



LP News

I'm *THAT* Libertarian!
2018
New Orleans
LIBERTARIAN NATIONAL CONVENTION
Page 5

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As Donald Trump's warfare threats rise, Libertarians call for withdrawal from NATO

In response to the escalation of threats of warfare by the Donald Trump administration, the Libertarian National Committee adopted the following resolution at its quarterly meeting Aug. 19–20 in Kansas City, Mo.: “Resolved, the Libertarian National Committee calls for the immediate U.S. government withdrawal from NATO.”

President Trump's foreign policy seems to depend on which advisor he talked to last ... or whatever his Twitter muse may be in the early morning hours. Clearly, the last people he listened to before addressing the nation on Afghanistan last Monday night were his generals. He raised the specter of terrorism to justify killing Taliban, Al Qaida, and ISIS terrorists, saying that he would give the military a free hand.

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ABANDON ITS ATTEMPTS TO ACT AS
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He vowed to maximize economic sanctions, accused Pakistan of harboring terrorists, and demanded more money from

our NATO allies. According to the Cato Institute, the chances of dying in a terrorist
continued on page 8...

Former GOP rep who joined LP explains government dysfunction

By Carla Howell

Dan Truitt was busy running his firm, Truitt Engineering, in 2009 when his local Republican committeewoman in Chester County, Penn., approached him and asked him to run for a state House seat. She was looking for a well-spoken small business owner to run against Democratic incumbent Barbara McIlvane-Smith.

So Truitt did some research. He took several online surveys and discovered, to his surprise, that he was libertarian. Pennsylvania uses straight-ticket voting, though, in which a voter can simply check off “Democrat” or “Republican” at the top of the ballot and thereby cast a vote for every candidate of that party on the ballot — without knowing who's actually running.

He found that 55 percent of the voters in his district opt to vote straight ticket, which means a Libertarian has to win an overwhelming majority of the remaining 45 percent of the vote just to

eke out a plurality.

This is virtually impossible for a third-party candidate, so Truitt opted to run on the Republican ticket, with a plan to change his party registration to Libertarian after his last term was over.

The Republicans didn't think anyone could take back the 156th district seat in 2010, but after knocking on 10,000 doors in the district, a suburb of Philadelphia, Truitt won by 214 votes, returning the seat to the GOP.

He won reelection twice, serving for a total of six years. He narrowly lost his reelection to a fourth term last November when Democrats turned out in high numbers to vote against Donald Trump. Truitt's opponents had run ads that painted him as a Trump supporter when, in fact, he supported and voted for Gary Johnson, which he revealed in a radio interview before the election.

The \$180,000 he raised for his campaign, however, was not enough to counter the \$500,000 that his opponents spent in or
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Dan Truitt

CHAIR'S Corner

LP solutions address everyday concerns

By Nicholas Sarwark, Chair

In one week in August, I found myself in Graves County, Ky., and Fajardo, Puerto Rico, two incredibly different places with the same warm reception for libertarian solutions.

The Libertarian Party of Kentucky has grown to the point where it has earned a speaking slot at Fancy Farm, the world's largest picnic and premiere political event in Kentucky. Thousands of people attend for the barbecue and fellowship, and, most of all, for the political speeches. The state party honored me by inviting me to speak on their behalf, something I couldn't turn down.

After people like Mitch McConnell and Andy Beshear delivered the same tired political rhetoric the crowd expected from Republicans and Democrats, my goal was to give the attendees something different. Kentuckians are dealing with a public pension crisis, an opioid epidemic, loss of jobs in the coal industry, and so many of their men and women returning broken and injured from our overseas wars. After nearly an hour of speeches that offered no solutions to those critical problems, the crowd was ready for something different.

My speech (available at LP.org/fancyfarm online) provided a simple libertarian solution to many of the problems facing their community from a direction that neither Republicans nor Democrats could come from. Our experience in Colorado with legalizing cannabis for adults had resulted in more jobs, more tax revenue for schools, veterans dealing with PTSD and other service-connected injuries without dangerous drugs, and lower rates of opioid addiction and overdose. Focusing on the benefits to the community got a warm reception for a policy that some would call extreme at a rural church picnic. After the speech, lobbying groups



Nicholas Sarwark

sought out the Libertarian Party of Kentucky to help advocate these policies in Frankfort.

Later that week, I gave a presentation to Liberty International's 34th World Conference held in Fajardo, Puerto Rico. Speakers and attendees came from all around the world to discuss libertarian ideas and solutions, and what happens in places like Venezuela and Cuba where socialism has taken hold.

My presentation, "Promoting Open Borders in an Environment of Fear," aimed to present the ideas of open immigration for peaceful people in a way that was persuasive and attractive in the same climate that elected our current president on a promise to build a wall across the Southern border and ban Muslims from the country.

Most Americans (and many people around the world) resist open immigration because they are concerned about losing jobs, bringing in terrorists, and putting pressure on the welfare system. We could just tell them that peaceful migration is a human right, but that wouldn't address their very real concerns.

What does address those concerns is a system of "shall-issue" entry visas, where a potential immigrant could pay a modest fee and submit a form with identification and a background check and then be granted an entry visa unless the government could show why he/she was inadmissible. This would allow immigrants to come and go based on market demands, instead of taking specific high-skilled jobs. It would give our government a better picture of who



LNC Chair Nicholas Sarwark speaks at the 137th annual Fancy Farm picnic in Kentucky.

is and isn't in the country, rather than having unknown people smuggled in by Mexican cartels. It would also allow working-age single people to work here, reducing pressure on the welfare system. When presented in this way, even people in the audience inclined toward closed borders felt like the libertarian solution could work.

There are so many issues like these two examples where our policies can better address the concerns of everyday Americans. With our new campaign support specialist, we will be working on putting policy ideas like this into an easy-to-use format for our Libertarian candidates running across the country in 2018 to present to the American people in elections around the country.

Yours in liberty,
Nicholas J. Sarwark

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LP News

The Libertarian Party (LP) and its state affiliates work to advance the right of individuals to be free, so long as they do not forcibly interfere with the equal rights of others. The party runs candidates for public office, elects Libertarians, supports and opposes ballot measures, lobbies, and takes positions on public policy aimed at removing, reducing, and nullifying government laws, regulations, prohibitions, taxes, spending, debt, and foreign interventions.

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Contribute today: LP.org/office-fund

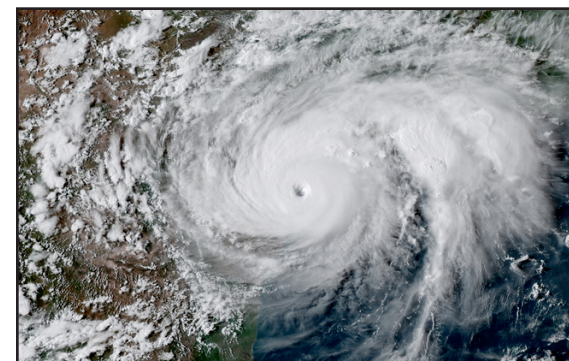
Libertarian Party offers sympathy to victims of Hurricane Harvey

Nicholas Sarwark, chair of the Libertarian National Committee, expresses the heartfelt sympathy of the Libertarian Party to the victims of Hurricane Harvey in Texas and Louisiana, to the families of those who have perished in the storm, and to all those who have suffered injuries and property damage.

Sarwark offers his appreciation and expresses his admiration for communities coming together to help those in peril. In addition to police, fire, EMS, and other government-provided responses, many private citizens have used their own boats, kayaks, and high-water vehicles to rescue people imperiled by flood waters inundating entire neighborhoods. Others have opened their homes and businesses to those needing shelter.

Neighbors have been helping neighbors in a successful decentralized response to the emergency, so in light of this, we caution the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) to limit its role to support rather than command and control. The latter approach failed in New Orleans during Hurricane Katrina.

"I grew up in Louisiana and lived in Texas for 15 years," added Wes Benedict, executive director of the LNC. "I have family and many friends in Houston and farther south who are at risk. Obviously, everyone's priority in Texas and Louisiana is, and should be, saving lives and avoiding injuries. Probably the last thing anybody wants to hear right now is advice from the Libertarian Party on how the free market might have somehow prevented this tragedy. It wouldn't have. However, we are fortunate to live in an economically advanced country where loss of life from natural disasters is usually a small fraction of what happens in



Hurricane Harvey near the coast of Texas on Aug. 25.

poorer, less free societies. Strong economies resulting from free markets do help save lives."

As the flood waters ebb, we must ask ourselves how to minimize government intervention into insurance markets that exacerbates losses from natural disasters such as hurricanes, flooding, and earthquakes. That's a long-term policy discussion, but there are also more immediate concerns. The libertarian magazine Reason listed "7 Things Donald Trump Shouldn't Do After Hurricane Harvey," such as cracking down on "gouging," confiscating guns, or centralizing volunteer and relief efforts. Such heavy-handed government intervention in the aftermath of natural disasters makes conditions worse and hampers decentralized relief efforts.

