

DON'T TREAD ON ANYONE

LP Facebook activists

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LP News

The Party of Principle™

March 2015

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Glenn Beck talks up LP response to State of the Union

After the Libertarian Party released its response to President Barack Obama's State of the Union address delivered by Vice Chair Arvin Vohra, Glenn Beck spent an hour of his show, the *Glenn Beck Program*, airing portions of the video and discussing them at length with his co-hosts Pat Gray and Stu Burguiere on TheBlaze TV.

Among the Libertarian proposals they discussed were abolishing the Department of Education, cutting military spending by 60 percent, legalizing marijuana, repealing minimum wage laws, and ending the income tax.

All three men praised the bulk of Vohra's comments, but initially were emphatic that these Libertarian proposals to boldly shrink government would "never happen."

By the end of the hour, that changed. Beck got behind the idea that they were not



only possible, but necessary. He said that to write them off as impossible is "defeatist."

"Why is it we always give up? Why don't we have the big ideas? Why don't we stand up?" he asked.

He then described how bold changes could happen.

"You keep moving forward," he said.

"Our goal is to ... dismantle the IRS, to dismantle the Department of Education. Step by step, before you know it, you're there. That is exactly the way progressives have done it. You just need to reverse the course and dismantle the same way."

"Fundamental transformation of the

continued on page 12...

Libertarians working for better ballot access need your help

By Paul Frankel

Libertarian activists in a number of states are actively lobbying their legislatures to improve ballot access laws — and need your help.

They're also working to raise public awareness of unfair ballot restrictions that make it difficult for anyone running outside the Democratic and Republican parties to appear on the ballot.

Given that the percentage of voters registered as independents is now 43 percent, an all-time high, and approval of Democratic and Republican politicians is at an all-time low, the timing couldn't be better.

Thirty states have made it easier for a party to remain ballot-qualified since 1976

(see article on page 9) as a result of the work of Libertarians and other activists who have lobbied legislators to ease ballot access restrictions. By simply asking our state legislators — repeatedly — Libertarians get results.

In 1989, the Missouri legislature was hostile to ballot access reform. A Libertarian-proposed bill was presented in the Senate that never got out of committee. But Libertarians kept re-introducing it, and finally in 1993 it was signed into law. The LP hasn't had to petition in Missouri ever since.

It's a big payoff for a small investment. And now is the time! Help support bills to improve ballot access while the legislature is in session. See chart on page 8 for dates of legislative sessions in your state.

If you live in one of the states mentioned below with bills before the legislature, please contact your representatives to help pass them (check on the bill's status before you do as it can change rapidly).

Richard Winger, elections expert and publisher of *Ballot Access News*, said that he hopes to see ballot access improvement bills introduced in Kentucky, Illinois, South Dakota, Ohio, and Tennessee, in addition to those listed below.

Alabama: The Libertarian Party of Alabama and Our America Initiative are among several groups helping to lobby for the passage of a bill to cut the number of signatures needed to get a candidate or party on the ballot in half from 3 percent

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CHAIR'S CORNER

By Nicholas Sarwark,
Chair

It's spring of an odd-numbered year, so now is the time to focus on ... running for office. Now is the time to contact your state or local Libertarian Party affiliate, find out which offices are available, and start planning for a run for office as a Libertarian in 2016 (or 2015). Getting started is as easy as filling out a simple form at: lp.org/run-for-office



Nicholas Sarwark

One of the goals adopted by the Libertarian National Committee is to have at least 1,000 Libertarian candidates running in 2016. We have launched a logo design contest to update the look and branding for the Libertarian Party, along with campaign tools and guides to help you make your run for office a success. As a political party, we are renewing our focus on politics and need your help.

As you know from reading *LP News*, Libertarian Party candidates received millions of votes in the 2014 elections. Despite what the naysayers in the old parties might say, not a single one of those votes was wasted.

However, there were wasted votes in the 2014 elections.

Libertarian votes are like rain falling on a roof. There are more Libertarians every day, and they go to their polling places or open their mail ballots tired of the old parties and their failures and ready to vote Libertarian. Those votes are coming down and going to hit the roof. The only question is whether those votes are going to come out of the gutters and run down the street or we're going to make sure there's a rain barrel there to catch them.

Every Libertarian candidate is like a rain barrel catching those votes. Every time that Libertarian voter sees a ballot without a Libertarian candidate, those votes are wasted.

Stepping up to run for office, to represent the Libertarian Party and libertarian values, is one of the most important things you can do for freedom. You may not

be a polished career politician. That's great! Our country was founded by ordinary citizens willing to step up to serve their country, not career politicians.

Seeing the word "Libertarian" on the ballot reminds voters that there is an alternative to the tired old parties. It reminds them that they don't have to choose between Coke or Pepsi, they can drink pure water. It reminds them that the Libertarian Party is not going away, is not giving up, and is not going to quit until all Americans are free to pursue happiness as they see fit without big government getting in the way.

As a newer party, we often struggle to get news coverage. But when Libertarian candidates run for office, they get 10 to 100 times as much news coverage as any party spokesperson ever gets. They get their name and "Libertarian Party" put in front of every voter and in voter guides and news stories. It's a level of advertising we could never afford otherwise, and all it costs is stepping up to run as a Libertarian.

The old parties have worked for years to keep Libertarian Party candidates off the ballot, to avoid having to respond to truly new and bold ideas for cutting government and restoring liberty. In some states they've won... for now. In others, through the hard work of Libertarian activists, the ballot access laws have been changed to give the Libertarian Party a fair shot. In others, the Libertarian Party, state and national, has to spend thousands of dollars and thousands of hours to get ballot access. The best way to thank them for their sacrifice and their fight to get ballot access is to use it. Use it to go out there and spread the Libertarian message.

If there's anything I can do to help you in your run for office, please don't hesitate to contact me directly at chair@lp.org. Or contact Carla Howell, political director, at carla.howell@lp.org; or Bob Johnston, candidate support specialist, at bob.johnston@lp.org.

Yours in liberty,



The following individuals were Beacon of Liberty contributors:



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NATIONAL CHAIR:
Nicholas Sarwark
Email: chair@LP.org

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

CONTRIBUTORS: Christopher Goins, Richard Winger, Paul Frankel, Bob Johnston, Gary E. Johnson, Alicia Mattson

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ESSAYS, OR
PHOTOGRAPHS:
Email: LPNews@LP.org

ADDRESS CHANGES:
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Plaques are now on display at the Libertarian National Committee office space in Alexandria, Va., that recognize our top donors.

“Owning our own office is a sign that the Libertarian Party is here to stay,” said Chair Nicholas Sarwark.

“Our new office saves more than \$6,000 per month in overhead costs, and serves the needs of our staff well.”

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 principle in 2015), mail in your donation or visit LP.org.



Contribute today: LP.org/office-fund

Democrats and Republicans threw support at LP candidates in tight 2014 races

By Christopher Goins

In what used to be a rare event, four 2014 Libertarian candidates got a boost from Democrats or Republicans aiming to siphon votes from their opponents.

The Democratic Party of Arizona sent mailers to voters in U.S. House District 9 which expressed thinly veiled support for Libertarian Powell Gammill. He was running in what was believed to be a tight race between incumbent Democrat Kyrsten Sinema and Republican challenger Wendy Rogers.

Rather than directly ask for a vote, the mailer urged “get the facts about libertarian Powell Gammill before you vote.” It featured his positions to eliminate all government funding for abortion, eliminate all gun control laws, and eliminate foreign aid.

“Powell doesn’t believe in foreign aid,” it reads on the back of the mailer. “He believes other countries need to handle their own affairs and let Americans worry about America.”

State Democratic Party Executive Director D.J. Quinlan said in October

that the Arizona Democratic Party “obviously” prefers Sinema, according to AzCentral.com.

But, he added, “our calculation is there are probably a lot of conservative voters who realize (Gammill) is a far more consistent conservative than Wendy Rogers. ... We’re pretty much taking (Gammill’s) positions directly from his website and sharing them.”

Democrats apparently hoped that Gammill’s presence in the race would cause the Republican to lose, as some speculated was the case in 2012 when Gammill took 6.6 percent of the vote in a race where the Republicans lost by 4.1 percent.

As it turned out, Sinema won the 2014 election decisively with 54.7 percent of the vote over Rogers’s 41.9 percent — a 20,768-vote spread. Gammill received 3.5

percent (5,612 votes), far less than the difference between the other candidates.

In North Carolina, the American Future Fund, a nonprofit advocacy group started with some of Mitt Romney’s 2008 presidential campaign staff, interjected itself into the 2014 U.S. Senate race with ads aimed at peeling off progressive votes from incumbent Democrat

continued on page 4...



Rachel Mills, behind-the-scenes force for successful U.S. Senate campaign

Sean Haugh, the 2014 Libertarian for U.S. Senate candidate in North Carolina whose videos were featured in multiple national mainstream media news reports, said of his campaign manager, Rachel Mills, “I would not have been even half as successful without Rachel.”

Mills produced 35 videos for the campaign between March and November of 2014, several of which caught the attention of mainstream media and were viewed collectively more than 127,000 times.

In the videos, Sean Haugh sat at a bar sipping craft beer while he explained, unapologetically, why he delivers pizza for a living and yet is qualified to be a U.S. senator.

Haugh and Mills shared the view that Libertarian campaigns have to be a little different to get noticed on the information-saturated Internet.

“It’s easy to post videos that get only two views,” Mills said. “When you’re on a shoestring budget, you need to come up with something interesting to be seen. You have to take some risks — and be intelligent about it.”

When asked whether displaying a candidate proudly drinking beer might raise some eyebrows, Mills said, “That’s why we did it. It’s a risk. But we felt we could pull it off because of Sean’s genuine intelligence and ability to make the common sense case for ending wars, ending marijuana prohibition, and balancing the budget.”



While the media referred to him as the “pizza guy,” they also acknowledged his relevance as a candidate.

Haugh’s video performances impressed the *Washington Post*, which said, “Haugh comes off as folksy and erudite, funny and earnest.”

Newsweek said, “Haugh’s down-homey manner belies his extensive experience in politics.”

“I strongly encourage more Libertarians to get involved and support people running for office, many of whom are trying to do it alone.”

— Rachel Mills

Haugh’s race fell under a national spotlight because of the prospect of Republicans taking control of the Senate and the fact that the North Carolina race was in a dead heat between Democrat incumbent Kay Hagan and Republican Thom Tillis, who won — by a smaller margin than Haugh’s vote total.

Mills shot the videos in her basement with a setup she described as simple. She said that technological advances and lower prices have made video setups much cheaper and easier than in the past. “You can get a good camera that takes video, a sound recorder, a tripod, a teleprompter that works with an iPad, video editing software, and good lighting for under \$1,000.”

She used a Canon Rebel T3i DSLR camera, a Zoom H2N sound recorder (no lavalier microphone needed), Sony Movie Studio video editing software, and music from premiumbeat.com.

The videos were often shot in just one or two takes. Haugh wrote the scripts and

posted the finished product on the Internet.

