Not only is *Hawaii* the name of the state, it is the name of one of the four counties. For simplicity, Hawaii County is often referred to as "the big island.")

To attract attendance, postcards were sent out with follow-ups by e-mail and phone calls. The postcard also included a "Help Wanted Legislative" section adver-

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Alabama Libertarians feed homeless at Firehouse Shelter in Birmingham.

AFFILIATE NEWS AND EVENTS

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tising for candidates to run in the 2016 elections.

The Hawaii Party has been updating its website to get information about these things posted and to facilitate discussion on its state platform. It is working with a platform written in 1984. Although its principles are those the party supports, some members feel the tone is too much directed toward dismantling government, and not enough towards explaining the benefits of non-coercive methods of organizing a society. Hopefully, folks will blog their comments on the website and come to the convention ready to have a discussion.

Election 2016 is still up in the air. Hawaii has a few folks interested in running, but only one of them has a campaign set up. Anthony Higa, who ran in 2014, is looking forward to another chance at state House seat 19. Funding is already under way. A coffee session is being scheduled for later in November in which the candidate will have a chance to meet a number of people in the district who are not affiliated with the LP.

Illinois

March LP convention to feature debates

The Libertarian Party of Illinois will hold its next State Convention on Friday and Saturday, March 11–12, 2016, at the Hilton Garden Inn in Springfield. All known 2016 presidential candidates are invited to participate in a debate on Friday evening. We will also have a debate for Illinois U.S. Senate and Illinois State Comptroller candidates. The early nominating convention is timed to take advantage of the Illinois primary election news cycle, as well as being a good kickoff to our ballot access petitioning season.

Party members have been working with other groups and attending their events. Included events were the opening of the new Heartland Institute building in Arlington Heights, a meeting of the Federalist Society, and a Tea Party rally in Carol Stream. There was also a meet-and-greet in Chicago, where Libertarian candidates addressed Chicago Libertarians.

Candidate Development Director Crystal Jurczynski has been offering candidate

training through workshops and seminars around the state. Candidates for office and campaign volunteers have attended events in Addison, Bloomington, Springfield, and Mount Vernon. Crystal's commitment to Libertarian campaigns has been integral to growing public awareness of the Libertarian philosophy, while bringing candidates into the political limelight.

The State Party's Precinct Committeeman Project is off to a slow but steady start. This initiative seeks neighborhood activists who can grow the party from the ground up. Any Illinois Libertarian who is willing to talk with their neighbors about libertarianism should contact the party through our website, www.LPillinois.org.

Kansas

State fair outreach success

The Libertarian Party of Kansas booth at the State Fair in Hutchinson in September was a great success. In addition to speaking with several hundred people over the 10 days of the fair, our volunteers collected a record number of information slips from people wanting to be added to the e-mail list.

As of Sept. 17, there were 13,222 registered Libertarians in Kansas, the highest count in many years.

Summer is County Fair season in Kan-

sas, and many local LP groups hosted booths at these well-attended events. Leavenworth County LPKS, Third District Libertarians (Kansas City area), and Libertarians of Saline County were among those who staffed booths.

On July 4, the Libertarians of Saline County participated in their city's Independence Day celebration at a local park by setting up a podium at the entrance to the park and staging a reading of the Declaration of Independence, as well as passing out copies of the document.

Massachusetts

POTUS candidates debate at LP convention

On Oct. 17, the 2015 Massachusetts State Convention featured the first live debate between our party's presidential candidates, a keynote speech by National Chair Nick Sarwark, and election of a new State Committee. The convention attracted record attendance.

The presidential debate, which was carried live across the country and around the world on streaming video, featured candidates Steve Kerbel, Darryl W. Perry, Marc Allan Feldman, and Derrick Michael Reid. The moderator was former Libertarian presidential candidate George Phillies; this is his third presidential debate as moderator. All candidates had the same opportunity to speak; questions were answered in random order. The full debate may be watched on YouTube at: youtu.be/CKm9bIeznWo



George Phillies (at left) moderates debate at Massachusetts LP state convention between LP presidential candidates.

Pictured L-R: Steve Kerbel, Darryl Perry, Marc Allan Feldman, and Derrick Michael Reid

National Chair Nick Sarwark gave the keynote talk. His message: Tell your opponents, "You might be right"; then they'll listen to you. Be nice; honey attracts more flies than vinegar. Win!

More than 30 state party members and guests were in attendance, a record for the past decade.