There are many thousands of Libertarian Party members in Texas and Louisiana, who can be found both among the victims of Hurricane Harvey and among those who have heroically aided them. Our thoughts remain with them all.

Highlights of August LNC Meeting

By Alicia Mattson
LNC Secretary

The Libertarian National Committee (LNC) met Aug. 19–20 in Kansas City, Mo. The pre-eclipse weekend began with a successful fundraising event at the home of Sean O'Toole and Cisse Spragins.

Based on a presentation by Ken Moellman and Andy Burns, the LNC approved \$5,000 to start to develop a CRM that will allow our affiliates to better access the relevant portions of the national membership database.

Two increases were adopted for the ballot access budget. Another \$32,500 was allotted to continue the ongoing paid petition drive in Ohio, and \$67,000 was approved to boost the petition drive recently started in Tennessee by volunteers.

To give our fundraisers better tools to do their jobs, a \$25,000 project was approved to obtain wealth screening services.

Based on recommendations from the Social Media Process Review Committee, the LNC directed that formal structure and guidelines be developed for the volunteers involved with managing our social media accounts.

The LNC made its five appointments to the Credentials Committee for the 2018 national convention. Those appointed are: Ben Bachrach, Susan Hogarth, Steven Linnabary, Emily Salvette, and David Stewart. Mike Kane was appointed as an alternate. The remaining five members of the committee will be appointed by the California, Texas, Florida, New York, and Ohio affiliates.

A new Candidate Support Committee was created and tasked with developing criteria for any financial contributions to party candidates other than the presidential ticket. Those appointed to the new committee are: Brett Bittner, Sam Goldstein, Caryn Ann Harlos, Jeff Hewitt, and Larry Sharpe.

The next in-person meeting of the LNC will take place on Dec. 9–10, 2017, in New Orleans, La.

LP Texas Political Action Department works state legislature

By Mark Miller

The Texas Legislature meets for 140 days every odd-numbered year starting the second Tuesday in January. There is little political downtime between the November elections and the start of the legislative session. This bit of downtime is followed by flurry of activity compacted into a little more than four and a half months.

In the 85th Legislature, which ended on Memorial Day, there were 7,289 bills filed in the state House and 3,333 bills filed in the state Senate. Many of these bills impacted issues near and dear to the hearts of Libertarians.

The Libertarian Party of Texas has an all-volunteer Political Action Department that, among other things, is responsible for interacting with the Texas Legislature. The legislative coordinator is the party's on-the-ground contact with the Legislature, though many others contributed much time and effort with lobbying this past spring.

Each biennium, LP Texas triages its legislative agenda into three categories. The *Vanguard Agenda* includes items that



LP Texas activists turned in doves on May 10 at the Texas State Capitol to lobby for an end to the straight-ticket ballot, passage of medical and recreational cannabis, and much more.

directly affect the party's ability to participate in elections, along with other issues for which LP Texas could play a primary leadership role. The *Alliance Agenda* is pursued by participating in active coalitions. Where there are well-funded and well-supported initiatives already in place, LP Texas provides additional logistical, communications, and lobbying support. The *Activist Agenda* includes items where there is significant interest among party members, but which there are few party resources to support individual lobbying efforts, other than to provide information

and communication channels.

There was significant movement on two of the party's Alliance Agenda items this past session. Although no bills were ultimately passed, marijuana decriminalization and medical licensing advanced further in the legislative process than ever before, as did constitutional carry legislation. The legislative process in Texas is designed to kill bills. These items will undoubtedly be addressed again in the 86th Legislature.

This year's Vanguard Agenda was primarily directed at two very initiatives: elimination of one-punch straight-party

voting (a practice shared by only nine other states), and improved ballot access and retention for independent candidates and alternative parties.

H.B. 25, written to eliminate one-punch straight-party voting, was approved by both houses of the legislature and signed by the governor. This is a major victory for alternative parties and independent candidates, but this bill was a partisan one. The Republican Party has begun losing ground in the larger ("bluer") counties in Texas. They saw the elimination of the one-punch option as favoring their electoral futures. Democrats, who are threatening a lawsuit on voting rights issues, saw the opposite.

H.B. 3068, a bill to improve ballot access in Texas, was heard by the House Elections Committee but failed to be voted out. This bill was initiated by Texans for Voter Choice (TexasVoterChoice.org), a broad coalition of alternative parties and independent political organizations in Texas. There was much positive feedback on the bill, including from representatives of the governor's office. Texans for Voter Choice plans to continue working to garner support for this bill in the 86th Legislature.

Libertarians condemn bigotry as irrational and repugnant

Libertarian National Committee Executive Director Wes Benedict issued the following statement: The Libertarian Party condemns bigotry as irrational and repugnant, and offers its condolences to the family of the woman killed in Charlottesville, Va.

There is no room for racists and bigots in the Libertarian Party. If there are white nationalists who — inappropriately — are members of the Libertarian Party, I ask them to submit their resignations today. We don't want them to associate with the Libertarian Party, and we don't want their money. I'm not expecting many resignations, because our membership already knows this well.

The Libertarian Party Platform states, "We condemn bigotry as irrational and repugnant. Government should neither deny nor abridge any individual's human right based upon sex, wealth, ethnicity, creed, age, national origin, personal habits, political preference, or sexual orientation."

The Libertarian Party is tolerant and accepting, supporting civil liberties, gay marriage, and freedom of religion for all, including Jews, Muslims, Christians, and atheists. The Libertarian Party supports open borders, civil liberties, racial diversity, and free trade — things that white nationalists abhor.

I think many people in America are worried about jobs and security, and feel compelled to do something about it. Years of inflammatory messaging from Republican and Democratic leadership have poisoned the well of civil dis-



course, and, unfortunately, much of what the extremists on both the left and right are asking for will make matters worse.

Republican leaders have demonized immigrants and free trade, and have scared people into thinking that free trade and immigration will cost current citizens their jobs and their standard of living. Yet countries with free trade and immigration have the highest standards of living in the world, and those without freedom of movement and exchange have the lowest. If politicians are truly interested in improving American prosperity, they need to brush up on their understanding of "gains from trade" and "comparative advantage," then stop goading their supporters into supporting counterproductive policies. Protectionist policies are irrational and cowardly, and will make America weaker.

Democratic leaders have demonized businesses and denounced people who support eliminating minimum wage and licensing laws. Ending the minimum wage will

make it easier for everyone to get a job, especially those with the least skills who most desperately need to gain work experience. Ending licensing laws will make it easier for everyone who still can't get a job, or who feels underpaid, to start their own businesses.

Democratic and Republican leaders have supported billions of dollars in subsidies for billionaires like Elon Musk and the wealthy who can afford his cars and solar panels, while driving up the cost of cars and electricity for middle-class and low-income Americans. It's no surprise that disaffected people on both the left and right mistrust big business. All corporate welfare should be eliminated.

More government is not the answer for those who are scared and hurting on the right or the left, and violence between the two groups is certainly not the answer.

The Libertarian Party has whites, blacks, browns, gays, heterosexuals, Christians, atheists, Muslims, and Jews in its leadership, as candidates for public office, and within its membership. Libertarians work together peacefully and oppose the initiation of force to achieve social or political goals. Libertarians don't all agree on the meaning of life, or which behavior is proper or moral, but we do agree on the proper role of government in our lives.

Race wars, class wars, religious wars, and even foreign wars are not inevitable. Stay home from the protests and check out the Libertarian Party. A more Libertarian America will be a more prosperous, peaceful, and diverse America.

The **2018 Libertarian Party Convention** will be here before you know it! Don't miss the chance to get your Super Early Bird tickets before the prices go up. The convention packages allow you to get as little or as much out of the convention as you want.

Certain options include a reception, with entertainment and hors d'oeuvres. You may choose to have breakfast, lunch, and/or dinner with your new Libertarian friends, while hearing from knowledgeable, influential, experienced guest speakers on topics important to our cause. Stick around for the after-party!

Ticket packages can now be purchased at:

LibertarianConvention.org

Book yours today!

A large graphic for the 2018 Libertarian National Convention. The background is dark grey with a faint, stylized American flag. At the top, the text "I'm THAT Libertarian!" is written in a white script font, with "THAT" in yellow. Below this, the year "2018" is written in large, bold, yellow numbers. Underneath the year, the words "New Orleans" are written in a large, bold, white sans-serif font. Below that, "LIBERTARIAN NATIONAL CONVENTION" is written in a smaller, bold, yellow sans-serif font. At the bottom, the website "LibertarianConvention.org" is written in a large, bold, white sans-serif font. A small yellow Libertarian Party torch logo is positioned just above the website name.

Volunteer at the 2018 Libertarian National Convention!

Planning for the 2018 Libertarian National Convention is well under way. With everything going into these preparations, there is a need for more helping hands. Volunteers are the most important part of our convention team, and now is the time to get on board. If you have a couple of extra hours per week, the ability to energize others, and a desire to put on the best convention ever, join our team!