Mills originally joined the LP in 2002, when Haugh was the state affiliate’s executive director and recruited her to run for the state House.

“Sean mentored me when I was originally on the scene,” she said.

Mills’s initial foray into political activism was her creation of the first Ladies of Liberty calendar in 2002, which was featured on *The O’Reilly Factor* and in major newspapers such as the *Washington Post* and *Washington Times*.

She was Ron Paul’s communications director on Capitol Hill from 2007–12, where she wrote columns, handled media, made use of social media, and produced videos for the congressman.

She said that her work on the Haugh campaign helped her improve her video skills as well as expand and update her Rolodex of media contacts.

“I strongly encourage more Libertarians to get involved and support people running for office, many of whom are trying to do it alone,” she said. While she warned against “biting off more than you can chew,” she was emphatic about the need to “get behind good candidates and help their campaigns go further.”

Mills said that she’s happy to give advice to other Libertarians making campaign videos. She can be found on LinkedIn.

Libertarians get Dem, GOP boost

...continued from page 3

Sen. Kay Hagan. The ads paint Hagan as the pro-war candidate and Libertarian Sean Haugh as the antiwar candidate. The “Get Haugh” ad opens with an actress chanting “Get Haugh, Get High.” In the same ad, an actor holds up a “More Weed, Less War” sign.

“Does Kay Hagan support progressive values?” the actress in the “Compare” ad asks. “She doesn’t support legalization of marijuana and won’t commit to keep our troops out of Iraq. Sean Haugh supports our values. More weed, less war. Vote Sean Haugh, U.S. Senate.”

The “Support for Sean Haugh” Youtube channel was started on Oct. 20 and has 10 different ads uploaded. According to PoliticsNC, some of these ads were run on Hulu.

The American Future Fund spent \$2.1 million in 2013–14 on attacking Democrats and \$449,000 supporting Republicans, according to OpenSecrets.org.

Hagan lost the election to Republican Thom Tillis by 45,608 votes. Haugh received 109,100 votes — or 3.74 percent, more than double the 1.56 percent margin of

victory by Tillis over Hagan. However, it is not clear that his presence in the race determined the winner because he drew substantial votes from both Democrats and people who would not have voted otherwise, according to exit polls.

The American Future Fund also made its way to Wisconsin. It launched a “Support Robert Burke” Youtube channel on Oct. 31 aimed at siphoning votes from Democrat Mary Burke (no relation to Robert Burke) in support of incumbent Republican Scott Walker for governor. Some of its nine videos used music and color schemes identical to the videos promoting Haugh in North Carolina.

“Herb. Chronic. Weed. Pot. Mary Jane. Sticky Icky. It doesn’t matter what you call it. Robert Burke wants to legalize it,” the “Call It” ad actors shout. “Don’t let your vote go up in smoke,” a male actor says.

“So who do you think is on the Mount Rushmore of Weed?” the same male actor asks in the “Rushmore” ad. “Definitely Snoop Dogg. Bob Marley. Willie Nelson. And Robert Burke, after he legalizes marijuana in Wisconsin,” the actors say.

Burke refused to endorse the ads “in any way,” ac-

cording to Bloomberg.com. “This doesn’t reflect my approach to the issue.”

In Illinois, a local union donated \$30,000 to Libertarian for governor Chad Grimm’s 2014 campaign. The union endorsed Democratic candidate Pat Quinn, who lost to Republican Bruce Rauner anyway by 142,284 votes. Grimm received 121,534 votes.

Washington, D.C., Libertarian Bruce Majors said in a Reason.com blog entry, “Libertarians frequently find in the days after an election some voters didn’t even know that they were on the ballot. The rise of the outsider-funded ‘weaponized’ Libertarians may finally begin to change that.”

In 2013, Republicans accused Robert Sarvis, Virginia Libertarian for governor, of being supported by a “Democratic bundler” intending to defeat his Republican rival, a false allegation. But he did receive substantial support from a PAC funded by “small l” libertarians who had no interest in supporting the Democrat, Terry McAuliffe. Rather, they appeared to be genuinely interested in promoting Sarvis’s civil libertarian proposals, which both McAuliffe and Republican candidate Ken Cuccinelli refused to support.

Libertarian Party Facebook activists united to shrink government

By Christopher Goins

The question that the social media activists behind the Libertarian Party's official Facebook, Twitter, and Pinterest accounts ask themselves each day is: "Will this post make government smaller or bigger?"

"If the answer is it will lead to government becoming bigger, we don't post it," said Matt Hasty, an administrator for the Facebook page.

Hasty, a Floridian, a self-taught Photoshop user, and former print shop worker of 20 years, began his activism in 2012. He embraced libertarianism after seeing memes (images with a short text message) like the ones he now posts himself.

"I saw graphics and information that showed me that the Republican Party is making government bigger," Hasty explained. Before 2012, he voted Republican for most of his life because that's what his parents did.

"I switched over to the Libertarian Party with a ballot in my hand," Hasty said.

He wasn't concerned that his vote for the Libertarian Party candidate would help the other side. He reasoned that to grow the party you actually have to support the party.

"The feel-good feeling lasted for two years," he said. "Looking back, I've been a libertarian my whole life," Hasty said. "I just didn't know it."

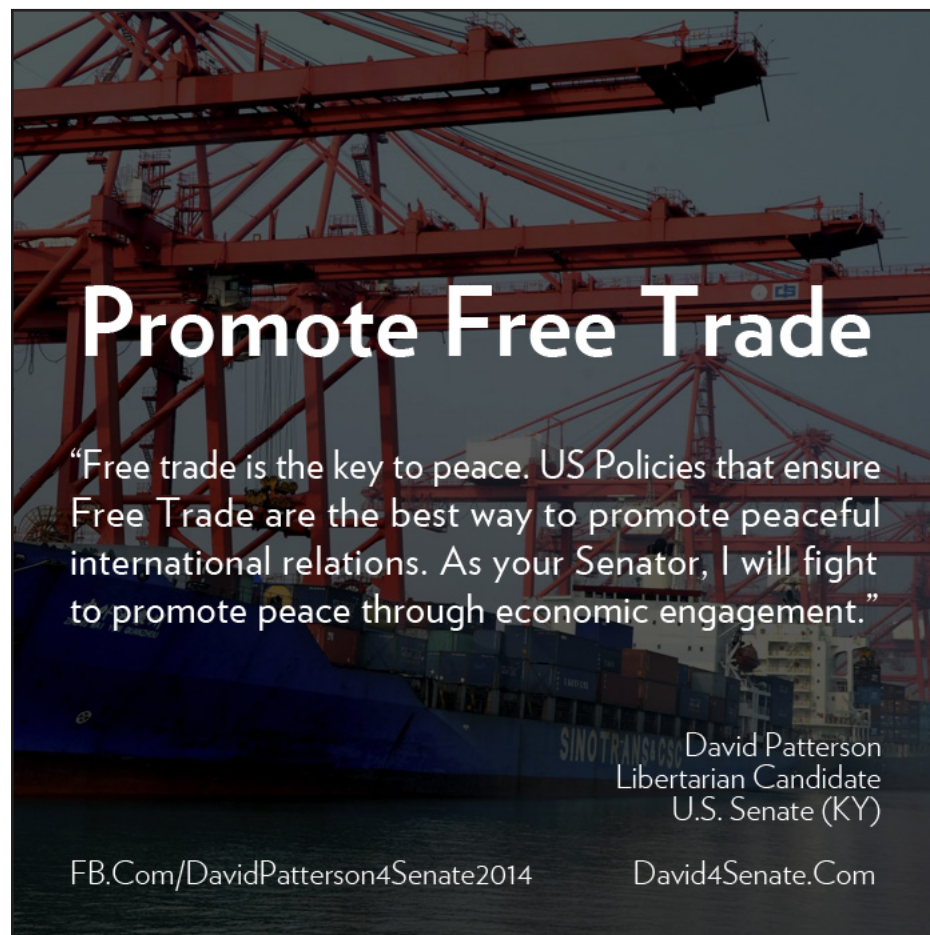
Hasty matches the skill sets of volunteers, some of whom are teenagers, with work that is meaningful for them and beneficial to the team. He gives designers tips for polishing posts, helps craft messages for candidates, and sets timelines.

"He is very much the grease that keeps the cogs running smoothly," said Leeann Solice, a fellow Facebook volunteer and debate coach in Dallas, Texas.

The Libertarian Party Facebook Page now has 550,000+ "Likes," or people who follow the page. When Hasty started back in 2012, the page was only half that size at around 220,000 "Likes."

"It allows us to reach a huge audience and let them know why downsizing government will benefit them," said Arvin Vohra, vice chair of the Libertarian National Committee, who gives direction to the volunteers when needed.

Others who operate the Facebook page include Rich Anderson, Jeffrey Bathe, Paul Frankel, Mike Shipley, Elizabeth Van Horn, Lisa Line, Andrew Rodgers, Jo Ann Vaccarino, and Keith Thompson.



Each volunteer has something to contribute.

Solice proofreads images and makes sure the messages are aligned with the Libertarian Party platform before they are

posted. She is particularly proud of a joint effort with Bathe to create a Google form which helped compile information from candidates. That information was then used to make graphics for candidates.

Top: Design by Matt Hasty
Left: Design by Jeffrey Bathe

"Ideally, all the LP digital media (website, Facebook, Twitter, and Pinterest) would be used to support each other's growth and spread the platform and promote candidates and state pages," Solice wrote in an email.

"Jeffrey Bathe has been a workhorse in churning out candidate posts, streamlining communication among campaign staff, and pushing for quality images, consistent messaging, and data-driven targeting of posts," she continued. "Jeff has really mastered the nuances of Facebook's ability to target posts to specific states, cities, genders, and other demographics."

Lisa Line is a professional graphic artist and not afraid to assert her opinion.

"We bounce ideas off of each other," Hasty said. "We ask each other for permission." Facebook posts are often edgy, but made in cooperation with the Libertarian National Committee and headquarters staff.

Mike Shipley is great at responding to inquiries in the Facebook inbox "so politely and so diplomatically," Hasty said. "He puts out a lot of fires before they even start."

Hasty hasn't met any of his fellow volunteers offline, and he probably never will — one works in Alabama; another, Colorado; another, Texas. But they manage to keep in touch by Facebook messages and group chats.

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Libertarians notch record-setting cycle in 2014 U.S. Senate elections

Nominees from the nation's largest third party set records in 10 states last cycle for the largest support ever recorded in a U.S. Senate election

By Eric Ostermeier

From *Smart Politics*, Jan. 16, 2015

Reprinted with permission

With the 2014 cycle in the rear view mirror, political parties and candidates are already gearing up for 2016, with California Attorney General Kamala Harris's announcement she would run for the state's open U.S. Senate seat the big news of the week.

While the top-two primary system has effectively shut out the Libertarians in the Golden State, the country's third largest political party has much reason for optimism heading into 2016 in races across the country.

Although many Libertarian U.S. Senate nominees fell short of their pre-election polling numbers (as conventional

wisdom holds), the party nonetheless enjoyed its best cycle ever in races for the nation's upper legislative chamber.