The Party members elect the State Committee. The State Committee elects its own officers. Delegates to the 2016 National Convention are elected separately, but anyone elected to the State Committee may choose to be a delegate ex officio. The new State Committee and its officers are:

- David Blau: Treasurer
- Cris Crawford: Archivist, 2016 Presidential Ballot Access
- Peter Everett: Member
- Daniel Fishman: Editor, Political Facilitator, and Recording Secretary
- Don Graham: Information Technology Facilitator
- Alwin Hopfman: Petitioning Mobilization
- Heather Mullins: Member
- George Phillies: Chair
- Bob Underwood: Membership Secretary

The National Convention delegates elected to date are Cris Crawford, Daniel Fishman, Don Graham, Heather Mullins, George Phillies, Rene Ruiz, Susan Ruiz, and Arthur Torrey.

Minnesota

Minnesota state fair-goers crave "Freedom on a Stick"

Known in the state as the Great Minnesota Get-Together, the 2015 state fair was a huge success for the Libertarian Party. Our "Freedom on a Stick" slogan was extremely popular, with hundreds of people taking photos of our banner. Our booth had nearly four times the traffic compared to 2014, and we over 1,500 people signed up to receive more information.

Our issue messages, including *Legalize It*, *Don't Spy On Me*, *Wage Peace*, and *Ranked Choice Voting*—as promoted on signs, buttons, and T-shirts—were a huge draw. As an example, the vast majority of people understand that ending the failed War on Drugs isn't about encouraging more people to use mind-altering substances; it is about restoring the freedom of personal choice and putting an end to the negative outcomes that are caused by prohibition.

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AFFILIATE News And Events

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It was also clear that our messaging is beginning to reach a larger audience, and that people know we stand for much more than just legalizing marijuana. Examples of our improvement from last year, in terms of recognition and support, include:

A common initial question to visitors at our booth has been “Are you familiar with the Libertarian Party”—last year, the answer to that question was usually “no.” This year, a much higher percentage of people said “yes” or at least “somewhat”—which shows that our continued and consistent efforts on messaging, issues, and running candidates in state and local elections are having a positive impact.

Visitors who said they were unfamiliar with the Libertarian Party found our literature piece summarizing Libertarian positions—and our agreement or disagreement with the major parties—very helpful. Thousands of these pieces were distributed during the fair, and the impact was immediate—typical comments were, “this really makes sense,” “I get it now,” and “this describes who I am.”



Passers-by swamp LP Minnesota's “Freedom on a Stick” booth at State Fair.

Other people who visited our booth knew that we were a political party that is neither Democrat nor Republican—and these people were actively seeking a new option. The energy and support for a new approach to government is increasing every day, and people were excited to hear about our real-world solutions to the problems that the current power structure has created.

2015 has seen tremendous success in our three major external outreach events—the May Day Festival, Twin Cities PRIDE, and the State Fair. More people are

hearing our message, and more are understanding how our solutions to the issues of the day represent reasonable and rational options in a world where those are not commonly proposed.

Montana

LP outreach at fairs, huge parade

Summer months are always busy for the Montana Libertarian Party. In August, we attended the Missoula Gun Show, the state's largest gun show. Also in August was the Western Montana Fair in Missoula, and the Ravalli County Fair in Hamilton. Back in July, we had a booth at the Gallatin County Fair, as well. These outreach events also included having entries in the Kalispell Fourth of July Parade, the Sanders County Fair Parade, the Ravalli County Fair Parade, and the University of Montana Homecoming Parade in September.

Over 20,000 people lined up to view the U.M. parade. It's another way to do outreach and get our name out to the public.

The Missoula County Libertarian Party continues its public-access TV show on Missoula Community Access Television. The local group has decided to come out against issuance of school bonds totaling \$158 million that are more of a wish list than a needs list. Property owners on fixed incomes can't afford increases in their taxes, and that is why we say, “Stop taxing our property: Vote NO.” The Missoula City Council is also proposing legislation on requiring background checks on gun owners in Missoula. We'll be there to support our right to keep and bear arms, and defeat this bad law. State Chair Mike Fellows asks, “Why do we need permission for a right we already have under the Constitution?”

We are in the process of organizing the Montana State College Libertarians. Getting young people involved in liberty is a good idea. 2016 is also the start of another election season. Statewide offices are up for election, along with the Montana House and one third of the Montana Senate. The filing fee for the legislature is only \$15, plus paperwork with the Commissioner of Political Practices. Now is the time to start thinking about running for office. Then you can have fund-raised filing fees and hit the ground running. We need more liberty-minded people in office. The Republicans may have been in charge in the last

legislative session, but the legislature gave our governor most everything he wanted. Get involved.

