

Libertarian National Committee

Region 3 Report

*Regional Report for Region 3
Libertarian National Committee Meeting
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submitted by Brett C. Bittner*

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Region 3 Overview

Region 3 maintained its member-affiliates at the 2016 Libertarian National Convention: Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, and Ohio. This Region is comprised of States with similar constituencies and similar approaches to Party growth.

National Membership for the Region

All four states in the region experienced a decline in membership numbers between July 2016 and July 2017.

YEAR OVER YEAR NATIONAL SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP TRENDS

July 2016 National Membership Summary

	Total Members	Total Sustaining Members	Sustaining Membership Rank
INDIANA	3438	537	10
KENTUCKY	1260	163	32
MICHIGAN	5388	550	9
OHIO	5474	715	6

July 2017 National Membership Summary

	Total Members	Total Sustaining Members	Sustaining Membership Rank
INDIANA	3313	425	13
KENTUCKY	1202	146	33
MICHIGAN	5257	541	9
OHIO	4970	649	6

Libertarian Party of Indiana

State Organization

Party Leadership Structure

ELECTED POSITIONS - SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT THE UPCOMING STATE CONVENTION

State Chair: Timothy Maguire (chair@lpin.org)

Vice Chair: Rodney Benker (vicechair@lpin.org)

Treasurer: Michael Schultheiss (treasurer@lpin.org)

Secretary: Frank Rossa (secretary@lpin.org)

District 1 Rep: Perry Sheetz

District 2 Rep: Nick Hamill

District 3 Rep: Kristi Avery

District 4 Rep: Dan Church

District 5 Rep: Greg Noland

District 6 Rep: Jeremiah Morrell

District 7 Rep: Chris Spangle

District 8 Rep: Lindsay Marie

District 9 Rep: Greg Hertzsch

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Technology Director: Jesse Riddle

Political Director: Sam Goldstein

Office Space

LPIN has office space in Indianapolis at 1111 E. 54th St., Suite 158, Indianapolis, IN 46220.

Paid Staff/Contractors

The Libertarian Party of Indiana is an all volunteer organization at this time.

State Level Membership

LPIN has 425 national and state members. Its state level membership is defined by those who contribute \$25 annually to the National LP.

Sub-Affiliates

LPIN organizes its sub-affiliates by county. It currently has 16 active, affiliated county parties, and 18 inactive, affiliated county parties, and 58 unaffiliated counties.

Elections

Current Election Cycle (2016)

2016 GENERAL ELECTION

In total, 45 Libertarians appeared on the ballot in Indiana in partisan races. Hagerstown Judge Susan Bell won re-election to her fifth term. Currently, 8 Libertarians are elected to public office in Indiana.

On the Federal side, the 2016 ticket was led by Governor Gary Johnson and Governor Bill Weld for President and Vice President, respectively. Lucy Brenton represented the party in the race for United States Senate. Nine candidates represented the party for U.S. Congress in all Congressional Districts.

On the state level, the ticket was led by longtime LP activist and contractor Rex Bell for Governor and 2014 Secretary of State Candidate Karl Tatgenhorst served as his running mate for Lt. Governor. The LPIN was represented by 21 candidates for State Senate and House, per their candidate listing on LPIN.org.

You can view the complete list of candidates at <http://lpin.org/2016-candidates/>.

2016 RAW ELECTION NUMBERS

(Numbers based on reporting the Secretary of State, updated December 2, 2016.)

US President: The Johnson/Weld ticket garnered 133,993 votes. This is a 167% increase over Johnson/Gray in 2012 and 358% over Barr/Root in 2008 and a 642% increase over Badnarik/Campagna in 2004. Their percentage was at 4.9%, compared to 1.9% in 2012, Barr/Root at 1.1% in 2008, and Badnarik/Campagna at 0.7% in 2004.

US Senate: Lucy Brenton received 149,481 vote, just besting Andrew Horning by 2.9% who received 145,282 votes in 2012, Rebecca Sink-Burris by 58.5%.

