

Region 8 Report

This is the most geographically compact region, but each state has very different politics and processes. Would like more members to subscribe to the *LP_8new* yahoo group.

Heading into 2016 elections, only Vermont has statewide ballot access. Connecticut has partial ballot access. New Jersey is recognized as a minor party and only needs 800 signatures.

Given the timing of the 2016 convention, this lack of ballot access will require resources from either National or the presidential campaign to put our presidential nominee on the ballot in some of the states.

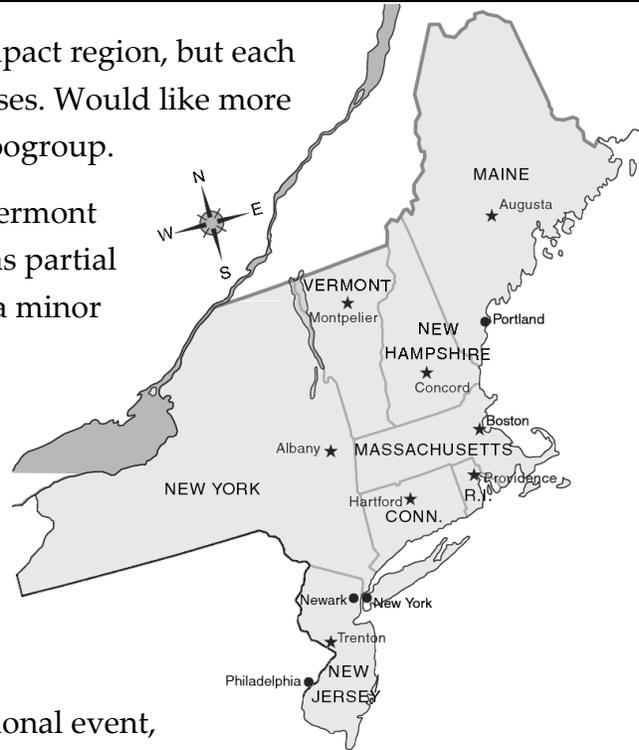
There are preliminary talks of a regional event, location will be determined by which states want to participate. Across the region are local pro-liberty initiatives on many issues.

Recent events of interest:

- » Start of Maine voter registration drive
- » New Jersey convention – March 21, Hightstown
- » New York convention – April 25, Rochester
- » PorcFest – June 21–28, Lancaster, NH
- » NJLP Annual Picnic – July 11

Upcoming events of interest:

- » New Hampshire Liberty Dinner – July 19, Mary Ruwart keynote
- » Liberty Happy Hour – August 25, One Star Bar, Manhattan
- » Connecticut convention – September 19
- » Massachusetts convention – October 17, Nick Sarwark keynote





Ballot Access

The two bills we had introduced and lobbied for - one for better ballot access, and one placing the names of all registration-qualified parties on the voter registration forms, died in committee. The sponsor of both has already committed to reintroducing them at the start of the next session, and so lobbying will continue with the legislature out.

Other Legislation

Efforts by the CCDL and the LPCT successfully led to the legislature allowing the clock to run out on a proposed gun control bill. The bill would have allowed for immediate seizure of all guns held by an individual against whom a preliminary restraining order is issued. Such orders are issued upon a complaint, and the accused has no opportunity to raise a defense.

Volunteer Opportunities

We are currently encouraging members and interested people to attend local meetings and consider running in this year's municipal elections.

Another way to become a Libertarian public official is by seeking appointment to a local board or commission. Many towns have vacancies on several boards. If you find a vacancy in your town you are interested in, please contact Joshua Katz to seek a partisan endorsement.

The LPCT, despite a large candidate recruitment drive, will be running only 3 candidates for municipal office (assuming all make their petitioning requirements.) In the future, a different approach will be needed. We also need more members who prioritize running in winnable races.

Appearances

LPCT Chairman Joshua Katz spoke twice at Porcfest, once at the Creating Communities tent, and once at the Alt-Expo tent (so the second was technically not a Porcfest event.) Topics were CPR, voluntary provision of emergency services, mutual aid, and scaling back the role of the state in emergency response. Mr. Katz also ate some barbeque after a year as a vegetarian and found it tasted amazing, and made him feel healthier. This came on the heels of eating a large amount of prime rib in Las Vegas, so it seems his vegetarianism is continuing to slip.

Convention

Our convention will be Sept. 19. Our original keynote speaker, Belle Knox, will be unable to attend since she has decided to study abroad. We still plan to host a candidate forum for the Presidential nomination, and to center the remainder of our speakers on elected officials, current candidates, and campaign techniques.



Social Media

The LPME Facebook page has more than 980 likes, a 50%+ improvement since last year.

Voter Registration Drive

Maine LP submitted a letter of intent to form a political party and it has been accepted by the Secretary of State of Maine. The plan is to get 5000 people to register as Libertarians so we can get official party status.

