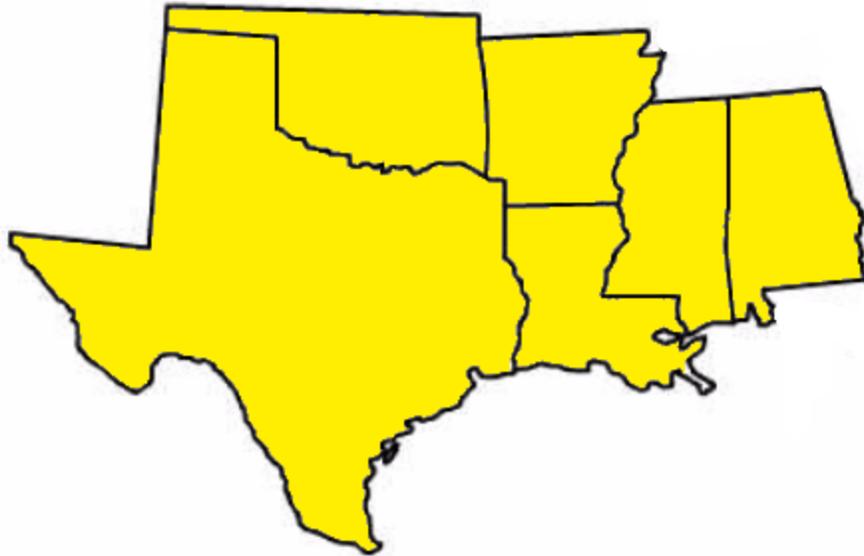


Libertarian National Committee Region 7

Region Representative - Whitney Bilyeu
Region Alternate - Erin Adams



AUGUST 19-20, 2017

KANSAS CITY, MO

❖ **ARKANSAS - Michael Pakko**

➤ STATE ORGANIZATION

➤ STATE LEVEL MEMBERSHIP

➤ COUNTY NEWS

➤ ELECTIONS

- On July 10th Arkansas Secretary of State Mark Martin declared The Libertarian Party of Arkansas a “New Political Party” for the fourth consecutive time. Now that the Libertarian Party of Arkansas (LPAR) is officially on the ballot for 2018, candidate recruitment will be the party’s next major task.
- According to Stephen Wait, the party’s Treasurer, “Petitioning to become a new political party again cost over \$25,000 and a lot of volunteer hours. Despite the obstacles the old parties put in our way, we are happy to provide freedom loving Arkansans the opportunity to vote for candidates who will represent their views.”
- The Libertarian Party of Arkansas is currently seeking liberty minded individuals who are interested in running for office. The LPAR’s elections committee has already been contacted by numerous people interested in seeking the party’s nomination for various positions.

➤ BALLOT ACCESS

- The Party had submitted 15,108 signatures to the Elections Division of the Secretary of State’s office on June 12th. After spending almost three weeks verifying the submitted signatures, the Secretary of State notified the party that its new political party petition was sufficient. Leslie Bellamy, the Director of Elections, informed the party that 12,749 of the signatures were valid.
- In accordance with Arkansas Code Annotated § 7-7- 205, new political parties are required to file a petition with the Secretary of State. The party has 90 days to collect signatures from at least 10,000 registered Arkansas voters. To retain ballot access, the party’s candidate for Governor will have to receive 3% of the votes cast for Governor.

➤ ACTIVITIES/EVENTS

➤ FINANCE & FUNDRAISING

➤ MEDIA

➤ INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

➤ OTHER

❖ **LOUISIANA - Rufus Craig**

➤ STATE ORGANIZATION

➤ STATE LEVEL MEMBERSHIP

➤ COUNTY NEWS

➤ ELECTIONS

- Joseph Little, of Ponchatoula, will run for State Treasurer in the Special Election on October 14th. Joseph is a Navy veteran, with a degree in Economics. He is highly qualified for the position, and represents the LP very well.

➤ BALLOT ACCESS

➤ ACTIVITIES/EVENTS

- LP Louisiana is looking forward to entertaining us at the 2018 convention.

➤ FINANCE & FUNDRAISING

- MEDIA
- INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
- OTHER
 - Louisiana moved up a rank in National Membership.