US House Races: The LPIN's nine candidates combined for 165,160 votes Statewide, LP

candidates achieved 6.2% of the total US House vote.

IN Governor: Rex Bell, who suffered a stroke about a week before Election Day, earned 3.2% of the vote with 87,025 votes, falling short of Rupert Boneham's 101,868 in 2012. This still bests 2008's efforts by 52%.

Results over the last Decade for Libertarians:

US Senate:

Osborn 2006: 168,820; 12.6% (2-way)

Sink-Burriss 2010: 94,562; 5.4%

Horning 2012: 144,806; 5.8%

Brenton 2016: 149,481; 5.5%

Combined US House (percentages include all 9 races in each year):

2006: 17,324; 1.0% (2 candidates)

2008: 47,306; 1.8% (5 candidates)

2010: 84,518; 4.8% (9 candidates)

2012: 59,088; 2.4% (5 candidates)

2014: 44,951, 3.4% (8 candidates)

2016: 165,610, 6.2% (9 candidates)

Governor:

Horning 2008: 57,376; 2.1%

Boneham 2012: 100,335; 4.0%

Bell 2016: 87,025, 3.2%

President:

Barr 2008: 29,257; 1.1%

Johnson 2012: 49,194; 1.9%

Johnson 2016: 133,993, 4.9%

Auditor:

Knipe 2010: 78,098; 4.6%
Schick 2014: 58,269; 4.4%

SOS:

Kole 2006: 54,381; 3.3%
Wherry 2010: 100,847; 5.9%
Tatgenhorst 2014: 45,341; 3.4%

Ballot Access

Recent Ballot Access Activity

LPIN has automatic ballot access because they have surpassed 2% in the in the last Secretary of State (SOS) race. This was reaffirmed with the 2014 SOS race, run by Karl Tatgenhorst.

Upcoming Ballot Access Activity

Ballot access is determined every 4 years by the SOS race results; as long as LPIN continues to reach or surpass the 2% mark it will retain ballot access for another 4 years. No problems are expected with maintaining ballot access in the near future, as LPIN hit 3.4% in the last SOS race.

Activities

State Level Activities

2017 STATE CONVENTION

The 2017 Libertarian Party of Indiana Convention was held May 5-7, at the Tropicana Executive Conference Center in Evansville, IN.

Convention delegates elected Timothy Maguire as LPIN Chair. Many thanks were warmly imparted to Joe Hauptmann for having served his third separate stint as Chair. Delegates reelected Vice Chair Rodney Benker, Secretary Frank Rossa, and Treasurer Michael Schultheiss. And at Sunday's State Central Committee meeting, two Directors were appointed, namely Sam Goldstein as Political Director and Jesse Riddle as Technology Director.

From among the highly deserving nominees on our 2017 special recognition ballot, the delegates voted to honor the following five.

Dr. Barbara Bourland Light of Liberty Award winner Rex Bell was chosen as the person most responsible for notable growth of the LPIN and dedication to the Libertarian cause.

Susan Bell Officeholder of the Year Award winner Susan Bell was named as the current elected officeholder from the LPIN who best promoted Libertarian principles through public service.

Phil Miller Candidate of the Year winner Lucy Brenton was selected as the candidate showing significant ability to connect with voters and to further the goals of Libertarianism.

Joe Hauptmann Campaign Leadership Award winner Jeremiah Morrell was honored as the volunteer who worked in an extraordinary way to significantly advance a campaign.

Ken Bisson Outreach Award winner Rodney Benker was recognized as the member who worked exceptionally well bringing the Libertarian message to as many potential voters as possible.

Selected by outgoing Chair Joe Hauptmann as recipients of Campaign Leadership Awards for their outstanding work were Alyssa Salgado, Rodney Benker, and Rex Bell.

Local Level Activities

For a non-election year, many of the local affiliates have been far more active than in previous years.