We have until December 2015 to register 5,000 Maine residents to be on the 2016 ballot. We will need an additional 5,000 for a total of 10,000 to maintain party status. With the help of Scott Kohlhaas we will have the necessary funds to accomplish the short term goal of 5000 if not the entire 10,000. If successful Maine will not require any funds for ballot access on the next nor any other election cycle.

A small set back is that we will not have Libertarian printed on the registration cards since we are a "qualifying party". So we will have to check the other box and write in Libertarian. But once we are a qualified party, we'll have our own line in the cards.

Our Other Initiatives

I am also planning on petitioning for rank choice voting and a state wide marijuana initiative simultaneously. No details yet on these.

Legislative Efforts

On the legislative side we have teamed up with the green party to support LD507 which will open the primary petitioning requirement to unenrolled, making it easier for third party candidates to run for office.



General Efforts

State Committee member Don Graham migrated our state web pages back to their old host and is converting them to the BOLT CMS system. State Committee member Cris Crawford translated our platform trifold into Spanish. We are preparing for the Massachusetts Freedom Rally, held on the Boston Common in mid-September. This, the largest pot legalization rally in North America, will be used for contact recruitment and petitioning for ongoing referenda.

We started fundraising for Presidential ballot access. Response to date has been low.

LPmass Launches Public Issue Messaging

We're between election campaigns. How do we put our party in the public eye? Advertising! We're launching issues-focused ad campaigns. Libertarians have many issues where the public supports us, not those other parties. We just need to show the American people the truth. We have issues where the march of history is on our side. We will bring America to the future, the Libertarian future.

First campaign is No to the Olympics. Future campaigns include Fathers' Rights, Ending the Surveillance State, and Ending All Current Foreign Wars. We're currently getting the bugs out of the system. Once it is up and running we plan a massive fund raising effort in support.

How are we campaigning? Step One is the Facebook Page. Step Two is Facebook advertising. Our ad is getting a 2% "like" return, which is astronomically high for Facebook. Step Three is social and traditional media outreach.

Your donations at LPmass.org, the state PAC, marked "No to Boston Olympics", will be spent on the effort.

Vote Nolympics! Vote Libertarian!

Eminent domain for private gain is the mark of the beast that our federal government has been turned into a proprietary tool of the corporate plutocratic interests who see the purpose of government as to rewrite the rules in their personal favor.

The latest Olympic plan would seize Widett Circle, build on it a 68,000 seat stadium, immediately tear down the stadium, and replace it with parks and buildings.

Let's start with the obvious: If the owners of the Widett Circle land want to build parks and buildings, they don't need to build and tear down a stadium first.

Now the less obvious: Once the Olympics are over, the Olympics Corporation running the event can go broke, dump a useless stadium on Boston...and never build any of those parks and buildings.

Above all, using eminent domain to take land, throw hundreds of people out of work, and hand the land over to private developers as will doubtless in the end happen is unAmerican, indecent, and immoral.

Massachusetts should reject every proposal that it is financially responsible for these “private” Olympics. Massachusetts should reject every proposal to use eminent domain to take private land for these “private” Olympics.

State Convention October 17

Our State Convention is Saturday, October 17, at Tweed’s Restaurant in Worcester. The Keynote Speaker will be National Chair Nick Sarwark. The Libertarian Presidential candidates will debate. We currently have acceptances from Daryl Perry, Marc Feldman and Cecil Ince. The convention will elect delegates to the 2016 National Convention.

Referendums

Massachusetts has public referendums, each needing around 100,000 signatures for the ballot. Several are underway that we voted to help, including (i) legalizing the use of marijuana, (ii) blocking the use of public funds for the Olympics, and (iii) stopping Common Core from dumbing down Massachusetts schools to the level of Mississippi.

We are considering several others, including (i) requiring the Attorney General to maintain a complete public list of persons shot by policemen, (ii) ending surveillance police state tactics, (iii) shall-issue firearms permits to adults with no criminal record, (iv) some of our historical Public Policy Questions, including Protect the right of a patient and her or his physician to purchase a medical drug from any source, so long as the patient's insurance company is not obliged to pay more than the price for which the medical drug is available for sale in Massachusetts.



Lawsuit

With the NHCLU we are suing the state in Federal court over the latest change to the law to make life harder for third party and independent candidates. This one wiped out 2/3 of the time we have to complete a party-wide petition with no corresponding reduction in the number of signatures, effectively making the task impossible.

The case is still not over. Despite our brief demolishing the state's case and the RNC's amicus brief, the judge did not grant a summary judgement and didn't think he had enough information to make a decision. So we have another evidentiary hearing on July 13th to explain again the severe burden the process places on us. We expect a decision by August. This case has taken up a lot of our time and energy and leaves a cloud over our future plans.

General and Future Activity

We established a Platform Committee with the mission to propose a state-level platform for members to consider at our next general convention. A first draft is ready for review.

