



LP News

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#LEGALIZE FREEDOM

2016 Libertarian National Convention

Orlando • May 26-30

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LP response to Obama's State of the Union address

Within minutes after President Obama's State of the Union address, LP Chair Nicholas Sarwark delivered a powerful video response posted to the LP's YouTube channel. He opened with the following:

"The state of our union is strong because the American people are strong. It's not strong because of the Big Government policies of the Obama administration, enabled by Republicans and Democrats in Congress.

"It's not strong because we're almost \$20 trillion in debt — debt incurred during both the Bush and Obama administrations.

"It's not strong because we're taking over one trillion extra dollars in federal taxes [every year] away from hard working Americans over the course of Obama's two terms.

"It's strong because the American people understand liberty, and they cherish liberty. They understand that this country was founded on a belief that every human being, every American, has a natural right to pursue happiness in any way they choose, as long as they don't hurt anyone, and they don't take their stuff."

Also that evening, Sarwark was interviewed on RT TV by anchor Colin Bray, and LP Political Director Carla Howell was interviewed on RT's "Watching the Hawks" by Tyrel Ventura and Tabetha Wallace.

In his interview, Sarwark said:

"[The U.S. has] a military that spends more than the next eight nations, combined. The problem with that is that we're sending our troops overseas to die for other countries' civil wars, and that's what needs to stop. We've spent ourselves into a hole, and just because you are the strongest military in the world doesn't mean

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Nicholas Sarwark being interviewed on RT TV about President Obama's Jan. 12th State of the Union address.

Not just for business: LP 2016 National Convention

By BetteRose Ryan,
Convention Chair

The 2016 National Libertarian Convention in Orlando is a convention for all: delegates and nondelegates, new party members and old timers, family members and friends.

Doing the business of the party is just the beginning. It's a place to meet up with old friends and make new ones, learn more from others in the movement, and have fun. From parties to seminars, debates to group discussions, games to sightseeing in Orlando, there are a multitude of reasons to come to the 2016 Legalize Freedom convention in Orlando.

What is there for the nondelegate to enjoy at the convention?

There are four meal events with top speakers that come with the gold package, which anyone can purchase, even if they are not members of the party. Hear some of the top voices in the libertarian movement while enjoying a delicious meal.

Amazing speakers will include liberty activist and talk show host Adam Kokesh, and Tom Woods, author, political analyst and a senior fellow of the Ludwig von Mises Institute.

Are you an activist or want to be an activist? Maybe you would just like to learn to speak better, or put on a better event. We have dozens of seminars and training sessions for you.

Learn from the best how to host a great event, be it a charity event, a fundraising event, or simply a theme party. Michele Poague, author of the highly

acclaimed manual, *Creating a Successful Convention* (second edition being published soon), will share with us her expertise at planning and executing exciting events.

Six of the highly praised sessions of *LP Activist Training by Libertarians for Libertarians* will be offered on Thursday. Learn how to run a Libertarian campaign, prepare for media interviews, raise money, build your local Libertarian affiliate, recruit candidates, and play the Libertarian game *Who's Driving?*

Perhaps you would like to hear from some current and former elected officials. How did they get elected? What is it like serving? What do they have to share with others? Hear Libertarians like Joe Johnson, who walked Frederick, Col-

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Libertarian Party national convention, 2014

Photo: Kevin Ludlow

CHAIR'S CORNER

Libertarian success in 2016 depends on you!

by Nicholas Sarwark, Chair

2016 is shaping up to be one of the biggest election years ever for the Libertarian Party. We are on track to have ballot access in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, ensuring that every American will have a Libertarian to vote for this November. No matter which of our candidates for president is nominated in Orlando in May, he or she will have an army of Libertarian Party candidates running for races from Congress on down.



Nicholas Sarwark

Our Libertarian candidates need your help.

After the 2014 election, we surveyed Libertarian Party candidates about their experience running for office. Do you know the biggest problem most candidates faced? Lack of volunteers. Over 90 percent of candidates who took the survey said they needed more volunteers.

This is where you come in. You hold the key to Libertarian success in 2016. You have the skills and resources that the candidates running in your state need.

Perhaps you have experience as a manager or organizer. Reach out to a candidate and offer to help them put together an effective campaign team. Help them build a solid structure for their campaign aimed at achieving realistic goals.

Do you have accounting or bookkeeping skills? Are you detail-oriented, and good with numbers and filing reports on time? Every campaign that raises more than the government-set limits will be legally required

to have a campaign treasurer. Being a treasurer doesn't take more than a few hours a month, but it's one of the most helpful things you can do for a candidate.

Know how to put up a website? If you have skills in web design, you know that there are very expensive sites designed by professionals that look terrible. You also know that there are sites that you can build that look elegant and can give a Libertarian Party candidate an edge over her old-party opponents.

Maybe you are active on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram. Helping a candidate get social-media profiles set up for the campaign, to which people post regularly, can be done in mere minutes a week, but enables the candidate to present a better face to the public.

Are you in sales or marketing? Do you have fundraising skills — or are you willing to try? Many candidates will need either filing fees or petition signatures to get on the ballot. If you can spend just a few hours a week to raise money for a campaign, especially early in the race, that could be the difference between success and failure.

Maybe you're busy and don't have any time to volunteer. That's great! It's good to be busy. Perhaps you can donate to a candidate, or to your state party, or the national party. Those funds will help support candidates across the country.

Our candidates work hard. Please help them to have maximum impact — and give voters a choice for liberty.

Yours in liberty,

The following individuals joined the Chairman's Circle:

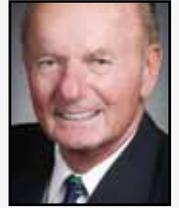
Michael Chastain
Chris J. Rufer

The following individuals became Beacon of Liberty contributors:

Melanie H. Lyons

Pamela E. Potter

Leslie Rose



The following individual became a Pioneer of Freedom contributor:
John Stagliano

The following individuals became Lifetime Founder contributors:

Christopher M. Brookover

Scott Smith

Jeffrey Thompson

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

David F. Nolan

**Memorial Office Fund donors
Oct. 28, 2015–Jan. 20, 2016**

Benefactor of Liberty

Edward D. Marsh

Advocate of Liberty

John F. Hathaway

Plaques are now on display at the Libertarian National Committee office space in Alexandria, Va., that recognize our top donors. To have your name appear on a plaque, or if you'd just like to help pay off the mortgage, mail in your donation or visit LP.org.

Contribute today: LP.org/office-fund

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LP News

The Purposes of the Libertarian Party:

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

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www.LP.org

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“I will not be a slave again,” says U.S. Senate candidate Lily Williams

By Elizabeth C. Brierly

The latest chapter in Libertarian Lily Tang Williams’s lifelong pursuit of freedom has her running for U.S. Senate this year in Colorado.

What makes this diminutive wife and mother such a fearless, driven, outspoken Libertarian?

“Because I hate to see the country I love becoming more like the country I left,” she says, speaking of her experience in China, where she grew up in fear that government thugs would bang down her family’s door in the night, and where details of her life were captured in a government file that followed her everywhere.

After six failed entreaties to leave China to pursue a master’s program in Texas, Williams finally convinced the authorities she would return, and emigrated to America. She found her home in the libertarian movement, serving as LP Colorado state chair and as state director of Our America Initiative; and, in 2014, running for State Rep., 44th District.

She has testified before Colorado’s legislature at least ten times, urging lawmakers to repeal Common Core and the state’s ban on large firearms magazines.

Her life story and fiery rhetoric have landed her media coverage by The Blaze, Breitbart, Politichicks, Parker

Chronicle, Freedom Outpost, PJ Media, and Lone Tree Voice. In January alone, she did eight radio interviews. She’s been published in National Review Online, and she is slated to speak at several upcoming state LP conventions, FreedomFest, and the University of Colorado.

Williams refuses to equivocate on the issues. On her campaign’s Facebook page, she’s pictured holding her AR rifle, captioned with the words, “I once was a slave before and I will never be one again...no matter what my President signs with his pen.” The post triggered over 17,000 “likes” within 22 days.

Williams’s Libertarian proposals include abolishing Common Core, which she likens to “communist core,” and Obama’s new Every Student Succeeds Act.

“Children are becoming animals to be tracked,” she warns. She would work to defund the federal Department of Education.

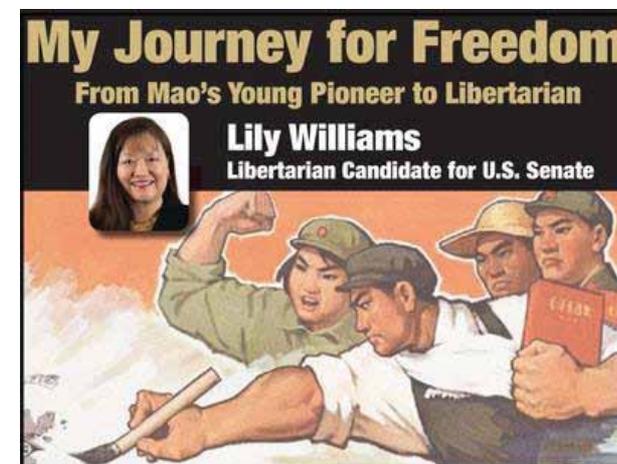
On economics, Williams, a small-business owner, believes that the federal government needs to “stay within its constitutional core functions.”

“I would drastically cut the federal government and balance the budget. I would defund the Departments of Commerce, Energy, and Housing (HUD).”

As for the IRS, she is appalled by “the self-incrimination required,” and says she would work to pass a constitutional amendment to repeal the 16th Amendment.

Regarding personal choices, Williams says she “believe[s] in self-ownership. Freedom includes the freedom to be stupid!” she laughs, adding that she would “decriminalize all drug use and legalize marijuana — nationally.”

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Libertarian Michael McDermott for U.S. House high-spirited in face of adversity

To talk to Libertarian Michael McDermott, candidate for U.S. House in New York, you’d never know that



Michael McDermott grins and shovels it.

he was recovering from the amputation of his right leg below the knee.

After suffering gangrene and infections that required amputation and a six-month recovery, which is still in progress, McDermott exudes extraordinary enthusiasm for his next run for office.

McDermott demonstrated his upbeat attitude while shoveling out from the snowstorm that hit the northeast in January.

“When a one-legged man falls shoveling snow, what does he do? Make snow angels!” he said. “In other words, do not let life’s adversity affect the important things you feel you must do. Make the best of it and don’t give up.”