Finances & Fundraising

Current Initiatives

TEXAS HOLD'EM TOURNAMENTS

LPIN is able to hold Texas Hold'em tournaments through the state's charity gaming license program. It is very successful in raising money with these annual events.

1994 SOCIETY

This is the monthly pledge program and it brings in the majority of the income for the party.

LICENSE THE STATEWIDE VOTER REGISTRATION

LPIN licenses the Statewide Voter Registration to several data companies for a good profit.

Future Initiatives

UNKNOWN

Information Technology

LPIN's website is currently running on WordPress with a recently updated template thanks to the work of Andy Burns. There is a new Constituent Resource Management (CRM) system for data management, Wild Apricot.

Other

LPIN Vice Chair Rodney Benker notes, "Indiana is going to crush it in 2017 & 18."

Libertarian Party of Kentucky

State Organization

Party Leadership Structure

Chair: Harlan Compton

Vice Chair: Bryan Short

Treasurer: Ken Moellman

Secretary: Chris Wiest

Office Space

LPKY had office space donated for 2 months which was utilized to promote the Libertarian Party Presidential Ticket in a high-traffic area in Northern Kentucky. This was the first office space in LPKY history and was donated and managed by Chris Robinson (LPKY Judicial Committee) and Amy Robinson (LPKY District 4 Chair.) Of interest, this was the same space Alison Grimes used during her US Senate campaign against Mitch McConnell (R) and David Patterson (L). Office space is being considered for future endeavors. Mail can be sent to LPKY at P.O. Box 73213, Bellevue, KY 41073.

Paid Staff/Contractors

None

State Level Membership

Membership at the state level is represented by the number of people who reside in KY and pay the \$30 (or more) annual dues to the state, monthly donors who pay \$10/month to the state, 1798 Club members who pay \$17.98/month to the state and Lifetime Members who donated \$1,000 or more within a calendar year to the state . There are currently nearly 100 dues paying members in KY.

Membership requirements haven't changed since 2009, but the requirements are determined by the state executive committee which, as a body, can change the requirements at will.

Sub-Affiliates

The State of Kentucky recognizes LPKY's affiliates that have filed with KREF and LPKY is actively working to grow by chartering one remaining congressional district and then by chartering more counties in 2017 (LPKY chartered 2 more counties in 2016.)

There are currently 6 congressional districts in Kentucky, 5 of which (1, 2, 3, 4, & 6) have active LPKY affiliates, 1 which is in the development phase.

Elections

Past Election Cycle (2016)

PARTY STATUS CHANGES FROM "POLITICAL GROUP" TO "POLITICAL ORGANIZATION"

With the Johnson/Weld ticket earning 4.5% of the state's votes for President/Vice President, LPKY is now recognized by the Commonwealth of Kentucky as a "Political Organization," with the same petitioning requirements as the Republican and Democratic parties. 53,752 votes were cast for the ticket. This means that ballot access is secured through 2020's election and future status will depend on the 2020 Presidential ticket's outcome.

ONE LIBERTARIAN ELECTED TO PARTISAN OFFICE

Mitch Rushing – Jefferson County Commission

Past Election Cycle (2014)

TWO LIBERTARIANS ELECTED TO PARTISAN OFFICE

Shannon Denniston - Magistrate in Montgomery County

Tracy Roberts - Magistrate in Marshall County

TWO CANDIDATES BROKE 10% IN A THREE-WAY RACE

Cristi Kendrick - Boone County Commissioner #2 earned 11.24%

Joseph Redmon - Hardin County Constable #5 earned 12.86%

DAVID PATTERSON - US SENATE

David Patterson broke the record for the most votes received by a Libertarian in Kentucky. 44,231 voters chose David Patterson for US Senate.

Recent Ballot Access Activity

The state of Kentucky defines a "political party" as getting 20% or more in KY the presidential race, a "political organization" as getting 2%-20%, and a "political group" as getting less than 2%.