A Smart Politics analysis finds the Libertarian Party set records for the best showing in a U.S. Senate race in 10 of the 20 states in which it fielded a candidate in 2014.

Overall, voters had the option of voting for a Libertarian candidate in 20 of the 36 general and special elections held last November.

These 20 candidates averaged 2.5 percent of the vote, with a high water mark of 4.3 percent by Randall Batson in Kansas in the high profile race between Republican incumbent Pat Roberts and independent Greg Orman.

While Batson's mark was not a record in the Sunflower State (it was second best), 10 other U.S. Senate Libertarian nominees did set party records in their respective states.

Libertarians made history in Alaska, Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Kentucky, Minnesota, New Jersey, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Texas:

- In Alaska, Mark Fish won 3.7 percent, best of the seven Libertarian U.S. Senate nominees in state history. Previous best: Scott Kohlhaas, 1998, 2.3 percent.
- In Arkansas, Nathan LaFrance won 2.0 percent and was the first Libertarian nominee for the office in state history.
- In Colorado, Gaylon Kent won 2.6 percent, best of the six such nominees in state history. Previous best: Rick Stanley, 2002, 1.5 percent.
- In Illinois, Sharon Hansen won 3.8 percent, best of the 12 nominees for the office in state history. Previous best: Mike Labno, 2010 special, 2.7 percent.
- In Kentucky, David Patterson won 3.1 percent, best of the three nominees in state history. Previous best: James Ridenour, 1992, 1.3 percent.
- In Minnesota, Heather Johnson won 1.5 percent, best of the 10 nominees in state history. Previous best: Charles Aldrich, 2008, 0.5 percent.
- In New Jersey, Joseph Baratelli won 0.9 percent, best of the 13 nominees in state history. Previous best: Louis Stefanelli,

1990, 0.7 percent.

- In North Carolina, Sean Haugh won 3.7 percent, best of the 10 nominees in state history. Previous best: Robert Emory, 1992, 3.3 percent.
- In South Carolina, Victor Kocher won 2.7 percent, best of the nine nominees in state history. Previous best: Mark Johnson, 1992, 2.0 percent.
- In Texas, Rebecca Paddock won 2.9 percent, best of the 11 nominees in state history. Previous best: Yvonne Schick, 2008, 2.3 percent.

Of the 10 Libertarians listed above, the performances were particularly impressive in North Carolina, Colorado, and Alaska.

Although these states hosted three of the four most competitive U.S. Senate races in the country (decided by 1.6, 1.9, and 2.1 percentage points respectively), Libertarian nominees were still able to draw support from the electorate in record numbers.

In the nation's most closely decided race for the office, Virginia (0.8 points), nominee Robert Sarvis won a respectable 2.4 percent.

Can 'liberty' lawmakers make up for damage they do by endorsing GOP politicians?

By Carla Howell
Political Director

What happens when a "liberty" candidate, organization, or lawmaker endorses Big Government politicians?

First, there's the obvious: if he helps those politicians get elected, they will vote for bigger budgets and more Big Government. Things will get worse.

Because it's vastly easier to sustain or expand Big Government than it is to shrink it, the "liberty" lawmaker who endorses a Big Government politician will not be able to offset the expansions of government that result by trying to push bills to reduce it. In fact, he's unlikely to get anything passed that shrinks government at all — no matter what his political party may be. This will remain true as long as liberty candidates are in the minority.

This assumes he will work to advance liberty once elected. But a politician who endorses Big Government candidates has shown that he puts a higher priority on getting elected, or reelected, than on liberty. Don't be surprised if that "liberty" lawmaker soon votes with his party for bigger budgets and a growing list of Big Government measures.

But perhaps the greatest damage done by endorsing a Big Government Democrat or a Big Government Republican is that it reinforces the paralyzing left-right paradigm that is used to divide and distract Americans while keeping us stuck with Big Government. This para-

"Left-right only is a flat-earth, incomplete, misleading, and dangerous political paradigm."



Rand Paul endorsed Big Government politicians such as Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell.

digm must be shattered and discredited, not reinforced.

There is only one political spectrum, or paradigm, that matters for libertarians as well as most ordinary citizens: Big, high-tax, high-spending, wasteful, reckless, authoritarian, intrusive government *versus* small, low-tax, low-spending, thrifty, restrained, "hands off peaceful behavior" government.

The Protectors of the Status Quo (politicians, the media, pundits, special interests, educational institutions) keep our eyes off this epic struggle by convincing Americans that all political beliefs are either on the "left" or the "right" — or in-between.

Left-right only is a flat-earth, incomplete, mislead-

ing, and dangerous political paradigm.

Both the Democratic and Republican Parties' agendas are a mixture of beliefs which found their home in one or the other as a result of special-interest lobbying. They have no common thread and are devoid of any underlying principles.

Being pro-choice has nothing to do with being anti-war, which has nothing to do with wealth redistribution — all tenets of the "liberal" or "left" as represented by the Democratic Party.

Same goes for issues on the "right" or "conservative" beliefs identified with the Republican Party. Being pro-big-military has nothing to do with being fiscally conservative (in fact, the two work in opposition to each other), which has nothing to do with being anti-immigration, pro-gun, or anti-gay marriage.

Many Americans have been convinced, to varying degrees, to support one or the other of these two bundles of beliefs — the whole package — rather than thinking through each issue on their own.

The Protectors have also convinced voters that Democratic and Republican politicians deliver on their respective left or right ideals — or at least do so more than the other side does. As a result, a substantial (although shrinking) portion of the electorate consists of loyal Democratic or Republican voters.

But how do Big Government Democratic and Republican politicians actually perform in office?

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Libertarian Anthony Higa ran solid 2014 campaign for Hawaii House

By Bob Johnston

Libertarian Anthony Higa felt that he needed to do something for the cause of liberty, and after being approached and asked to run for office by the Hawaii Libertarian Party, that is exactly what he did.

Higa ran as a Libertarian instead of as a Republican because his beliefs are much closer to Libertarians', and also because the Hawaii LP asked him to run and offered assistance for his campaign, particularly volunteers and donors, something the Hawaii Republican Party would not offer.

He raised over \$15,000, much of



Anthony Higa

which was spent on three mailings sent to registered voters in his district, and also was interviewed on a television show.

It looked like Higa would be in a two-way race for the state House of Representatives 19th district, but a Republican jumped in just before the filing deadline. Higa finished a strong third anyway with 8.6 percent of the vote.

Higa is 30, is a registered nurse, and works at a local hospital. Since he works the overnight shift, he was able to go out

after work and knock on doors 90 minutes a day, each day.

He took off from work eight weeks prior to the election, and campaigned full-time.

The focus of his campaign was property taxes, which are very high in Hawaii. The cost of living there is causing many young people to leave for more affordable states.

Higa became politically active after seeing Ron Paul in his 2008 presidential run. He considers himself pro-peace, and was particularly drawn to Dr. Paul's non-interventionist foreign policy.

Higa will run again for the same seat in 2016. This time, he plans on working harder in the precincts where he did better in 2014.

He also will get out earlier this time to campaign. More and more voters in the state are mailing in their ballots, and he feels the peak campaign time is a month before the election.

When asked what advice he would offer for potential candidates, he said, "Show up and work hard every day." And "not to just focus on the results, but the bigger picture, how you're helping to spread the message and advance the cause of freedom."

He wants to run for office a total of three times.

"I don't want to look back with any regrets," he said. "I want to be able to say that I helped the cause for liberty."

GOP endorsement damage

...continued from page 6

Most bills in Congress are so lengthy — often hundreds of pages long — and so loaded with pork that it's hard to find any appreciable "left" or "right" leaning in them. How a lawmaker votes on such bills is determined by horse trading. Votes are sold to the highest special-interest bidder — at taxpayer expense.

Political ideology is a smokescreen. What drives most politics is *money*.

The World's Smallest Political Quiz is used to ask everyday voters where they stand on key political issues and then to map them on a chart to see which of its four quadrants — liberal, conservative, libertarian, or authoritarian — they are most aligned with.

At marijuana rallies, most people who take the quiz land in the liberal or libertarian quadrants, or in the middle between the four.

At gun rallies, most people land in the conservative or libertarian quadrants, or in the middle.

At county fairs, where attendees represent more of a cross-section of Americans, most people land in the liberal, conservative, or libertarian quadrants, or in the middle.

On the whole, 22-24 percent of quiz takers land in the libertarian quadrant.

But almost 100 percent of lawmakers — based on how they actually vote (not on how they campaign) land squarely in the Big Government, authoritarian quadrant. They do not represent liberals, conservatives, or libertarians.

The left-right spectrum conveniently excludes libertarians — keeping small government off the table. It also excludes authoritarians — which hides the true identity of most Democratic and Republican politicians. Now do you see why the Protectors want a left-right political spectrum — rather than one that offers all political choices?

But even when there is some consistency between Democratic and Republican votes and their alleged belief systems, it does no good because politicians logroll: "I will protect your Big Government program if you

protect mine." Some lawmakers will tell you they don't actually like a lot of what they vote on (because it benefits some other district or special interest that's not in their camp), but give it a "yeah" anyway to "bring home the bacon."

The result is that virtually all Democratic and Republican politicians serve to make government bigger. They don't shrink government or advance freedom on any issue. They may vote against some bills that expand government, but almost never for ones that shrink government — because no one's even proposing them!

So neither voting for the "left" nor voting for the "right" results in more of the freedoms that either of their respective constituencies want. Instead it results in more Big Government on all issues — and diminishing freedom.

To free Americans from Big Government, we must expose and discredit the phony left-right paradigm and Protectors' self-serving claim that there are only two parties worth voting for.

We must show them that "winning" is getting government off their backs and advancing freedom — not electing an old-party politician who talks a good game but increases Big Government and reduces freedom — the opposite of what most voters want.

When a "liberty" candidate endorses or campaigns for a Big Government politician, he perpetrates the left-right fraud even more by lending credibility to the belief that there's a whit of difference between the two old parties.

His endorsement fortifies the primary tool used by the Protectors of the Status Quo to keep government big, and he thereby becomes one himself.

Can even the best "liberty" candidates ever do enough good as lawmakers to offset the damage they do by endorsing Big Government politicians and thus fueling the dangerous machinery of Big Government?

Highly unlikely. And that's exactly why true liberty candidates — our Libertarian Party candidates — endorse and campaign only for candidates who vote against Big Government on every issue, every time. No exceptions, no excuses.

Highlights of December LNC meeting

By Gary E. Johnson

The Libertarian National Committee met Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 13 and 14, in New Orleans, La.

The LNC created a three-member committee to solicit new designs for a logo for the party and to prepare a report by March 1. National Chair Nicholas J. Sarwark appointed Brett Bittner, Norm Olsen, and Arvin Vohra to the Logo Committee.

The LNC voted to hire attorney Alan Gura to sue the Federal Election Commission to challenge its contribution limits on bequests.

The national committee began the search for a new legal counsel to replace Gary Sinawski, who had recently passed away. The party had litigation under way in Alabama, Illinois, Kentucky, New Hampshire, and Ohio. The party was also working on a lawsuit with the Our America Initiative.