If you have questions, give the chair, Mike Fellows, a call.



Libertarian Adam Forslund of the Missoula LP in the procession of the U.M. parade

North Dakota

Joint convention with LP South Dakota

North Dakota sees a golden opportunity in the 2016 elections. Nationally, it looks like a Republican Party (taken over by the right wing) will face off with a Democratic Party, whose leading candidate is Hillary Clinton, which means a viable Libertarian candidate might have an outside chance. Now in North Dakota, neither party has a candidate for governor, nor for state auditor, which makes those races wide open to Libertarian candidates as well. On Nov. 7, the North Dakota Libertarian Party and a renewed South Dakota LP will hold a combined state convention in Mandan, N.D., where the selection for the 2016 candidates will begin. So look for big things from the Dakotas in 2016.

Ohio

Huge petition drive under way

New Executive Committee Chair Bob Bridges is leading the Libertarian Party of Ohio's “Voter Freedom Drive,” which has begun collecting the estimated 60,000 signatures needed to safely ensure ballot access for 2016, should the courts not strike down Senate Bill 193, a 2013 law that revoked ballot access for any party other than Republican and Democratic.

The LPO is still pursuing a positive outcome in *LPO v. Husted*, our federal court case challenging the constitutionality of S.B. 193. Also known as the “John Kasich Re-election Protection Act,” S.B. 193 would require the LPO to get at about 36,000 signatures to get back on the ballot.

Testimony and discovery in *LPO v.*

Husted has uncovered the fact that the Ohio Republican Party, probably working with other GOP entities, spent somewhere between \$300,000 and \$500,000 in legal fees to orchestrate a successful technical challenge that removed Libertarian Charlie Earl, who had been polling at 10 to 15 percent, from the 2012 governor's race. Hundreds of Earl's signatures were invalidated—after they had been certified by Secretary of State Jon Husted—on the grounds that circulators did not comply with an ambiguously worded rule that had never been enforced, or even checked, by Ohio election officials.

Since 2010, Libertarian registration in Ohio is up 19 percent, while legacy party registration has dropped sharply—Republican by 19 percent, Democratic by 28 percent. Also, Gary Johnson for president received about 50,000 votes here in 2012.

The LPO's new party petition and signatures would have to be filed by July 6, 2016. Any help from our fellow Libertarians would be greatly appreciated. To offer assistance, please write to Info@LPO.org, or phone Political Director Tricia Sprinkle at 614-264-2984.

West Virginia

Big plans for May LP convention

The Libertarian Party of West Virginia (LPWV), the fastest-growing political party in the Mountain State, has announced its 2016 state convention, to be held on May 7, 2016 at the Flatwoods Days Inn and Conference Center in Sutton. State Chair Michael Wilson said, “From all indications of our growth in local county organizations throughout the state, and with the number of registered Libertarians having doubled in the last two years, I think we'll have the largest turnout we've ever seen.”

The business of the LPWV state convention will be to nominate candidates for statewide, legislative, congressional, and local office; to elect officers of the state party; and to select delegates to the Libertarian presidential nominating convention, to be held over Memorial Day weekend in Orlando, Florida.

David D. Moran of Preston County, the LPWV candidate for governor in 2012, whose successful candidacy recovered recognized party status for the state party, has announced his intentions to seek the office of governor once again in 2016. Libertar-

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LP Solution: Cut *total* government spending

BY CARLA HOWELL

If your goal as a Libertarian is to expand liberty, drive down Big Government, and end or reduce its many failed, destructive programs, nothing can work faster and more effectively than substantially cutting total government spending—and returning every tax dollar saved to the men and women who earned it.

Everything government does wrong—from drug prohibition to foreign meddling, from lousy schools to onerous regulations—costs money to administer and enforce. By dramatically cutting government spending, you put Big Government on a turbo-charged diet.

Democratic and Republican politicians sometimes preach “spending cuts.” But they compulsively practice spending *increases*.

Their mantra is: *What’s good for Big Government is good for everybody.*

In reality, it’s only the politicians and their special-interest pals who benefit

from higher government spending. Everyday workers and taxpayers *lose*. Taxes go up. Government debt goes up, so the value of each dollar goes down. Jobs get scarce. Earnings stagnate. Add to that the immeasurable damage caused by the government programs fueled by high spending.

Democratic and Republican politicians claim that more spending will make things better. Wrong again. Most Big Government programs make things worse for the people they’re supposed to help. Just read the book *Losing Ground* by Charles Murray.