Volunteers are currently needed to fill a variety of roles before, during, and after the convention. So, if you are interested in getting involved, sign up here:

LibertarianConvention.org/volunteer

Our convention volunteer coordinator will be in touch!

Be THAT Libertarian!

LP registration surges, while Democrats and Republicans shrink

Libertarian Party registration has grown by nearly 25 percent in the past year while Republican and Democratic registration continues to shrink, according to a report in *Ballot Access News*. In 2016, the Libertarian Party increased to over 511,000 registrants. *Ballot Access News* points out that the Libertarians are the first U.S. political party other than Republicans and Democrats to have reached that milestone. Meanwhile, GOP and Democratic registration continues to shrink.

Polling by Rasmussen Reports indicates that voters are increasingly receptive to a competitive third party, with more than half of voters now saying that they have voted for a candidate outside of the Democrats and Republicans.



Rasmussen reports that 13 percent of voters have switched parties or gone independent.

“The Republicans and Democrats are bickering over whose candidates are more compromised by Russia. Both are,” explained Libertarian National Committee Chair Nicholas Sarwark. “They’re arguing about whose health insurance bureaucracy is most disastrous to Americans’ health care. Both are awful. Both Democratic and Republican policies are careening us toward economically impoverishing trade wars, and violent wars that put our very lives at risk. Libertarians offer the only common-sense solutions of freedom to live and trade in peace.”

Sarwark continued, “Republicans and Democrats are

hanging on to their political duopoly by billing themselves as the least of two evils. That works until it doesn’t. New political parties can completely supplant parties that cling to old and outdated ideas. Antislavery Whigs formed the Republican Party in the nineteenth century, and with the election of Abraham Lincoln in 1860 replaced the Whigs as a majority party.”

Today, Sarwark said, we see a similar exodus from the modern Democratic and Republican parties and their never-ending expansion of costly and intrusive government.

“Antiwar and anti-crony capitalist Republicans, along with antisocialist Democrats, among others, are uniting under one Libertarian banner to replace either the Democrats or the Republicans,” Sarwark said. “We don’t care which. To that end, the Libertarian Party plans on fielding more than 2,000 candidates in 2018. By using the wrong ideas, the wrong policies, and the wrong strategies, President Trump is failing at taking our country back. Libertarians can succeed.”

Will failure to repeal Obamacare benefit LP?

Senate Republicans trotted out three different prescriptions to the public-private boondoggle that is Obamacare, with each one failing despite a GOP majority in the upper chamber of Congress.

President Donald Trump’s quite literal use of the bully pulpit backfired within his own party.

“Sens. Susan Collins, John McCain, and Lisa Murkowski deserve praise for standing up to the president’s strong-arm tactics,” said Nicholas Sarwark, chair of the Libertarian National Committee. “Their no votes against an administration from their own party show the strength that people can have when they stand up to the corrupt two-party system that wavers between business as usual and fake attempts at reform. Derided as too maverick by the political establishment of their own parties, independent-thinking representatives from across the nation have a golden opportunity now to make their voices heard.”

Sarwark commented in a recent CNN interview, “I have to give thanks to Donald Trump and the Republican Party. Their success in getting control of government and then showing that they can’t do anything once they have that control has been a better argument for joining the Libertarian Party than anything I could say.”

The Republicans failed to keep their promise of the last seven years to repeal Obamacare. The text of the various bills written by GOP leadership was held secret until the last moment.

Although Libertarians might disagree on what constitutes meaningful reform, it makes no sense to replace one bad plan with another.

Obamacare is like two government bureaucrats and an insurance company bureaucrat getting between you and your doctor. The Republicans would replace that with two insurance bureaucrats and a government bureaucrat between you and your doctor.

The Libertarian solution is to repeal and de-regulate. You don’t cover oil changes with your car insurance. You should not be forced to cover flu shots with your health insurance, larding the cost with overhead and profits that flow to insurance companies and government functionaries.

In 35 states, a Certificate of Need must be approved by the state before new hospitals and other health care facilities can be built. Econ 101 tells us that restricting the supply of medical care increases costs.

Doctors in the United States make between two and five times the amount that doctors in other developed countries earn, thanks to legislative favors granted to the American Medical Association that limit the number of medical schools and new doctors.

The effective monopoly granted to the pharmaceutical industry through the patent process has also increased drug costs in the United States to an unwarranted extent. And the FDA should not be able to prevent dying patients from trying experimental drugs.

Repeal and replace Obamacare with Obamacare light? The Libertarian Party says no.

Instead, repeal and replace with massive de-regulation that will make the health care market competitive again and result in lower prices for everyone.

NJLP vice chair runs for New Jersey state Senate

By Jim Tosone

I am the vice chair of the New Jersey Libertarian Party and its candidate for state Senate from the 39th Legislative District, which covers towns in Northern Bergen and Northern Passaic County. I’ve lived in this district for nearly 30 years.

The 39th District has 157,000 registered voters. More than 71,000 of them are registered “Unaffiliated.” That’s my target audience — the politically homeless, who don’t identify with either Republicans or Democrats, but wind up not voting, or voting for the lesser of two evils, because they feel they have no other choice. Only 37 percent of eligible voters even voted in the District 39 Senate race in 2013.

I will give them another choice. A real choice. For the unaffiliated voters who are concerned about government spending and interference in our personal lives, I will offer them the Libertarian Party message of personal and economic liberty. I will do it using their language, not ours, recognizing that it takes more than one conversation, speech, or letter to the editor to get people to change lifelong voting habits.

For that same reason, I will avoid an all-or-nothing approach to policy issues. If a policy advances the cause of liberty, I will give it serious consideration. This is consistent with the NJLP platform, where the planks include not only principles and solutions, but ways to transition to our ultimate goals.

The issues I will focus on are:

- Reducing major areas of state spending (by reforming and reducing state-level spending on public pensions, Medicaid, schools, and transportation).
- Using the savings to reduce taxes (income, sales, gas) and begin paying down our debt.
- Supporting school choice (charter schools, home schooling, vouchers, backpack funding).
- Legalizing marijuana and ending the failed war on drugs.

If I can get some mainstream media coverage and participate in any debates, I can and will help advance the cause of liberty in New Jersey. You can follow my candidacy at [FB.com/tosone4njsenate](https://www.facebook.com/tosone4njsenate) or email me at tosone4njsenate@gmail.com.

'Unprecedented traction' for LP at 2017 FreedomFest

In July, Libertarian National Committee Chair Nicholas Sarwark, Executive Director Wes Benedict, and Head of Development Lauren Daugherty traveled to Las Vegas with other senior staff to represent the national party at FreedomFest in Las Vegas. This year's celebratory anniversary theme, "Exploring New Frontiers," featured special guest William Shatner.

For more than a decade, FreedomFest has fostered a diverse crowd of viewpoints that provides an excellent opportunity for the Libertarian Party to connect with existing supporters and to attract new ones.

"Sarwark reports that his party got 'unprecedented traction' at FreedomFest, a recent libertarian and conservative policy gathering in Las Vegas," wrote *Washington Times* columnist Jennifer Harper. "He also came away with \$36,000 in donations."

Sarwark was invited to participate on three panels, two of which were on the main stage, titled "Turning Point: Why the Next Five Years Will Make A Difference For Our Future" and "What Will It Take To Win in 2018, 2020, and Beyond?" The third was a gun control debate with Dr. Michael Shermer, editor of *Skeptic* magazine. Larry Sharpe, LNC alternate representative and candidate for governor of New York, moderated a panel focused on what we need to do to succeed in coming election years.

"I think we are turning a corner in our history," says Mr. Sarwark in a new out-



Nicholas Sarwark
Chairman, Libertarian Party | @nsarwark

LNC Chair Nicholas Sarwark was featured prominently in a CNN Politics video and article about the 2017 FreedomFest in Las Vegas.

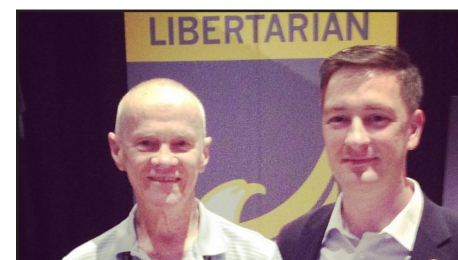
reach," the *Washington Times* column continued. "I have to give thanks to Donald Trump and the Republican Party. Their success in getting control of government and then showing that they can't do anything once they have that control has been a better argument for joining the Libertar-

ian Party than anything I could say. We have some incredible opportunities ahead of us in 2018 and 2020."

Sarwark was also featured extensively in a segment filmed for CNN Politics.

"If there's one person relishing Washington's Trump-era dysfunction, it's Libertarian Party Chairman Nicholas Sarwark, who sees the tumult as a prime recruitment opportunity," said CNN reporter Chris Moody.

"As part of his efforts, Sarwark joined more than 1,000 libertarians and conservatives recently here in Las Vegas for a free-wheeling annual gathering called FreedomFest, fertile recruiting grounds where attendees held a robust skepticism of government power and where opinions



1984 Libertarian Party presidential candidate David Bergland with LNC Chair Nicholas Sarwark at the 2017 FreedomFest in Las Vegas.

of President Donald Trump were mixed," Moody wrote in the print article that accompanied the CNN video. "There are those, like Sarwark, who have deep concerns about Trump's policies yet sense ... opportunities amid the chaos."