Ballot access for the organization label is such that signature requirements have now dropped to the same levels as the R's and D's, reducing signature gathering time and costs, while most likely increasing the number of candidates who would be willing and able to run on the LP ticket in Kentucky. LPKY is no longer considered a "political group", and LPKY candidates are no longer required to gather significantly more signatures to get on the ballot than their R & D counterparts. This is record breaking history for the LP in KY and is in large part due to the efforts of the KY campaign, managed by LPKY's own Vice-Chair Bryan Short, regionally by LPKY Boone County's own Cristi Kendrick and the outreach efforts of LPKY's District affiliates.

Activities

State Level Activities

2017 State Convention took place in Ludlow, KY in June 2017

Local Level Activities

Finances & Fundraising

Recent Initiatives

LPKY raised nearly \$45,000 for ballot access and achieved the goal, securing the ballot for all Libertarian candidates in KY for the next 4 years!

Current Initiatives

Future Initiatives

The Fundraising Committee plans to work with the Membership Committee throughout 2017 to more than double the roster of dues paying members by January 1, 2018.

Media Coverage

Nothing recent

Information Technology

LPKY recently launched a fully overhauled website with the most current version of WordPress and pulling in theme and content elements to both bring its presence on the web into today's age and in-line with LP national's look and feel.

Other

LPKY has shattered records all year long and surpassed its goals, and in their own words
“We’ve only just begun!”

Libertarian Party of Michigan

State Organization

Party Leadership Structure

ELECTED POSITIONS

- **Chair** – Bill Hall, chair@michiganlp.org
- **1st Vice Chair (Affiliates)** – Tim Yow, vcaffiliates@michiganlp.org
- **2nd Vice Chair (Political)** - Gregory Stempfle, vcpoliticaldirector@michiganlp.org
- **Secretary** – Emily Salvette, secretary@michiganlp.org
- **Treasurer** – Jason Brandenburg, treasurer@michiganlp.org

Executive Committee Representatives (by Congressional District):

- **District 1** - Donna Gundle-Kreig
- **District 2** - Mary Buzuma
- **District 3** - Jamie Lewis
- **District 4** - Tim Coon
- **District 5** - Mark Sanborn
- **District 6** - Wendi Parker
- **District 7** - Norman Peterson
- **District 8** - Jeff Wood
- **District 9** - Mike Saliba
- **District 10** - John Kanan
- **District 11** - Paul Connolly

- **District 12** - Lawrence W. Johnson
- **District 13** - Tiffany Hayden
- **District 14** - Ben Carr

Judicial Committee:

- James Hudler, Kerry Morgan, Ken Proctor

APPOINTED POSITIONS

- Webmaster – Ryan Patrosso
- Membership Coordinator – JJ McCurry
- Media Director – Bradley Hunt

Office Space

LPM does not currently have any office space or plans to acquire any. Mail can be sent to LPM at P.O. Box 27065, Lansing, MI 48909

State Level Membership

Working on updating this information

Sub-Affiliates

Affiliates are currently being formed by groups of neighboring counties. There are currently a total of 13 sub-affiliates:

- 4 very active
- 4 active
- 4 forming (2 of which are due to new volunteers who have offered to start a local group since the last report)
- 3 inactive

Elections

Past Election Cycle (2016)

The Johnson/Weld ticket garnered 172,136 votes for 3.59% of the ballot. Johnson/Gray did not appear on the ballot in 2012, yet received 7,774 write-in votes for .16%. 2008's Barr/Root ticket earned 23,716 votes and .47%.

LPMI ran 69 candidates from President to Township Trustee.

SPECIAL ELECTION RESULTS

LP Michigan ran 2 candidates in the 2016 special election for House District 80 and House District 82.

Arnie Davidson received 6.13% of the vote in House District 80.

Tracy Spilker received 4.86% of the vote in House District 82.

The most notable result is State Rep candidate Michael J. Perry who received 13% of the vote in a 3-way race, achieving 4,843 votes.

