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LP News

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Americans are ready for the Libertarian Party

Republicans and Democrats often have a stranglehold on the U.S. political process, but Americans are ready for that to change. According to a Politico/Morning Consult poll conducted in early February, more than half of all voters in the United States believe a third party is needed, and a third of all voters would be willing to vote for a third-party candidate in the 2020 presidential election. A Gallup poll from October showed that 57 percent of Americans think a strong third party is needed.

It's no wonder why. Another Gallup poll from January revealed that only 35 percent of Americans trust the U.S. government to handle domestic problems, a number that only increases to 41 percent for international troubles. Those are the lowest figures in more than 20 years. An August Gallup poll showed that 21 percent of Americans view government itself as the

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How much do YOU trust the government?

Only 35% of Americans trust the U.S. government to handle domestic problems.

Libertarians organize national park cleanups across United States

To show their commitment to voluntarism, members of the Libertarian Party organized a trash cleanup of the National Mall in Washington, D.C., on Jan. 6. National parks had been largely neglected because of the partial federal government shutdown, leading to widespread media coverage. Less than 72 hours after a Facebook event was created by the Libertarian Party of the District of Columbia, dozens of Libertarians teamed up to voluntarily keep the National Mall clean. Forty volunteers helped out, collecting more than 20 bags of trash left by visitors to the National Mall since the shutdown.

"Libertarians pitched in today to pick up trash on the National Mall, practicing what we preach about stepping up in absence of government," said Joe Bishop-Henchman, chair of the Libertarian Party of the District of Columbia. "President Trump and Congress have decided a clean National Mall is not important, so I'm grateful so many people stepped up to help make it a little better for our residents and visitors. NBC4 was on hand to interview the volunteers,

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Taking bold, strategic moves

Chair's Corner

By Nicholas Sarwark, LNC Chair

Big things are happening in the Libertarian Party this year.

After many years of service, Wes Benedict stepped down as executive director, leaving some very big shoes to fill. We started an open process to find a new executive director, receiving more than 35 applications from people excited about the opportunity to lead America's third-largest (and only growing) political party. Incredible credit goes to Interim Executive Director Lauren Daugherty and all of our national office staff for pulling together during the search process to keep the Libertarian Party running smoothly.

One of our greatest accomplishments this decade was getting ballot access in 50 states and Washington, D.C., for our 2016 presidential ticket, which allowed Gov. Gary Johnson to earn 4.5 million votes, tripling Ed Clark's 1 percent vote total from 1980. Such a historic result would not have been possible without 50-state ballot access, and we're on track to have that access again in 2020.

The old parties know how powerful a message it would send to have the Libertarian candidate on every single American's ballot in back-to-back presidential elections. That's why they are working to stop us in any way possible. In Arkansas, the legislature passed an "emergency" bill to make ballot access much harder and have the new rules go into effect immediately, making it much harder to get on the ballot there. In Iowa, the legislature is considering a bill to require the Libertarian Party to nominate candidates much earlier, before our national convention. There appears to be a concerted ef-



Nicholas Sarwark

fort around the country to keep Libertarian candidates off the ballot.

We know they play dirty, and we're ready to stand up to the bullies. We just launched a lawsuit in Maine to stop the secretary of state from purging more than 5,000 registered Libertarians from its voter rolls. The Libertarian Party of Georgia is in the middle of a ballot access lawsuit, and there will probably be a lawsuit in Arkansas against their emergency law. As long as we have the financial resources, we have the legal team led by our Special Counsel Oliver Hall that can fight and strike down these restrictions on our ballot access in court all around the country.

Our goal is not only to strike down the barriers, but to use our current ballot access to run more than 200 candidates nationwide in 2019 with the goal of electing more than 70 new Libertarians to state and local office all around the country. The old parties don't have solutions to the problems facing our communities, so we need more Libertarians in local government showing our neighbors how we lead — Libertarians like Candidate Recruitment Specialist Cara Schulz, who also serves on the Burnsville City Council in Minnesota.

We are looking forward to a 2020 presidential nominating convention in Austin, Texas, on May 22–25, 2020. The theme selection process is in progress, to set the tone for what is likely to be the biggest national convention in Libertarian Party history. Everything's bigger in Texas!

Thanks to your continued support of the Libertarian Party, we are able to keep up the momentum as America's fastest growing political alternative. As opportunities present themselves going into 2020, we will continue to take the bold, strategic moves to set our world free in our lifetimes.

Yours in liberty,

DONOR Appreciation

The following individuals became Chairman's Circle contributors:

William Perkins

George Phillies



The following individuals became Beacon of Liberty contributors:

Anthony Beavers



Daniel E. Hayes

The following individual became a Pioneer of Freedom contributor:

Richard Fast

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NATIONAL CHAIR:
Nicholas Sarwark
E-mail: Chair@LP.org

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.