Second-generation Libertarian activist Avens O'Brien takes a photo of LNC Head of Development Lauren Daugherty at the 2017 FreedomFest in Las Vegas.



LNC Head of Development Lauren Daugherty, Executive Director Wes Benedict, and Chair Nicholas Sarwark together at the Libertarian Party display booth during the 2017 FreedomFest in Las Vegas.

Thanks to Carla Howell for her service as national LP political director

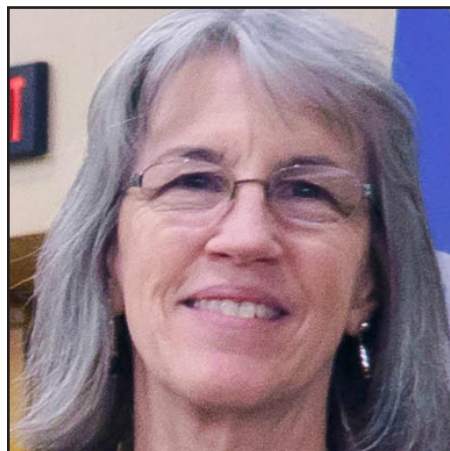
Carla Howell's contract to serve as political director for the Libertarian National Committee (LNC) ended on June 30. On behalf of the many Libertarians who have benefited from her contributions, we thank her for her service.

Carla Howell has had a strong positive influence on Libertarian Party communications since she came on board at the LP headquarters in December 2011.

- She edited and managed *LP News*, keeping membership informed of key campaigns and party activities and their impact.
- She brought us her game "Who's Driving?" which continues to be a primary tool for training candidates and activists to advance an agenda for less government and more freedom.
- She organized and led candidate training, wrote the guide *Game-Changing Libertarian Communications*, and coached and supported hundreds of candidates to help them launch their campaigns, deal with problems that arose, and develop positive and effective campaign platforms.
- She wrote and edited hundreds of press releases and blogs for LP.org, arranged for key LP interviews (e.g., *Stossel* and the *Glenn Beck Program*), and was primary liaison to the press.
- She did hundreds of media interviews for the LP and provided background information for press inquiries.

In addition, Howell handled many other needs of the party, including:

- Played a key role in supporting the 2012 and 2016 presidential campaigns, and the Libertarian national conventions in



Carla Howell

2012, 2014, and 2016.

- Recruited candidates and assisted state parties in their recruitment efforts.
- Raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for the LP.
- Ran statewide petition drives in Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C., and helped to coordinate dozens of other ballot-access petition drives and lawsuits.
- Organized the LP's participation in Paul Fest in 2012 to attract former Ron Paul supporters to the LP.
- Spotlitged Libertarian leadership in protecting the Fourth Amendment through lobbying and rallies throughout the United States.

Carla Howell's accomplishments prior to having become political director for the LP are unusually impressive. She:

- Won 308,860 votes — 12 percent of the vote — against Ted Kennedy in 2000 as the Massachusetts Libertarian candi-

date for U.S. Senate. For 16 years, that stood as the highest percentage result in the party's history for a Libertarian U.S. Senate candidate running against both a Democrat and a Republican.

- Organized and managed two statewide ballot initiatives to end the income tax in Massachusetts in 2002 and 2008, and another to roll back the Massachusetts sales tax in 2010. Received endorsements from the *Wall Street Journal*, Steve Forbes, and the National Taxpayers Union. Won almost 1 million votes each time, in the face of widespread — often vicious — establishment opposition. Her 45 percent of votes to end the income tax shocked the Massachusetts political establishment.
- Ran against Mitt Romney for governor of Massachusetts in 2002 and ran for state auditor in 1998, for which she won the endorsement of the *Boston Herald*.
- Was a featured stand-alone guest on the *O'Reilly Factor*, *Neil Cavuto*, *Glenn Beck*, *Fox Business News Happy Hour*, and hundreds of other TV and radio shows.
- Participated in 20 live TV and radio debates.
- Organized a fundraiser and rally for presidential candidate Harry Browne in 1996, which stood as the most successful regional Libertarian Party fundraiser for more than 16 years.
- Was state chair of the Massachusetts Libertarian Party for two terms (1997–99).
- Oversaw the collection of more than 480,000 petition signatures for candidates and ballot initiatives, with a 100

percent success rate of making the ballot.

- Composed and performed the spoof song "How Could I Live Without Filing Taxes?" which was played on more than 100 radio stations when it was released in 2001.

Gov. Gary Johnson said, "Carla Howell was critical to both the Johnson 2012 and 2016 Libertarian presidential campaigns. She ensured smooth communication between our campaign and the Libertarian national party. She is a tireless worker, who believes in her work. She was very helpful with media, arranging events, and organizing supporters. She is a capable political professional."

Johnson's campaign manager, Ron Nielson, said, "I found Carla Howell to be an intelligent, easy to work with, and capable political operative. Her experience in understanding the liberty electorate from her time working in the trenches as both a candidate and as a party operative was very beneficial to our efforts in the 2012 and 2016 presidential campaigns."

Howell remains committed to supporting the Libertarian Party and growing the movement for small government, which she passionately advocates.

We know many Libertarians share in our appreciation for her many contributions and look forward to her next project to advance individual freedom.

In liberty,

Nicholas Sarwark, LNC Chair
Arvin Vohra, LNC Vice Chair
Wes Benedict, Executive Director

P.S. — Carla Howell can be reached at: CHowell@CenterForSmallGovernment.com

LP calls for NATO withdrawal

...continued from page 1

attack are around 1 in 3 million. The odds of being hit by lightning are 1 in 700,000.

Spanning nearly 16 years, the war in Afghanistan is already the longest war in U.S. history. When our opponents are fighting a guerilla war on their home turf, we will not win. The Soviets lost, and so will we. The only winners will be the military/industrial/security/intelligence complex and their lobbyists on K Street.

"Monday evening, President Trump had the gall to ask America to trust him as he increases U.S. troop levels in Afghanistan to unspecified levels," said LNC Chair Nicholas Sarwark.

President Trump's plans to ramp up military action in Afghanistan stand in stark contrast to his campaign rhetoric, when he said things such as, "We have wasted an

enormous amount of blood and treasure in Afghanistan. Their government has zero appreciation. Let's get out." His announcement yesterday shows Trump is breaking yet another campaign promise.

In the last few days, Trump has leveled veiled "fire and fury" threats of nuclear war with North Korea. Kim Jong-un has responded with not-so-veiled threats to return any nuclear attack. Trump says he has not ruled out a "military option" to respond to the Maduro regime in Venezuela, a country that poses no threat whatsoever to the United States. Defense Secretary James Mattis is scheduled to visit Jordan, Turkey, and Ukraine to deliver the message that Washington will not tolerate a Russian annexation of Ukraine.

The threat of war looms on four separate fronts, without counting Iraq, Iran, Syria, and many other global hot spots that have little strategic importance for the United States. The U.S. military, as powerful as it is, cannot suc-

cessfully wage war on more than one and a half fronts, particularly when our would-be foes will use asymmetric and guerilla warfare tactics.

Unfortunately, the Democrats offer no viable alternative. Nobel Peace Prize winner Barack Obama presided over eight years of continuous warfare, including starting a disastrous new war in Libya.

Libertarians seek a United States at peace with the world. Our military should not engage in nation-building or otherwise interfere in other nations' business. We should concentrate on defending our country from the real threats of the 21st century, like cyberattacks and biological warfare.

Only Libertarians offer the common-sense solution presented at Thomas Jefferson's inaugural: "peace, commerce, and honest friendship with all nations, entangling alliances with none." The perfect symbolic first step is immediate withdrawal from NATO.

Libertarian Party candidates in Fall 2017 elections

This fall's elections are rapidly approaching, with several states fielding Libertarian Party candidates for election on Nov. 7, and a few others on dates in September and October. Visit LP.org/2017-candidates to check out our full, sortable, searchable, and updated list. If you live near any of these candidates, pitch in and help them win! Even if you don't live nearby, there are many ways that you can help from a distance. Contact the candidate or a state party chair to find out how.

