



Region 8 Report

Submitted on 12/7/16 by Regional Representative Patrick McKnight

Massachusetts:

The state party attained “major party” status in the Commonwealth and produced the strongest performance from a Libertarian Congressional Candidate in Massachusetts since Angelo Laudani in 1982.

That performance belonged to western Massachusetts’ Thomas Simmons, who received 8.6% of the vote in a three-way race for the 1st Congressional District of Massachusetts, totaling 27,427 votes. Simmons, a professor at Greenfield Community College, ran on a platform of local education controls, reduced tax burdens, defense of civil liberties, and was even endorsed by the Berniecrat’s candidate guide, a rare feat for a staunch Libertarian. Simmons’ ability to communicate liberty in a way that resonates with the casual Massachusetts voter will prove to be invaluable as the party grows its influence in Massachusetts politics.

With the Johnson-Weld campaign earning 136,784 votes for a 4.2% share of the Massachusetts vote, the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts will have “major party” status through the 2018 cycle. Unlike most states, this makes running Libertarians for most offices more difficult, by shrinking the pool of eligible voters who can sign nomination papers for our candidates. Despite this tactical disadvantage, there is one overriding benefit, perceived legitimacy. Voters will now see "Libertarian Party" on voter registration forms alongside the two old parties. Voters will now have the option to select the "Libertarian" ballot during primary elections. In order to market ourselves as a legitimate threat to the old parties, we must present ourselves as a credible alternative. “Major party” status will do just that.

New Hampshire:

LPNH now has Party status for the first time in 20 years, which means voters will be able to register as Libertarian and the LP will have a primary in 2018 – unless the law changes.

Gary Johnson won 4.2% (30,827 votes). The 2017 State convention is March 18.

We're still awaiting a decision on the case we filed in 2014 regarding the start date for collecting petitions. While this is moot for us in 2018, we still await the ruling as there is no guarantee we'll retain ballot access after 2018.

Concern is that LPNH will be forced to have a primary, thus removing party control over who we run as candidates.

EC was elected September 24. New Chair: Darryl W. Perry (1st term), Vice Chair: Rodger Paxton (former LP Arkansas Chair, 1st term), Secretary: Jillette Jarvis (1st term), Treasurer: Tom Kershaw (re-elected, 2nd or 3rd term), Membership Director: Brian McQuade (1st term)

Concord Monitor ran an article about us getting ballot access:

<http://www.concordmonitor.com/libertarian-part-ballot-access-5973160>

Maine:

1) Local candidates for city councils and probate judge averaged 18% of vote. Johnson got 5.1% (almost 38,000 votes, 5% in CD 1 & 6% in CD 2)

2) No major events but one is now brewing

3) We have cloture by Dec. 7 in regards to our federal District court case in regards to ballot restriction.

4) Stunningly, 5 days ago, the state forwarded some legislative changes to limit ballot restrictions for LPME. These legislative changes are to be submitted to the federal court. Very, very positive development.

5) No need for help or any issues between LPME and national. However, was not impressed with the presidential campaign's blatant lack of respect and communication with our state party. I have been told it was similar, unproductive tactics that occurred in 2012 as well. Suggest future presidential campaigns reconsider the importance of grass root activism. My comments are aimed at the very top; NOT; regional or state directors. Furthermore, a presidential candidate and a vice presidential candidate should be an LP member far longer than a week to become our candidate.

6) No leadership changes

7) No major media coverage

Other, out humble fb page was reaching up to 193,000 a few days before the election.

Connecticut:

Gary Johnson won 48,676 votes (3%). There is a meeting scheduled for 12/14 to plan the 2017 Convention.

New Jersey:

NJLP membership currently stands at 437. This is 110% year on year growth. We currently have 5,391 registered Libertarians. This is also 110% growth from the prior year.

The NJLP put a record 20 candidates on the ballot and received 122,785 votes. This includes Presidential Candidate Gary Johnson who earned a record 72,477 votes in the Garden State (1.9%).

The most successful candidates by percent of vote were local candidates Mike Roche with 24%, followed by Michael Chazukow, Tom Maciejewski and Patrick McKnight with 11% each respectively.