After running for governor on the Libertarian ticket in 2014, McDermott had planned to run for the same office again in 2018. But after months of lying in bed, and finally getting fitted for a prosthetic, he’s itching to get out on the campaign trail.

He sees several opportunities in running for congress this year in New York’s third congressional district, where he also ran on the Libertarian ticket in 2012.

Democratic incumbent Rep. Steve Israel has announced he will not seek reelection. His competitive race against Republican Grant Lally in 2014 suggests the open seat in 2016 will be hotly contested

and draw significant publicity. Because Lally, who leans libertarian, fared well in his race, McDermott figures voters in the district will be receptive to his Libertarian message.

Petition signatures gathered by McDermott’s campaign can be used to get the Libertarian presidential nominee on the ballot as well. New York has an unusual law: signatures for third parties lacking ballot access in multicounty congressional districts can count toward *presidential* ballot access. District 3 encompasses parts of Suffolk, Nassau, and Queens counties. Petitioning for U.S. House in Manhattan, in contrast, can count only toward *congressional* ballot access.

McDermott has pledged to stand up for our second amendment rights and repeal New York’s anti-gun “Safe” Act, end Common Core, and remove the prohibition against marijuana to “explode our economy with industrial hemp harvesting,” among other Libertarian goals.

McDermott produces and hosts a new Internet TV show called “Awaken, The Political Awakening of Liberty and Freedom,” to educate and inspire voters to return to the voting booth and make a difference.

“The show will have many diverse guests, to show just what being libertarian means, and how we can get back to



Michael McDermott at Madame Tussauds wax museum in New York City

following the Constitution — instead of ripping it apart,” he said.

Campaign website: VoteMcDermott.org

Campaign donations: Good money versus bad money

by Carla Howell

The media, politicians, and others deride “money in politics” as a bad thing. They claim it’s immoral for a politician to be “bought” by their donors.

They fail to distinguish the two fundamental *motives* for which people make campaign donations.

The first motive is to elect politicians who will use government power for the donor’s own benefit or that of a special interest, thereby ripping off everyone else and violating their freedoms.

For example, corporate cronies, government unions, socialists, gun grabbers, and cartels donate to politicians for their own benefit: to grant or renew contracts, outlaw competitors, wage unnecessary wars, impose their ideology on others, and raise government employee compensation above its market value. Such groups typically donate to Big Government Democrats and Republicans.

The second motive is to get government off our backs by *removing* the bad policies put in place by the first group, thereby expanding freedom. No handouts are involved. Rather, people donate to make the world a better place for everyone. Such donations generally go to Libertarians and other grassroots campaigns.

Campaign donations are not inherently bad. They’re bad if they’re used to profiteer or coerce others for the benefit of a few. They’re good if they’re used to remove or reduce that coercion, benefiting everyone.

Libertarian solutions

The ultimate cure for bad money in politics is to make government so small, and its authority so severely limited, that there is very little largesse and very few favors for politicians to give away. That will require monumental change.

What can be done in the shorter term?

Under existing law, special interests can donate to politicians for the obvious purpose of securing government largesse, while Libertarian campaigns, which oppose handouts and are far more representative of what Americans want, are strictly regulated. This is the exact opposite of what is needed. We need to turn this on its head.

First, whenever you talk about campaign finance, don’t reinforce the idea that



all campaign donations are evil. Rather, make the distinction between good money and bad money. There’s nothing wrong with “buying” a candidate who promises to cut broad-based taxes, cut spending, remove unneeded regulations, balance the budget, or bring peace. Donating for such purposes involves no special favors and is extremely beneficial to society at large.

Second, restore our First Amendment right to freedom of speech and freedom of the press by repealing campaign regulations and removing all limits on individual donations. This gives individuals the same freedoms now enjoyed by the establishment news media alone.

Third, stop the bad money in politics by prohibiting those who profiteer from Big Government from lobbying or supporting political campaigns. This is a way of limiting government power, and unlike today’s campaign finance regulations, it is not a violation of the First Amendment.

Why? Because it’s *voluntary*.

Here’s how it works. Require those who substantially profit from government to sign a non-influence agreement (NIA) similar to the nondisclosure agreements (NDAs) that many people must sign today as a condition of employment. To start, this would include government contractors, their employees, and their shareholders; government workers; and government retirees.

Why is this voluntary? Employees are not forced to sign an NDA. Rather, they voluntarily surrender their right to free speech where that speech would involve their employer, in exchange for their job.

Likewise, an NIA is an agreement made by government employees and contractors to refrain from influencing political campaigns, including initiatives and referenda. No donations. No volunteer work.

In each case, the signer of the NDA or NIA does so voluntarily. There’s no violation of the First Amendment.

Requiring recipients of government funds to sign an NIA would remove a glaring conflict of interest. Just as a judge

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Florida Libertarians turn threat of new regs on Uber into deregulation of *all* vehicles for hire

Collier County Libertarians did much more than just say “no” to more Big Government. They responded to threats of regulating Uber and other ride-sharing services with a bold proposal to deregulate the entire taxi industry—and won!

They sealed their victory on December 8 when the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) voted 4-1 to finalize an earlier provisional decision.

The Libertarian Party of Collier County had been working since July on the issue. After being outnumbered in October by pro-big government forces, the LP led the charge, flanked by Republicans, independent voters, and Democrats, along with other activist organizations, such as the Southwest Florida Citizens Alliance.

LPCC Chairman Jared Grifoni addressed the BCC on the benefits of deregulation and countered the scare tactics used by the opposition with a positive, free market analysis. LPCC Finance Chair Jason Hartgrave highlighted how Uber and deregulation will create jobs by getting government out of the way.

Local media covered the victory.

On NBC2, Grifoni said, “It comes down to who’s a better regulator: the

government or the people? The reality is, and history has shown this time and time again, that people know what’s best for themselves.”

On Fox 4, he was quoted, “A 4-to-1 decision really sends a strong message, not only to the community, but to individuals at large that Collier County’s open for business, that we’re not going to restrict our new businesses in this county.”

On WINK, he said, “We’ve seen multiple counties and multiple states deregulate because the old regulations simply don’t work in today’s market.”

In an e-mail blast to its members, the Collier County LP said:

“We cannot state strongly enough just how significant this victory was. We didn’t just save Uber by getting an exemption or getting the county to look the other way. *We deregulated an entire industry!*”

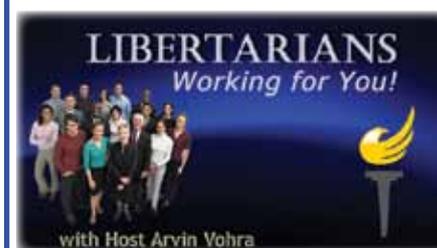
“Collier County is one of the leading lights in the effort to deregulate the vehicle-for-hire industry. Counties and cities across Florida and throughout the U.S. are following the example you helped set. The fight for individual rights, limited government, and economic freedom continues.”

Carla Howell, LP Political Director and creator of the game *Who’s Driving?* said, “This Collier County LP victory is a stellar example of putting liberty in the driver’s seat. They refused to merely play defense. They set an agenda for shrinking government—and *won*.”



Jared Grifoni

Want to hear what
Libertarians running for
office promise to do if elected?
Tune in to the LP podcast:



Wednesdays
Two o’clock eastern

Or . . .

Listen at your convenience.
All shows are archived at:

[www.VoiceAmerica.com/
show/2300/libertarians
-working-for-you](http://www.VoiceAmerica.com/show/2300/libertarians-working-for-you)

Anderson for U.S. Senate

by Elizabeth C. Brierly

Libertarian Phil Anderson, who ran for Wisconsin state assembly in 2014 as a Libertarian, is now running for U.S. Senate. He is producing short videos on a different policy issue each day, which voters can watch on his campaign website.

“My goal is to be who I am, committed to principles, relatable. As the campaign grows, I’ll be able to point voters to the large record of my thoughts, and my commitment to sharing with them *every day*.”

“We need representatives who are not beholden to corrupt political parties... whose only interest is perpetuating their power,” Anderson told the *Herald-Independent* when announcing his candidacy. “We need representatives...more concerned about the peace, prosperity and privacy of their constituents than...re-election.”

Anderson shared with *LP News* his top Libertarian proposals if elected.

First, he would fight to end foreign entanglements which “directly impact the liberty of Americans. Both my opponents, Sen. Ron Johnson (R) and former Sen. Russ Feingold (D), have either directly supported violence abroad, have supported their respective party’s platform of violence abroad, have campaigned for other candidates who support violence abroad, or all three.”

Domestically, Anderson plans to work toward “deconstructing the unaccountable and corrupt bureaucracy the two parties have created.” He pledges to immediately call for simplifying and minimizing the tax code, abolishing the IRS and the Federal Reserve.



Phil Anderson

Anderson also pledges, “I will do everything I can to expose government’s spying on citizens, gathering and storing our private data. Americans have the right to conduct their business as they choose, without fear of violations of our Fourth Amendment rights.”

As shown on his campaign website, Anderson has also pledged to:

- propose legislation to protect the right to rule one’s own body;
- consistently support one’s right to bear arms; and
- fight for free markets, so that hard work, creativity, and talent are rewarded.

Anderson says the campaign will be hotly contested. “Sen. Johnson is seen as a weak incumbent and Sen. Feingold as a popular politician. Both have spent heavily on negative ads. My campaign can make

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State of the Union

...continued from page 1

you need to get involved in every conflict around the world.

“The Libertarian Party wants to bring our troops home and project strength through...things like trade, international diplomacy, or just regular individuals visiting other countries and showing American values without spreading them at the point of a gun.

“[Obama] talks about criminal justice reform, but his administration continues to perpetrate the War on Drugs, which helps with the destruction of the Fourth

Amendment to the Constitution, supports civil asset forfeiture, and creates this clash between police and the communities they’re supposed to be protecting.

“Only the Libertarian Party stands for stopping all war, including these wars against our own citizens.”

Howell summed up Obama’s address by saying, “Across the board, what he has done is made things worse. The basis of his speech was, ‘we’re strengthening.’ And he gave lip service to the private sector, but he’s very hostile to the private sector, and hostile to freedom. Civil liberties as well. He’s been very disappointing to Demo-

Illinois Libertarian for state rep seeks “Office of the Repealer”

Libertarian Scott Schluter is running for state rep in Illinois’s 117th district to repeal many of the state’s bad laws.

