

Region 8 Report

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

Heading into 2016 elections, only Vermont has statewide ballot access. Connecticut has partial ballot access. New Jersey is recognized as a minor party and only needs 800 signatures. Maine is currently in the process of becoming a recognized party.

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

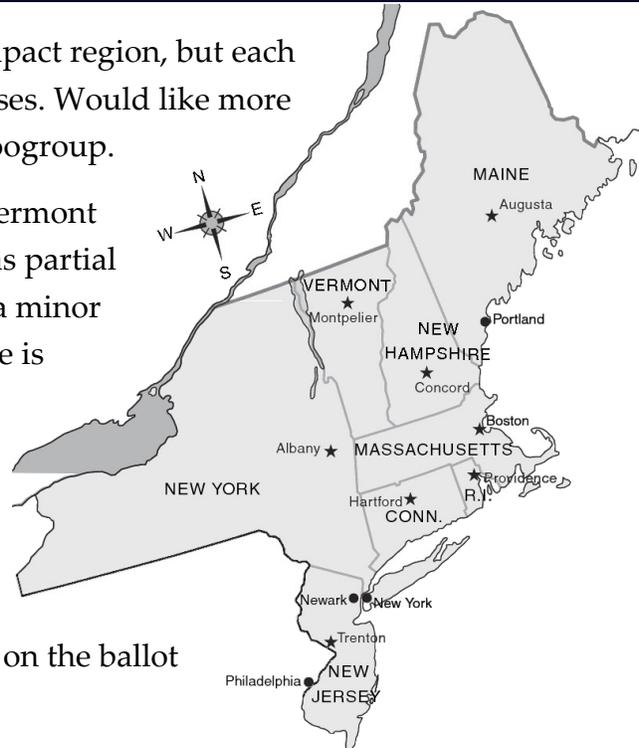
Connecticut, Maine and New Hampshire are involved in litigation for petitioning and ballot access. Media coverage of Libertarian events has seen a nice bump this year, with reports on state conventions and interviews with local leaders and candidates. Maine and New Hampshire have adopted new platforms.

Recent events of interest:

- » Vermont Convention
- » New York Convention
- » Rhode Island Convention
- » Maine Convention

Upcoming events of interest:

- » New Hampshire nominating convention, early June
- » FSP's Porcupine Freedom Festival, June 19–26 in Lancaster, NH





Litigation

The Libertarian Party of Connecticut won a legal victory that allows them to hire out-of-state contractors to collect signatures for candidates petitioning their way onto the ballot.

Before the ruling, only Connecticut residents were permitted to collect signatures. Professional circulators from out-of-state firms, which are often hired by candidates, had to be accompanied by a Connecticut resident.

Judge Hall concluded that circulating a petition is “core political speech” and Secretary of the State Denise Merrill would be infringing on the Libertarian Party’s First Amendment rights by impeding it.

“This decision is good news for free speech,” said Dan Barrett, the ACLU of Connecticut’s legal director and a cooperating attorney. “The Libertarian Party deserves the chance to deliver its message by hiring signature-gatherers based on their qualifications, not their ZIP codes.”

The decision, according to Barrett, aligns with other federal court rulings across the country.

2016 Elections and Petitioning

Connecticut must collect 7,500 signatures by August 10th. This is a large undertaking but we are engaging in a drive to get it done. All the forms are available on our website and we will have volunteer events and petitioner training.



Voter Registration Drive

We submitted 6482 signatures by the December 1st deadline. The Secretary of State said only 4489 were valid. The LPME filed a lawsuit against the Secretary.

The bottom line is the people in political power will use 'law' to suppress competition. Those that make the rules, rule. Wrong, unfair, etc. Even so, we are so close to meeting and still jumping through their micro hoop suspended 100 feet in the air, surrounded by fire and explosives. All we need to do is get a few hundred more registrations. That is all.

The hearing for 'reconsideration' was May 16th. I requested through our legal council the audio or typed transcript of our federal court hearing to have ballot access. Council were told there are no transcripts to provide. What do you think about that?

There is much that could be said, and will, after the ruling but, there is one major point: We need more people to fill out the voter registration card as Libertarians. It is believed the state will accept this and we will have ballot access for the presidential election. In short, the Libertarian Party presidential candidate will be on the ballot in Maine.

Over the next two weeks, you can mail me a completed registration card. If you don't have one, I will get one to you. Need volunteers to ask people to register as Libertarian. Do you have some time to do this? I will do everything within my limited means to support this noble cause. Let's make this happen. Ask a friend. Take a walk on the wild side and just ask someone if they are happy with the current state of the country.