The legislative session is winding down, with bills on everything from asset forfeiture, ballot access, cutting taxes, school funding and more. A sizeable bi-partisan liberty caucus is in the statehouse now, so we have lots of friendly legislators to work with. The NH House passed simple marijuana decrim, and rejected REAL-ID again. The governor vetoed a constitutional carry bill and continues to drag her feet on medical marijuana.

A few interested candidates for 2016 have come forward.

Plans are in the works the next Seacoast Liberty Expo.

We didn't have a formal presence at *PorcFest* but most of our board and a few candidates were there. Daryl Perry, who has declared for president, earned a few radio interviews. I had productive conversations with the folks running Liberty.me. I made good contacts for future projects and potential speakers for the national convention. In particular, *Muslims for Liberty* made a few amazing presentations. This is a huge outreach opportunity we should embrace. I learned Pakistan now as a Libertarian Party, and a silver-backed "bank".

One rather constant theme I noticed was the larger liberty movement is trending away from politics, especially anything technocratic. One prominent speaker described it as "Less Rothbard, More Rand". So while the international movement very much looks to us for guidance, the American movement isn't so sure. Though I did hear several complements on our improved messaging of the past year.

Social Networks and Website

Coming out of convention we have a team ready to revamp the website! Our Facebook Group has 636 members, our Page has 353 Likes. We have 1146 Twitter followers @LPNH.



2015 NJ Convention and Candidates

Our convention was a great success. We elected new officers and county organizations. We made plans for a fundraising committee to help our candidates. We made substantive changes to our Platform including updates to our Crime, Discrimination, Education, Privacy, Freedom of Communication, Government Secrecy, Taxation and Family Life planks. We added a plank describing the libertarian views on Immigration

In the November 2015 election the NJ Libertarian Party will be running these candidates who have successfully filed petitions to run for office.

- Joseph DeLong - South Bound Brook Mayor ([Facebook.com/JoeDeLongForMayor](https://www.facebook.com/JoeDeLongForMayor))
- Patrick Smith - South Bound Brook Town Council
- Peter Rohrman - Bergen County Freeholder (www.peterrohrman.com)
- Damien Caillault - Assembly 27th District (damienforliberty.com)
- Jeff Hetrick - Assembly 27th District ([Facebook.com/hetrickforliberty](https://www.facebook.com/hetrickforliberty))

In addition, NJLP member Joseph Dunsay will be on the ballot in a non-partisan school board election for the River Dell Regional School District in Bergen County.

Please provide whatever support you can to our candidates!

Thanks to those who tried, but did not succeed: Mike Chadwick of Medford, Brian Pizza of Toms River, and James Marcotullio of Toms River. Mr. Chadwick submitted his petitions to Trenton but the Republicans successfully challenged enough signatures to have his petition deemed invalid.

In Other News

As a result of pressure from the NJLP Preempted Ordinance Repeal project, several towns are looking to rescind or modify their curfew laws. Thanks to NJLP member and project volunteers Jim Tosone and John Paff for their work.

We seek an Editor for the newsletter. We seek an assistant Webmaster to assist with our website. The Bylaws Committee is also forming for the purpose of updating our Bylaws. If interested in any of these positions contact Patrick McKnight at chair@njlp.org

A Passing

The NJ Libertarian Party is sad to announce the passing of Board Member, Barry Auerbacher. Barry was first elected to the board at our convention this past March. We are grateful for the time that we got to know Barry. Our condolences go out to his family and friends.



Looking at The Party

We have 11 active chapters across the state.

Time for a New Direction in New York

Sheldon Silver's career ends in disgrace, but the disgrace is not his alone. Every Democrat who voted for him for Speaker knew what was going on. How things are done in Albany is an open secret. Every Democratic Party elected official who was in a position to do something, and didn't, should resign immediately.

This is the face of not just the Democratic Party in New York State, but the entire political culture. Corruption is endemic and every single voter must now choose to be part of the problem or part of the solution.

State Convention

Our state convention was April 25th in Rochester. Featured speakers include Blair Horner, Director of the NY Public Interest Research Group, and LNC Vice-Chair Arvin Vorha. We'll also have party-building workshops.

After five years as State Chair, I am delighted that the delegates today chose a terrific team to move forward in our mission of promoting freedom-loving candidates to the voters in New York. In particular, the following officers were elected for the 2015/16 term of the LPNY state committee:

Chair--Mark Glogowski

Vice Chairs--Jim Rosenbeck and Chris Padgett

Secretary--Blay Tarnoff

Treasurer--Gary Treistman

At Large--Chris Edes, Phil Ricci, Kevin Wilson, Brian Waddell, Robert Parker

Special thanks to LNC Vice Chair Arvin Vohra and Region 8 Alternate Representative Josh Katz for joining us.

Other News and Events

Manhattan Libertarians had an "Operation Politically Homeless" booth at NYC PrideFest on Sunday June 28.