September 5

New Hampshire:
John Babiarz.....State House 9 — Grafton

September 26

New Hampshire:
James Jarvis.....State House 4 — Rockingham

October 3

New Hampshire:
Andrew AgueroState Assembly 51

October 10

Florida:
Brian Zemina State House 58

North Carolina:
John Tarantino Durham City Council Ward 1
Olen Watson..... Raleigh City Council District C

October 14

Louisiana:
Joe Little..... State Treasurer

October 24

New Hampshire:
Brian ShieldsState House 13 — Strafford

November 7

Connecticut:
Richard Bright..... Norwich City Council
Nick Casino Norwich City Council
Stacylynn Cottle..... Norwich City Council
Mary Ellen Eddy.....Norwich Board of Education
Rueben EddyNorwich Board of Education
James Fear..... Norwich City Council
Janice Loomis..... Norwich City Council
Justin Massaro..... Norwich City Council
Matt Radant..... Plainfield Board of Education
Dan Reale Plainfield First Selectmen
William Russell Norwich Mayor
Jeffrey Thibeault.....Branford Town Meeting Member District 3

Michigan:
Gregory Creswell..... State House 1

Minnesota:
Charlie GersMinneapolis Mayor
Chris Holbrook.....St. Paul Mayor

New Jersey:
Claudio BelusicState Assembly 37
Eveline Brownstein.....State Assembly 13
Valerio Bruscianelli Westfield Town Council
Michael Chazukow..... West Milford Town Council
Hisham Hamed.....Manalapan Town Council
Dan Heitkamp..... Hunterdon County Freeholder
Dan Krause.....State Assembly 12
Karese Laguerre Lt. Governor
Tom Maciejewski..... Berkeley Heights Town Council
John Ordille..... Northfield City Council
Peter Rohrman..... Governor
Jonathan Salzman West Milford Town Council
Anthony StorrowState Assembly 12
Jim Tosone..... State Senate 39

North Carolina:
Rev. John T. Brantley..... Princeton City Council
Steve DiFioreCharlotte City Council At-Large
Christopher M. Nance Carthage Town Commissioner
Walt Rabon..... Four Oaks Town Commissioner At-Large
Jeff Scott.....Charlotte City Council District 6

Pennsylvania:
Jason AuckerSpring Township Auditor
Ryan BourniskiCoal Township Commissioner
Marc BozzaccoAbington Township Commissioner Ward 6
John BurdCoal Township Commissioner
Edward CliffordDelaware County Council
Chris Manco..... West Chester Borough Tax Collector
Jennifer Moore..... Upper Providence Township Auditor
Ed Quiggle.....Sunbury Ward 3 Constable
Gary St. FleurScranton Mayor
Vincent Stoops..... Selinsgrove Borough Mayor
Glenn TuttleMeadville Councilmember
Matt Wallace..... Delaware County Sheriff

Tennessee:
Andrew Wilson.....Knoxville City Council

Utah:
Joe BuchmanU.S. House 3

Virginia:
Michael Bartley..... State House 94
Jake Crocker..... State House 69
Will Hammer State House 20
Terry Hurst..... State House 89
Cliff Hyra Governor

Washington
Paul Addis.....Kent City Council Position 2
James Blair Yelm City Council Position 7
Kevin Cline.....Long Beach City Council Position 4
Michelle Darnell..... State Senate 48
Ciaran Dougherty..... State House District 48 Position 1
Jennifer HesseEverett City Council Position 3
Robert Motzer Lacey City Council Position 6
John Schryvers Anacortes City Council

Utah's Joe Buchman in special election for U.S. House

By Carla Howell

Long-time Libertarian Joe Buchman is running on a bold, "principled" Libertarian platform for U.S. House in Utah's third congressional district in a special election this fall to fill the seat vacated by incumbent Rep. Jason Chaffetz, who resigned in June. The Republican challenger will be chosen from among three contenders in a primary on Aug. 15. Buchman will also face Democratic candidate Kathy Allen.

Buchman, whose father and daughter are physicians, cites government as the source of our health care woes — and wants it out.

"Government intervention into health care is the primary source of increasing costs and decreasing quality," he said. "Unlike free markets, government, especially through cronyism, stifles innovation and kills off the competition, increases costs, and increases the number of regulators and medical staff required to comply with excessive, costly regulation."

The solution lies in allowing competition to flourish.

"The cure to today's crisis in health care cost and access is more competition," he added. "Get government out of the way, return to a direct provider-payee relationship, and we will all have more alternatives, more providers, more options, and more freedom of choice. In short, far better health care at a far lower cost."

Buchman calls for immediate passage of right-to-try legislation, which would allow terminally ill patients to try anything that has the hope of offering relief.

"Why should any human being with end-of-life anxiety, physical pain or depression, or suicidal PTSD, be denied the right to try anything that might provide relief?" he asked. "Our government should not stand between a terminally ill patient and his/her health care provider."

Buchman calls for an end to federal drug prohibition, and for "all non-violent victims of our alleged war on (otherwise innocent) people who use drugs" to be re-



Joe Buchman

leased from prison immediately.

"Cannabis should have never been classified as Schedule One," he said. "It has therapeutic value, with minimal side effects, none of which risk death to the patient in the way our legal prescription drugs do."

Buchman criticizes President Donald Trump's vastly increased spending on military and immigration prevention, calling it "deadly — not only to those targeted by our military, or those seeking to escape starvation and tyranny abroad — but to every American here in the United States."

Immigrants seeking a better life should be welcomed to our country, not turned away, he said.

"Government intervention into health care is the primary source of increasing costs and decreasing quality. ... Get government out of the way, return to a direct provider-payee relationship, and we will all have more alternatives, more providers, more options, and more freedom of choice. In short, far better health care at a far lower cost."

"I want an America that welcomes every human being fleeing tyranny in their homeland," Buchman said. "Those who take that risk, who seek a fair chance to make a living, deserve the warmest of welcomes."

Buchman, who holds a Ph.D. and also earned an MBA in finance, says that the biggest threat to U.S. security is the government's financial recklessness.

"With \$20 trillion dollars of current federal debt, heading toward \$30 trillion, and nearly \$200 trillion in mandated-by-law but currently unfunded government spending, our national security, both near and long-term, is far from secure," he said.

Buchman is chair of the Libertarian Party of Utah, serves as a member of the LNC Audit Committee and has served as the national Libertarian Party's Platform Committee chair. He has taught MBA programs in the United States, China, and Mongolia; was a tenured professor of management at Utah Valley University; and designed courses for the University of Chicago's online MBA programs before he retired in 2014.

Campaign website: gotol.vote

Olen Watson runs to get Raleigh government out of the way

Olen Watson with the Libertarian Party of North Carolina is running for Raleigh City Council District C. He's seeking to replace the incumbent Corey Branch in October's City Council race.

"We'll be bold in recognizing the historically pivotal impact southeast Raleigh and all people of color have had in our city," Watson said in announcing his candidacy. "My campaign will focus on homelessness, the disappearance of affordable housing, and the struggle between police and the public."

He continued, "It's my firm belief that our salvation comes not from the hands

of government, or corporations. Southeast Raleigh will become great because of its people. It will become greater than ever as I help city government get out of your way."

Watson said that his campaign theme, "One Southeast Raleigh — Building. Community. Together," summarizes the things that his neighbors talk about with passion.

"My whole life I've lived, seeking ways to give back because of the great freedom and liberty, health and happiness, and opportunities I have," Watson said. "I've done it because of my nature, not because of any great plan. I can't help but do that. Running for office is an extension of that, and though every politician ever has said the

very same thing, this is just who I am."

A former U.S. Marine, Watson, 46, received his bachelor's degree in Biblical studies from Campbell University. He taught special education in Wake County public schools and now owns his own small construction company.

Watson has become increasingly involved with local nonprofit organizations and making southeast Raleigh even greater than it has ever been. In 2016, Watson made an unsuccessful bid to bring his new ideas to the General Assembly, running for election in North Carolina's House District 38.

Campaign website: FB.com/oleniii



Olen Watson

'Save Scranton' founder Gary St. Fleur declares Libertarian in race for mayor

By Carla Howell

Gary St. Fleur, chair of the Lackawanna County LP and now Libertarian candidate for mayor of Scranton, Pennsylvania, is an unusually high-energy, bold, and courageous Libertarian. He's been working for over a year to bring the city's runaway taxes, spending, and high debt under control.

Scranton is a depressed city with soaring unemployment, a dwindling population, and sinking property values. It is also reputed to be highly corrupt. St. Fleur has received numerous threats to back down.

Despite high taxes, the city can't make ends meet. The city council has resorted to selling and leasing assets — including the Scranton Sewer Authority, a public parking garage, and a shopping mall — to pay its mounting bills.

"Scranton will be the next Detroit if we don't get the city's finances under control soon," St. Fleur said.

With a background in finance, St. Fleur has spearheaded several major projects aimed at rolling back the city's taxes and forcing the city to declare bankruptcy, so that lucrative government employee perks and other expenses can be renegotiated.