I am also asking the new executive committee if we can work together in groups of two to ask people to register as Libertarians.

If you can assist in this very important matter, kindly email Chair@lpme.org.

LP Maine on the Radio and Online

LPME chairman Jorge Maderal was on on WVOM on Thursday, March 12 at 7:30AM.

Candidate Jim Bouchard was on Newsradio WGAN on May 18th.

LPME Facebook page has more than 4100 likes, a 250%+ improvement since January!

State Convention, May 15th

We had a full day of business, electing officers, hearing from presidential campaigns and a straw poll. Gary Johnson and Austin Petersen got 12 votes. John McAfee and Darryl Perry each got 1 vote. The convention also adopted the "World's Smallest Political Platform". It reads:

"The Libertarian Party supports reducing the size, scope and power of government at all levels and on all issues, and opposes increasing the size, scope or power of government at any level or for any purpose."

We are sending the largest delegation since 2000 to the national convention.

The results of the convention were covered by WMTW, the local ABC affiliate and WCSH, the local NBC affiliate.



Continued Public Issue Messaging

Between election campaigns we are staying in the public eye with issues-focused ad campaigns. Libertarians have many issues for which the public supports us, not the other parties. We just need to show the American people the truth. We have issues where the march of history is on our side. We will bring America to the future, the Libertarian future.

First campaign was *No to the Olympics* (success!). Our current campaign is *Ending the Surveillance State*. We plan a massive fund raising effort to support the campaigns. How are we doing? Our Facebook ad is getting a 2% “like” return, astronomically high for Facebook. Next we will combine social and traditional media outreach. Your designated donations at LPMass.org, the state PAC, will be spent on the effort.

Elections and the Future

Members are looking forward to doing better in 2016 than we did in 2014, which is the best we have done in more than a decade. Fortunately, Massachusetts Libertarians already have full ballot access: You can enroll (“register”) as a Libertarian, and you can run as a Libertarian in any partisan race.

Massachusetts must collect 10,000 signatures after the convention by August 2nd.

Peace Now! End the Warfare state!

Peace can happen. The warfare state, the glorification of defense welfare and crony capitalism, can be brought to an end. But it won’t come to an end by itself. You will only come to an end when we, the patriotic people of the United States, bring it to an end.

You can do your part. No one of us can bring peace and prosperity, but together we can make it happen. Our individual voices can be the drip drip drip of water that eventually creates vast and beautiful valleys and canyons.

What can you do right now? No matter where you live, there are newspapers. There are Facebook pages. There are political blogs. You need to speak up. You need to stand up for peace not having to stir from your computer keyboard or put down your mobile device, and start sending the world short messages: we want peace, and we want now.

Say why you want peace in your own words. But remember to close the letter “Peace now! End the warfare state!” That common ending sends a message that the American people are united against pointless wars and against defense welfare.



Lawsuit

With the NHCLU we are suing the state in Federal court over a change that wiped out 2/3 of the time we have to complete a party-wide petition with no corresponding reduction in the number of signatures, effectively making the task impossible.

Despite our brief demolishing the state's case, the judge sided with the state, citing several arguments from the RNC's amicus brief. The appeal has been filed to the 1st Circuit and amicus briefs were filed on both sides. The fact we felt there was no feasible way to do a party-wide petition for 2016 should work in our favor. There are likely to be oral arguments in June.

Recent Activity

We exhibited at the NH Liberty Forum. We were able to collect some petition signatures, membership renewals and general donations. I spoke with several people interested in having a presence at our national convention either as a presenter or exhibitor. Also found members interested in starting local groups to rebuild our activity level.

Some LP activists from other states have moved here recently, hoping to get them involved and perhaps organizing local action.

Some good ballot access bills didn't go far, in part from Establishment resistance.

Our website team is evaluating WordPress and NationBuilder.

Darryl Perry and Rich Tomasso had a great discussion with visiting officials from India as part of the World Affairs Council program. They asked about our platform, our nominating process, elected Libertarians, the history of political parties in America, what points of attack do we have in a campaign against Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump, and our views of the American political process. We pointed out all the roadblocks put in the way of minor parties. We learned about Indian politics, including their very thorough financial disclosure laws and laws that prevent anyone with misdeeds from filing election challenges. One of the Americans traveling with them said he would check out Libertarian candidates when he got home.

2016 Election

A few candidates have come forward. We're currently recruiting, aiming for at least 16 state rep candidates. Filing period is early June, so the bump in attention post-convention should bring in a few more people willing and able to run to boost the numbers. A few people have said they'll run or make major donations if we hit certain recruiting thresholds.