The LNC adopted rules for electronic meetings. The LNC and other committees will be allowed to conduct business by telephone conference or videoconference. Only the topics listed in the call of the meeting may be considered during an electronic meeting.

The LNC adopted the budget for 2015 of about \$1.3 million.

Alicia Mattson, Daniel Hayes, Vicki Kirkland, and Jay Estrada were elected to the Convention Oversight Committee. Aaron Starr, M Carling, and Gary Johnson were elected to the Audit Committee.

Some members of the national committee toured the New Orleans convention center as the possible site of a national convention.

The next meeting will be Saturday and Sunday, March 28 and 29, in Phoenix, Ariz.

Gary E. Johnson, a member of the Libertarian National Committee, is the secretary of the Libertarian Party of Texas.

Better LP ballot access

...continued from page 1

of the last gubernatorial vote to 1.5 percent. State Sen. Cam Ward (R-Alabaster) plans to introduce it.

Under current law, ballot access in 2016 will require the collection of approximately 36,000 valid signatures of registered voters statewide, around 5,000 valid signatures for a single congressional race, and approximately 400 valid signatures in any one of the state's 105 state House districts. This signature threshold is the second-highest in the country for statewide office and among the highest for any political office.

Arkansas: Dr. Michael Pakko, state treasurer of the Libertarian Party of Arkansas, is working with other Libertarians and Green Party activists to find legislative sponsors for a ballot access improvement bill. Dr. Pakko has drafted a bill that would amend the vote retention test from being only in the presidential or gubernatorial races to any statewide race, and from 3 percent to 2 percent of the vote.

Connecticut: LP Connecticut state chair and LNC regional representative alternate Joshua Katz has been working with Rep. Devin Carney (R-Old Saybrook) on his introduction of proposed H.B. 5303, which Katz drafted, to ease the definition of a qualified "minor party." Current law says that if a party polls 1 percent for any particular race, then it is ballot-qualified just for that one race in the next election in which the office is contested. The bill would extend ballot qualification to many other races. A party polling 1 percent in a statewide race would receive ballot access for all statewide races; a party polling 1 percent in any election would receive ballot access for all municipal races within the district of that election.

Rep. Carney also introduced H.B. 5304, which would put the names of the qualified minor parties on the voter registration form. Currently, the form only mentions parties that got 20 percent for governor in the last election, or which have 20 percent of registered voters.

Both bills have been referred to the Joint Committee on Government Administration and Elections.

Georgia: 2014 Libertarian candidate for U.S. Senate Amanda Swafford is a force behind the state's H.B. 58 to improve ballot access in Georgia. Others in the state party, including Chairman Doug Craig, are also pitching in.

Current law will require an average of a stunning 18,540 signatures just to get one Libertarian U.S. House candidate on the ballot in 2016. H.B. 58 would lower that to 3,294 signatures, putting ballot access within

2015 Legislative Session Calendar

	Convene	Adjourn
Alabama	March 3	June 15
Alaska	Jan 20	April 19
Arizona	Jan 12	mid-April
Arkansas	Jan 12	March 12
California	Dec 1, '14	Sept 11
Colorado	Jan 7	May 6
Connecticut	Jan 7	June 3
Delaware	Jan 13	June 30
Dist. of Columbia	Jan 2	*
Florida	Mar 3	May 1
Georgia	Jan 12	early April
Hawaii	Jan 21	early May
Idaho	Jan 12	early April
Illinois	Jan 14	May 14
Indiana	Jan 6	April 29
Iowa	Jan 12	May 1
Kansas	Jan 12	late May
Kentucky	Jan 6	March 24
Louisiana	April 13	June 11
Maine	Dec 3, '14	June 17
Maryland	Jan 14	April 13
Massachusetts	Jan 7	*
Michigan	Jan 14	*
Minnesota	Jan 6	May 18
Mississippi	Jan 6	April 5
Missouri	Jan 7	May 30
Montana	Jan 5	late April
Nebraska	Jan 7	early June
Nevada	Feb 2	June 1
New Hampshire	Jan 7	July 1
New Jersey	Jan 13	*
New Mexico	Jan 20	March 21
New York	Jan 7	*
North Carolina	Jan 14	early July
North Dakota	Jan 6	late April
Ohio	Jan 5	*
Oklahoma	Feb 2	May 29
Oregon	Feb 2	July 11
Pennsylvania	Jan 6	*
Rhode Island	Jan 6	late June
South Carolina	Jan 13	June 4
South Dakota	Jan 13	late March
Tennessee	Jan 13	late April
Texas	Jan 13	June 1
Utah	Jan 26	March 12
Vermont	Jan 7	mid May
Virginia	Jan 14	Feb. 28
Washington	Jan 12	April 26
West Virginia	Jan 14	March 14
Wisconsin	Jan 5	*
Wyoming	Jan 13	early March

* Legislature meets throughout the year

reach, and would similarly reduce the signature requirement for all district and county offices from 5 percent of the number of registered voters to 2 percent of the votes cast when that office was last voted on.

Six state House members have introduced H.B. 58. Swafford believes it has a reasonable chance of passing.

Maine: In Maine, Rep. Ben Chipman (I-Portland) has submitted a proposal to the bill-drafting staff to ease the number of signatures needed for candidates to get on the primary ballot of a small ballot-qualified party.

Currently, statewide offices require 2,000 registered members to sign, and 1,000

for the U.S. House, to get on the primary ballot. No ballot-qualified minor party has achieved this for a congressional candidate in approximately 90 years.

The Chipman bill would set a ceiling on the number of signatures needed to get on the primary ballot of 1 percent of that party's registered members. Chipman, elected as an independent, has ties to the Green Party.

Maryland: Libertarians expect a bill to be introduced that would lower the number of registered members to be a qualified party from 1 percent (about 45,000) to exactly 10,000, eliminating the need to meet the vote test.

Otherwise, Libertarians will need to gather 10,000 valid signatures to re-qualify the party each election year in which the vote test is not met.

Greens and Libertarians are working together to help pass this legislation.

New Hampshire: Libertarian Darryl Perry is working with New Hampshire Rep. Max Abramson (R-Seabrook), who has introduced H.B. 665 to lower the number of signatures for independent candidates and the nominees of unqualified parties. Current law requires 3,000 signatures for statewide office. The bill would convert petitions for all offices to one tenth of 1 percent of the population. For statewide candidates, the requirement during this decade would be 1,317 signatures.

Although elected as a Republican, Abramson is also a member of the Libertarian Party and sought the Libertarian nomination for governor in 2014 before switching to run for the State House as a Republican.

New York: In New York, LPNY Chair Mark Axinn is rallying support to stop a bad ballot access bill to increase the vote test to retain ballot access from 50,000 votes for governor to 100,000. LPNY has come close to getting 50,000 votes for governor and president, but nowhere near 100,000. Fortunately, there appears to be only tepid support for the bill.

Additionally, activists from New York for Our America Initiative have joined the Equal Access Ballot Coalition of New York seeking to get the government out of the internal affairs and nomination processes of all political parties; to provide equal access and few, if any, barriers to candidates seeking a place on the general election ballot; and to have an Independent Election Commission responsible for coordinating and running all elections conducted in New York State.

North Dakota: State LP Chair Roland Riemers is among the Libertarian activists working to pass ballot law improvements in North Dakota.

Rep. Corey Mock (D-Grand Forks) has introduced H.B. 1260, which would

eliminate the unique North Dakota requirement that a party must attract a certain number of voters into its primary in order to nominate. The bill has three co-sponsors.

The requirement has prevented any alternative party candidates for the legislature from appearing on the November ballot ever since 1976. A similar law in Minnesota was invalidated in 2004 by the Minnesota Supreme Court.

Oklahoma: Libertarian activists E. Zachary Knight and Richard Prawdzienski have been key players in the fight to reform Oklahoma's stringent ballot access laws. They are helping to push three bills now in the house and senate.

Under current law, Libertarians in Oklahoma will have to collect more than 40,000 valid signatures in 2016 to get a presidential candidate on the ballot. S.B. 318, introduced by state Senator David Holt (R-Oklahoma City), H.B. 2181, introduced by Speaker of the House Jeffrey Hickman (R-Fairview), and H.B. 1813, by Rep. Eric Proctor (D-Tulsa), would lower that signature requirement substantially to between 5,000 and approximately 16,000 signatures.

Knight also plans to submit an amendment that would lower Oklahoma's 10 percent of the vote retention requirement.

Pennsylvania: Libertarians and activists with Pennsylvania for Our America Initiative are among those active with the Pennsylvania Ballot Access Coalition, which is working to improve ballot access in a state which has some of the worst restrictions in the nation.

State Sen. Mike Folmer (R-Lebanon) was appointed chair of the Senate State Government Committee. This is the committee that hears election law bills. Folmer has been the leading legislative champion of ballot access reform in Pennsylvania starting in 2009. He introduced ballot access improvement bills in 2009, 2011, and 2013, and intends to do so again this year.

Wisconsin: Andy Craig, Libertarian candidate for U.S. House District 4 in 2016 and for Secretary of State in 2014, is lead coordinator of Competitive Elections Wisconsin, a coalition of groups, parties, and former candidates seeking ballot access reform.

The Competitive Elections proposal would lower the nomination petition thresholds for partisan office by half across the board, in particular down to 100 valid signatures for state representative, 200 for state senator, 500 for representative in Congress, and 1,000 for statewide elections.

Paul Frankel is a former LNC regional alternate and the Alabama for Our America Initiative state director. Richard Winger contributed to this article.

Lobbying for better ballot access laws works

By Richard Winger

Although the Libertarian Party continues to struggle for ballot access in certain states, it retained ballot access in 30 states after the 2014 election — the highest ever after a midterm. One reason we are on the ballot in so many states is that, over the years, we have persuaded many state legislatures to lower the requirements.

Here's a list of the state-by-state improvements in party status since 1976:

Alaska once defined "party" as a group that polled 10 percent for governor, but now it is one that polled 3 percent for governor, or U.S. senator, or U.S. House, or which has registration equal to that same 3 percent of the vote.

Arizona once defined "party" as a group that polled 5 percent for president/governor, but now it is also a group that has registration of two-thirds of 1 percent of the state total.

Arkansas once defined "party" as a group that polled 7 percent for president/governor, but now the percentage is 3 percent.

California once defined "party" as a group with registration of 1 percent of the last gubernatorial vote, but now it is a group that has registration of 0.33 percent of the state total.

Colorado once defined "party" as a group that polled 10 percent for governor, but now it is a group that polled 1 percent for any statewide race in either of the last two elections, or which has 1,000 registrants.

Florida once defined "party" as a group that had 5 percent of the registration, but now it is any group that files a list of its state party officers and regularly files campaign finance reports.

Georgia once defined "party" as a group that polled 20 percent for president in the entire United States or for governor, but now (for statewide office only) it is a group that polled 1 percent of the number of registered voters for any of its statewide nominees.