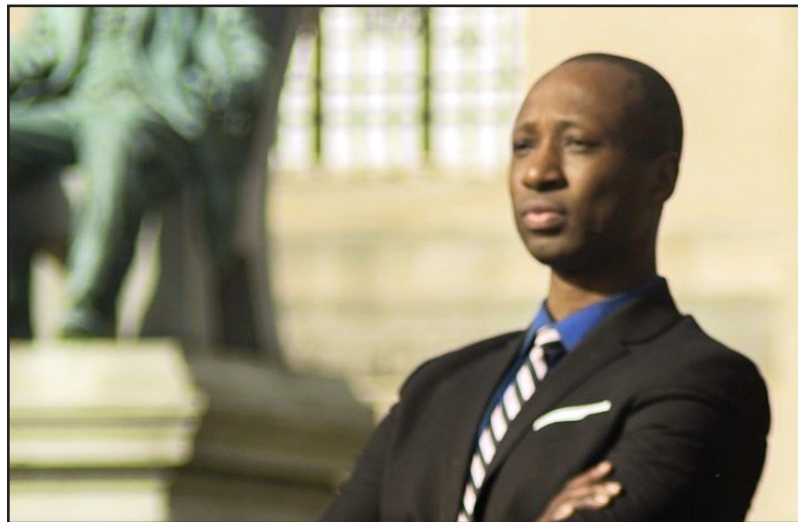
St. Fleur launched Save Scranton, a blog where he exposes the city's burgeoning debt. With only 75,000 residents, Scranton has accumulated almost \$1 billion in debt and liabilities, while it has publicly reported a debt of only \$300 million.

Last year, St. Fleur filed a ballot initiative to force the city to file for Chapter 9 bankruptcy. It may be the first ballot initiative in the United States used for municipal bankruptcy protection.

Last summer, he also convinced 70 business owners to sign a petition that boycotts one of the town's gouging taxes.

In addition to all of this, St. Fleur is taking the city to court. Along with seven other residents, he filed a lawsuit charging the city with overtaxing its citizens in violation of its charter. When that lawsuit failed, he filed another lawsuit charging the city with violating Pennsylvania's Act 511, which places a cap on the amount of aggregate taxes that the city can collect.

"Act 511 is written to protect citizens from excessive



Gary St. Fleur

taxation," St. Fleur explained. "If home values are plummeting, it's a sure indication that the people are becoming poorer. It is unconscionable to increase taxes on an already impoverished people."

After a hearing was held in May, the lawsuit remained pending a decision from Judge James Gibbons as to whether the suit will proceed to trial (see sidebar).

The city is arguing that its charter authorizes the high tax. St. Fleur's case was recently buoyed, however, by a state Supreme Court ruling on May 22, which clearly holds that state law trumps city charters.

St. Fleur's activism is getting plenty of press in local and financial media, including WNEP TV, WBRE TV, WILK News Radio, Fox 56, the *Times-Tribune*, PAhomepage.com, *Bond Buyer*, *Bloomberg* and *ValueWalk*.

He's campaigning full time and is in the process of walking every neighborhood in the city. He's now raising money to open a campaign headquarters.

Libertarian Gary St. Fleur for mayor, along with his bankruptcy initiative, will be on the Nov. 8 ballot.

St. Fleur is a columnist for BeingLibertarian.com, the *Libertarian Republic*, and *ValueWalk*, and has worked for M.D. Sass, an investment management firm. He was raised in Brooklyn, N.Y., by his Haitian mother. In 2010, he co-founded CollineFoundation.org, a nonprofit that uses volunteers and market-driven initiatives to stem poverty in Haiti.

Campaign website: GaryStFleur.com

Save Scranton website: SaveScranton.com

St. Fleur scores major win for Scranton taxpayers

By Bob Johnston

Aug. 4 marked a major victory for tax-cutters, and especially taxpayers, when Judge James Gibbons sided with Libertarian mayoral candidate Gary St. Fleur and seven other Scranton, Penn., residents who filed a lawsuit against the city over excessive taxation.

The suit contends that the city of Scranton has been illegally taxing its residents by increasing local taxes past the limit imposed by the state's Act 511, which places a cap on the amount of taxes that can be raised at the local level.

The cap is determined by taking the value of the properties within the municipality and multiplying them by 1.2 percent. The suit was filed against the city of Scranton on March 1 through a mandamus action that sought to force the government of Scranton to observe the cap and reduce taxes accordingly.

Scranton officials have argued that, because the city has a home-rule charter, it does not have to obey Act 511. Judge Gibbons, who oversaw the hearing, disagreed. In his eight-page ruling, he explained that Scranton's home-rule charter is subservient to state law, and thus the cap on Act 511 taxes "cannot be superseded by the home rule charter law."

This is a major win for the taxpayers of Scranton, who have been gouged by mounting taxes and fees from the cash-strapped Scranton government. St. Fleur has been adamant that Scranton taxes are far too high and that the city needs to file for bankruptcy.

"This victory confirms that Scranton financials are so dire that city officials have resorted to illegal taxation," St. Fleur said. "It forces the city to confront the reality that they have run out of time and can no longer force taxpayers to bail out the city."

St. Fleur contends there is virtually no recourse left except for the government to file for Chapter 9 bankruptcy, and that lowering taxes and spending across the board is the only way to save Scranton from its economic depression — a point that he raises in the "Save Scranton" blog that he publishes. Bankruptcy would lessen the city financial burdens and allow for substantial tax cuts.

St. Fleur has also initiated a ballot measure to force the city into bankruptcy. A Wells Fargo report from October 2016 explains that a 2014 audit of Scranton revealed \$375 million in liabilities and \$184 million in unfunded non-pension post-retirement benefits to government employees. To pay for excessive government employee perks, the city has sold various public assets, such as the sewer authority (\$195 million), and has issued junk bonds.

Act 511 limits aggregate local taxes to 1.2 percent of the total valuation of real estate in the jurisdiction.

"Act 511 was written to protect citizens from excessive taxation," St. Fleur explained. "If home values are plummeting, then that is a sure indication that the people are becoming poorer. It is unconscionable for the city council and mayor to continue raising taxes on an already impoverished people."

Need LP brochures, apparel, or bumper stickers?

Visit LPStore.org

Marcellus Williams case illustrates injustice of death penalty

On Aug. 22, not long before Marcellus Williams was due to be killed by the state of Missouri, Gov. Eric Greitens issued a stay of execution. The Williams conviction had been called into question by new DNA evidence that pointed to his likely innocence, and criminal justice reform activists had called for a delay in Williams's death sentence so that a new investigation could be completed. Earlier in the day on Aug. 22, before the stay was issued, Libertarian National Committee Chair Nicholas Sarwark appeared on the Tom Sumner Program in Flint, Mich., to discuss death row inmate Marcellus Williams and the injustice of capital punishment.



Marcellus Williams

"In the Williams case, there's DNA evidence from the knife that was used in the homicide, from underneath the victim's fingernails," Sarwark said in his interview on the Tom Sumner Program. "It doesn't match Mr. Williams. So you have at least an indication that there's doubt that he was the person who attacked and killed this person. And the prosecutors like to point to other evidence that they say does indicate that he's guilty. But, in this case, that other evidence is testimony from jailhouse snitches, often who get some sort of favor or better treatment for testifying against someone else. They have a motivation to, perhaps, make up a story."

Although a previous stay of execution had been granted to Williams in 2015, to allow for new DNA testing, courts had refused to issue a second stay to allow a full investigation until the recent intervention by Gov. Greitens.

"In these cases, you would think that the court would at least give some sort of explanation, so you know why it is that they want to let an execution go forward," Sarwark said in the interview. "In this case, they didn't give any explanation whatsoever. They just denied the request to stay the execution long enough to test the evidence and see whether or



not it merits a new trial or a commutation of the sentence."

Sarwark, who spent five years working as a criminal defense attorney with the Colorado public defender's office, pointed out that cases like this and countless others demonstrate why capital punishment is fundamentally unjust, because guilt is often uncertain.

"As more and more of these exonerations come out across the country, and there's more doubt about whether or not the way the death penalty is administered in this country is just, you get things like Illinois putting a moratorium on all of their executions a few years back," Sarwark said in the interview. "I think they don't want us to look too hard at the fact that we may be executing innocent people in this country."

The more that these cases of DNA exoneration can be

made public, the more the general public may realize that the criminal justice system is far from infallible.

"One of the things that leads to support for capital punishment is this belief that our legal system is well-nigh infallible, that anyone who is sentenced to die at the hands of the state had the most fair trial possible and went through all the appeals possible, and that you can be sure that we're not executing innocent people," Sarwark said in the interview. "And, based on the exonerations that the Innocence Project has had over the years, and very doubtful cases like Cameron Todd Willingham down in Texas, it goes to show that that faith in our system is misplaced. We have evidence that the government has executed innocent

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LNC hires radio and publishing veteran Richard Fields as press secretary

The Libertarian National Committee is pleased to announce the appointment of Richard Fields as LNC press secretary.

"More than 40 people applied for the position," said LNC Executive Director Wes Benedict. "LNC Chair Nicholas Sarwark and I interviewed 20 of the top applicants by phone. We were impressed. It was great to see so many highly qualified applicants interested in working for the Libertarian Party. After careful consideration, we decided that Richard Fields of Davis, Calif., was the best fit for our needs."

Fields has been involved in radio and publishing for 37 years, including 10 years as an owner and operator of radio stations

in Texas. For the past 11 years, he has been a development officer at Pacific Legal Foundation, a non-profit organization that provides pro bono defense of property rights, the right to earn a living, and other constitutionally protected individual rights.