History has shown a definite updraft effect having multiple candidates on the ballot, sometimes increasing local vote totals by 400% vs statewide average. Petitioning will start immediately after nominations and 3000 net sigs need to be gathered by August 10th.

Have spoken with pro petitioners and some new volunteers are coming forward. The overall cost will likely be less than expected, especially if candidate recruitment goes well.

I recommend the presidential campaign have a presence at PorcFest to meet 1000+ libertarians from across the country and talk to the media.



2016 Candidates and Petitioning

New Jersey must collect 800 signatures by August 1st.

Bill Sihr – 1st Congressional District - [facebook.com/Bill-Sihr-for-Congress-222932914735084](https://www.facebook.com/Bill-Sihr-for-Congress-222932914735084)

John Ordille – 2nd Congressional District - [facebook.com/JohnOrdilleLibertarianForCongress](https://www.facebook.com/JohnOrdilleLibertarianForCongress)

James Marcotullio – 3rd Congressional District

Jeremy Marcus – 4th Congressional District

Claudio Belusic – 5th Congressional District

Judy Shamy – 6th Congressional District

Dan O'Neill – 7th Congressional District

Dan Delaney – 8th Congressional District

Diego Rivera – 9th Congressional District

Mike Bohan – 11th Congressional District

Thomas Fitzpatrick – 12th Congressional District

Douglas Burgoyne - Allendale Town Council

Michael Chazukow - West Milford Town Council - [facebook.com/Chaz2016](https://www.facebook.com/Chaz2016)

Patrick McKnight - Montgomery Township Council

Joe Rafferty - Washington Township Town Council - [facebook.com/RaffertyForCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/RaffertyForCouncil)

Michael Roche - Ocean Township Town Council (Ocean Cty) - [facebook.com/CandidateMichaelRoche](https://www.facebook.com/CandidateMichaelRoche)

Peter Rohrman - Bergen County Freeholder - [facebook.com/RohrmanForBergenCountyFreeholder](https://www.facebook.com/RohrmanForBergenCountyFreeholder)

Demotherenes Backos - Bergen County Freeholder

Lawsuit challenges Passaic City's refusal to disclose 2-year-old minutes

Libertarians for Transparent Government filed a lawsuit against the City of Passaic's refusal to provide any minutes of City Council nonpublic meetings nor minutes from Planning Board and Zoning Board public meetings. The LTG argues minutes of closed meetings must be promptly released, even redacted, and unapproved public meeting minutes be marked "draft" and released.

The basis for the City's denial of the public minutes is they "have not been approved." The basis for denial of the closed minutes is that they must "remain exempt from production under such time as there is no longer a need for confidentiality" and that "the City Council has not adopted a Resolution authorizing the release" of those closed minutes.

NJLP to Governor Christie: Commute Sentences of Non-Violent Drug Offenders

The NJ LP demands Governor Christie immediately commute the sentences of prisoners whose only offense involved non-violent drug offenses. At a time in which the NJ State Budget must be cut, we cannot afford to imprison people who have not harmed anyone.

According to the State Department of Corrections there are 2,360 inmates being held for non-violent drug offenses. Another 664 prisoners are being held for "violations against public policy." At an average cost of \$54,865 per prisoner, these prisoners are held at annual cost of over \$165 million or over \$450,000 per day. New Jersey already has the highest debt burden at \$52,300 per taxpayer.

Prisoners like Jon Peditto, sentenced to 8 years for growing 18 marijuana plants. Governor, you have a chance before you leave office to correct the injustice done to Jon and many like him.



Growing the Party

Since Mark Glogowski took over as NY State Chair last spring, we have added three new county chapters (going from 10 to 13) with several more in organizational mode.

State Convention in Manhattan

A fantastic day was had by all at the venerable Ukrainian East. We sold out with 96 paid registrants, plus eight candidates and members of their staff, press and a few additional guests (including two candidates for National Chair) for the largest LPNY Convention since 1994.

The convention was also a demonstration of a voting system using Bitcoin-derived blockchain technology, selected to run the convention's vote. More details are in the Verge article, <http://theverge.com/2016/5/5/11592806/libertarian-bitcoin-blockchain-voting-john-mcafee>

Thanks most especially to Vlad and Cameron (of the Brooklyn LP) who helped me handle registration, to M, Jim and Audrey (Suffolk LP) who handled credentialing, and to Alex, Ron and Hesham (Manhattan and Staten Island chapters) who addressed various technical matters, the auction and so many other behind-the-scenes issues.

I am especially thankful to all of you who traveled great distances; we have never had Western New York represented so well before.

