



LIBERTARIAN

Connecticut:

The Libertarian Party of Connecticut, together with the Connecticut ACLU, won a temporary injunction permitting the use of out-of-state petitioners in the current petitioning cycle. This is part of a larger lawsuit challenging the Constitutionality of the current state law forbidding out-of-state petitioners, and indicates a substantial chance of success. LPCT Chair Andrew Rule filed the complaint in the name of the party. Dan Barrett, Executive Director of the ACLU-CT, did much of the legwork on this suit. Stan Twardy, Managing Partner of Day Pitney, argued the case in US District Court for the District of Connecticut in New Haven. The LPCT also wishes to thank Bill Redpath, Richard Winger, and Oliver Hall for their advice, assistance, and interest in this matter. There has been a fair amount of media coverage for this decision, and we expect more from future press releases connected to petition turn-ins.

Currently, the LPCT is working on setting up the petition drive. The Party plans to host a kick-off and training event for volunteers in the next couple weeks, in conjunction with the paid petitioning effort. The LPCT also wishes to thank the Executive Committee for allocating money for this effort.

Thank you to Andy Burns for his continued efforts to help out with organization, IT, and fundraising.

Rhode Island:

The Libertarian Party of Rhode Island is continuing its effort to reorganize following the replacement of much of the board. The Party is holding regular Meet Ups to build membership and interest; one is going on this weekend, in fact. A fundraising dinner is in the planning stages for late February or early March. Speakers will include Carla Howell and Joshua Katz. Sean Foley, elected Libertarian from Connecticut, has also been asked to speak. The event will fund the Presidential petitioning effort and regular expenses.

Based in part on the results of this fundraiser, the state board will be deciding whether to launch a party petition or to petition candidates onto the ballot, for much lower numbers of signatures, as Independents.

Maine:

The Libertarian Party of Maine's lawsuit has been filed with the state and we expect a hearing in March sometime. Thank you to the Executive Committee for approving national assistance for this lawsuit. We still need to get 500+ more registrations as a measure to ensure ballot status if we get only a partial favourable ruling. However, the state's handling of voter registrations, combined with the timing, has had a real impact on the Party already. The few candidates we did have ready will have to run as independent since the deadline for signature turn in is on March 15th and this matter will not be resolved in time to run on our party line. The lawsuit has attracted some media attention in major papers in Maine.

Our convention will be Sunday March 15th.

New Jersey:

New Jersey definitely supports Atlantic City as a Convention location. Thank you to the LNC and the Convention Oversight Committee for considering Harrah's bid. It would be great to host the national convention here in New Jersey!

New Jersey had a successful Holiday Party in December. We have also done well with a targeted social media ad campaign. We are currently recruiting candidates and Board Members for 2016. We have reorganized our local structure to be based around regional instead of county organizations. Last Friday, LPNJ Chair Patrick McKnight spoke at the NJ School Choice Summit in 2016 and networked with several elected politicians past and present. They are definitely watching us and want to know our next moves. We must be doing something right!

Our Convention is March 12th in Hightstown featuring John McAfee and Carla Howell.

Massachusetts:

This is an election year. Our State Committee is working vigorously to recruit and support people running for state legislature: State Representative, State Senate, and Governor's Council. State PAC money can go directly to candidates; Get Out the Vote Drive efforts must pass through our Federal PAC.

Massachusetts has launched a Facebook campaign to put Libertarian positions in front of the voters. Our current campaigns are Peace Now!-End the Warfare State and End the Surveillance State! We put up Facebook pages, run Facebook ads, send recruiting literature to anyone who likes a post or page, and distribute press releases and letters to the editor. We emphasize issues where the other parties agree, and we take the Libertarian stand.

One of our State Committee members is launching a series of topical conferences on political issues.

We have several people who are interested in putting a Presidential candidate on the ballot here. The State Committee has made available the money handling and filing processes of our Federal PAC to handle whatever money they raise and ensure that it is spent honestly and in support of the effort.

Contrary to claims in the last Ballot Access report, it is not possible in Massachusetts to put a Presidential candidate on the ballot without petitioning. You can change the date, the certainty of success, and the number of required signatures, but not the need to petition.

New York:

The Libertarian Party of New York will hold its convention on Saturday, April 30, at the Ukrainian East Village Restaurant in Manhattan. Speakers will include Carla Howell, Dan Halloran (NYC Councilmember, 19th District), and various Presidential candidates, including Gary Johnson and John McAfee. Tatiana Moroz will be providing musical entertainment.

The Party has been actively engaged in outreach events, sponsoring regular meetings on topics of wide-ranging interest open to the public in addition to conducting OPH booths at various events. The Manhattan Libertarian Party is, once again, hosting speakers at the Ukrainian East Village Restaurant on a monthly basis.

Vermont:

The Vermont Libertarian Party has held multiple town caucuses in recent months. These have nominated candidates for local office, such as Varpilah Chase for Essex Selectboard.

Every second Friday, join Bonnie Scott and Rual Wheelan at 5:30 on cable channel 17 for Woodchuck Report, hosted by the CCTV Center for Media and Democracy, as they discuss the issues of the day from a Libertarian perspective.

New Hampshire:

The New Hampshire Libertarian Party, together with the ACLU of New Hampshire, had filed a lawsuit challenging a state law moving up the date when petitioning can begin, and requiring that petitioning for the 2016 election, for instance, take place within the calendar year 2016. Unfortunately, the US District Court has upheld the law as a "reasonable restriction justified by the state's interest in requiring parties to demonstrate a sufficient level of support." The ACLU and the Party are considering an appeal.

The New Hampshire Libertarian Party held its convention on January 16. Here is a recap from the state chair:

Three presidential candidates joined us: Darryl Perry, Marc Allan Feldman and Derrick Michael Reid. Two other campaigns intended to send statements or representatives.

The convention started with a brief speech by each presidential candidate and some Q&A for them. I gave an update on our ballot access lawsuit and we had a very active discussion of petitioning process.

Delegates approved 3 changes to our party constitution, adopted a new platform, and passed a resolution welcoming FSP immigrants to NH and encouraging them to join the LPNH.

The new party officers are: Rich Tomasso, chair; Brian Chabot, vice chair, Tom Kershaw, treasurer; Darryl Perry, secretary. We nominated Brian Chabot as our US Senate candidate. Delegates authorized the board to nominate more candidates until our nominating convention in the spring. Finally, via approval voting, we pledged a first ballot presidential nomination vote to Gary Johnson.

The action plan for the near future is finding volunteers to petition at the presidential primary on February 9 and having a table at the NH Liberty Forum 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. We discussed the opportunity for a Libertarian breakthrough this year given the extremely high negatives of the various D&R candidates.