“I want my office to be thought of as the ‘office of the repealer,’” he wrote at his campaign website. “I have very little ambition to pass new laws or regulations. We already have too many. We are over-taxed, over-regulated, and over-controlled. Continuing this trend is insanity. Send me to Springfield and I will tirelessly work to repeal old, bad, freedom-restricting laws and replace them with nothing.”

We are over-taxed, over-regulated, and over-controlled. Continuing this trend is insanity. Send me to Springfield and I will tirelessly work to repeal old, bad, freedom-restricting laws and replace them with nothing.”

—Scott Schluter

Schluter told *The Southern Illinoisan*, which ran a feature story on his campaign, that his primary inspiration to run is his four-year-old daughter, Harlow. “I want my daughter to grow up in a more free world than I did,” he said.

Schluter says that, if elected, he will look for laws that are antiquated and that infringe on the rights of individuals. He aims to strike them from the books.

Among his first targets are the state’s anti-gun laws and Article II, Section 2 of the Illinois Constitution, which states that powers and functions defined in the constitution “shall not be construed as the limitation of powers of state government.”

crats. He’s been very disappointing to people who want peace.”

“What has worked in this country, what has made us stronger in spite of Big Government, is the private sector,” she said. “This is where almost all solutions come from and where we build our strength. Where we get prosperity and security and

Schluter aims to repeal this *carte blanche* provision for ever-expanding state government. Instead, he wants to limit the state to enumerated powers within each branch of government.

Schluter is also fighting the state’s ban on political contributions from the state’s emerging medical marijuana industry. He and Libertarian comptroller candidate Claire Ball filed a lawsuit in federal court against Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan and the State Board of Elections, seeking to strike the ban as a violation of Americans’ constitutional right to free speech.

District 117, represented by Democrat John Bradley, encompasses Schluter’s home town of Marion in southern Illinois. He’s a U.S. Air Force veteran and diesel mechanic by trade.

“When I enlisted, I took an oath to uphold and defend the United States Constitution,” he said. “That oath did not end with my contract. It will last until my dying breath.”



Libertarian candidate Scott Schluter with daughter, Harlow

safety. Where it’s destroyed is with Big Government. He and the Republicans—Bush, the Republican congress—have been acting in concert to keep Big Government big and to make things worse. We’re at a point now where we’re at a real risk of an economic collapse....We’ve gotta end this.”

Libertarian Party 2016 presidential candidates

As of January 21, eleven candidates for the 2016 Libertarian nomination for president have met minimal requirements to be recognized by the Libertarian National Committee. Statements by seven of those candidates were published in the December issue of *LP News*:

- Marc Allan Feldman
- Cecil Ince
- Steve Kerbel
- Darryl W. Perry
- Derrick Michael Reid
- Rhett Smith
- Joy Waymire

Statements for the remaining four candidates are below, maximum 300 words each. They have not been edited by *LP News*.

Gov. Gary Johnson

The American people are fed up with politicians — both Republican and Democrat — who are determined to replace liberty with government overreach, control and intrusion into our daily lives. The United States was founded on a rejection of warrantless searches, oppressive taxation, and government interference with the free exercise of speech, religion, and personal choices.



Gary Johnson

America needs a President who will push back against the growth of government — and mean it. That begins with proposing a federal budget that doesn't spend more than it takes in, and using the veto pen to enforce it if necessary. Government spends too much because it does too much, and it does too much because career politicians are in control. We need term limits to limit the politicians' power and greed.

America needs a President whose idea of national security isn't to spy on American citizens and pry into their personal and financial lives without warrants or due process. The failed War on Drugs needs to end, along with the surveillance, incarceration rate and needless prosecution it has given us.

And we need leaders whose idea of immigration reform consists of something more thoughtful — and effective — than

building bigger walls, imposing unconstitutional religious tests, and militarizing our borders.

The two “major” parties have become slightly different shades of the same big government, big debt and ineffective status quo. I am convinced that Americans are ready to send Washington, DC, a message, to reject the status quo and break up the political duopoly.

Liberty and the freedom to succeed are the real American values, and I'm running for President to restore those values, make America genuinely safe, and put an end to a tired status quo that has given us nothing but debt, less freedom and an omnipotent state.

Website: www.GaryJohnson2016.com

John McAfee

My name is John McAfee and I am seeking far more than just the Libertarian Party nomination. My aim is nothing less than the restoration of a government of The People, by The People, and for The People. In the 2012 election the Libertarian candidate managed to secure less than 1% of the popular vote. Nominate me in 2016 and together we will secure far more than that — we will win.

No friend of Liberty or believer in the founding principles of America can be happy or proud at the state of our modern nation. Every year the powerful grow richer and the rich grow more powerful — all at the expense of the individual and lifeblood of our nation. We have been told we may have no secrets; enjoy no privacy. When we travel or assemble we are treated as if we are the enemy. And all the while the government, and its debt, continues to grow larger and larger.

The Libertarian Party has, since 1971, run candidates that would make wonderful presidents. Individuals that valued freedom and privacy enough to run a quixotic outside campaign in an entrenched two party system. While we may admire their virtue we cannot seek to emulate their style or strategy. For Libertarian Party candidates have lost every single time.



John McAfee

It is time for the party to try new things. The ink may not be dry on my party membership card but I have owned its platform and ideals for as long as I can remember. I come as a friend, bringing a fresh perspective and sober view of what we are up against. This system was designed to make absolutely certain that Libertarians and other outsiders won't win. Together we can prove them wrong in 2016.

Website: McAfee16.com

Austin Petersen

Hello, fellow freedom fighters! Thank you for your commitment to the principles of liberty. As a candidate for President of the United States, my goal is to take over the government, to leave everyone alone. Won't you join me in that cause?

As a Missouri farm boy, born and raised, I've always been skeptical of the promises of politicians. How do you know when one of them is lying? Their lips are moving!

We know that actions matter more than words, which is why anyone who wishes to be your candidate, and makes grand promises, should hear this phrase: “Show me!”

As a dedicated activist for liberty, I believe that I've definitely shown that I am fit to lead. I served as your Volunteer Coordinator in 2008, before quickly being promoted to Director of Outreach by Vice Admiral Michael Colley, may he rest in peace. I never joined another party after that.

While at LP HQ, I pioneered a successful internship program, launching the careers of several libertarian professionals. I also did outreach for our party, at Gay Pride, Marijuana legalization, SFL and YAL events, as well as personally petitioned to get Bill Redpath on the ballot for Senate in Virginia.

You may not have known, but while I was at the LP, I also brainchilded the social media movement that gave Judge Andrew Napolitano his own show on Fox Business. He has referred to me publicly as “the right side of my brain.” I would go on to become

a producer for the Judge, and to win many more victories for our cause as a professional journalist at FBN.

With your help, I can win more victories! Will you join me in my fight to take over the government, and leave everyone alone?

Website: AustinPetersen2016.com

Jack Robinson, Jr.

Ladies and gentleman, I am running for President to introduce a new economic model so drastically important to the life of every American, that it simply commands a platform of this magnitude. “Trickle-Up” economics can become the signature economic idea of the Libertarian Party; capturing the imagination of the American people and propelling both our Party and America to unseen and yet imagined heights.

“Trickle Up” economics is the umbrella name for several programs that will transform the social and economic fabric of America. Morally sound, economically sound, and not at the expense of good judgement, these plans will unite America. They are the ideas we have been waiting for and a responsible Congress should immediately begin to enact legislation.



Jack Robinson, Jr.

- 1) “Birth Loop +25” eradicates poverty and jumpstarts the economy. We will break the poverty cycle.
- 2) “Birth Loop + Healthcare provides universal healthcare
- 3) “Birth Loop + College” provides free secondary education
- 4) “Birth Loop + Retirement” works alongside or replaces Social Security and Medicare by creating a country of “millionaire retirees”
- 5) “Birth Loop+ International Aid” revamps our current model of foreign assistance.

Though easy to mistake as a big government approach for its utopian programs, “Trickle Up” economics is actually the ex-

continued on page 7...

LP presidential ballot access update

by Bob Johnston

The 2016 Libertarian Party Presidential nominee will appear on the ballot in 31 states, as of January. Petitioning started in three states before the end of 2015.

Petitioning is underway in **South Dakota**, and around 2,931 signatures have been collected. 6,936 valid signatures are required to get on the ballot as a party in South Dakota, and the petitions are due March 29.

In **Maine**, the party needed to register 5,000 registered Libertarians by last Dec. 1. The state party submitted 6,482 registered voter applications, but the Secretary of State said that only 4,489 (69%) were valid. The Libertarian Party has filed a lawsuit against the Maine Secretary of State. If the current legal action is unsuccessful, it can get on the ballot by collecting 4,000 signatures by August 1.

In **Oklahoma**, the petition drive is winding down, as approximately 38,000 signatures have been collected. 24,713 valid signatures are needed, due March 1.

In other states:

Alabama: Can get on the ballot as an Independent by collecting 5,000 signatures, due August 18. Because the state does not

allow substitution, the ballot drive cannot start until after the LP 2016 Presidential candidate has been nominated at the national convention this May.

Connecticut: Can get on the ballot by collecting 7,500 signatures, due August 10.

District of Columbia: Can get on the ballot by collecting signatures equal to 1 percent of the registered voters as of June 16. Can start petitioning the next day, and the signatures are due August 10.

Illinois: Must collect 25,000 signatures between March 29 and June 27.

Iowa: Must collect 1,500 signatures by August 19.

Kentucky: Must collect 5,000 signatures by September 9.