Hawaii once defined "party" as a group that polled 10 percent for any statewide race or either U.S. House seat, but now it also includes a group that polled 4 percent of all the votes cast for state Senate for its nominees for state senator, or 2 percent of all the vote cast for both houses of the legislature for all its legislative nominees. Also, if a

group has been recognized as a "party" for three elections in a row, then it automatically gets the next five elections "for free."

Idaho once defined "party" as a group that polled 3 percent for governor, but now it is a group that ran at least three candidates for federal or state office in the last election. President and vice president counts as one.

Louisiana once defined "party" as a group with registration of 5 percent, but now it is a group that managed to have 1,000 registrations at some time in the past and paid a one-time fee of \$1,000; then that group keeps party status as long as it runs at least one candidate every four years.

Maine once defined "party" as a group that got 5 percent for president/governor, but now it is a group that has 10,000 registered members who voted (it doesn't matter whom they voted for) in the last general election.

Maryland once defined "party" as a group that polled 10 percent for president/governor, but now it is a group with registration of 1 percent or a group that got 1 percent for president or governor.

Massachusetts once defined "party" as a group that got 3 percent for governor, but now it is 3 percent for any statewide office.

Michigan once defined "party" as a group that got 1 percent of the winning candidate's vote for secretary of state, for the office at the top of the ballot (i.e., president/governor), but now it is 1 percent of the winner's vote for secretary of state, for any statewide nominee.

Minnesota once defined "party" as a group that polled 5 percent for any statewide race, but now it is one that polled 5 percent for any statewide race in either of the last two elections.

Montana once defined "party" as a group that polled 5 percent of the winner's vote for any statewide race, but now it is one that did that in either of the last two elections.

Nebraska once defined "party" as a group that polled 5 percent for any statewide race, but now it is one that did that in either of the last two elections.

Nevada once defined "party" as a group that got 5 percent (of the total vote cast in the state for U.S. House) for any office (even a district office), but now it is 1 percent

of the same base.

North Carolina once defined "party" as a group that got 10 percent for president/governor, but now it is 2 percent of the same base.

North Dakota once defined "party" as a group that got 5 percent for governor, but now it is 5 percent for either governor, president, secretary of state, or attorney general.

Ohio once defined "party" as a group that got 10 percent for president/governor, but now it is 3 percent for those offices in either of the last two elections.

Oregon once defined "party" as a group that got 5 percent for any statewide race, but now it is 1 percent at either of the last two elections; it is also a group with 0.5 percent of the registration.

Rhode Island once defined "party" as a group that got 5 percent for governor, but now it is 5 percent for governor or president in either of the last two elections.

South Dakota once defined "party" as a group that got 10 percent for governor, but now it is 2.5 percent.

Texas once defined "party" as a group that got 2 percent for governor, but now it is either that or which got 5 percent for any statewide race.

Utah once defined "party" as a group that got 2 percent for any statewide race, but now it is one that did that for either of the last two elections.

Vermont once defined "party" as a group that got 1 percent for any statewide race, but now it is a group that is organized in at least 10 towns.

Virginia once defined "party" as a group that got 10 percent for any statewide race, but now it is a group that got 10 percent for any statewide race in either of the last two elections.

Washington once defined "party" as a group that got 10 percent for any statewide race, but now it is a group that got 5 percent for president (that isn't really any better, but at least the percentage is lower).

Wyoming once defined "party" as a group that got 10 percent for U.S. House, but now it is a group that got 2 percent for U.S. House, or governor, or secretary of state.

Richard Winger is publisher of Ballot Access News, the nation's authority on ballot access for alternative parties.

LNC seeks applicants for Platform, Bylaws, Credentials Committees

By Alicia Mattson

The Libertarian National Committee (LNC) is seeking applicants to serve on the Platform Committee, the Bylaws and Rules Committee, and the Credentials Committee for the May 27–30, 2016, national convention in Orlando, Fla. The LNC expects to make the appointments during its March 28–29, 2015, meeting so as to give the committees

plenty of time to complete their tasks before the convention.

The LNC appoints all 10 of the Bylaws and Rules Committee members, five of the 20 Platform Committee members, and five of the 10 Credentials Committee members.

The Platform Committee and also the Bylaws and Rules Committee typically have in-person meetings at least once, several months in advance of the

national convention, and then a final meeting on the day before the national convention. The Credentials Committee members gather and verify delegate data in the months leading up to the national convention, and then are expected to work on-site throughout the national convention.

Committee members will be expected to invest an appreciable amount of their time in doing their jobs. Any travel costs

incurred will be at personal expense.

If you are willing to serve in any of these LNC-appointed positions, apply by email to secretary@lp.org no later than March 14, 2015. So that members of the LNC can determine who might best fill seats on the Platform Committee or Bylaws and Rules Committee, applicants are requested to draft and submit sample platform/bylaw proposals with their applications.



Libertarian Party—issued news releases:

Libertarian Party calls for shutting down CIA, criminal prosecutions

Libertarian National Committee Chair Nicholas J. Sarwark released the following statement:

“The CIA’s practice of torture confirmed by the Senate Intelligence Report released on December 9 shows the agency engaged in reprehensible and illegal behaviors that were, in effect, war crimes.

“The CIA and politicians redacted the bulk of the government’s report, which remains withheld from public view. One can only speculate as to the additional horrors that lie within the rest of the report, given the gravity of what was revealed.

“These acts of torture were immoral, disgusting, and un-American. And worse still, they were ineffective.

“Yet the CIA and the Department of Justice, which sanctioned the torture, claim that it was legal and exhibit a shocking lack of remorse for the brutality inflicted on its victims.

“Whether it’s choking a man to death for selling loose cigarettes in New York or torturing prisoners at Guantanamo Bay, the government refuses to prosecute government employees who brutalize the vulnerable. When the government investigates itself, it almost always clears itself of any wrongdoing.

“This is why we must shut down the CIA. Its 70-year history is littered with episodes of human rights violations, illegal activities, and deception, including:

- Targeted killings and assassinations
- Overthrowing democratically elected governments
- Human experimentation, including giving the hallucinogenic drug LSD to U.S. and Canadian citizens without their knowledge

“Whereas Democrats and Republicans have continually funded and encouraged CIA war crimes, the Libertarian Party has consistently and strongly opposed the use of torture, mass surveillance, and human rights violations by the U.S. government throughout the party’s 43-year history.”

- Dealing heroin in Asia
- Spying on Americans, members of congress, and foreign leaders
- Shipping war prisoners to foreign countries where torture is permissible (‘extraordinary rendition’)
- Lying to Congress

“The CIA is one of sixteen U.S. spy agencies that should have been severely downsized if not abolished during the alleged ‘consolidation’ of the U.S. government’s spy apparatus in 2004.

“But rather than downsize, politicians merely added another layer of bureaucracy, increased government spending, and expanded government authority.

“Government-sanctioned torture is bipartisan. Republican President George W. Bush authorized the torture revealed in the senate report. President Barack Obama granted him full immunity.

“Famed journalist Glenn Greenwald said ‘The Obama administration’s aggressive, full-scale white-

washing of the “war on terror” crimes committed by Bush officials is now complete.’

“Whereas Democrats and Republicans have continually funded and encouraged CIA war crimes, the Libertarian Party has consistently and strongly opposed the use of torture, mass surveillance, and human rights violations by the U.S. government throughout the party’s 43-year history.

“The Libertarian Party calls for real accountability, including prosecuting all of those who authorized and performed these brutal acts.

“The Senate Intelligence Committee released its report after this year’s election — when it was safe, even though the report was finished four years ago.

“Perhaps both Democratic and Republican politicians are hoping voters will forget about this disgrace before the 2016 election.

“The Libertarian Party urges you to remember — and to demand human decency by voting Libertarian.”

The Libertarian Party platform plank on Internal Security and Individual Rights states:

“The defense of the country requires that we have adequate intelligence to detect and to counter threats to domestic security. This requirement must not take priority over maintaining the civil liberties of our citizens. The Constitution and Bill of Rights shall not be suspended even during time of war. Intelligence agencies that legitimately seek to preserve the security of the nation must be subject to oversight and transparency. We oppose the government’s use of secret classifications to keep from the public information that it should have, especially that which shows that the government has violated the law.”

Lawmakers and Silk Road investigators, prosecutors are the real perps

Nicholas J. Sarwark, Chair of the Libertarian National Committee, released the following statement:

The Libertarian Party calls for dismissal of the unfounded criminal charges against alleged Silk Road founder and operator Ross Ulbricht, whose trial is set to begin tomorrow, and for the resignation of the New York prosecutors who trumped up charges against an innocent man.

Silk Road is a website that allows its users to maintain their privacy while trading goods and services by using Tor, an open network that protects anonymity, and the digital currency Bitcoin for payment.

Because the site is alleged to accommodate the buying and selling of illegal drugs, prosecutors have charged Ulbricht with a slew of crimes: narcotics trafficking,

computer hacking, money laundering, engaging in a criminal enterprise, and conspiracy to traffic in fraudulent IDs.

The prosecution has failed to identify a single victim of any of the alleged offenses.

This trial grossly oversteps the bounds of a properly limited government: one that protects the lives, liberty and property of its citizens against perpetrators who would do them harm — and no more.

The perpetrators in this case are the FBI, which shut down Silk Road and may have illegally hacked the site, and New York prosecutors involved in this case.

Attorney and Simple Justice blogger Scott Greenfield notes the freedoms that are at stake in this trial:

“If Ulbricht is convicted, it opens the door for the censure and erosion of a free

“The attacks against Ulbricht are the work of a stubborn political class that refuses to acknowledge the utter failure of the Drug War.”

Internet. Under present law, website hosts are not held responsible in civil cases for illegal actions on their sites. This case could set precedent and open the door to criminal liability for web hosts.

“A US citizen’s constitutional rights are being violated with vague allegations that do not cite specific crimes, a violation of the Fifth and Sixth Amendments to the US Constitution. In addition, his Fourth Amendment rights have been vio-

lated with illegal warrants and searches and seizures lacking any warrant. If the government can misapply the law against Ulbricht, it can do it to any of us.

“In its documents, the government equates the desire for privacy (use of Tor for example) with criminal intent.

“This case represents the first challenge to the government’s attempt to expand the money laundering statute to include digital currency.”

The prosecution may have further breached Ulbricht’s rights by inserting into the case allegations that he was involved in the planning of several homicides, even though no homicides or attempted homicides are charged as part of this case.

Discussing uncharged allegations

continued on page 15...

Solice described the Libertarian Facebook volunteers as “an eclectic group with diverse skills, varied backgrounds, and one very unifying goal: increasing liberty.”

LP Facebook activists

...continued from page 5

He has advice for future volunteers: “Don’t be shy,” and be social media savvy.

Solice described the Libertarian Facebook volunteers as “an eclectic group with diverse skills, varied backgrounds, and one very unifying goal: increasing liberty.” Her favorite part of volunteering with the group, she said, is “the camaraderie that comes with working with talented, sincere people who share a passion for a shared goal, some might say the most important goal of all, a truly free society.”