Better yet, ask the surviving family of a veteran who died on a Veterans Administration waiting list because he never got the surgery needed to save his life.

Or look at welfare families who have been trapped in poverty for generations, living in crime-infested housing projects.

What happens when politicians throw more money at schools? Typically, the highest-cost government schools have the lowest graduation rates, the lowest literacy

rates, and the worst violence.

High government spending makes things worse — *much* worse. Cutting government spending will make things *better*.

You can call for spending cuts across the board, cuts in particular areas of government, or both. But do not leave the money you free up from spending cuts in the hands of Big Government politicians. They’ll just find another destructive, wasteful program to blow it on. Bring down *total* government spending.

To appeal to voters, couple your spending-cut plan with a proposal to immediately cut taxes *by the same amount*. This will get the money *out* of politicians’ hands and put it back into the productive private sector where it belongs.

Cutting a broad-based tax that most people pay—such as the income, sales, or property tax—is the most compelling. Voters recognize that cutting these taxes will benefit them and their families. It motivates them to go to the polls and vote

Libertarian.

The benefits of tax cuts to voters include: “Hundreds or thousands of dollars back in your family budget—every year—to spend, save, or give away as you see fit.”

“More private-sector jobs.”

A Big Government politician’s “jobs plan” creates make-work, fake government jobs. They’re temporary and depend on constant taxpayer funding.

Private-sector jobs require no taxpayer funds. They *have* to be productive—or they won’t last.

A 2010 Beacon Hill Institute study showed that tax and spending cuts create twice as many jobs in the private sector as are lost in the government sector being cut. Big Government kills jobs. Tax and spending cuts create jobs.

Add to this the many benefits of getting rid of destructive Big Government programs funded by high spending, and you have a powerful, attractive Libertarian solution.

AFFILIATE NEWS AND EVENTS

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ians expect Moran will head a full slate of candidates for all statewide offices, including attorney general, secretary of state, auditor, treasurer, and commissioner of agriculture. In addition, the party anticipates a record number of candidates for House of Delegates and State Senate and is currently recruiting candidates for the three West Virginia seats in the U.S. House of Representatives.

All voters who are registered “Libertarian” on the voter rolls of the secretary of state as of March 6, 2016, and who have signed and submitted membership applications in the LPWV, are eligible to attend and vote at the LPWV state convention. The state party has no membership fee.

The LPWV first gained official party recognition, which requires at least 1 percent in the race for governor, through the 1996 candidacy of Dr. Wallace Johnson of Beckley. It failed to achieve that threshold, however, in 2000 and thereafter, until the most recent gubernatorial election. In the 2012 contest for governor, David Moran garnered 1.3 percent, putting the LPWV back on the roster of recognized parties. In

2014, the LPWV’s candidate for U.S. Senate, John Buckley of Hardy County, placed third of five candidates, with 1.6 percent of the vote. With organized affiliates in 22 counties, and membership rolls and voter registration numbers continuing to grow, the LPWV expects to do substantially better in 2016 with Moran again at the top of the ticket. As of October, the voter rolls show more than 2,500 registered Libertarians throughout the state.

“The growth in the Libertarian Party in West Virginia reflects deep-seated unhappiness among the public with the continued growth of government sustained and enabled by the two older parties,” said Wilson. “An increasing number of voters want to regain their personal and economic liberty and are seeking an alternative in the political system. Libertarians are offering that alternative.”

For more information
on state affiliates, visit:
www.LP.org/states

Measures expected on 2016 state ballots

BY CARLA HOWELL

At the 2012 national LP convention, delegates added support and opposition of ballot measures to the party’s mission.

Ballot measures are an important part of elections in states where citizens have the opportunity to directly enact law, usually by simple majority vote. They include statutes, constitutional amendments, and referenda to repeal existing law, plus advisory measures that have no force of law.

Some states have no ballot measures

and others have many. They can be placed on the ballot by citizen initiative, usually requiring a large number of petition signatures, or by legislatures, as state law permits. Many local jurisdictions throughout the country also have ballot measures.

Below are some of the key statewide measures that appear likely to make the ballot in 2016. More will emerge, and some of these may not make the ballot. The full list of which ones do will be known by around August 2016.