Ballot Access

Recent Ballot Access Activity

Major party status achieved by virtue of the 2016 Presidential ticket success.

Upcoming Ballot Access Activity

See special convention below about changes to bylaws now that major party status has been attained.

Activities

State Level Activities

2017 SPECIAL CONVENTION

The 2017 Libertarian Party of Michigan special convention took place February 4th, where bylaws were reformed. Firstly, to conform with the scheduling requirements of the State Election Law. Secondly, to enact some reforms which LPM thinks will help them be more successful going forward. Some highlights:

- The 2018 Convention will now take place in August / September as mandated by the State. Most of the candidates will be nominated by primary. Some will be done at this later Convention.

- The State LEC under the new bylaws due to party status change were elected for a 2 year term to coincide with the election cycle on July 29 in Lansing.
- The LEC is now differently constructed. 5 officers.... Chair, 2 Vice-Chairs, Treasurer, and Secretary will be elected At-Large. Each of our 14 Congressional Districts choose one representative to the Exec Committee.
- LPM will be utilizing a delegate process for choosing the voting members at the Convention. Emily Salvette has taken on the challenge of doing our first one.

UNAFFILIATED COUNTIES

Unaffiliated counties were distributed into 7 regions, organizing them to help select delegates, LPM expects at least 4 of these to develop into affiliates. In the mean time, they're making a lot of ongoing contacts and building up areas long ignored, as new members continue to flow in.

Local Level Activities

LIBERTY FEST

Liberty Fest is an annual event in LP Michigan which is held by a different local affiliate each year. The purpose is to recognize dedicated members of LP Michigan. The event includes an award presentation for a Promoter of Liberty, a Defender of Liberty, and a Behind the Scenes Liberty Activist. This is a chance for LP Michigan leaders to congratulate and express their gratitude for the hardest working and most successful members and celebrate recent LP Michigan successes.

Finances & Fundraising

Past Initiatives

None active

Current Initiatives

None active

Future Initiatives

None planned currently

Media Coverage

None listed on the website at this time

Information Technology

LPM currently uses Wordpress as the back-end for its website.

Other

Libertarian Party of Ohio

State Organization

Party Leadership Structure

ELECTED POSITIONS

Like the Republican and Democrat counterparts in Ohio, the Libertarian Party of Ohio (LPO) is managed by a state Central Committee (CentCom) which is a body of members elected through the formal election primary process.

The CentCom operates like a board of directors which elects the state Executive Committee (ExCom) which runs the day to day operations of the LPO.

- Chair: [Scott Pettigrew – scott.pettigrew@lpo.org](mailto:scott.pettigrew@lpo.org)
- Vice Chair: Dustin Nanna – dustin.nanna@lpo.org
- Secretary: Robert Coogan – robert.coogan@lpo.org
- Deputy Secretary (non-voting): Kevin Knedler – kevin.knedler@lpo.org
- Treasurer: Linda Comstock – linda.comstock@lpo.org
- At-Large: Ann Leech – ann.leech@lpo.org
- At-Large: Aarica Burwell - aarica.burwell@lpo.org
- At-Large: Tim Smyth – tim.smyth@lpo.org

APPOINTED POSITIONS

The LPO bylaws specify a divisional structure for the LPO and allow for the ExCom chair to appoint division directors to lead each division. The LPO believes the divisional structure provides a strong set of leaders, each of whom is focused on an area of expertise and responsibility. With this approach, no one person needs to know or be responsible for too many different activities.

The divisions and appointed leaders are as follows:

- Communication Division – Director - Dustin Nanna, Deputy Director - John Fockler, Media Contact - Aaron Harris
- Field Development Division – Director: Tim Smyth, Deputy Director - Open, Membership Coordinator - Michelle MacCutcheon
- Finance Division – Director: Vacant
- IT Division – Director: Alon Ganon
- Political Division – Director: Tricia Sprankle, Deputy Director: Harold Thomas, Deputy Director (Legislative) - Nicholas Rodriguez

Office Space

The LPO maintains its two-room, fully-functional office of approximately 240 sq. ft. at 2586 Tiller Lane, Suite 2K, Columbus, OH 43231-2265.