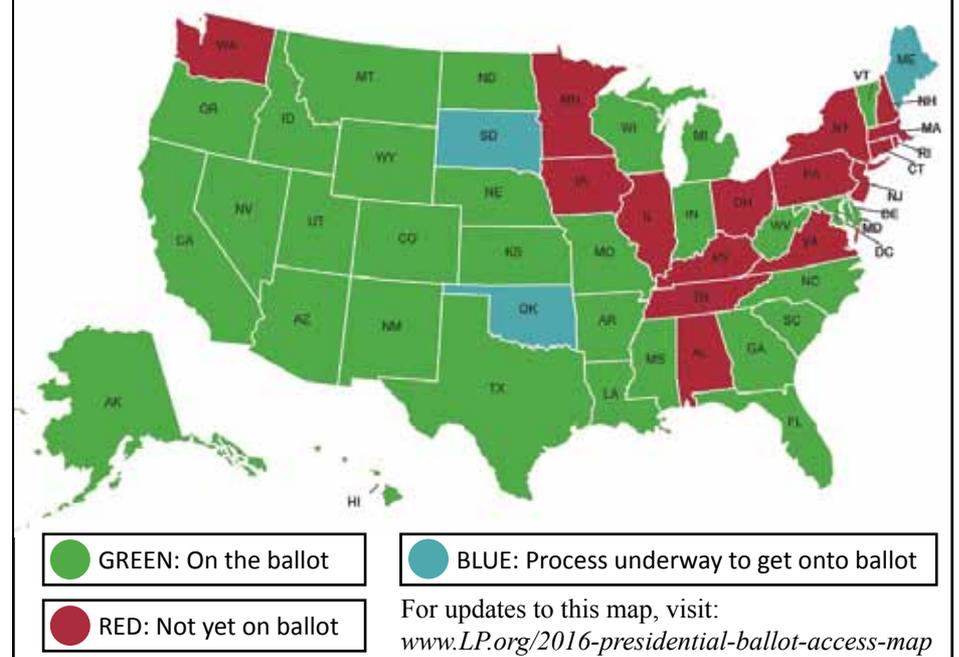
Massachusetts: Must collect 10,000 signatures due August 2. Because the state does not allow substitution, the ballot drive cannot start until after the LP 2016 Presidential candidate has been nominated at the national convention this May.

Minnesota: Must collect 2,000 signatures between May 18 and August 23.

New Hampshire: Must collect 3,000 signatures by August 10. Can also get on the ballot as a party by collecting 14,566 signatures by August 10.

New Jersey: Must collect 800 signatures by August 1.

Tracking presidential ballot access



New York: Must collect 15,000 signatures between July 12 and August 23.

Ohio: Can get on the ballot as an Independent by collecting 5,000 signatures by August 10. Can also get on the ballot as a party by collecting 30,018 signatures by July 6.

Pennsylvania: Must collect 21,775 signatures between February 17 and August 1.

Rhode Island: Must collect 1,000 signatures between July 5 and Sept. 9.

Tennessee: Can get on the ballot as an independent by collecting 275 signatures between May 20 and August 18.

Virginia: Must collect 5,000 signatures by August 26.

Washington: Must collect 1,000 signatures between May 7 and July 23.

Pres. candidates

...continued from page 6

act opposite. It is an ultra-capitalistic approach that shifts the responsibility and cost for societal improvements away from government; returning them to private enterprise and free market forces. Combined, these programs will cost the government approximately \$20 billion per year while reducing our budget by hundreds of billions. We will improve our nation's credit rating, balance the budget, shrink government size by reducing dependence, and reverse our national debt to a surplus. We will protect capitalism, end socialism, reduce taxes, strengthen our military and protect our founding freedoms. Join the "Birth Loop" movement!

God Bless...
Jack

Website:
www.RobinsonForPresident.com

LNC November Meeting Highlights

By Alicia Mattson,
LNC Secretary

The Libertarian National Committee (LNC) met on November 14–15 in Orlando, Florida.

On recommendation of the Affiliate Support Committee, the LNC updated one of its goals for the term regarding what criteria will be used to measure how many operational affiliates we have.

The LNC appointed the following members to the Awards Committee for the 2016 national convention: Tim Hagan, Daniel Hayes, Kevin Knedler, Jim Lark, and Roland Riemers.

The Information Technology Committee has been looking into options for updating our website and database system. The LNC discussed a quote received from NationBuilder and participated in a teleconference with representatives of the company. Further information was needed before a decision could be made.

The Audit Committee had submitted

a report regarding the audit of the 2014 financials, most of which was referred to the Executive Committee for them to consider and report back to the LNC at the next meeting.

The LNC adopted a budget for 2016. Since it is a presidential election year, the budget projects an increase in revenue to \$1.474 million, with an expectation that we will spend \$272,500 during the year to secure ballot access in more states for our presidential ticket.

The LNC restructured some existing policy regarding how director-level employment contracts are approved, and they discussed a desire to update some of the party's literature.

Approved minutes of LNC meetings as well as minutes of Executive Committee meetings are available on our website at www.LP.org/leadership/lnc-meeting-archives.

The next in-person meeting of the LNC will take place on February 20–21 in Phoenix, Arizona.

Victory!

Michigan repeals straight-ticket device

On January 5, Michigan eliminated the straight-ticket device on ballots, which allowed voters to vote for all of the candidates of one party with a single mark at the top of their ballot.

Straight-ticket devices hurt independents and non-establishment party candidates, as only the establishment parties are allowed to have the device. Voters who use the device typically won't look at the rest of the ballot, and therefore won't even see Libertarians who are running.

Many states have repealed the straight-ticket device over the last few decades. The states where the device remains are Alabama, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, and Utah.

#LEGALIZE FREEDOM

2016 Libertarian National Convention

The Libertarian National Committee and the LP headquarters staff invite you to join us on Memorial Day weekend for the 2016 Libertarian Party National Presidential Nominating Convention, to help us . . . #LegalizeFreedom.

The 2016 National LP convention will be loaded with activities for all

- Meet lots of Libertarians
 - Parties, parties, and more parties
 - Compelling speakers
 - Renew old friendships
 - Panel discussions and hot debates
 - Seminars on a broad range of liberty topics
 - Games!
 - Coffee klatches
 - Influence delegates
 - Meet the presidential candidates
 - Training from Libertarian experts
 - Disney World, SeaWorld, World of Chocolate
- ...and more!

Buy your ticket NOW for your early-bird discount.
Register by phone at 1-202-333-0008 x233

More than just business

...continued from page 1

orado, even in pouring rain, knocked on more than 2,000 doors, made countless phone calls, organized volunteers, raised money, and won! Learn what he did, the lessons he learned, and the secrets that helped his campaign.

Panel discussions by elected libertarians, freedom activists, and organizations with freedom agendas will be available to everyone who purchases a basic convention ticket. Hear what is happening with civil asset forfeitures, the right to die, the drug war, and other movements around the nation.

A highlight of the convention will be the presidential debate. Hear what the candidates have to say on important issues, and feel the excitement of the presidential race. Maybe you'll want to help one win the nomination. Ever wanted to be a part of a presidential campaign? Here's the perfect place to start.

During the course of the convention

there will be times set aside for interactive discussions, right next to the main convention floor. Share your ideas, ask questions, talk about world problems, and craft solutions with fellow Libertarians.

There will be games with prizes ranging from signed books to jade earrings. Scavenger hunt, anyone? Exhibit hall bingo? Maybe just some old-fashioned puzzle or world-domination play. You might even win a free room upgrade to a beautiful suite.

And of course, there's no end to the wealth of attractions in Orlando: Disney World, SeaWorld, World of Chocolate, and more. Bring the whole family and stay a few extra days to enjoy the sights and sounds.

Join the bustle and feel the energy of the 2016 National Libertarian Convention. You won't want to miss it. Purchase your convention ticket today.

Speakers confirmed so far...

Adam Kokesh, libertarian talk show host, antiwar activist, and author of *Freedom!*

Tom Woods, senior fellow of the Mises Institute and author of *Real Dissent: A Libertarian Sets Fire to the Index Card of Allowable Opinion*

Ric McClusky, Libertarian candidate for U.S. Congress, District 4, in Mississippi

Joe Johnson, elected Libertarian, Trustee of Frederick, Colorado

Dr. Mark Miller, Libertarian candidate for Texas Railroad Commissioner

Dennis Hof, Nevada small businessman, star of the HBO series, "Cat House," author of *The Art of the Pimp*, and candidate for Nevada Assembly

Michele Poague, science fiction author and former chair of LP Colorado

Lily Tang Williams, Libertarian candidate for U.S. Senate in Colorado, outspoken anti-communist Chinese immigrant

Brett Bittner, Executive Director, Advocates for Self-Government

...more great speakers to come!



Adam Kokesh



Michele Poague



Tom Woods

Events run from May 25 to May 30

Wed. 5/25 – Thurs. 5/26	Special committee meetings
Thurs. 5/26 – Fri. 5/27	LP Activist Training by Libertarians for Libertarians
Thurs. 5/26, evening	Welcome reception
Fri. 5/27 – Mon. 5/30	Convention (concludes on Monday at noon)

Location

Rosen Centre Hotel & Resort

9840 International Drive
Orlando, Florida 32819

Telephone: (407) 996-9840
Facsimile: (407) 996-2659

To receive the LP's special room rate of \$95 (regularly \$173.75), make your reservation no later than May 4.

Call 1-800-204-7234, and ask for the Libertarian National Committee Convention rate.

LP Activist Training is free to all convention ticket holders!

Includes:

- Campaign management
- Social media
- Candidate recruitment
- Libertarian fundraising
- Growing the LP membership
- Play *Who's Driving?*

Starts Thursday, May 26

For details and announcements, visit: www.LP.org/convention

Call for Nominations for Libertarian Party Awards at the 2016 National LP Convention

The following awards will be presented during the convention in Orlando, Florida:

THOMAS JEFFERSON Leadership Award: Will be presented to the LP member whose achievements merit our recognition of outstanding leadership, high character, and dedication to the principles and goals of the Party.

PATRICK HENRY Candidate Award: Will be presented to the LP member who has been a very effective candidate for public office at the state or federal level, while communicating Libertarian ideas, principles, and values. Nominees can be candidates in 2014 or thereafter.

THOMAS PAINE Communication Award: Will be presented to the LP member who has been an outstanding communicator of Libertarian ideas, principles, and values through written, published, or spoken communications.

SAMUEL ADAMS Activism Award: Will be presented to the LP member who has been a very effective activist by building Party membership, organizing community out-

reach, or communicating Libertarian principles.

HALL OF LIBERTY: The Hall of Liberty, established in 2012, honors lifetime or significant achievement that has made a lasting impact on the Libertarian Party and/or libertarian movement. Induction into the Hall of Liberty requires a unanimous vote of the Awards Committee; at most three people can be inducted per national convention.

Send in your award nominations

Nominees for the Jefferson, Henry, Paine, and Adams awards must be members of the Libertarian Party (i.e., they have signed the certification). Nominees for the Hall of Liberty need not be members of the Libertarian Party.

LP members are welcome to send nominations for these awards to the Awards Committee, at Awards@LP.org. Nominations must be received by no later than 5:00 P.M. EDT on April 4. Your nominations should include (please be brief and concise!):

- Nominated for the _____ Award/Nominated

for the Hall of Liberty

- Full name of the nominee, address, e-mail and phone contact information, and (where appropriate) number of years as an LP member. A photo would also be helpful, if possible.
- General paragraph describing the nominee and (where appropriate) the nominee's position(s) in the Party, how you came to know his or her achievements, etc.
- Specific and detailed accomplishments which warrant the Award.
- Feel free to give us a link to a video if you want.
- Include name(s) of person(s) who support this nomination.
- Also, include anyone who should be considered to assist in the award presentation.
- Are you attending the 2016 national convention? Please advise us. Thank you.