The highest total vote total after Johnson was Pete Rohrman (Bergen County Freeholder) with 7,524 followed by Claudio Belusic (US House 5th District) with 6,890 or and Demos Backos (Bergen County Freeholder) with 5,630. Claudio had the highest % of any candidate for US House with 2.2%.

We are 77% larger than the next biggest party (the Green Party at 3,049) making us without a doubt the largest third party in the state of New Jersey.

The NJLP has our annual Holiday Party December 10th at Killarney's in Hamilton. The 2017 NJLP State Convention is March 11th at the Rutgers University Conference Center in New Brunswick. Confirmed speakers include Larry Sharpe, Bob Bowdon and Julie Burkowski.

We're now gearing up for the 2017 statewide elections for Governor, State Senate, and State Assembly. We expect to continue our growth next year and beyond as we advance the cause of liberty.

Vermont:

Gary Johnson - 10,078 votes (3.14%)

Ted Schaft (state house) – 291 (3.32%)

Varpilah Chase (state house) – 845 (8.79%)

Ballot access is maintained.

New York:

Gary Johnson/Bill Weld - 161,836 votes (2.3%)

Alex Merced - Libertarian Line - 43,944 (0.61%)

December 2016 - 456 LPNY paid members, up 127%

5954 active registered Libertarian voters

We held an in-conference state committee meeting on November 13th at which we appointed a new Temporary County Chairman and replace a TCC. We currently have 17 chapters in NYC. This is an increase of 3 this year. We hope to have more formed shortly. None of our candidate that were on the ballot came close to winning. We had 5 congressional candidates running. None of them made it on the ballot even though two had succeeded in collecting sufficient number of signatures they could not survive the challenge.

It looks like the Board of Elections will receive a visit from the LPNY Chair and at least one of the Vice Chairs. They are continuing to wrongfully record and manage the records for Libertarian voters across the state. Chair hopes to gain the support of the state BoE to resolve these problems that are plaguing the LPNY and the people who want to be affiliated on the books with our party. It would appear that more than 80% of the problems begin at the county level.

Chair doesn't know where this initiative to clean up the BoE records will end up, but once it is clear whether it will be a voluntary clean up, one induced by publicity, or one ordered by the courts.

Without exception that I know of, the LPNY delegation to the convention in Florida was appalled at the outcome. We even participated in some of the shenanigans because that was the custom. We intend to take steps at our end to make our participation in such events impossible. One of the issues we are talking about is the seating of delegates that are not from your state just because your state did not provide enough delegates to fill the delegate slots. For one, the policy makes a mockery of, and is contrary to, the intent of the allocation of delegates as determined by the LNC. The LPNY had people who did not show up and we participated in seating people from other states in our delegation. We found we sat people that their own state refused to have as alternates, they were not honest to us when we vetted them, and the entire process appeared to be a mechanism to allow candidates with money to stack the convention with their supporters (buying rooms, meals, etc. in the hopes that the people they brought down would be seated as delegates in states they do not live in.)

The LPNY is considering passing a bylaws amendment stating that the LPNY cannot seat delegates who do not live in NYS. We will grandfather in those who did live in NYS and subsequently moved out of state. But we will not participate in this fracas in the future.

The LP should consider a bylaws change that prohibits people being seated from other states. If a state cannot get their delegate seats filled, they should forfeit them. Perhaps as an incentive to make sure states fill their seats, come the next convention, cause the state loose 1/2 the number of their delegates seats that were left vacant at the last convention and allocate those seats to the other states right up front. It is ridiculous, and somewhat dishonest to use delegate seats at a convention as a revenue source for the party. It also is a source of nearly mass confusion at the delegate check in desk. Such a policy would simplify their job tremendously.

Many were also appalled at the lack of a credentials check. Many of the standing votes were stacked with un-credentialed interlopers. We did a better job, in fact we did an excellent job, at the convention in Ohio.

In Florida, the doors were wide open!

Many LPNY members were also appalled in the fact that there was no credentials check of the national candidates that required the candidate to qualify to be a candidate at least 6 months prior to being nominated as a candidate. Weld stated that he just joined the Libertarian party just 11 days earlier and that he had read our platform just a day before the convention. He did say that "it was good". Such a situation was an insult to every short and long term individual in the room. Can't the LP do a better job credentialing candidates and set up a standard they have to meet as a guide for consideration?