Fields first learned of the Libertarian Party in 1971 when LP activists asked for a guest slot on his radio talk show in Racine, Wis. There, they explained their reasons for supporting the LP ticket of John Hospers for president (the first openly gay presidential candidate) and Tonie Nathan for vice president (the first Jewish woman VP candidate).

He liked what he heard, and Fields has been active in the LP ever since.

Fields ran for Congress in Madison, Wis.,

in 1978 and for the Wisconsin State Assembly in 1980. He did advance work for David Koch's vice presidential campaign swing through Wisconsin in 1980. In 1992, he ran for Assembly from Davis, Calif.

Since 1990, Fields has been a regular host and panelist on "Libertarian Counterpoint," a public access television program based in Sacramento.

Fields looks forward to helping the Libertarian Party and its candidates move public policy in a more libertarian direction, with the ultimate goal of greater harmony, peace, and prosperity that will improve the lives of all Americans and benefit the entire world.

Fields can be reached at Richard.Fields@lp.org.



Richard Fields

AFFILIATE

Updates

Colorado

Focusing on volunteer building, outreach

The Libertarian Party of Colorado has not slowed down during this period in-between elections, but has focused on volunteer building and outreach, as well as supporting the rebuilding of its presence in Denver with the goal of establishing a Denver County affiliate.

Longtime party activist David Aitken has done tremendous work refining the LP Colorado database so that effective and targeted email campaigns can be launched.

Colorado is also very proud to be home of the party records for the Libertarian Party Historical Committee, and relies on the dedication of activist Sarah Ellsworth, who assists Caryn Ann Harlos (LPHPC chair) nearly every Saturday for full days of volunteer work in organizing these records.

Florida

Renewed sense of purpose in Florida

Sometimes you need to step back a second and get the big picture — to get a new perspective, a new sense of purpose. So it is with the Libertarian Party of Florida, and Marcos Miralles, the newly elected chair of the LPF, is driving this change.

As his first initiative, he called for “Operation: First Step,” an ambitious plan to

place 200 Libertarians into local offices throughout Florida by 2020. During an interview, Miralles stated, “We’ve focused for a long time on large elections, but if we want to be realists and be successful, we need to start from the bottom and involve ourselves in the smallest level of government. Only then can we create leaders ... [who] will one day step up to win those seats at the national level.”

However, the LPF is not ignoring up ticket races. Randy Wiseman has thrown his hat into the ring for the governor’s office, while Joe Wendt is running for the U.S. Senate. Additionally, one Libertarian is running for the state Senate and four have qualified for state House.

The LPF has also grown in numbers over the years, becoming Florida’s third largest. From only 3,585 registered Libertarian voters in 1994, that number is now 31,921. The LPF itself grew right along, boasting a 13.9 percent annual increase, having added 590 new members since last August, totaling 4,248 members.

This has been accomplished by our members getting out, meeting, and interacting with voters. For example, at the St. Petersburg Pride Festival, held last June, members of the LP of Pinellas County manned a booth and used the “World’s Smallest Political Quiz,” to communicate Libertarian ideas to dozens of revelers.



Florida’s LP Pinellas County brought Libertarian ideas to the St. Petersburg Pride Festival, held June 23–25, using the Advocates for Self-Government’s “World’s Smallest Political Quiz” to interact with attendees. Photo courtesy of Jess Mears.

Great things are happening in Florida! Come join the fun in the sun!

Illinois

Local affiliates have tripled since 2015

The Libertarian Party of Illinois has continued the exponential growth it has experienced over the last few years. The number of local affiliate affiliates has more than tripled since July 2015, including the newest chapter in Chicago, the South Cook County Libertarian Party. Other new chapters have formed across the state in 2017.

That local activism led to a very successful round of local elections in April. Illinois now has several newly elected Libertarian public officials, ranging from members of local school boards and park districts to Tami Wessel, who was elected mayor of Brockport. The recent growth also has several party members excited for 2018 statewide elections, as several Libertarians have already announced their intention to run for governor with the party.

The Libertarian Party of Illinois will vote on all of its state-wide candidates at the 2018 convention.

The party now turns its focus on ballot access for those candidates in 2018. Illinois is one of only a handful of states where the Libertarian Party is not yet established, due primarily to the high threshold (5 percent for a statewide candidate) needed to achieve that goal. The party is confident that it can achieve established party status in 2018, and fundraising for petitioning has already begun.

The Libertarian Party of Illinois will host its “Ballot Access Shootout!” on Friday, Sept. 29, at C.I. Shooting Sports in Normal, Ill.. In addition to a gun raffle, the event will include open shooting lanes for shooters who wish to bring their own guns, as well as a variety of guns and instructors available to assist any beginners. Several 2018 candidates have already announced plans to attend the event, including candidates for governor, secretary of state, and comptroller, making the event a

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LP Colorado’s outreach booth at the Douglas County Fair, with Cathi Brown, Wayne Harlos, Caryn Ann Harlos, and Justin V. Mathew.

AFFILIATE

Updates

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great way to meet and greet the 2018 Libertarian ticket.

Hosted by the McLean County Libertarian Party chapter, ticket sales for the "Ballot Access Shootout!" will go to the costs associated with the petition drive. Generous donors have also provided a gun for raffle. Last year, the McLean chapter held a similar drive that raised almost \$1500.

Indiana

Expanding leadership to several counties

The Libertarian Party of Indiana is pleased to announce the installment of new leaders in several counties across the state. This continues the pattern of growth for the LPIN, even in an off-cycle year for elections.

LPIN State Chair Tim Maguire stated that the party has installed new county chairs in Knox, Hendricks, and Jackson counties. Those roles have been filled by Micah Haynes, Eric Knipe, and Erin Meadors, respectively.

"We're continuing to experience a surge in activity all around the state," Maguire said. "After the 2016 election, we never saw new interest in the Libertarian Party dwindle. Through that desire for liberty from our citizens, we have been able to identify the excitement found in these new leaders. They are just a small portion of the former Republicans and Democrats that have realized that the old parties don't represent us anymore."

Micah Haynes, the new chair of the Knox County LP, can be reached via email at micahcoyhaynes@gmail.com or by phone at (469) 600-1821. The Knox County LP can be found on Facebook at: FB.com/KnoxCountyLP

Eric Knipe, the new chair of the Hendricks County LP, can be reached via email at eric@ericknipe.com or by phone at (317) 456-2297. The Hendricks County LP can be found on Facebook at: FB.com/hendrickslp

Erin Meadors, the new chair of the Jackson County LP, can be reached via email at erinmpyle@gmail.com or by phone at (812) 271-1500. The Jackson County LP can be found on Facebook at:



The Libertarian Party of Indiana has expanded leadership by appointing county chairs in Knox, Hendricks, and Jackson counties.

FB.com/groups/165783433853863

The first half of 2017 saw the expansion of Libertarian leadership in Carroll, Morgan, Montgomery, and Jasper counties.

Maguire went on to say that "the Libertarian Party of Indiana is always looking for people interested in helping spread liberty by taking leadership roles in their community. I encourage anyone looking for a way to participate to reach out to me. We are excited about the possibility of working together with you."

Michigan

LP tries out major party primary status

Saturday, July 29, was the first convention of the Libertarian Party of Michigan conducted under changes required by its achievement of major party primary status in the 2016 general election. Local affiliates selected 103 (of 120 possible) delegates to meet in Lansing to elect new state officers and representatives to the state executive committee for two-year terms. Under the bylaws changes adopted in a February special convention, the executive committee was expanded to include five officers, plus 14 representatives, one selected by each congressional district caucus. Officers elected at large include: Bill Hall, chair; Tim Yow, first vice chair-affiliates; Greg Stempfle, second vice chair-political

director; Emily Salvette, secretary; and Jason Brandenburg, treasurer.

Several libertarian activists announced that they will seek nomination in the Aug. 7, 2018, Libertarian Party primary for offices ranging from state representative to governor. On Aug. 8, Gregory Creswell participated in the first Michigan Libertarian Party primary election for state representative in District 1, and advanced to the special general election to fill the vacancy in that office that will be held on Nov. 7.

New Hampshire

LPNH welcomes third sitting state rep

On June 27, the Libertarian Party of New Hampshire welcomed the third sitting state representative into the party when Rep. Brandon Phinney formally announced he had left the Republican Party to join the LP. Phinney joins Reps. Joseph Stallcop and Caleb Dyer in the Libertarian Caucus of the New Hampshire General Court, the only such caucus in the nation.

On July 23, the LPNH Executive Committee on July 23, approved the affiliate application from the newly formed Libertarian Party of the Lakes Region of New Hampshire, which comprises the entirety of both Belknap and Carroll Counties, as well as Grafton County (except for the towns of Bath, Bethlehem, Franconia, Lis-



Brent Ricketts, former candidate for West Virginia state auditor; Brett Rogers, candidate for county council of Berkeley County, W.V.; and LP Virginia Vice Chair Bill Redpath.