“If social media was a dance floor these would be the smoothest, most graceful dancers,” Hasty said.

It seems a bit backwards that peaceful people should have to ask permission from an **insanely warmongering government** to buy tools to defend themselves.

End the wars.

+

Cut military spending by 60%.

+

Eliminate all obstacles to civilian gun ownership, including costly & ineffective background checks.

=

Libertarians

Wake the Sleeping Giant



Ask Yourself:

If you could **not** afford your rent or utilities, would you **cut spending** in order to **ensure the stability** of your family's financial future?

Do you think your government should do the same?



Discover the Libertarian Party

LP.ORG/PLATFORM

People who don't understand what being **LIBERTARIAN** is all about will often accuse us of being puppets controlled by corporate interests.

If that accusation were true, where are all the corporate donations and campaign support?

FOLLOW THE MONEY

HINT: It leads straight to the Republicans & Democrats.

LP.ORG

Clockwise, from top center:

Design by Matt Hasty


Design by Matt Hasty

Design by Matt Hasty

Design by Lisa Line

Design by Matt Hasty






Tonie Nathan

LIBERTY WOMEN

« Libertarian Party nominee for Vice President (1972)

« Received the first Electoral College vote ever awarded a woman in the history of the United States.



[f /Libertarians](https://www.facebook.com/Libertarians)

[#LPNational](https://twitter.com/LPNational)

The Libertarian Party, promoting the idea that women are strong independent individuals who benefit from limited government, and spreading the message of Liberty.

Find out more about the LP and its values of Liberty and Unity at LP.ORG

Glenn Beck SOTU

...continued from page 1

United States of America. That's [the Libertarians'] big idea," said Beck.

The two co-hosts initially objected to ending the drug war and cutting military spending by 60 percent. Beck countered, "I bet you we could cut 50 percent [of the military] if we did it the right way." He noted that the federal government won't be able to fund anything if we wait too long to cut spending.

Pointing out that the Pentagon could not account for more than \$2 trillion in spending, Beck challenged his co-hosts, "Are you telling me there's not at least 40 percent waste in any government department?"

Burguiere, who initially said he would fight against a 60 percent reduction, later conceded, "If you can find 60 percent waste in military spending, obviously I'm there with you."

After hearing Vohra propose getting rid of the federal Department of Education, Beck recalled that the GOP talked about abolishing the Department in the 1980s, but that "I can guarantee you they're not saying abolish the DOE [now]."

The video was viewed on YouTube 43,991 times as of Jan. 29.

"This is perhaps the best coverage we've ever seen for the Libertarian State of the Union response in the party's history," said LP Chair Nicholas Sarwark.

"We don't just want people to hear our Libertarian message. We want them talking about it — agree or disagree," he said. "This is a sign that our proposals are being taken seriously."

After Vohra laid out the proposal of several dozen 2014 Libertarian candidates to cut spending to 1998 levels, balance the budget, and end the federal income tax, Beck said, "That's great."

Burguiere noted that he had done fact-checking in response to a similar statement made by Ron Paul in 2006 and confirmed that both ending the income tax and balancing the budget — with no replacement tax — only requires rolling back federal spending to the Clinton years.

"Was government too small in the middle of the Bill Clinton era? I mean, I don't think any conservative would argue that," he said.

While all three men on the show expressed reservations about the Libertarian proposal to end the Drug War, they softened their stance as the conversation ensued.

"If Colorado decides to make pot le-

Libertarian Party response to President Obama's State of the Union address

Good evening. I'm Arvin Vohra, vice chair of the Libertarian National Committee.

Mr. President, in your State of the Union address, you propose to make Big Government even bigger.

You propose pouring more taxpayer dollars into another federal education program, this time for community colleges. But federal intervention has driven up the price of higher education.

What if we could make college affordable right now by simply getting government out of higher ed? Without subsidies and costly mandates, competition will force colleges to decrease their tuition or go out of business. Massive student debt would be a thing of the past.

Mr. President, we can have world-class education. The first step is defunding and eliminating the federal Department of Education, abolishing Common Core, and allowing parents to take full control over their children's education. Free-market competition will raise educational standards, lower costs, and prepare students to compete in a global economy.

Mr. President, your attempts to raise the minimum wage will destroy one of the most important forms of education in this country. Many young people develop responsibility and marketable skills in entry-level, minimum-wage jobs. Those skills make workers more attractive to future employers.

The Republican answer, to leave the issue to the states, is a cop-out. All minimum wages kill jobs and hurt the poor. Libertarian candidates have pledged to sponsor legislation to eliminate the minimum wage in every state. That makes it easier for young people to gain experience, for the poorest workers to gain a foothold in the job market, and for small businesses to grow.

Here's how we really grow the economy and create jobs: dramatically cut taxes and government spending. Libertarian candidates have pledged to sponsor legislation to cut federal spending to 1998 levels and eliminate the income tax. That means that you keep the money you earn, and spend it how you see fit: on charities and the arts, science research, education, and the health care of your choice.

Eliminating the income tax also defunds government's ability to infringe on our privacy, to create enemies through needless wars, and to imprison our fellow citizens for victimless crimes.

Mr. President, so many of your supporters have begged you to defund and end the War on Drugs, but you have refused their pleas. Drug prohibition separates families, fosters violence, and destroys communities. You can end the war on drugs today, by doing what so many Libertarian gubernatorial and presidential candidates have pledged to do: pardon all nonviolent drug offenders.

Libertarian candidates have pledged to completely end

the war on drugs, and thereby eliminate the black market profits that fund violent cartels. Ending the Drug War will make our streets safer, and people will no longer have to fear incarceration if they seek help overcoming an addiction.

Mr. President, over the last weeks you have repeatedly argued that Americans should be able to go online without risking their privacy. On that, we completely agree. Americans should be able to use their computers and phones without fear of anyone listening in or recording their communications through mass surveillance.

But your words, Mr. President, don't match your actions. You have funded and enabled the surveillance state. To protect privacy, Libertarian candidates have pledged to defund the NSA's mass surveillance program, repeal the Patriot Act, and massively downsize and consolidate redundant spy agencies.

Mr. President, your party and the Republican Party are damaging lives here and abroad through misuse and overuse of the military.

Libertarian candidates have pledged to sponsor legislation to end all foreign military operations, shut down needless foreign bases, cut military spending by at least 60 percent, and bring our troops home.

Even after those spending cuts, we will still outspend both Russia and China combined. We will also be safer, because our military will be focused on defense. We will stop creating enemies through unwarranted military intrusions.

Republicans have talked about repealing and replacing Obamacare. With what? Romneycare? That will continue to damage businesses and make health care worse.

When Republicans controlled the House, they had the chance to defund Obamacare. They refused.

Libertarian candidates have pledged to completely repeal Obamacare along with the many laws that stand in the way of low-cost, high-quality health care. Providers will compete for customers by lowering costs and increasing quality.

To help people in need, Libertarian candidates will make charitable hospitals legal. Doctors should not have to leave our borders to be able to offer free care.

We need to massively downsize and defund the federal government. But Republican and Democratic politicians only want to make it bigger. Get involved with the Libertarian Party in your state by going to LP.org, and by voting Libertarian.

Politicians can do one thing well: count votes. When you vote for a Democrat or Republican, it tells them, "Keep doing what you're doing." But when you vote for a Libertarian, it tells them, in no uncertain terms, "You have neither my approval nor my permission to grow or sustain Big Government. Shrink it now."

Thank you for listening. Let's bring liberty back to our communities and to the United States of America.

"We don't just want people to hear our Libertarian message. We want them talking about it — agree or disagree. This is a sign that our proposals are being taken seriously."
— LP Chair Nicholas Sarwark

gal ... let them try. Whatever they want to do. I don't care," said Burguiere.

Beck said of the ideas presented in the Libertarian response, "This is closer ... [than] anything the Republicans have said to, at least, where I am, and I think where a

lot of the audience is at."

He mocked claims that we can't eliminate the Department of Education.

"Here's the good thing," he said. "We can ... look at what's coming in America, which is massive, massive economic disruption ... and either say, 'we can't do it,' or we can prepare. Here's how you do it. ... You either cut these things right now, or fascists come in and will just grow this thing even bigger ... The only answer [is] planting those seeds right now. The Libertarians have been doing it for a while."

Other outlets that covered the Libertarian response included the *Washington Times*, *Reason*, BenSwann.com, and the Advocates for Self Government's *Lib-*

erator Online.

"Befitting the L.P.'s role, Vohra didn't jab around the edges of Obama's hubristic proposals, but questioned some of his new giveaway ideas at their core," wrote Brian Doherty on *Reason's* "Hit and Run" blog. "The L.P. suggests not just stopping Obama's proposed new programs, but rolling back old, even venerable, ones that most Americans don't consider might be hurting more than helping."

In other coverage of the State of the Union address, RT TV interviewed LNC Chair Nicholas Sarwark immediately after it aired, and included Political Director Carla Howell in a panel discussion the following day.

AFFILIATE NEWS AND EVENTS

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

Hawaii

LP Hawaii lobbying to legalize marijuana

With the elections over, the LPH is now turning its attention to the 2015 Hawaii legislative session that begins on Jan. 21. We hope to pass a bill that will legalize marijuana. Discussions with community groups and legislators seem to indicate that this is doable now. A public opinion poll taken in January 2014 showed 66 percent support for full legalization, with 180 of 284 Oahu residents and 87 of 116 neighbor islanders saying yes.

Longtime cannabis activist Roger Christie was released from prison this fall, and is now back on the front lines building support on the “big” island of Hawaii. The big island has about 70 percent of the state’s land mass and 15 percent of its population. Marijuana cultivation has long been an important part of the economy there. Many mainlanders may know its popular name brands. Roger, LP member Greg Arianoff, and LPHI Chair Tracy Ryan met with the County Chamber of Commerce in the second week of January and are hopeful they will see the value in supporting our bill. Of course, we have to remember how naturally cautious such organizations are.

We are talking to members of the legislature and promoting our bill. A big part of the issue is to ensure that our vision of legalization is the one that is ultimately voted on. Others are promoting ideas that create complicated regulatory systems with punitive taxes. We feel our libertarian bill, which would only sanction behavior noted in the

current federal guidelines (Eric Holder’s eight points), is the one most likely to please voters here. However, without any elected Libertarians, we must work with the majority Democrats and whatever Republicans may be of help to get the best bill possible. That would at minimum mean complete repeal of all of Hawaii’s existing marijuana laws. The discussion then becomes what, if any, rules would replace them.

Hawaii looks forward to being the first state to legalize through our legislative process. Considering that the value added by marijuana production to our state’s economy is probably the greatest by percentage of anywhere in the United States, this should happen.

Iowa

Strong state party growth in 2014

Overview of 2014 Elections Recap Meeting

Candidates and supporters met on Jan. 10, 2015, in Des Moines to discuss the results of the 2014 election. A detailed look at the election results indicated some bright spots: State representative District 10 candidate Lynne Gentry won one of her precincts in Calhoun County, while gubernatorial candidate Lee Hieb won 20 percent of the vote in this precinct. The statewide and U.S. congressional candidates averaged more than 5 percent of the vote in Calhoun, Guthrie, and Harrison Counties. The results showed that candidates did better in precincts and counties where Libertarians had been active for several years. Continuous activism is key.

