

Libertarian Party

2600 Virginia Avenue NW, Suite 200
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Dear Fellow Libertarian,

I'm afraid the Tea Party's over.

It's now especially critical for Libertarians to lead the way towards freedom and fiscal sanity.

I hope you'll rush back a generous donation today to help us save our country from bankruptcy, and reverse government violations of our liberty.

Many people give Libertarians, along with Congressman Ron Paul, credit for starting the Tea Party movement. I believe the first modern Tea Party was in Austin, Texas on December 17, 2007. I was there.

According to the Austin American-Statesman, about 200 Texans marched from the state capitol to the nearby Colorado River, and dumped in crates marked with messages like "IRS" and "Big Government."

It was both a protest and an expression of support for Ron Paul's presidential campaign.

The Tea Party movement later exploded in response to the 2008 TARP bailouts. Remember, those bank bailouts were initiated by President George W. Bush and supported by most Republicans and Democrats in Congress.

After Barack Obama was sworn in as president, the Tea Party rallies got much more popular.

While a lot of Libertarians never trusted the Tea Parties to begin with, many Libertarians were hopeful that they would be a good organizing force that we could work with.

I was cautiously optimistic at first, but once the Republican Party jumped out in front of the parade and started corralling the Tea Parties into Republican support groups, I got very skeptical.

I don't think the Tea Parties are going to matter much anymore, because the Republicans have proven that they can claim Tea Party support, and then grow government and get away with it.

I also think most of the Tea Party supporters are burned out.

This was really driven home for me in April. I had been invited to speak this year at a Tea Party rally in Washington, D.C. over Tax Day weekend (April 16-17). But just a few days before the rally, I found out it had been canceled -- because so few people were planning to attend.

I thought, what? Last year, there was a huge Tax Day Tea Party protest in D.C. What happened?

I think this is what happened: Republicans took over the House of Representatives.

It was fun for Tea Partiers to march and wave signs about Democrats, but apparently it's no fun for most of them when they have to admit Republicans are just as bad.

You see, one of the things I discovered over the last year is that there are two kinds of Tea Party supporters: good and bad.

The Bad Tea Partiers only really care about one thing -- they hate Democrats -- and they will vote for Republicans no matter what, even if they won't admit it.

The Good Tea Partiers actually care about government spending and intrusiveness, more than their allegiance to political parties.

Also, many of the Good Tea Partiers realize that "too much government" covers more than just welfare and ObamaCare -- it's also about foreign wars, the War on Drugs, Social Security, and many other things.

How many Bad Tea Partiers are there? It's hard to say, but I noticed a Wall Street Journal poll this past March that said, "Even tea party supporters, by a nearly 2-to-1 margin, declared significant cuts to Social Security 'unacceptable.'"

Also, I was disappointed (but not too surprised) to see a recent CNN poll showing that 63% of Tea Party supporters are

opposed to legalizing marijuana, and 67% are opposed to legalizing gay marriage.

That suggests that Bad Tea Partiers are a big majority, but there are still some Good Tea Partiers mixed in.

I've already written off the Bad Tea Partiers. They're hopeless right-wing Republicans, and they won't listen to us.

But I think we've got a chance to reach out to the Good Tea Partiers. There's no way they can ignore the huge government that Republicans are supporting -- including the "Tea Party Republican freshmen" in Congress!

I hope you remember the devil's bargain that Republicans and Democrats struck in April to fund the government this year.

After listening to Republicans and Democrats both spew nonsense for months about how much the Republicans wanted "deep cuts" in spending, their deal actually increased federal spending by \$3 billion!

I know that's hard to believe, but we're talking about Republicans and Democrats, after all.

Most of the "Tea Party Republicans" in Congress voted for the deal. I'm not joking. Here are some of the things "Tea Party Republican freshmen" said about it:

"As much of a fiscal conservative as I am, you do have to accept the small victory sometimes before you get to the bigger victory."

"Sure, the cuts could be larger. But my view is that we should go ahead and build this bridge and then work on the next one."

"Is it enough? No, it's not enough. But unless I see something that's overwhelmingly against everything I believe in, I'm voting for it."

Wow. These people were supposedly elected by the Tea Party supporters specifically to stand up against federal spending. And then they turned around and voted for a deal that increased 2011 spending.

The point is, many Good Tea Partiers are going to see through this nonsense. And when they realize that Republicans aren't going to cut government spending in any meaningful way,

they will feel "politically homeless" -- and that's where we come in.

The Libertarian Party needs to be ready to reach out to the Good Tea Partiers and get their support.

I want to have strong ballot access next year, and a large slate of candidates, so that every Tea Partier (and everyone else) in America will have the opportunity to be bold and support a principled Libertarian.

I want to be a strong voice reminding Tea Partiers that Republicans always do the opposite of what they say. For decades, Republicans have talked small government and delivered big government, they're still doing it now, and they will still be doing it in the future.

One of the things I love about the Libertarian Party is that we're not a flash in the pan. The party was formed almost 40 years ago, and since then we have been a consistent and persistent voice for liberty.

Please make a contribution today to help us fight the big-government Republicans and Democrats and start the process of attracting a big, strong slate of candidates for 2012.

Sincerely,



Wes Benedict, Executive Director
Libertarian Party

P.S. The Tea Party's over, and we need to reach out to those Tea Partiers who really want less government and more freedom. Please make a donation of \$5,000, \$500, \$250, \$50, or whatever you can today.

<p>Paid for by the Libertarian National Committee, Inc., 2600 Virginia Avenue NW, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20037. Not authorized by any candidate or candidate committee.</p>
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Yes, I want to help the *Libertarian Party!* I am enclosing my best **one-time donation.**

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Please return in the enclosed envelope today!

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