Arkansas

- Restore shorter term limits

Arizona

- Nonpartisan elections for all nonpresidential offices

California

- Raise minimum wage
- Legalize marijuana

District of Columbia

- Raise minimum wage

Florida

- Top-two primary
- Legalize medical marijuana
- Free-market solar energy

Maine

- Legalize marijuana
- Raise minimum wage
- Instant runoff (ranked choice) voting

Massachusetts

- Legalize marijuana

Michigan

- Legalize marijuana

Missouri

- Legalize marijuana

Nevada

- Legalize marijuana
- Background checks for all gun sales

Oklahoma

- Raise the sales tax

South Dakota

- Nonpartisan elections for all nonpresidential offices
- Legalize medical marijuana

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2016 Libertarian Party conventions

For updates and newly scheduled conventions, visit:
www.LP.org/blogs/staff/2016-state-conventions

Jan. 23:	Arizona	April 23–24:	Ohio
Feb. 27–28:	Alabama, Mississippi	Apr. 29–May 1:	Kansas (tentative)
March 11–12:	Illinois	April 30:	New York, South Dakota (tentative)
March 12:	New Jersey	May 7:	West Virginia
April 1–3:	California	May 27–30:	Libertarian National Convention
April 8–10:	Texas	June 18:	Idaho
April 16:	Minnesota, New Mexico, Nebraska	October:	Massachusetts (2nd or 3rd Sat.; TBD)
April 16–17:	Louisiana		
April 22–24:	Indiana, North Carolina		

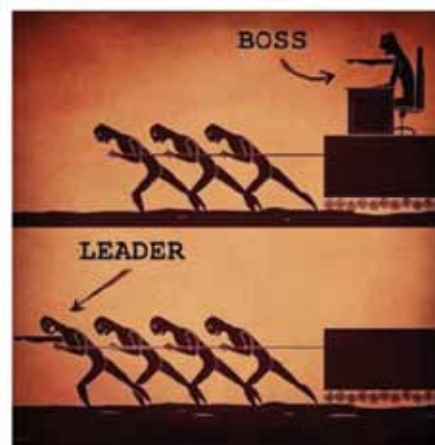
Marc Allan Feldman Libertarian for President

"I hope to see you in Orlando at the
2016 Libertarian National Convention."



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What have you missed recently on LP.org?

- Libertarian tax protester and 1996 presidential candidate Irwin Schiff dies in prison
- LP chair's piece printed by the *Miami Herald*
- Gallup Poll: Informed Americans Rate Both Parties in Congress Worse
- LP political director Carla Howell interviewed on CCTV
- *Washington Times* contrasts LP frugality with Obama's taxpayer-funded vacations
- Georgia Libertarian for governor featured in *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*
- *Sputnik News* features LP Chair Sarwark on Trans-Pacific Partnership
- Libertarians are not Republicans: an LP leader's interview with *MinnPost*
- Florida Libertarians sponsor candidate forum
- New York Libertarians take pistol permit law to court
- New Libertarian logo polo shirt
- Alabama LP to host rally to bring Uber and Lyft to Birmingham

Media Buzz

"You can't cure every ill with a government program. I literally would rather write a check: Take whatever money is in a given department in the government, take 25% off the top, put it back in the taxpayers' pockets, and then just give cash to people, right? Because it will be more effective in how it's used and help the economy at the same time."

—**Mark Cuban, owner of the Dallas Mavericks, as reported by *Business Insider*, 8/18/15**

"[Donald Trump] is getting a lot of attention right now, but he is an authoritarian. He wants to run people's lives, and run the world, and run the economy, because that's the way he lives his life. An authoritarian is the opposite of a libertarian. A libertarian wants to release the individuals, get government out of our lives, out of the economy, and out of all these places around the world," said Paul, a former member of the Libertarian Party, which promotes civil liberties, free markets, non-interventionism, and laissez-faire."

—**Press TV citing former Congressman Ron Paul's October 1st interview on RT TV, 10/2/15**

"[Millennials] think government is wasteful and inefficient. ... This generation finds fault with the values of both [the Democratic and Republican] parties, seeking solace in the pro-freedom, small-government mentality of the Libertarian Party."

—***Daily Reveille*, LSU newsletter, 9/15/15**

According to a September Gallup poll, "Almost half of Americans, 49%, say the federal government poses 'an immediate threat to the rights and freedoms of ordinary citizens.' ... When this question was first asked in 2003, less than a third of Americans held this attitude."

In response to the question, "In what ways do you see the government posing an immediate threat to rights and freedoms of its citizens," the top responses were: too many laws/big government (19%); violations of civil liberties (15%); and violations of Second Amendment rights (12%).

—**Finding of a Gallup poll released 9/21/15**

LEGALIZE FREEDOM!

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