

REGION 5 REPORT

Submitted to: Libertarian National Committee, Dec. 5, 2016

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This report will provide information concerning activities of the Libertarian Party state affiliates in Region 5 that have occurred since the Las Vegas meeting. I shall provide an updated report at the meeting in Alexandria should additional information become available.

I am pleased to report that I have been able to represent the LP in various ways since the previous LNC meeting. For example, I continue to serve at least once a month as a guest on a two-hour political talk show that airs on weekdays on WINA radio (1070 AM/98.9 FM in Charlottesville, Virginia). Also, I was interviewed on RT TV on Sept. 27 and Oct. 10 on the topic of the Clinton-Trump presidential debates; I appeared on the Nora Firestone Show (WKQA radio in Virginia Beach, Virginia) on Aug. 25 and the Liberty Talk Radio program on Oct. 25. On Nov. 14, I was interviewed by a reporter from the Bulgarian publication *Golden Newspaper* about the U.S. elections.

On Nov. 4 I was interviewed in Richmond, Virginia by two members of the Election Observation Mission (U.S. elections observers) from the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). On Nov. 6 I represented the LP on a panel discussion of “third party” and independent candidates at a two-day forum sponsored by the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the OSCE. (The forum took place in Washington, DC.)

Delaware

Scott Gesty (gesty4congress@aol.com), chair of the Libertarian Party of Delaware, provided the following report:

First, The party and myself were very active this cycle. I participated in the Jewish Community Center and League of Women Voters debates and feedback was very positive. I also participated in a candidate forum in Wilmington on education before the primary where it was myself against five democrat hopefuls. That was an electric night! I also attended two Candidate Nights in Sussex County and sent an advocate to an event in New Castle.

The party participated in many events, most of which I attended. These included:

- The Wyoming Peach Festival
- The Wings and Wheels Festival
- Apple Scapple

- And the Sea Witch Festival Halloween Parade in Rehobeth (Which was huge)

Also, the New Castle County LPD held a booth at Newark Day in which our candidate for Governor, Sean Goward was featured.

My campaign did traditional and social media advertising through out the campaign. The week of the election, my ads were playing on four different radio stations up and down the state. On election day, Sean and I spent time with all our candidates at their polling places. That meant being at the very bottom of the state to start ,and ending in my district, 2 miles from the PA border. I'm sure I'm missing some stuff, but this is a pretty good summary.

We of course wished we'd done better, but there were positive results. My 6,400+ votes was the highest ever received by a Libertarian running for Congress in Delaware. Bob Wilson, who ran for State Rep. in my district in a two way race, scored 10% of the vote. Jimmy Brittingham ran in the 39th District for State Rep in a two way race against a Republican (unheard of in Sussex Co.!) doubled his vote total from 2014 and got 9% of the vote. Nadine Frost ran for City Council in Wilmington (the first time we've run anyone for this office) and received 7% of the vote! Sean's numbers for Governor were very respectable given the fact he did little campaigning and had virtually no money.

As for our 2017 convention, I'd like to have it in Q1 or early Q2 but no date as of yet I'll let you know the date as soon as I have it.

District of Columbia

John LaBeaume (jvlab@electiondissection.com) is the chair of the Libertarian Party of the District of Columbia. He reports that the LPDC has achieved “major party” status by virtue of two citywide candidates receiving more than 7,500 votes. This status entitles the LPDC to party registration and primary elections; in addition, the party does not have to petition to place candidates on the ballot.

Maryland

Bob Johnston (bob.johnston@live.com), chair of the Libertarian Party of Maryland, provided the following report.

Below are the election results for our 2016 candidates:

name	office	vote total	percentage
Gary Johnson	US President	76,400	2.9
Matt Beers	US House 1st	15,149	4.2
Kristin Kasprzak	US House 2nd	13,647	4.5
Ben Krause	US House 4th	5,440	1.8

Jason Summers	US House 5th	10,718	3.0
David Howser	US House 6th	6,575	2.1
Jasen Wunder	US House 8th	6,842	2.0
Susan Gaztanaga	President - City Council	6,118	2.8
Jon Bombach	City Comptroller	26,282	12.5
Leo Dymowski	Baltimore County Circuit Court Judge	91,676	18.8
April Ademiluyi	Prince George's County Circuit Court Judge	125,586	13.4

All of the US House candidates, as well as Jon Bombach, were running for office for the first time.

The Maryland LP needed the presidential candidate to get at least 1% of the vote to retain ballot access for the next two years, which was accomplished. Gary Johnson's vote percentage was the highest in the state for a non-establishment party presidential candidate since Ross Perot in 1996. To retain ballot access past 2018, the 2018 gubernatorial candidate must get at least 1%.

State party membership is 143, as of November 14, 2016.

The Maryland LP has 19,343 registered voters, which is 0.49% of all of the registered voters in the state. This is an increase of 2,724 registered voters at this time last year, and 8,054 since this time in 2012, an increase of 58%.

North Carolina

Brian Irving (brian@libertypoint.org), chair of the Libertarian Party of North Carolina, provided the following report:

We Tarheel Libertarians are over the moon following the results of the 2016 election. For the third time a row, the Libertarian Party preserved its ballot access status when Lon Cecil won more than two percent of the vote for governor. The Libertarians are the only party in modern North Carolina history to achieve this, other than the Democrats and Republicans. We achieved another historic first when Gary Johnson earned 2.72 percent of the vote for president.

Less than 5,000 votes separate the Democrat and Republican gubernatorial nominees. Although Democrat Roy Cooper claimed victory, there are still thousands of provisional votes to count. Cecil received more than 20 times that margin, 101,049 votes.

Another example of that impact is the race for Wake County's state House 49. Democrat Cynthia Ball unseated incumbent Republican Gary Pendleton by 852 votes. Libertarian David Ulmer pulled 2,258 votes. This was one of the most expensive General Assembly races in the state.

U.S. Senate candidate Sean Haugh earned the highest number of votes, 165,163 (3.56 percent). Jacki Cole got 130,252 votes (2.85 percent) for lieutenant governor.

Pennsylvania

Shawn House (lancasterlibertarian@comcast.net) is the chair of the Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania. I have not received a report from him.

Virginia

Bo Brown (boebrown@yahoo.com) is the chair of the Libertarian Party of Virginia. I have not received a report from him.

In my capacity as Region 5 representative, I received a request from Jacqueline Mason (LPVA secretary) that the LNC purchase a subscription to Hustle (a mass-texting service) that would be available to state and local affiliates. She indicated that the Johnson-Weld campaign used the service and found it to be very useful. (She used the service and spoke glowingly about it.) She provided the following information about the service:

Five-minute overview of how it works:

<https://vimeo.com/151729799>

(password is hustle-demo)

Case study of use by the Bernie Sanders campaign:

<https://docsend.com/view/2gd3597>

West Virginia

Michael Wilson (michael.wilson@lpwv.org) is the chair of the Libertarian Party of West Virginia. I have not received a report from him.