Members of the LP Awards Committee (Tim Hagan, Daniel Hayes, Kevin Knedler, James Lark, and Roland Riemers) can be reached via Awards@LP.org.

Miller focuses on property rights in railroad commissioner race

By Christopher Goins

The banner on Libertarian Mark Miller's campaign website reads "Mark Miller for Texas Oil and Gas Commissioner." Crossed out is the actual position he's running for: Railroad Commissioner. The Railroad Commission has no authority to regulate railroads, despite its name.

But Miller, a former University of Texas at Austin professor with a Ph.D. in Petroleum Engineering, doesn't want to restore the agency's railroad authority. He



Mark Miller

proposes changing its name to shed light on the agency's actual role. Past polling revealed that only five percent of Texas voters knew what the agency did, and he believes people will pay attention after a name change.

A Libertarian since 1972, Miller believes that "Libertarians are the most qualified" to serve on the commission, because a lot of the issues involve conflicting legitimate rights, and libertarian principles settle them.

"Business rights are not any higher than homeowner rights, and vice versa," he says.

Miller believes that all industrial activity that results in the damage of private property, including oil and gas industry-caused earthquakes from wastewater injections, is a violation of property rights.

"The companies that operate these wells, even if they believe there might be some damage, don't want to be faced with this huge liability and having to go to court with everybody," Miller says.

He believes the agency can provide avenues to seek redress.

In Texas, a company with a common carrier pipeline can seize private property through eminent domain, given the loose statutes, he says.

"We libertarians don't like the idea of eminent domain, anyway, but it's even worse when it's exercised by another pri-

vate entity, rather than [by] government," Miller says.

As a solution, Miller wants to empower the individual to force more negotiated deals, rather than the outright seizing of property. He says it's not a left-right issue but a landowner versus commercial-entity issue. He wants to find some way through statute to give preference to existing rights-of-way, rather than coming onto people's land. He also wants to make hurdles for commercial entities higher.



Miller seeks to change the imbalance of mineral rights dominating surface rights.

"Give some economic incentives for the surface-rights owners to agree to [allow] drilling on or near their property," he says.

To Miller, the Commission's current dual role as an industry champion as well as regulator is its "most unlibertarian" activity.

"Libertarians do not believe government ought to ever be a champion of any industry," Miller said. "Period."

He also wants to implement a sunset review policy. He proposes reviewing 10–20 percent of all regulations each year, and reducing and modernizing them so that they have a clear role, solely protecting private property, public safety, and our shared natural resources.

"Regulations that have been on the books for decades are obvious targets to be modernized, clarified, and in some cases, eliminated," he writes in his book, *Oil & Gas and the Texas Railroad Commission: Lessons for Regulating a Free Society*.

"Regulations that are overly complex, outdated, and obscure typically favor large, well connected entities over smaller entities and the general public," he notes.

Miller aims to move regulation of oil and gas in a Libertarian direction. "It's not the promised land, but it is better than where we are now."

Campaign website: www.Miller4TX.com



Democrats, Republicans cement “No Child Left Behind,” while claiming eased regulations

Today [December 10, 2015] President Barack Obama signed into law the latest in the federal government’s long string of education mandates, this time a bill dubbed the “Every Student Succeeds Act” (ESSA). The Democrat- and Republican-supported bill is 1,061 pages long and was finalized only two days before the U.S. House vote, a virtual guarantee that it is loaded with pork and hidden federal controls.

Touted by co-sponsor Lamar Alexander (R) as a measure that eliminates the federal government’s ability to coerce states into using the Common Core standards, the legislation actually cements the standards further.

Breitbart News reported that, according to Jane Robbins, senior fellow at the American Principles Project, ESSA requires each state to submit a state plan for approval which must be coordinated with a maze of eleven different federal statutes, creating incentives for states to stick with Common

Core rather than risk losing their federal money by trying something else.

“Like ‘reforms’ of NSA spying, ESSA gives failed federal education control new life by trimming off a few sacrificial limbs and slap-



U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander (R) cosponsored ESSA.

ping a new name on it,” said Nicholas Sarwark, national chair of the Libertarian Party.

Colorado Libertarian Party state chair and Chinese immigrant Lily Tang Williams likens ESSA and Common Core to communist China’s authoritarian education mandates, and notes that their passage “demonstrates that Republicans don’t truly believe in limited government, fiscal responsibility, local control, parental rights, and the privacy of students, families, and teachers; and that Democrats do not value freedom of choice, teacher autonomy, and the well-being of both students and hard-working teachers.

“This legislation is solely about control and special interests as well as doubling down on more failed centralized Federal control and authority,” she said.

Libertarians call for an end to central government planning of education at both the federal and state level. Libertarian candidates have consistently opposed Common Core and advocated for reductions in

government intrusion into education.

“We must return control of our schools to parents, teachers, and local communities; to the people who know and love the children the most, who have the greatest stake in their well-being, and who are most accountable to the taxpayers who are being

Libertarians call for an end to central government planning of education at both the federal and state level.

required to foot the bill,” said Sarwark.

“Ending heavy-handed government control will reduce the per-pupil cost of schools, while dramatically improving educational outcomes, cutting red tape, and advancing individual freedom,” he said. “Millions of kids will have access to an education that prepares them to live a responsible, rewarding, and satisfying life.”

Anderson for Senate

...continued from page 5

a difference, in pointing out that both candidates, regardless of what they say, will be loyal to party first. Feingold has a reputation for advocating peaceful solutions before military engagement, but he co-chaired the re-election campaign of President Obama, whose record no peacenik should be endorsing.”

After receiving 18.6 percent in his assembly race, Anderson has built further name recognition around Dane County. “I have been active in the controversy regarding transportation network companies [TNCs] like Uber, and local taxi companies.” As general manager of Green Cab of Madison, local TV stations tap him regularly for his industry insight. Instead of a “statist view that TNCs should be regulated to the level of traditional taxi companies, my perspective is that TNCs essentially *are* taxi companies, just with a different business model,” explains Anderson. “Uber is successful because people prefer a deregulated model. All similar transportation providers should be de-regulated—evenly.”

As for campaigning, Anderson is optimistic. “We’re building a statewide volunteers network, with already over 30

Williams for Senate

...continued from page 3

Williams faces the incumbent Democrat, Sen. Michael Bennet, who, she says, “always voted with Obama,” and one of eleven Republicans vying for the GOP nomination.

She sees young voters as a key constituency for her campaign. “Young people don’t care about the two parties,” she said.

“I will be your fierce fighter for liberty, because I have been fighting for liberty all my life,” she promises.

Campaign website:
www.Lily4Liberty.com

commitments to help with signatures and campaign events. We’re very active on social media, and have begun receiving donations. We’ve even opened an office just between downtown and U.W. Madison.”

He added, “We have an opportunity to make a big difference.”

Anderson is chair of the Dane County, Wisconsin Libertarian Party. In addition to his Green Cab GM position, he recently opened his own real estate brokerage.

Campaign website:
www.4PhilAnderson.org

Robinson for President



Paid Sponsorship

Birth Loop Economics

CISA trades real liberty for phony security

by Norman Singleton

In December, while most Americans were buying gifts, putting up decorations, and having too much eggnog at the office party, Congress was engaging in their own holiday tradition: ramming a massive “Omnibus” spending bill into law. In accordance with the congressional tradition, the Omnibus was rushed through Congress before most members had a chance to read it. Therefore, many Senators and Representatives may not have known that during the closed-door negotiations on the bill, House Speaker Paul Ryan inserted the controversial Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act (CISA) into the bill.

CISA authorizes “voluntary” information sharing, including American citizens’ personal information, between Internet companies and the government. The information sharing is “voluntary” only for the companies; it is not voluntary for the customers. CISA prevents Internet companies from being held liable for any harm their customers suffer — such as identity theft or harassment by government officials — because the company “voluntarily” shared their customer’s information with the government.

Those who listen to the propaganda of CISA’s defenders think this is not such a big deal, because this information will be collected and used only to prevent cyber-attacks.

However, those who actually read the bill know that CISA places no limits on how the NSA and other federal agencies may use, and share, personal information obtained under CISA.

Several cyber experts have said that this bill will not increase cyber security. So this

bill is not really about stopping hackers, it is about giving the federal government another way to spy on your online activities without first obtaining a warrant.

The Libertarian Party’s candidate pledge to end mass surveillance provides LP candidates and activists a great opportunity to highlight the dangers to liberty posed by legislation like CISA.

Fortunately, there is a growing backlash against unconstitutional surveillance. Michigan Representative Justin Amash has introduced legislation (HR 4350) to repeal CISA. Campaign for Liberty will continue to mobilize pro-liberty Americans to put pressure on the politicians to repeal CISA and all legislation that gives government unconstitutional surveillance authority.

The Libertarian Party’s candidate pledge to end mass surveillance provides LP candidates and activists a great opportunity to highlight the dangers to liberty posed by legislation like CISA. LP members can point out that their candidates have pledged to reign in the surveillance state and

demand other candidates make a similar pledge. These candidates will either embrace the LP’s position or forfeit the support of Americans who are tired of trading real liberty for the illusion of security. Either way, liberty wins!

LP Candidate Pledge Shut down NSA, end mass surveillance

If elected, I will sponsor legislation to abolish the NSA, grant clemency and full whistleblower protection to Edward Snowden, consolidate and reduce our 18 spy agencies into one accountable agency, and reduce total spending and taxes accordingly.

Signed: _____
Libertarian Candidate

2016 Libertarian candidates for federal office are lining up to take this pledge, similar to one taken by 34 Libertarian candidates in 2014.

Top 10 reasons to run for office as a Libertarian Party candidate

1. People who used to ignore your Libertarian ideas will suddenly become interested in them.
2. The news media and issue advocacy groups will seek you out for your Libertarian proposals and publicize them on the Internet and in newspapers, radio, and/or TV.
3. You will learn how to campaign, build a support base, and build name recognition that you can use for a future run for office.
4. You’ll turn more voters on to your Libertarian solutions by showing them exactly why liberty is the best solution to human problems.
5. You may provoke a response to your agenda from your opponents and move them in a Libertarian direction.
6. You’ll provoke attacks on your Libertarian agenda — which is even better. It shows that you’re talking truth to power and challenging the Big Government status quo.
7. Your campaign will give voters a choice — finally — to cast a vote for what they want instead of what they feel they must put up with.
8. Your campaign will impact other Libertarian campaigns, driving up each other’s vote totals — and driving up the Libertarian vote total nationwide.
9. You’ll look back on your campaign knowing that you helped to advance liberty in America — and all the blessings that it brings.
10. Your campaign will draw new members into the Libertarian Party. Some will become future Libertarian leaders and candidates.