❖ **MISSISSIPPI - Denise Cranford**

- STATE ORGANIZATION
 - We have grown by 20% since April.
- STATE LEVEL MEMBERSHIP
- COUNTY NEWS
 - We have established 3 new counties.
- ELECTIONS
 - Big news is the election of our first Libertarian in the state, Mayor Steve McCluskey.
- BALLOT ACCESS
- ACTIVITIES/EVENTS
- FINANCE & FUNDRAISING
- MEDIA
- INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
- OTHER
 - An election commissioner plans to switch parties, and join the LP.
 - The newly formed Libertarian Youth Caucus of Mississippi is seeking members to across the state's high schools, homeschool groups, college campuses, and other youth/young adult organizations.

❖ **OKLAHOMA - Tina Kelly**

- STATE ORGANIZATION
 - As new affiliate groups have been organizing and active members around the state have been looking to next year's gubernatorial primary, the decision to open primaries to Independents or keep them closed to registered Libertarians has become a hot topic. The State Executive Committee will decide which course to take at a special meeting on Saturday, October 7. In the meantime, party leadership is working to organize public events that will help both party members and Independents share their opinions and concerns about each alternative.
 - As the countdown to 2018 continues, the Oklahoma Libertarian Party is diligently establishing local organizations and recruiting candidates.
- STATE LEVEL MEMBERSHIP
- COUNTY NEWS
- ELECTIONS
 - With the announcements of Chris Powell for Governor, William Cagle for House 84, and William Weaver for House 26, we now have 3 declared candidates for

governor; 5 other candidates for US House, State Senate, and State House; and many more working to organize their teams.

- Traci Baker Chair of the OKLP candidate support Committee submits the following: In the last few months as head candidate liaison, my committee and I have successfully recruited candidates to field for statewide, federal, and local offices. We have equipped these candidates and organized press conferences where they received significant media attention. We are presently working to organize the first ever libertarian debate in Oklahoma and we have primaries for both the governor and Lt gov races.

➤ **BALLOT ACCESS**

- Registration drives will continue to be a priority as upcoming events targeting Independent engagement offer new opportunities to interact with politically active Oklahomans who are finished playing the old parties' games.

➤ **ACTIVITIES/EVENTS**

- Rose State College will host a point-counterpoint panel discussion from 11am-1pm on Tuesday, September 12, for any interested parties to attend.
- On Oct. 7 th at Highland park in Guthrie Oklahoma there will be a special meeting. This is a special meeting of the Executive Committee called for the sole purpose of discussing and voting on the issue of whether to allow Independents to vote in the 2018 OKLP primaries. The meeting is open to the public and all are encouraged to attend.
- The Oklp along with the Outright Oklahoma caucus and the YOUTH outright Oklahoma caucus, participated in in PRIDE festivities with a booth and Float entry in the Parade. Both were well received and re-registration efforts afforded some success.

➤ **FINANCE & FUNDRAISING**

➤ **MEDIA**

- The OKLP hosted its second candidate press conference last month to showcase top candidates within the state.

➤ **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

➤ **OTHER**

- State Question 788 WILL be on the ballot next November. A “yes” vote supports this measure to legalize the licensed cultivation, use, and possession of marijuana for medicinal purposes. A “no” opposes this measure to legalize the licensed cultivation, use, and possession of marijuana for medicinal purposes.
 - Signatures for the measure were certified in September 2016. However, the date of signatures submission, a rewrite of the ballot title, and an ensuing court battle meant the initiative was not certified for 2016. On March 27, 2017, the Oklahoma Supreme Court resolved the lawsuit, ruling in favor of the organization supporting the initiative. The finalized ballot title was certified by the secretary of state on June 15, 2017. The

governor will issue a proclamation setting forth an election date for the initiative. A governor has not selected a date different from the general election for an initiative since 2005.

- The OKLP is proud to announce that Oklahoma's own Erin Adams has been elected with overwhelming support to fill the LNC Region 7 Alternate seat recently vacated by Danny Bedwell. Erin has been very active in the party, serving in multiple roles and positions.

❖ **TEXAS - John Wilford**

- STATE ORGANIZATION
- STATE LEVEL MEMBERSHIP
- COUNTY NEWS
- ELECTIONS
- LEGISLATIVE ACTION
- BALLOT ACCESS
- ACTIVITIES/EVENTS
 - LPBexar is hosting an LP Leadership Retreat at the YO Ranch Headquarters October 13 - 15 in Mountain Home, TX. LNC members are invited to attend. The purpose is to develop the leadership across the state, and help our County Chairpersons understand the function of each level of the LP, and the related resources.
- FINANCE & FUNDRAISING
- MEDIA
- INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
- OTHER