AFFILIATE

Updates

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bon, Littleton, Lyman, Monroe, and Sugar Hill). Tony Jankowski was elected chair of the LP Lakes affiliate during its organizational meeting on July 19. LP Lakes joins LP Seacoast as the second regional affiliate in New Hampshire.

LP Western NH, which was officially organized on Feb. 18, held its annual meeting on Aug. 12. During that meeting, the members voted to amend the bylaws to reduce the number of officers from five to three, and voted to consolidate the region to include only Cheshire County. The membership of LP Western NH submitted a petition for affiliation to the LPNH Executive Committee immediately following its annual meeting. Darryl W. Perry, LPNH chair, was re-elected chair of LP Western NH. Perry had served as interim chair since the organizational meeting in February.

The LPNH Membership Committee is working on organizing the remaining parts of the state into regional affiliates, with a goal of having regional affiliates for the entire state before the 2018 convention.

New Jersey

Peter Rohrman runs for governor of NJ

Peter Rohrman is running for governor of New Jersey. The campaign is about

turning around the decades of decay that has made the great state of New Jersey into a bureaucratic, anti-liberty mess.

New Jersey leads the nation in things such as highest taxes, residents exiling, home foreclosures, and so many more negative categories. It is up to the New Jersey Libertarian Party to remind people of the greatness that was once New Jersey, and not to settle for a modern-day indentured servitude to the government.

New Jersey was the third state in the union, and once led the revolution in bringing freedom and liberty to the great people of this side of the Atlantic. The Rohrman campaign is about bringing small government, constitutional rights and economic freedom to this over-taxed and over regulated state.

The campaign's economic centerpiece is fiscal democracy, which contrasts with the two major-party candidates who continue to promise more taxes and more regulations.

Over the past 20-plus years, New Jersey has produced unpopular governor after unpopular governor, rotating 8-year cycles between those two parties. The Rohrman campaign has been pushing to get the Libertarian Party front and center, because when people have a choice between tyranny and freedom they will always choose freedom.



The Libertarian Party of Santa Clara County, Calif., marches in the Rose, White, and Blue Parade in San Jose on the morning of July 4.



Richard Shelatz, Aaron Aylward, Daryl Root, Greg Baldwin, and Tracey Quint are the new and returning officers elected at the July 2017 LP South Dakota state convention.

Oklahoma

Announcing several new candidates

As the countdown to 2018 continues, the Oklahoma Libertarian Party is diligently establishing local organizations and recruiting candidates. The OKLP hosted its second candidate press conference last month to showcase top candidates within the state. With the announcements of Chris Powell for governor, William Cagle for House 84, and William Weaver for House 26, we now have three declared candidates for governor; five other candidates for U.S. House, state Senate, and state House; and many more working to organize their teams.

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, Oct. 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. Rose State College will host a point-counterpoint panel discussion from 11 a.m.–1 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 12, for any interested parties to attend.

Registration drives will continue to be a priority as upcoming events targeting in-

dependent engagement offer new opportunities to interact with politically active Oklahomans who are finished playing the old parties' games.

South Dakota

LPSD elects diverse new leadership

The Libertarian Party of South Dakota had an exciting convention in July, reported outgoing state chair Jon Boon McNutt.

"While this will likely be my last post here in any official capacity, I am very excited about the future of our party," McNutt said. "It was an amazing turnout, and I am very glad to see the excitement in our new party leaders and the renewed commitment our returning officers have shown. I am very proud of where the LPSP is headed going forward and appreciate the opportunity to be the state chair."

The new and returning LP South Dakota officers are: Aaron Aylward, state chair; Richard Shelatz, vice chair; Daryl Root, treasurer; Tracey Quint, communications director; Greg Baldwin, membership director; Gideon Oaks, state-at-large.

"The new party leadership reaches across all the different Libertarian opinions and goals to create a diverse and eclectic board to help us maximize our strengths for the upcoming 2018 election process," McNutt said. "This is an exciting time for Libertarians and all liberty-loving individuals in South Dakota!"

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Upcoming LP conventions

October 14: Massachusetts | November 4: South Carolina

For updates, visit: LP.org/2017-state-conventions

Former GOP rep Truitt

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der to tie him to Trump. He lost by 25 votes, returning the seat to the Democrats.

Truitt explained how difficult it is to get any kind of libertarian-leaning bills up for a vote, much less passed, in the Pennsylvania legislature. The Republican and Democratic leadership control which bills are considered for a vote, and control many lawmakers' votes by rewarding them with a larger staff budget.

"Their votes are based on politics, not on sound economic policy," he said.

He described one of the tricks that the leadership uses to suppress participation by less-loyal legislators.

The legislature has set a rule that requires lawmakers to submit a "fiscal note" with any bill or amendment that involves government pensions. The note, which is supplied by the state's Independent Fiscal Office (IFO), must spell out the impact the proposed law would have on pensions.

In several cases, Truitt and others requested fiscal notes for amendments they proposed. However, the IFO neglected to supply the notes in time, despite the fact that the legislators had submitted their requests on time — while they dutifully supplied requested notes to the legislators who were in alignment with the leadership.

Holding a majority in the House, the GOP leadership used the missing notes to rule the amendments out of order, while other amendments, with notes, were allowed to proceed.

"Technically, it is the parliamentarian who decides which bills and amendments are in order, but wherever he has discre-

"Republicans are all too afraid to cross their leadership," Truitt said. "It bothered the devil out of me."

tion, he sides with the speaker (currently, Mike Turzai) and the majority leader (currently, Dave Reed)," Truitt explained. "[They make] sure that only the desired fiscal notes come back from the IFO. The rest are mysteriously delayed, or the requests mysteriously never get to the IFO."

Only leaders can formally request the fiscal notes from the IFO. Truitt had offered an amendment to enable rank-and-file members to request the fiscal notes themselves, "but my spineless colleagues voted against it at the direction of leadership," he said.

"Republicans are all too afraid to cross their leadership," Truitt said. "It bothered the devil out of me."

He also notes that committee assignments are based on seniority, not merit or knowledge of the subject area, and that legislators vie for committees based on their fundraising potential. The Transportation and Finance Committees are especially popular.

Now back in the private sector and registered as a member of the Libertarian Party, Truitt has resumed his engineering work and plans to write a book to weaken the grip of the two major parties and to expose the many ways in which the Pennsylvania legislature works for the benefit of special interests, not for the people.

Media Buzz

"Narratives for both the Libertarian Party and the Green Party have gone beyond outsider outreach or quiet asides to focused intent: They want conventional news coverage. And thanks to President Trump, perhaps, they also see that canny use of social media can yield buzz, admiration and new followers. Among other things, the Libertarian Party has a clever new logo and motto — 'all of your freedoms, all of the time' — and is hiring a full-time press spokesperson to wrangle the media. They're working on a formal history of the movement and actively recruiting candidates for local and state offices. The party is also tracking — one by one — those elected officials who are turning Libertarian, most recently in New Hampshire and Nebraska." **Washington Times, 7/9/2017**

"Cliff Hyra will be on the ballot in November but won't be on the stage Saturday when his two rivals in the Virginia governor's race square off in their first debate. Hyra, the Libertarian Party candidate, met the state's daunting hurdle for ballot access, collecting 10,000 signatures from across Virginia for the right to be listed on Election Day along with Republican Ed Gillespie and Democrat Ralph Northam. ... 'It would be really unfortunate if somebody comes to the polls and says, 'Oh, who is this guy?'" Hyra said. "It's really the Virginia voter who loses when I'm excluded from the debates. I think it would spur a lot more interest." **Washington Post, 7/21/2017**

"Fancy Farm speakers are seldom at a loss for words at the annual St. Jerome [Kentucky] parish picnic, and some toss out memorable lines. Saturday had plenty of highlights, including ... Libertarian national committee chairman Nick Sawark, mocking Republican U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell, Senate majority leader for making an early exit after speaking at Fancy Farm: 'Maybe McConnell had to get back to Washington so he could continue not to get anything done.'" **Courier-Journal, 8/6/17**

Marcellus Williams death penalty case

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people in this country, and I think that when you get that kind of evidence, support for capital punishment goes down, because it's not a mistake that can be fixed anymore. And it may be that part of the reason why prosecutors and the courts in the Williams case don't want to go back and look at this evidence is, if it turns out that he's innocent, that puts another hole in their argument that the capital punishment system in this country is working."

As enumerated in its platform, the Libertarian Party opposes the death penalty.

"Time and time again, wrongfully convicted individuals are put to

death," said Libertarian Party Chair Nicholas Sarwark, a former public defender. "The number of wrongful executions is damning, but also irrelevant. The death penalty is a barbaric practice that, thankfully, is decreasing worldwide and should be abolished in the United States."

Since World War II, 102 countries have completely discontinued the practice of capital punishment. According to Wikipedia, most First World nations have abolished the practice, with notable exception being the United States, China, South Korea, and some Islamic states. The United States is the only country in the Western Hemisphere that still allows the death penalty. Only 31 state governments within the United States practice it, with seven having abolished it in the past 10 years. There is a governor's moratorium on capital punishment in four of the 31 remaining states.