Thinking of running for office?

Go to:

LP.org/run-for-office

Despite the parade of bad news emanating from Washington, D.C., the growing liberty movement provides reason for hope. As long as organizations like the Libertarian Party and Campaign for Liberty continue our work, I am confident that not only can we roll back the surveillance state, but we can make the twenty-first century a century of liberty.

Norman Singleton is President of Ron Paul’s Campaign for Liberty.

Want your message in LP News?

For sponsorship information and a rate sheet, write to:

LPNews@LP.org

Restrictions apply.

AFFILIATE

UPDATES

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

Alabama and Mississippi

Collaborative conventions in Biloxi, Feb. 27

The Libertarian Parties of Alabama and Mississippi will hold their 2016 annual conventions at the Beau Rivage Casino and Resort in Biloxi, Mississippi on Saturday, Feb. 27, 2016.

Don't miss your chance to be a part of this event. Tickets and discounted room rates are available at MSLP.org/2016-state-convention. The LP Alabama convention will commence at 1:00 P.M., with the LP Mississippi convention at 3:00 P.M.

At the conventions, both parties will be electing new executive committees, voting on proposed by-law changes, electing delegates for the LP national convention, and nominating candidates to run for office.

Dinner will be served at 6:00 P.M. followed by the presidential candidates' "Debate for Liberty." Confirmed candidates for the debate at press time include **Marc Allan Feldman**, **Steve Kerbel**, **Gary Johnson**, **John McAfee**, **Darryl Perry**, **Austin Peterson**, **Derrick Michael Reid**, and **Rhett Smith**. Be sure to check the website for additional details and updates. If you have questions, need additional information, or require press credentials, please send inquiries to: Leigh.LaChine@LPAlabama.org

California

Convention Los Angeles April 1-3; seeking candidates

California Libertarians are looking forward to our upcoming state convention, which will be held April 1 to 3 at the Hilton Los Angeles Airport (5711 West Century Blvd., Los Angeles). Speakers will include **Angela Keaton** of *Antiwar.com*, **David Nott** of Reason Foundation, **Richard Rider** of San Diego Tax Fighters, **Tim Moen** of the Libertarian Party of Canada, and **Alexander McCobin** of Students for Liberty. Libertarian presidential candidates will be on hand for a candidate forum and straw poll. Delegates will be selected for the LP national convention. And there will be a little bit of party business, including

platform discussions. Please go to Ca.LP.org/2016-convention to sign up. Hotel information is listed there as well. For more information, contact the California LP office at (916) 446-1776.

Several California Libertarians have announced their candidacies for the 2016 election. **Alex Appleby** will run in the 9th Congressional District, in the Stockton area. State Assembly candidates include **Sam Nott** in the 6th District (Sacramento suburbs), **Ben Omoto** in the 29th District (Monterey and Santa Cruz), **Chris Kazaam** in the 43rd District (Burbank and Glendale), and **John Hoop** in the 70th District (Long Beach).

Our best-known candidate is **Jeff Hewitt**, elected Libertarian, who was recently chosen Mayor of Calimesa in Riverside County. Jeff is running for State Assembly, 42nd District, against an incumbent who will be Republican leader if he gets past Jeff's challenge.

We are looking for further candidates, so if you are interested, please contact **Ted Brown** at TBrown@Ca.LP.org as soon as possible. Filing deadlines are coming up soon.

Florida

Convention West Palm Beach, April 8-10

The LP of Florida will be holding its state convention on April 8-10. It will be held at:

*Holiday Inn Palm Beach – Airport
Conference Center
1301 Belvedere Rd.
West Palm Beach, Florida 33405*

Delegates and guests may visit the official convention website here: <http://Conf.LPF.org>

Illinois

LP candidates sue A.G. over speech limits

Candidate for comptroller **Claire Ball**, along with State House candidate **Scott Schluter**, filed a lawsuit against Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan, fighting to overturn a 2013 law that prohibits medical marijuana growers and dispensaries from making political contributions in the state. After initially filing for a month's extension, Ms Madigan declined in January to lift the ban. The lawsuit is being handled by Pillar Institute of Law and

the Liberty Justice Center.

Also, our political division has put together a list of uncontested state races. About half of the races for the U.S. House, Senate, and the State Assembly go uncontested in Illinois. We are reaching out to all of our members to encourage them to run in these obtainable races. We sent out a statewide message with specifics on how to identify your district, what the signature requirements are for those offices, and our candidate guide. We are doing everything we can to spell out what needs to be done to get elected and bring more liberty to Illinois.

Iowa

Winning local elections; aiming for 18 candidates in 2016

Iowa Libertarians had a very successful 2015 election, winning three of the four races our candidates were running:

Elected: Nathan Gentry received the most votes where voters elected three of five candidates for Rockwell City Council.

Elected: Ryan Ketelsen received the most votes where voters elected two of four candidates for Panora City Council.

Elected: Roxann Swanson received the most votes where voters elected two of two candidates for Hartley City Council.

Jacob Bryan needed another 153 votes, or 6.6 percent, to be elected to the Hiawatha City Council, where voters elected three of five candidates. Jacob and fellow Libertarians were door-knocking and talking to voters in Hiawatha the weekend before Election Day.

Our goal in 2016 is to have at least 18 candidates run for office, which would be a record-breaking number of Libertarian candidates on the ballot in Iowa.

The excitement starts at our state convention on March 18-19 in Cedar Rapids, at the Clarion Hotel & Convention Center. For convention information, visit: LPIA.org.

Kansas

Candidates' handbook posted

The LP of Kansas (LPKS) Executive Committee held its quarterly in-person meeting in Lenexa on Saturday, Jan. 9.

Our in-person meetings are open to the public, and there were more people in attendance than we have had in many years.

There was a presentation by Bleeding Kansas, a medical-cannabis advocacy group. **Austin Petersen** also spoke to the group about his campaign to be the LP presidential nominee.

Proposed new by-laws and constitution were presented by the by-laws committee and were enthusiastically discussed.

The LPKS is in the process of updating our web site. The proposed new by-laws and constitution have been posted on the web site for comments. They will be up for ratification at our state convention, to be held April 29-May 1.

We have written a handbook for those curious about, or interested in, running for office in Kansas on the Libertarian ticket. The *Libertarian Party of Kansas Candidates' Handbook* has been posted on the web site, here: www.LPKS.org

Kentucky

State convention to be held in March

LPKY will be holding their convention on March 18-20 in Campbell County, Kentucky, just minutes from CVG International Airport. For more information, check www.LPKY.org.

Massachusetts

Aiming for 16 partisan candidates on fall ballot

Elections are approaching. Special elections are sooner. We have launched a campaign to recruit candidates for our state legislature and other partisan offices. Our goal is 16 candidates for partisan office on the fall ballot, twice what we had in 2014. That's a tall order, but we are working on it as hard as we can. Individual letters and follow-up efforts go to prior candidates and Association members in districts of interest. We are trying a new approach, outreach to registered Libertarian voters. We are already nearly half way to meeting our target, including a congressional candidate, but the road becomes steeper as we advance, and some coverage is needed because not every erstwhile candidate will make it onto the ballot.

Our Facebook campaign, delivering issues-oriented pages backed by ads leading people to the site, is under way. A fundraiser to pay for those ads was spectacular.

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AFFILIATE

UPDATES

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larly successful. The current site “End the Surveillance State” has generated contacts, likes, and supportive letters to the editor in major newspapers. The new campaign, *Peace Now! End the Warfare State!*, is about to launch.

This year there will be a presidential election. Several Association members have volunteered to lead the local drive with donations and signature collection time. The State Committee has authorized them to use our membership and other lists to mobilize volunteers, raise money via our federal political action committee (PAC), and advertise for the effort.

In other positive news, the state Republican Party is about to stage a civil war. With some luck, the conservative social reactionaries will win, and the fiscally prudent, socially tolerant Republicans will be looking for a new home.

Michigan

Delegate Special Convention, new affiliates

This election year, the LP of Michigan will be holding two events prior to the national convention, in order to electrify our members and future members for this year and the years to come.

On March 19, we will be holding a straw poll for our presidential candidates, which will encourage people to become delegates to the national convention. Delegates will be chosen at the Delegate Special Convention following the straw poll. We will be reaching out to interested parties and updating information on our website as we know more.

May 14 will bring our State Convention, where we hope to expand on the five declared candidates we currently have seeking our nomination, and make this year's convention not only fun, but inspirational for members and voters alike.

The Libertarian Party of Michigan has also been working hard this last year to grow our state party in members and affiliates. In order to do this we have been focusing on Internet visibility, to reach out to people across the state.

Our Facebook page is up in activity, by more than 150%, and we will be explor-

ing making our Twitter presence active again. We have been working on a new website layout, and plan to have it active by February. We would like to better promote our candidates this year on the site, especially as we currently have two candidates in a special election. Outreach will also include a new look for our monthly newsletter.

We are excited to announce that over the last year, we have added two affiliates: Genesee and Northeast Lower Michigan. We're reaching out to more areas, hopefully through people interested in running for office.

I am looking forward to bringing the Libertarians across the country more good news as we push further into the year.

—*Kimberly McCurry, Chair*

Montana

Opportunities abound for candidates

The Montana campaign filing season opened January 14. Filing for office ends March 14 at 5:00 P.M. More people running for office means more viability for Libertarian ideas of less government and more liberty.

Statewide elections include U.S. Representative, Governor, Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, Auditor, Office of Public Instruction, judges, all Montana House Districts, and one third of the Montana Senate (districts 2, 3, 6, 7, 10, 15, 16, 17, 18, 21, 23, 25, 26, 28, 31, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 44, 45, 46, and 47).

Consider a run for office. More information can be found at the Secretary of State's office at SOS.MT.gov.