Party Continues To Grow

The number of registered Libertarians in Iowa nearly doubled in 2014, while



Maryland LP gubernatorial candidate Shawn Quinn and candidate for lieutenant governor Lorenzo Gaztanaga received 1.5 percent of the vote in November, putting the state party on the ballot in 2016.

paid LPIA members increased by 30 percent. Facebook “Likes” have skyrocketed in the past year. We now have 10 county parties with Facebook pages. We hope to start more county parties in 2015. One thing Iowa has is lots of counties (99), which provides an excellent foundation for grassroots activism.

It is great time to be a Libertarian!

Kansas

Goal: An LP affiliate in every county

The LPKS Executive Committee met in January to finalize proposed new state bylaws that will be presented to the members at the state convention in April. At this year’s convention, we will also hold elections for chair, vice-chair, secretary, treasurer, and all four congressional district coordinators.

The January issue of our quarterly state newspaper, the *Free Kansan*, was published shortly after the first of the year. The latest issue, as well as back issues, is available online at: lpks.org/Free-Kansan

Over the next several months, the LPKS plans to focus on organizing at least one Libertarian group in every county in Kansas. We recognize that a great deal of the work that advances liberty takes place within small groups of dedicated people gathered around tables in kitchens and local restaurants, and we want to encourage that kind of activity. With 105 counties in the state, this project will be a challenge.

Kentucky

Convention and 2015 primary announced

Announcing: The LPKY 2015 Annual State Convention

The convention will take place on Saturday, Feb. 28, 2015, in Hillview, Ky.

Libertarians in Kentucky are invited to attend the annual state convention of

the Libertarian Party of Kentucky. In addition to our normal business of considering amendments to our platform and governing documents, this year’s convention will feature guest speakers from the ACLU of Kentucky and Take Back Kentucky, at least one declared LP presidential candidate, and an update from our LP national representation. The cost to attend is \$55 and includes lunch. Sign up on our website, LPKY.org, under the “Convention 2015” link.

Announcing: Libertarian Primary: Saturday, Feb. 28.

There are only six campaigns (seven candidates) on the ballot anywhere in Kentucky in the 2015 elections. Kentucky’s state executive branch elections have some restrictions — from the perspective of the law and the party. If any person has questions about the primary process, please contact the party on our contact page at LPKY.org.

Maryland

Full slate of federal candidates planned

The Maryland Libertarian Party retained ballot access for the first time in its history, as gubernatorial candidate Shawn Quinn received 1.5 percent in the general election.

In Maryland, if a party does not have at least 1 percent of the registered voters as of the last day of the year, the party’s top-of-the-ticket candidate must receive at least 1 percent of the vote in the most recent general election.

For the Maryland LP to maintain its party status, the 2016 LP presidential candidate must get 1 percent, or the party must have at least 1 percent of the registered voters on the last day of 2016. In 2012, LP presidential candidate Gary Johnson got 1.1 percent in the state.

Six different non-establishment party gubernatorial candidates have run since 2002, but none received 1 percent

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LP Iowa candidate for state House Lynne Gentry drives in her roadster before a parade on the campaign trail.



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until Quinn.

Because of the difficult ballot access laws, no non-establishment parties had a statewide candidate on the ballot between 1970 and 2002.

After a Democrat running as an independent garnered almost 10 percent in the 1966 gubernatorial election and was seen as causing the Democrat candidate to lose to the Republican, the state legislature raised the signature requirement for statewide independent and minor party candidates from 5,000 signatures to 3 percent of registered voters.

In 1968, the American Party, led by George Wallace, got on the ballot and attained ballot access because of Wallace's results. The 1970 American Party gubernatorial candidate polled almost 2 percent to retain ballot access; and the next year, the state legislature also mandated that minor parties must petition separately to become a recognized party, in addition to their candidates having to petition to get on the ballot. The 3 percent of the registered voters threshold was eventually lowered to 1 percent, but no non-presidential minor party candidate got on the ballot until 2002, when Spear Lancaster ran for governor as a Libertarian. The next year, the highest court in Maryland eliminated the need for individual candidates to petition; so as long as a party is recognized, they can run candidates.

In addition, the attorney general candidate, Leo Dymowski, received more than 56,000 votes and surpassed Ralph Nader as the highest vote-getter for a minor party statewide candidate. Nader got more than 53,000 votes in his 2000 Green Party presidential bid.

Dymowski ran on a platform of not using the office to prosecute peaceful drug users and gun owners. He currently works for the Parole and Probation Office in Baltimore, and used his job in his campaign to testify to the futility of the War on Drugs.

The Maryland LP had nine candidates on the ballot in 2016. Leo Martin,



Leo Dymowski

running for Garrett County commissioner, received 28 percent in a two-way race; and Bill Welch, also running for Garrett County commissioners in a different district, got 10 percent in a four-way race, ahead of the Democratic Party candidate.

There will be eight U.S. House seats and the U.S. Senate seat on the ballot in 2016, as well as most of the Baltimore City Council positions. MDLP chair Bob Johnston plans on running a full slate of federal candidate in 2016, as well as candidates for the Baltimore City Council.

Massachusetts

State rep candidate hits highest vote total

Elections: Party Archivist Cris Crawford compiled a complete list of all Massachusetts State Representative races, going back in some cases almost 40 years, that included a Libertarian. We did very well this year. Rick Marciano got the highest percentage of votes ever for a Libertarian in a two-way race (26 percent), and Ken Van Tassell had the third-highest percentage historically (25 percent).

Editor Steve Sadowski organized a new type of local group: The LimitMen. LimitMen do not meet, except perhaps rarely. They are on call from their LimitMen Leadership. LimitMen appear at town meetings, hearings, and other events in which government is trying to curtail individual freedoms, where they testify, cheer, and bear witness as needed.

The Massachusetts Libertarian convention was in October. Attendees elected a State Committee. The State Committee elects its own officers. Results of the two elections were: George Phillies, chair; Dan Fishman, political facilitator; Bob Clark, treasurer; Cris Crawford, recording secretary and archivist; Ken Van Tassell, operations facilitator; Heather Mullins, membership secretary; Al Hopfman, membership renewal; and Steven Sadowski, editor. The keynote speaker was Connecticut State Chair Joshua Katz, speaking on how to run and govern as a Libertarian. At the end of his speech, he surprised everyone by announcing that he is forming a presidential exploratory committee for president in 2016! (He has since ended that exploration.)

Minnesota

Libertarians win majority on city council

The initial wave of liberty has landed in Minnesota. We worked to help elect two first-time candidates for public office. Olga Parsons and Elizabeth Dahl did a splendid job running their campaigns, and will be the sitting *majority* of the Crystal City Council. This victory offers the rest of our state the ability not only to imagine freedom working, but actually to see it in action. We are proud of our candidates and expect great things from the halls of Crystal.

One of our first initiatives this year was to voluntarily crowd-fund the cash needed to open a party HQ in Minneapolis, which opened on Feb. 1 with special guest Tony Stiles. We are hosting events there each month. The schedule is jam-packed with classes and lively gatherings to energize our membership and bring in the public. Moving forward, our goal in 2015 is to elect five Libertarians to office. On the lobbying front, we are working toward reducing the barriers to major party status along with joining a liberty coalition in repealing the ban on Sunday alcohol sales and strengthening Minnesotans' data privacy with a constitutional amendment.

Lastly, we're gearing up for yet another record-setting state convention, with attendance expected to exceed even last year's. You will find that we pull no punches when it comes to topics or speakers at our convention. The convention will host several panels; including "Women in Liberty" and "Alternatives to Obamacare," as well as candidate training and presentations for "Running an Agorist Business" and "Making your Own Still." This night of freedom will be topped off with the brilliantly zany and humorous intellect of Julie Borowski, known to some as Token Libertarian Girl.

Nevada

LPEX, LSLA convention May 28–31

The views and opinions here are those of LP Nevada Chair Brett H. Pojunis and not of the Libertarian Party

The Libertarians' answer to CPAC takes place in Las Vegas, Nevada, May 28–31.

LPEX, the first Libertarian political expo, was established to help grow the liberty movement by connecting people, or-

ganizations, technology, and ideas. LPEX aggregates the best aspects of the liberty movement and provides vital leadership training in the form of workshops, panelists, and speakers.

During LPEX, the Libertarian State Leadership Alliance (LSLA) is holding its annual convention, which will take place Saturday, May 30, and Sunday, May 31. Additionally, the Libertarian Parties of Nevada and California will be hosting their annual state conventions on Sunday, May 31, 2015.

LPEX develops individuals into leaders so they can build effective libertarian organizations. Libertarianism resonates with more people today than ever before! The culture of libertarians must change to keep up with the increased demand.

LPEX workshops cover a broad range of subjects, such as fundraising, messaging, marketing, networking, organizing, campaigning, strategy, and influencing legislation. Speakers and panelists will have candid discussions on what we need to do to improve.

I am challenging each state affiliate to send 10 people who want to come out to sunny Las Vegas and attend LPEX to get trained. These 10 people will then go back to their states and commit to training 10 additional people. Each state who achieves this will have 110 trained people ready to grow their party!

How are we going to achieve this? States that are serious about building a strong organization will find their brightest and best members/activists to send out here. It might be you!

For contact and registration information, go to LPEX.org and please make sure to add us on social media:

- **Twitter:** @mylplex (twitter.com/mylplex)
- **Facebook:** Facebook.com/mylplex

Each week, new items will be added to the conference program.

Make sure to register soon for early bird pricing and book your rooms through the LPEX website for amazing discounted rates, available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

New Jersey

NJ approves NJLP transparency initiative

On Aug. 1, 2014, the New Jersey Libertarian Party (NJLP) formally petitioned the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA) for a rule requiring municipalities and other

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local government units to specify an “up to” dollar amount in each resolution that awards a public contract. At its Dec. 10, 2014, meeting, the DCA’s Local Finance Board preliminarily approved the requested rule and will consider final adoption after a 60-day public comment period.

The NJLP submitted its rulemaking petition in response to the Parsippany–Troy Hills governing body’s award of a no-bid financial consulting contract to a company that was reportedly owned by or tied to the township’s recently resigned chief financial officer. The resolution that awarded the contract and related paperwork said only that the amount of the contract “will exceed \$17,500.” When a local newspaper requested records showing the exact contract amount, Parsippany–Troy Hills responded that the contract “hasn’t been signed by the Administration [and that] could take up to 30 days.”

John Paff, who chairs the NJLP’s Open Government Advocacy Project and authored the petition, said that citizens have an “extraordinarily strong interest in knowing the amount of taxpayer money” spent on contracts and need “prompt and meaningful access to governmental information ... to effectively fulfill their vital role in monitoring government and seeking redress for governmental excesses and abuses.” The Local Finance Board agreed, saying that the rule amendment will “increase transparency” and will “improve the public’s ability to monitor how tax dollars are being spent.”