Hesham advises that we had as many as 6500 viewers on the live-streamed debate with John McAfee, Gary Johnson, Darryl W. Perry and Austin Petersen! The straw poll results were: Gary Johnson 56% Austin Petersen 18% John McAfee 15% Darryl Perry 8% Other/NOTA 3%

Video of the debate is available at [Youtube.com/watch?v=r5YOOO1nzZw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r5YOOO1nzZw)

2016 Candidates and Petitioning

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

Candidates nominated for public office by the LP of New York or its local chapters:

U.S. Senate – Alex Merced – AlexMercedForNY.com – @alexmerced

Congress, 22nd District – David Pasick – PasickForCongress.com

Congress, 25th District – Anthony D’Orazio – TonyforNY.org – @tonyfor25th

State Senate, 52nd District – Rich Purtell – PurtellforNYsenate.nationbuilder.com – @rich_purtell

State Assembly, 123rd District – Jeffrey Tillery

facebook.com/Jeffrey-Tillery-for-State-Assembly-131181320287829

State Assembly, 138th District - Peter Vazquez – PetersonVazquez.com – @peter_vazquez1

Media Coverage

The Daily News wrote an article about NY Libertarians going to the national convention. <http://thedailynewsonline.com/bdn01/local-delegates-to-attend-libertarian-convention-20160521>



Rebuilding

LPRI continues to rebuild. We started the year with new social events and have continued with debate watching parties and meetings. Interest is up across the board.

State Convention

Our state convention was in Warwick on May 15th. The keynote speaker was Representative Blake Filippi. Delegates heard from various campaigns and state leadership. The delegates participated in a straw poll for president, the results were Gary Johnson 12, John McAfee 1, Darryl Perry 1, Austin Petersen 1 and NOTA 1. We also held a straw poll for LNC chair, results: Charles Peralo 7, Mark Rutherford 3 and NOTA 2

Gary Johnson Hits Local Talk Radio

Hot off the announcement that former Massachusetts Governor William Weld is his chosen running mate, Libertarian candidate for President Gary Johnson appeared on The Coalition radio program on Saturday, May 21 at 6 p.m., on local talk radio powerhouse, 630 WPRO-AM. The program is hosted by Pat Ford, recently re-elected chairperson of the Libertarian Party of Rhode Island. Co-host for this week's one-hour radio show is Rhode Island media personality Tony Jones.

In addition to over-the-air radio broadcast of The Coalition at 6 p.m., the show streams online live and on demand at coalitionradio.us every week. You can listen to podcasts of past shows with Libertarian Party candidates for President Austin Petersen, John McAfee, Darryl Perry and more, visit www.coalitionradio.us.

2016 Elections and Petitioning

Rhode Island must collect 1,000 signatures between July 5 and September 9.



Vermont LP urges adding Home Growing back into Legalization Bill

Allowing home growing and personal transfer between adults within the possession limits allowed, is the best way to accomplish the need for Vermonters to not have to buy drugs trafficked into our state illegally. Legal home growing will allow Vermonters to develop their cannabis cultivation skills to support an artisan cannabis industry, so we are not bombarded solely by over-commercialized product when the retail market is finally opened.

Vermont Libertarian Party Vice Chair Bonnie Scott has a message for the legislature: “Let’s do cannabis legalization right. Let’s do it ‘The Vermont Way’ that we were told would happen. That includes home growing. The plant-based growing provisions in S.95 would be a decent compromise if the legislature isn’t comfortable with the 100 square feet of garden per household allowed by the original Benning/White bill.”

The Vermont Libertarian Party congratulates the Vermont Senate in taking an important first step towards legalization of cannabis, a position that the majority of adult Vermonters support. We urge the House to pass a more comprehensive bill that includes home growing.

Making Ibogaine Treatment Legal in Vermont

Vermont Libertarian Party Vice Chair Bonnie Scott was interviewed by Psychadelic Times for her lead in the legislative effort to make ibogaine treatment legal. “In late 1990s I met Dana Beal who would speak about ibogaine at his meetings. I went to an ibogaine conference in 1999 and learned for the first time about all the science behind ibogaine treatment. For the next thirteen years, I would tell people about ibogaine when I could, but it often wasn’t something people were terribly interested in.”

Much like how cannabis became legalized in California and Oregon, Bonnie and her team are working to make ibogaine a legal treatment within the state of Vermont. Asked her about the latest bill they helped to introduce, “Our original bill H.387 had some problems, but the new H.741 is wonderful and has a number of state representative cosponsors.”

<http://psychedelictimes.com/iboga/making-ibogaine-treatment-legal-in-vermont-an-interview-with-bonnie-scott/>

State Convention

The VTLP state convention was April 2nd in Burlington. Darryl Perry, 2016 Presidential candidate, was a guest speaker.