We are working on our upcoming general membership meeting. Montana will have seven delegates to the national LP convention in Orlando, Florida, to select our presidential and vice presidential candidates. Montana requires six presidential electors when we file our official nominee. If you have any questions, give the Chair **Mike Fellows** a call, catch us on Facebook, or visit the SOS MT elections site: SOS.MT.gov/Elections/Filing/index.asp

We have some interest in people running. Our status is good until 2018, but getting five percent of the governor's vote in any statewide race will extend that until 2020. I think that ends up being around

16,500 votes. People can file on line as well. Also, new reporting requirements took effect in January. We'll see more reporting dates, and now reports must be done electronically and filed with the Commissioner of Political Practices. A few people have called this new law the “incumbent protection act.”

—*Mike Fellows, MTLP*

New Hampshire

Convention results and action plan

The LP of New Hampshire (LPNH) held its annual convention on January 16. Despite the winter storm from overnight into the morning, several Libertarians gathered at Area 23 in Concord. Three presidential candidates joined the event: **Darryl Perry**, **Marc Allan Feldman**, and **Derrick Michael Reid**.

The convention started with a brief speech by each presidential candidate and some Q&A for them. The three men have distinct platforms and approaches to the campaign.

Rich Tomasso, the chair, gave an update on the LPNH's ballot-access lawsuit, and delegates had a very active discussion of the petitioning process, particularly how to deal with the late presidential nomination.

Delegates approved three changes to the LPNH constitution, adopted a new platform, and passed a resolution welcoming Free State Project immigrants to New Hampshire and encouraging them to join the LPNH.

The party officers are: **Rich Tomasso**, Chair; **Brian Chabot**, Vice Chair; **Tom Kershaw**, Treasurer; and **Darryl Perry**, Secretary. We nominated **Brian Chabot** as our U.S. Senate candidate. Delegates authorized the board to nominate more candidates until our next nominating convention in the spring. Finally, via approval voting, we pledged a first-ballot presidential nomination vote to **Gary Johnson**.

The LPNH's action plan for the near future is to recruit more candidates, to find volunteers to petition at the presidential primary on February 9, and to have a table at the N.H. Liberty Forum on February 19–21, then a major petitioning effort at town elections on March 8.

Several members stayed to socialize and hear a presentation by **Derrick Michael Reid**. They discussed the opportunity for a Libertarian breakthrough this

year, given the extremely high negatives of the various Democratic and Republican candidates.

New York

LP expands as Dems, GOP lose steam

I have some great news to share with you!

- The Libertarian Party of New York Convention will be held April 30, 2016 in New York City.
- Libertarian Party voter enrollment in New York has risen 20 percent in the last nine months.
- LP of New York has three new chapters, in Niagara, Erie, and Chautauqua counties.
- Several county chapters are under development.

The Libertarian movement is growing in New York State, and the LPNY has an opportunity in the next few years to stand out as a dynamic political force — the only party capable of successfully challenging the renegade Democratic and Republican parties in NYS.

I have an informative pie chart (available upon request) showing the results of the 2014 gubernatorial elections in NYS. There are 15.5 million New York State residents eligible to register and to vote.

- 25 percent were not registered to vote.
- 50 percent were registered but did not vote (two of every three registered voters stayed home).
- Only 25 percent voted
- Of those who voted, more than half (53 percent) voted for someone other than the current governor.
- Therefore, only 11.7 percent of New Yorkers elected the current governor.

A close look at the chart will show that just over 80 percent of the citizens in NYS have walked away from the two major political parties. It is time for the Libertarian Party to step up to the plate and become the dynamic political force in NYS that it is destined to be.

For 2016, our focus will continue to be on membership (enrollment) as we pursue the goal of creating as many new county chapters in NYS as possible.

—*Mark Glogowski, Chair*

For a copy of the election results pie chart in Word format, send an e-mail request to MGlogowski08@Yahoo.com.

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North Dakota

Speaking out for gun rights

In response to President Obama's latest call for "common sense" gun control, I sent the following letter to the editor of each major paper in N.D.:

Libertarians on Common Sense Gun Control

President Obama attempted another round of "common sense" gun control as an answer to gun violence. Expanded laws mean more Americans cannot purchase guns. How many Americans are we talking about? FBI chief John Strong has stated, "We have no idea how many prohibited people there are in the U.S." Obama does not want criminals to have guns, and it is estimated up to 68 million of us have criminal backgrounds. Federal law also denies millions who are domestic abusers, illegal aliens, non-immigrants, dishonorably discharged veterans, persons who renounced citizenship, illegal drug users, those charged with a felony, fugitives, and mental defectives. All are excluded, even though most may never have used a weapon. And once they are excluded, they can never be rehabilitated. And the "prohibited" list just keeps expanding.

A 2004 report by the Justice Department's Inspector General found that most people who fail background checks are not dangerous, and that the reasons they flunk the check are minor or based on incidents that occurred years in the past. The report cited the case of a man rejected because of a 1941 felony conviction for stealing a pig. So background checks deny many, but accomplish little or nothing. Governments also have a repeated bad history of misusing any type of list, no matter their prior good promises.

Libertarians are against violence, but we also strongly support the Second Amendment, and our inalienable right under Article I, Section 1 of the N.D. State Constitution "to keep and bear arms for the defense of their person, family, property, and the state." Keep violent people off the street, but do not take away the constitutional rights of the millions of us who would never use a firearm in anger, just because government operates under the principle

of keeping guns from the violent by keeping them from everyone but themselves.

Unless government can "prove" you will misuse a firearm, they have no business restricting your right to legal hunting and self-defense.

—Roland Riemers, Region 6 LNC rep. and LP candidate for N.D. state auditor

Rhode Island

Weather no barrier to party's reincarnation

The newly reconstituted Libertarian Party of Rhode Island held its first "meet-up" of 2016 in January, at the Greenwich Cove Meadery, in Coventry, Rhode Island. Approximately 25 attendees braved monsoon-like weather to sample mead, talk politics, and discuss the challenges of the new year.

Chair **Pat Ford** reflected on the event.

"The venue was an intentional choice, as it reflected a local success story: Three young people braved the unrelenting challenges of working through the byzantine Rhode Island legal system, to produce, bottle, and sell a locally sourced product to an admiring public."

Several in attendance described the vibe as being similar to an extended late-night political discussion held at a college dorm.



The revived Libertarian Party of Rhode Island holds its first meet-up.

"In just a single meeting, we were able to dispel the urban myths usually attached to the libertarian movement," said Vice Chair **Scott Rotondo**.

On the challenges of furthering the libertarian movement in a state so blue that it has been described as Hillary Clinton's personal ATM, Ford said, "We're up to it. **Tony Jones's** ability to garner in excess of 10,000 votes in last year's election for Lt. Governor demonstrates the desire for a

different vision for our state. Our first year will be focused squarely on establishing the framework for supporting local candidates, and of course, utilizing the presidential election as an opportunity to bring further clarity and prominence to the Libertarian message across Rhode Island."

Vermont

Calls for ending Marijuana Prohibition

January 13 press release:

Vermont Libertarian Party Supports the Legalization of Marijuana in 2016

The Libertarian Party opposes the criminalization of consensual and victimless behavior by responsible adults, and supports the right of people to do as they wish with their own body.



There is no good reason for marijuana to be banned for adult use. The collateral damage caused by cannabis prohibition is a far greater danger to public health and safety than cannabis consumption is. The free exercise of informed choice, voluntary consumption, consensual trade, and cultivation of cannabis among responsible adults must be protected by Vermont law.

The Vermont Libertarian Party asks the voters to contact their representatives to urge them to pass a comprehensive cannabis legalization bill during the 2016 legislative session.

About Vermont Libertarian Party

The Vermont Libertarian Party is an affiliate of the National Libertarian Party. The motto of the VTLP is "Small Government, Low Taxes, More Freedom." The VTLP has been more or less active in the Green Mountain State since the early 1980s. Despite the relatively small size of our state Party, the Libertarian Party is the third largest party in the country and is driving a renaissance in libertarian thinking.

Contact Vermont LP Chair, **Jeremy Ryan**, at: Chair@VTLP.org

Read the full press release here: <http://goo.gl/XpQ4Xk>

FOR MORE ON STATE AFFILIATES, VISIT: WWW.LP.ORG/STATES

West Virginia

West Virginia Libertarians gear up for largest ticket ever

The Libertarian Party of West Virginia (LPWV) continues its phenomenal growth with ambitious plans for the 2016 elections. "Our state party has been experiencing a growth spurt," reports State Chair **Michael Wilson**, "in state party membership, in voter registration, and in candidate recruitment."

For the first time ever, the LPWV intends to field candidates for all six of the statewide races. **David Moran** of Preston County, the Libertarian candidate for Governor in 2012, whose candidacy earned the party official recognition status, will be on the ballot again for governor. Among Moran's exciting plans to wage a competitive and attention-getting campaign is the publication and distribution of his book, *All Mountaineers are Libertarians. They Just Didn't Get the Memo*.

Joining Moran on the statewide ticket are **Karl Kolenich** of Upshur County for Attorney General; **John Buckley** of Hardy County, the 2014 LPWV candidate for U.S. Senate, for Secretary of State; **Brent West** of Wood County, for Treasurer; **Brent Ricketts** of Jefferson County, for Auditor; and **Buddy Guthrie** of Monongalia County, for Commissioner of Agriculture. The LPWV

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Corrections

The following election results supersede errors made to the election results we reported in the Dec. 2015 issue of *LP News*:

On page 4:

In Iowa, Ryan Ketelsen won his election for city council with 91 votes.

In Texas, Ed Tidwell was re-elected to the Lago Vista City Council.

On page 8:

Three Libertarians were elected to city council in Iowa (not Pennsylvania): Ryan Ketelsen, Nathan Gentry, and Roxann Swanson.

In Pennsylvania, six candidates were elected to office for positions of borough council, auditor, constable, and school director. All races in the state are partisan.

The Impact of Third-Party Presidential Campaigns on Govt. Policy

by Andy Craig

Can Libertarian presidential candidates who don't win affect public policy? The influence of alternative party candidates throughout U.S. history suggests the answer to that question is a resounding "Yes."

Here is a list of some notable third-party presidential campaigns which influenced or resulted in major shifts in U.S. government policy.

1856: **John C. Fremont** gets 33.1% of the vote as the nominee of the new, antislavery Republican Party. Four years later, Lincoln is elected; nine years later, the 13th Amendment is ratified.

1892: **James B. Weaver** gets 8.5% of the vote as the nominee of the Populist Party. The Democratic Party adopts most of the Populist platform over the next decade, most notably free coinage of silver, which would become a central campaign issue for three-time Democratic nominee William Jennings Bryan starting in 1896.