In other news, the 2015 NJLP Convention is scheduled for March 21 at Tavern on the Lake in Hightstown, N.J.

North Carolina

NCLP adopts plans for NC Liberty 2020

Libertarians in North Carolina are more prepared for success than ever before. We’ve adopted our first every strategic plan: NC Liberty 2020. It outlines key initiatives for the coming three election cycles. The ultimate goal: elect three Libertarians to the state General Assembly by 2020. This results-oriented program sharpens and focuses efforts in areas vital to strengthening our effectiveness in local, state, and federal elections.

Although the growth rate of Libertarians in North Carolina has far exceeded that of the other political parties and unaffiliated voters over the last five years — a trend that’s accelerating — our size, in absolute numbers, means that candidates must not only motivate our base but also earn votes from unaffiliated and establishment party ranks. Libertarian candidate for U.S. Senate Sean Haugh was able to do just that in 2014.

Haugh was our best vote-earner in a mid-term election ever. He observed that the Libertarian vote has become the swing vote, because his totals were greater than the margin of difference between the Republican and Democrat. Exit polls also indicated that Haugh drew votes more from people identifying themselves as “moderate” or “liberal” than from those who said they were conservative, putting another nail in the coffin of the Libertarian “spoiler” myth.

State Convention

The 2015 LPNC State Convention will be held April 10 to 12 at the Hilton Garden Inn, 4620 S. Miami Blvd., Durham.

2015 and 2016 Elections

Although 2015 is an off-year election year and all the municipal elections are nonpartisan races, they still offer an opportunity for the Libertarian message to be heard. These elections are usually decided by a few hundred voters. Some of these towns have a significant core of “libertarian-friendly” voters, in some cases as many as 25 percent of the number of votes needed to win. So we’ll be actively recruiting and training candidates and campaign managers for these contests.

Looking forward, the 2016 gubernatorial election is critically important to the LPNC. We must get 2 percent of the vote in order to keep our ballot access. We’re encouraged that we’ll be able to do that because there are potentially three candidates for our nomination, which would be another milestone first for the LPNC.

Oklahoma

OKLP protests attack on pot legalization

On Thursday, Jan. 8, the Libertarian Party of Oklahoma co-hosted a rally against the lawsuit filed against the state of Colorado by Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt. The rally was held outside the office of the attorney general. The Oklahoma chapter of NORML was also involved. Attorney General Pruitt, along with the state of Nebraska, is filing the lawsuit against Colorado to force the federal government to either enforce federal drug laws against Colorado, which recently made marijuana legal for recreational use, or force a court order against implementation of the state law.

On Monday, Feb. 2, the Libertarian Party of Oklahoma hosted a Where’s the Freedom (WTF) rally at the Oklahoma State Capitol. The purpose of the rally was to highlight legislation undermining

liberty that is being proposed during this legislative session.

Texas

LPTX plans overhaul of infrastructure

At their December 2014 quarterly meeting, the LP Texas state executive committee voted to adopt a 2015–16 Strategic Plan with the intent of driving the organization to new heights of professional structure, membership, and fundraising. In particular, the plan focuses on the creation of a 60-plus-volunteer functioning state administrative organization with a bicameral committee and departmental structure; a complete branding and messaging overhaul to take the organization to a level playing field with the major parties in terms of professional image, marketing, media relations, and online presence; and a complete refresh of membership programs with the idea of migrating to a predominantly subscription-based funding model and creating a simplified universal membership program to encourage contribution and participation at all levels of the LP, including the county, state, and national levels.

In January 2015, as part of the first steps toward the enactment of the LP Texas Strategic Plan, LP Texas built and launched a new private IT resources portal for the use of the state committee and county affiliates, including private online forums, private email communications, events tracking and registration, automatic meeting quorum calls, an online polling engine for more efficient internal decision-making, and an intelligent dynamic forms engine for populating the organizational structure via an open applications process. This new resource will help the organization become more agile

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Lawmakers are the real perps

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of violent conduct appears to be a deliberate attempt to smear Ulbricht and prejudice the jury against him with accusations they know they can’t prove.

The attacks against Ulbricht are the work of a stubborn political class that refuses to acknowledge the utter failure of the Drug War. Dangerous drug use continues unabated since President Nixon declared his “War on Drugs” in 1971.

In addition to dismissing the charges against Ulbricht, the Libertarian Party calls for:

- Scaling back the FBI. When a government agency abuses its power, it needs to be downsized.
- Downsizing all U.S. spy agencies. Their excessive size, spending and scope have led to abuses such as the Silk Road case.
- Cutting total government spending commensurate with these cuts — so politicians don’t use the proceeds for new wars or injustices perpetrated on the American people.
- An immediate end to the failed War on Drugs.

Whereas drugs, like alcohol and many pharmaceuticals, can be harmful to those who take them, drug prohibition is far more dangerous. It encourages excessive drug

use and more potent drugs. It demonizes and incarcerates people who have harmed no one else. It discourages labeling, testing and other responsible behaviors of free market merchants.

Worst of all, drug prohibition, like the alcohol prohibition of the 1920s, provokes horrific and widespread violence in the United States and abroad.

We must stop harassing and criminalizing innocent Americans and go after the real perps: politicians who refuse to repeal bad laws, and power-seeking government employees and agencies that violate individual rights.

To learn more about this case, visit the Free Ross Ulbricht website: freeross.org

LP STAFF

LP NATIONAL CHAIR
Nicholas Sarwark

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Wes Benedict

POLITICAL DIRECTOR
Carla Howell

OPERATIONS DIRECTOR
Robert Kraus

**CANDIDATE AND AFFILIATE
SUPPORT SPECIALIST**
Bob Johnston

**MEMBER SERVICES & AFFILIATE
RELATIONS MANAGER**
Casey Hansen

SPECIAL PROJECTS
Nick Dunbar

THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY®
1444 Duke St.
Alexandria, VA 22314
Phone: (202) 333-0008
Fax: (202) 333-0072
Website: www.LP.org

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Upcoming state conventions

This lists all known 2015 convention dates, including those which have already been held. Visit lp.org/conventions for links to additional details.

- **Jan. 24:** Arizona
- **Feb. 27–28:** Pennsylvania
- **Feb. 28:** Kentucky
- **March 6–7:** Georgia
- **March 14:** Maryland
- **March 21:** New Jersey
- **March 28:** Iowa
- **April 10–12:** North Carolina
- **April 17–19:** Kansas
- **April 18:** Missouri, New Mexico
- **April 24–26:** Colorado, Oregon
- **April 25:** Indiana, Minnesota, New York, Wisconsin
- **May 1–May 2:** Ohio
- **May 29–31:** California, Nevada, Washington
- **June 5–7:** Florida
- **July 31–Aug. 1:** Illinois
- **Nov. 7–8:** South Carolina

Affiliate News

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and will integrate with the previous IT developments of LP Texas, such as the Project Libertas database initiative completed from 2013–14.

West Virginia

First time as third-largest party in WV

The West Virginia LP can boast for the first time that it's the no. 3 political party in the Mountain State, says state Chair Michael Wilson.

While many state LPs can already claim that status, in West Virginia, the Mountain Party — the state affiliate of the national, left-wing/environmentalist Green Party — has previously dominated the state's third-party politics. Indeed, the Mountain Party has had official party status for a decade and a half (the threshold in West Virginia is just 1 percent, but the only race in which that counts is the quadrennial contest for governor). The LPWV achieved party recognition status in the late 1990s, lost it through most of the 2000s, but gained it back in 2012 with the candidacy of David Moran, who garnered 1.3 percent on a shoe-

string budget.

Too bad for the Mountain Party, crowed Wilson, "We're no. 3!" "Out of five parties on the scene in WV, the LPWV has now clearly emerged in third place," Wilson said. "It may be we're not yet competitive with the Republicrats, but for the first time ever we eclipsed the Mountain Party in a major statewide race." The still non-recognized Constitution Party is in fifth place.

Evidence of the LP's breakout is three-fold. As of December 2014, the LP had 1,913 registered voters (up 28 percent since November 2013), compared to 1,563 Mountain Party-affiliated voters. In addition, the U.S. Senate candidacy of Libertarian John Buckley drew 7,408 votes, trouncing the 5,501 votes of the Mountain Party candidate, who had run statewide twice before. Finally, as a state that still allows "straight ticket" voting, the LPWV drew more straight-ticket votes than the Mountain Party in 45 of the 55 counties.

In addition to Buckley's U.S. Senate race, Libertarian Davy Jones came in third in his race for U.S. House (2nd District) with a hefty 5 percent, edging out the Mountain Party-endorsed candidate.

"To paraphrase our state motto, 'Montani Semper Libertarian,'" proclaimed Wilson.

What have you missed recently on LP.org?

- Two Libertarians to be appointed to Alaska Public Offices Commission
- Louisiana Libertarian wins runoff election
- Iowa, Texas, Georgia Libertarians running in special elections
- New York LP featured in U.S. News article hailing decline in arrests for minor offenses
- An open letter to U.S. House leaders to prohibit mass surveillance
- LP Chair Nicholas Sarwark says 2016 Libertarian candidate for president will offer new ideas; two old parties will run 'sequels and reboots'
- Ohio LP vice-chair op-ed published in online site for the state's largest newspaper
- Oklahoma GOP lawsuit against Colorado is cynical and shameful
- Democrats, Republicans silencing 'voices of freedom': LP Political Director Carla Howell
- Harry Browne's New Year's resolutions for selling liberty effectively
- 2012 LP vice-presidential candidate to appear at Democrat Liberty Caucus in SC

Media Buzz About the Libertarian Party

"A recent Gallup poll revealed that self-described 'independents' are the nation's largest political demographic. Indeed a record-breaking 43 percent of Americans now say they are independents, compared to 30 percent who are Democrats and 26 percent who are Republican." *Washington Times*, 1/26/2015

"There weren't enough ... casting votes this time to prevent the GOP from winning control of the Senate. The 2016 elections could be another story if the libertarian threat isn't quashed."

American Thinker, 11/7/2014

"The Libertarian Party stands with the oppressed, speaks for those who society cannot hear, and offers hope for those who have given up any belief that the world can improve. A vote for a Libertarian is a vote against allowing the murderer of Eric Garner to go free, a vote against the warfare state, and a vote against torture.

"Wherever a person is brutalized or killed by government, we are with them. Wherever people protest against unjust institutions and systematic racism, we are with them. Now I ask you to stand with us and help us to fight these depredations."

Middletown Press letter to editor from Joshua Katz, Chair, LP Connecticut, 12/23/2014

"We weren't listening to Libertarians 10 years ago. We are now." Glenn Beck on *The Glenn Beck Program*, 1/21/2015

"Wisconsin Libertarian Andy Craig ... waited less than two months after the midterm election for Wisconsin's 4th US Congressional seat to announce his candidacy for the post in 2016. Andy Craig is a young Libertarian in a heavily Democratic district. But he's saying and doing all the right things, setting the stage for an exciting and competitive race."

Opposition News, 1/17/2015