Paid Staff/Contractors

The LPO currently has one paid contractor who is paid on a commission basis as Finance Director. The Finance Director is responsible for tracking and soliciting contributions, managing the benefits to the contributors, keeping personal contact with higher level donors, sending thank you cards, planning income-generating events and activities, etc.

State Level Membership

Nothing submitted

Sub-Affiliates

Nothing submitted

Elections

Past Election Cycle (2016)

Due to the ballot access issues in place in Ohio, Gary Johnson was listed as an Independent candidate for President, rather than having the Libertarian Party label. He earned 174,498 votes or 3.17% of the 5,607,641 votes cast. No other LPO candidates appeared on the ballot.

Past Election Cycle (2014)

Auditor of State: Bob Bridges – 4.77%, 143363 votes

Secretary of State: Kevin Knedler – 4.67%, 141292 votes

US House District 5: Eric Eberly – 4.62%, 9344 votes

US House District 10: David Harlow – 3.29%, 6605 votes

US House District 14: David Macko – 3.72%, 7988 votes

State House District 19: Chad Monnin – 8.31%, 3253 votes

State House District 24: Mark Noble – 5.08%, 2032 votes

State House District 31: Queen Noble – 3.27%, 887 votes

State House District 57: Robert Sherwin – 5.31%, 1701 votes

State House District 62: Scott Pettigrew – 5.96%, 1918 votes

State House District 97: Nelson Roe – 25.28%, 7018 votes

Ballot Access

Recent Ballot Access Activity

In 2014, Governor candidate Charlie Earl and Attorney General candidate Stephen Linnabary were removed from the ballot by the Secretary of State after petitioning to appear on the November general election ballot. As a result of SB 193 in Ohio, the Governor's race is the ballot test race for maintaining ballot access. Without a candidate, ballot access was not retained. SB 193 set high barriers for alternative parties to get their candidates on the ballot and to retain access once they obtain it. It also bars parties new to the ballot from holding primaries, which under Ohio law is the only way a voter may become recognized as a member of any political party. SB 193 set a threshold of 2% of the vote for governor in the 2014 election for an alternative party to retain access. In future years, that figure would rise to 3% of the vote for president in presidential years or for governor in the years in which that office is elected.

Upcoming Ballot Access Activity

The LPO is currently petitioning for 2018 party status on the ballot. See ballot access report for greater detail on these activities.

Members of the committee that petitioned to place the Johnson/Weld ticket on the ballot filed paperwork with the office of Secretary of State Jon Husted claiming party status and ballot access for the next four years. If successful, this effort will place LPO candidates in 2017 on primary ballots for consideration by the public.

Activities

State Level Activities

2017 CONFERENCE SCHEDULED

The LPO has scheduled a conference for May 4-5, 2017

ANNUAL LPO CONVENTION (2016)

In August, the LPO held their 2016 convention.

ANNUAL LPO PICNIC

The LPO held its annual picnic on September 17th at the Tiller Lane complex (where its offices are located). The picnic is a family friendly event with plenty of food and drink, and typically features the always popular fundraiser, “pie in the face of your favorite LPO leader.” The LPO has also used a “dunk tank for your LPO leaders” as a new fundraiser which also proved financially successful.

Local Level Activities

COUNTY FAIRS

The local affiliates had a presence at 5 county fairs (at least), all with very good attendance and successful outreach for new volunteers.

UPCOMING TRAINING AND TEAM BUILDING

The LPO plans to ramp up its local and regional team meetings with training and team building to continue the upward trend in county affiliate formation and local activism.

Finances & Fundraising

Nothing to note

Media Coverage

Nothing to note

Information Technology

The LPO upgraded their website and database to the Libertas platform in 2013.

Other

Nothing to note