1912: Ex-President **Theodore Roosevelt** runs as a Progressive ("Bull Moose" Party) and comes in second, defeating the incumbent Republican president after being shot in Milwaukee. **Eugene Debs** also wins 6% as a Socialist, the most of his several Socialist Party campaigns from 1900–1920. Over the next few decades, the Democratic Party takes a hard-left turn on economic issues, culminating in FDR and the New Deal.

1888–1916: The **Prohibition Party** runs a Presidential nominee every four years, usually getting between 1% and 3%. In 1916, the Drys beat the spread and were accused of being spoilers in key swing states. The 18th Amendment prohibiting alcohol in the U.S. is ratified three years later, in 1919. Republican and Democratic politicians alike cited the impact of the Prohibition Party among their motives for ratifying the amendment.

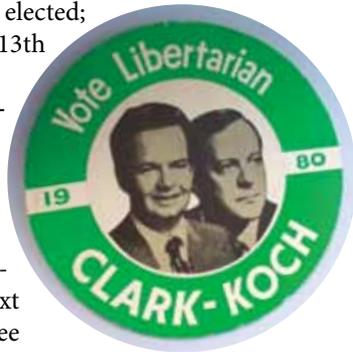
1924: Wisconsin Senator "**Fighting Bob**" **La Follette** runs as a Progressive, winning 16.6% of the vote. He calls for ending U.S. imperialism in Latin America and advo-

cates a radically progressive economic agenda. Both became major-party policy within a decade. FDR's "Good Neighbor" policy dramatically scales back American intervention in Latin America.

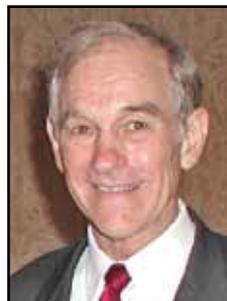
1948: **Strom Thurmond** runs as a "States Rights Democrat" (a.k.a. Dixiecrats) and gets 2.4%. By 1964, the GOP has nominated a states-rights conservative.

1968: **George Wallace**, a segregationist governor of Alabama, runs as the American Independent Party candidate, and gets 13.5%, winning five southern states. Over the next four years, Nixon implements his "Southern Strategy." Wallace's social conservatism and antigovernment elitism presage the 1980 campaign of Ronald Reagan, who makes socially conservative localism a key GOP plank.

1980: **John Anderson**, a liberal Republican congressman, runs as an independent and takes 6.6% of the popular vote. In a year when Reagan wins in a landslide, Anderson's campaign presages the final defection of moderate-liberal northeastern Republicans to the Democratic Party. The Libertarian Party's third-ever presidential ticket, **Ed Clark** and **David Koch**, also performs very well, with just over 1% nationally, and as high as 11% in some western states. The first few years of the Reagan administration feature the prominent appointment of many ideological libertarians.



Campaign button from Ed Clark's 1980 run for President



Ron Paul

1988: Between stints in Congress, **Ron Paul** places third as the Libertarian nominee, with less than 1% of the vote. Although the 1988 campaign has the lowest vote percentage on this list, it contributes to Paul's being re-elected to congress. From there, he would launch his historic 2008 and 2012 GOP primary campaigns, which help popularize libertarianism as a mass movement.

1992: **Ross Perot**, running as an independent, wins 18.9% after appearing in the televised debates. Perot's strong focus on balancing the budget becomes major-party policy by the late 1990s, and an ongoing feature of GOP rhetoric. He also advocates tough-on-crime policies and supports abortion rights, which respectively become more firmly entrenched planks of GOP and Democratic candidates.

2000: **Ralph Nader** receives 2.74% of the vote as the Green Party nominee, after having polled much higher at

one point, and is widely blamed for costing Al Gore the election. Over the next decade, anticorporate rhetoric, increased regulation of big business, consumer protectionism, and a greater focus on environmentalism all sweep the Democratic Party, in part fueling Howard Dean's 2004 campaign and the defeat by more-liberal Obama of more-centrist Clinton in the 2008 primary.



Harry Browne

1996 and 2000: **Harry Browne's** second campaign on the Libertarian ticket in 2000 beats the spread in a few key swing states. His bold proposals to reduce government coupled with outstanding salesmanship more than triple the Libertarian Party's membership, increase the party's ballot access, and pave the way for many future Libertarian candidates up and down the ticket.

2012: **Gary Johnson** wins 1% of the vote, as Libertarian candidates across the country begin to break into the mid-single digits in several close senatorial and governors' races. Efforts within the GOP establishment to push the party in a less socially conservative, more free-market and fiscally conservative direction increase, not just from the Paul faction but from some "establishment" voices as well, while some Democrats begin to signal a renewed focus on socially liberal issues, such as marriage equality, drug policy reform, civil liberties, and police reform. The trend continues, with 2014 marking the highest vote totals and best ballot-access situation of any third party in 100 years.



Gov. Gary Johnson

With the frontrunners for the Democratic and Republican nominations in 2016 both unlikely to muster approval ratings above the mid-forties, 2016 may be a historic year for Libertarian Party influence.

Andy Craig is a 2016 Libertarian candidate for U.S. House, in Wisconsin's 4th District (Milwaukee). Campaign website: www.AndyCraig2016.com

Editor's note: If you know of more examples of third-party campaigns' impact, please send them to LPNews@LP.org.

Affiliate updates

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also has five candidates already recruited for the state legislature, with more candidates forthcoming through the spring and summer filing period. The party also hopes to field candidates for all three of the state's U.S. House of Representatives seats.

The LPWV already has county coordinators in nearly half of the Mountain State's 55 counties. It expects continued success in its organizing through the conversion

of "armchair libertarians" identified via social media, into actual campaign volunteers. The candidates, local organizations, and a fundraising goal — to sustain "Vote Libertarian" yard signs for statewide distribution and a combined "rack card" for the statewide candidates — are part of a strategic political plan begun in the spring of 2015.

In keeping with its organizational growth and successful candidate recruitment, the LPWV state convention, to be held on Saturday, May 7, promises the largest turnout the state party has ever had. "Anyone who attends is going to return home extraordinarily energized and ready for our

best year ever," says **John Buckley**, LPWV State Secretary.

West Virginia LP State Convention

May 6–7, 2016

Social: May 6, 6:00–9:00 P.M. (hospitality suite, open bar and refreshments)

Convention: May 7, 9:00 A.M.–6:00 P.M.

Location: Flatwood Days Inn and Conference Center, 2000 Sutton Lane, Sutton, WV 26601

More information available soon at: www.LPWV.org/convention_2016

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2016 Libertarian Party state conventions

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

Jan. 16	New Hampshire	April 16	Minnesota, Nebraska, New Mexico, Wisconsin
Jan. 23	Arizona	April 16-17	Louisiana
Feb. 27-28	Alabama, Mississippi	April 22-24	Indiana, North Carolina
March 4-5	Virginia	April 23	Ohio, Utah
March 5	Georgia	Apr. 29-May 1	Kansas
March 11-12	Illinois	April 30	New York, South Dakota (tentative)
March 11-13	Colorado	May 7	West Virginia
March 12	Maryland, Nevada, New Jersey	May 14	Maine Michigan state convention
March 18-19	Iowa	May 26-30	Libertarian National Convention
March 18-20	Kentucky	June 18	Idaho
March 19	Michigan delegate selection Pennsylvania, Tennessee	October	Massachusetts (second or third Saturday; TBD)
April 1-3	California		
April 2	Oklahoma (tentative)		
April 8-10	Florida, Texas, Washington		

Campaign finance

...continued from page 4

should recuse himself when presiding over a case in which he has a financial interest in one of the parties, government profiteers should recuse themselves from influencing politicians who will decide whether to grant them taxpayer largesse. Who can argue against that?

Removing the bad motives and bad money in politics, and freeing up good motives and good money, would have a dramatic, positive effect on the political process. Government would shrink; freedoms would expand; profiteering special interests would dry up; and the people

would be given a voice they haven't had since the Revolution.

To most voters, campaign finance seems a minor issue. But when the topic comes up, these Libertarian distinctions and solutions will enlighten voters and pave the way for more good money in campaigns, while getting rid of the bad.

Michael Cloud contributed to this column.

The views above are those of the author and are not addressed in the LP platform.

What have you missed recently on LP.org?

- Exclusive interview: Gary Johnson calls 2016 a "tipping point"
- Newsweek on McAfee running for LP nomination
- Sputnik features LP chair Nicholas Sarwark's comments on violence in Syria
- Stossel post-debate show will feature Libertarian perspective
- Georgia LP candidate wins runoff election
- LP Political Director Carla Howell discusses Oregon protest on RT TV
- U.S. Supreme Court won't hear Libertarian case over discriminatory voter registration forms
- LNC chair on CBC radio show discussing guns
- Historic dates of interest to Libertarians
- North Carolina LP will have 18 candidates on the 2016 ballot
- 101 potential candidates file in Texas
- Stripping rights away with the terror watch list
- Ohio LP asks sixth circuit to invalidate ballot access law

Media Buzz

Wanted: a presidential candidate who isn't a crony capitalist. Maybe we'll catch a glimpse of one tonight in Boulder, Colorado during the GOP debate. Most likely, though, we'll need to wait for whenever the Libertarian Party has its convention.

—Reason's *HIT & RUN* Blog; 10/28/15

...in theory, Trump could also seek the nomination of an existing minor party that already has some ballot access such as the Libertarian Party. But it's not clear that any third party is a natural match for the kind of campaign that Trump has been running this cycle.

—CNN, 12/10/15

If the Republicans find themselves headed toward a circus-like, Trump-centered brokered convention this summer—and the Democrats are stuck with a nominee under investigation by the FBI—this might be the perfect time for American voters to vote for oddball independent candidates just to prove they can (or because they genuinely think, say, Libertarian candidate Gary Johnson is better-qualified than Clinton or Trump, which he is). It might finally prove *more* satisfying than being in the winning majority this time around, if both the major-party candidates are this awful. It's a good time, in short, to express yourself.

—Splice Today, 12/31/15

Esteemed political strategist and pollster Doug Schoen writes in *Forbes* last week that "the key lesson of the primary season thus far is this: Americans are hungry for political outsiders." He says there is a "tide of anti-establishment sentiment" and that this cycle, "when you preach political revolution, people listen."

—IVN, 12/15/15

"Minor parties, generally, come and go with each election cycle," said [Will Senning, Director of Elections for Vermont]. "With the exception of the Libertarians, who are consistently here."

—VTDigger.org, 11/30/15

Register by Mar. 14 for best rates!

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