EDITOR: Eric D. Dixon

CONTRIBUTORS: Richard Fields, Lauren Daugherty, Bob Johnston, Caryn Ann Harlos, Bill Redpath, Elizabeth Brierly, Nicholas Sarwark, Eric D. Dixon, state affiliates

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SEND NEWS, ARTICLES,
ESSAYS, OR PHOTOGRAPHS:
E-mail: LPNews@LP.org

ADDRESS CHANGES:
Phone: (202) 333-0008
E-mail: Members@LP.org

POSTAL MAIL:
1444 Duke St.
Alexandria, VA 22314
Phone: (202) 333-0008

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Contribute today: LP.org/office-fund

LP fights effort to unenroll Maine voters

The Libertarian Party of Maine would have been a state-qualified political party with ballot access in the upcoming 2020 election ... until Maine's secretary of state decided to arbitrarily unenroll 6,168 of its registered voters soon after the November general election. LP Maine now has until Jan. 2, 2020, to re-enroll 5,000 voters with the Libertarian Party, according to state officials. LP Maine issued the following press release on Dec. 14:

The Libertarian Party of Maine is taking action to retain the party's full legal status in Maine and to protect thousands of registered Maine voters from an effort by the Secretary of State to forcibly unenroll them from their party affiliation.

After the midterm election in November, the Secretary of State's office declared the Libertarian Party of Maine to be not a qualified party and took steps to remove the Libertarian Party listing on voter registration forms. The action also effectively changes the status of more than 6,000 registered Libertarians in Maine to "unenrolled," meaning not affiliated with a major or "qualified" party.

In response, the Libertarian Party of Maine filed a "Declaration of Intent to Form a Party" with the Secretary of State to begin a campaign to reregister existing Libertarians and add to Libertarian registration numbers to maintain ballot access and qualify for the 2020 primary. Julie Flynn, deputy secretary of state, wrote a December 11 letter to Chris Lyons, chairman of the Libertarian Party of Maine, acknowledging the declaration and clearing the way for the registration effort to begin January 1, 2019.



Flynn explained in the letter that the Libertarian Party of Maine needs to register at least 5,000 voters by January 2, 2020 to become a qualified party again, which is ironic since there are already some 6,000 people who have registered as Libertarian in the state.

Previously, the Libertarian Party of Maine had to go to Federal Court to force the Secretary of State to recognize the party in 2016, and the party is currently in the process of taking legal action to keep the state from converting existing registered Libertarians to unenrolled without their permission. At the same time, the party is ramping up registration efforts to begin in 2019.

"It's just not right to unenroll voters – never mind doing it without telling them," said Chris Lyons, chairman of the LPME. "It's especially disturbing in these times when more than 60 percent of Americans say they want an alternative to the Democrats and Republicans. There is no benefit or interest by the state to unenroll Mainers exercising their 1st and 14th Amendment Constitutional rights."

If you would like to help the LPME become a qualified party again, visit LPME.org.

US is ready for Libertarian Party

...continued from page 1

biggest problem facing the country.

This widespread dissatisfaction with U.S. government is consistent with the increasing prevalence of libertarian views among the general public. Polling shows that more than a quarter of Americans have political views that can be characterized as libertarian.

This all suggests that the Libertarian Party should be winning more and bigger electoral races than ever. In fact, that's exactly what's happening. Out of the 833 Libertarian candidates who ran in 2018, 55 were elected to public office in 11 states.

One of those elected officials is Jeff Hewitt, who won a seat on the Board of Supervisors for Riverside County, Calif., in the November election after spending eight years as the Libertarian mayor of Calimesa and even longer on the city's planning commission. Hewitt recently gave the Libertarian Party's 2019 State of the Union address, explaining how Libertarians would restrain runaway government spending, withdraw from never-ending wars abroad, end the surveillance state, protect privacy and property rights, end mass incarceration and the destructive war on drugs, and welcome immigrants who expand our economy and enrich our culture.

"Riverside County Supervisor Jeff Hewitt just might be the strangest Libertarian of them all," the L.A. Times reported, "a politician capable of winning elections who could move the party from the fringes into the mainstream."

During Hewitt's time as mayor of Calimesa, he severed ties with the bloated pensions and overstaffing of the state-run fire department. He replaced it with a local alternative that costs far less and has been much more effective at protecting endangered property. This simple change also eliminated two layers of administrative costs at the county and state levels.

Now Hewitt is poised to bring Libertarian solutions to an even larger area in his new position with Riverside County, which has more residents than the populations of 15 different states. This rise from local success is a model that can be replicated around the country, suggests Fullerton College political science professor Jodi Balma, who said in the L.A. Times article that Hewitt's success shows how Libertarian candidates can "build a pipeline to higher office" with successful local races that show the practical value of Libertarian Party ideas on a small scale before parlaying them into state and federal office.

That practical value is immense, as Libertarian Nebraska state Sen. Laura Ebke showed when she almost single-handedly passed statewide licensure reform to nearly unanimous 45 to 1 tri-partisan approval. This legislation

clears the way for countless Nebraskans to build careers in fields that were once closed off from effective competition behind mountains of regulatory red tape.

The American people have the third party they're looking for. The Libertarian Party is already the third-largest political party in the United States, and it shares the public's values of fiscal responsibility and social tolerance — the same values that drive the public's disdain for American politicians and wasteful, destructive, and ineffective government programs.

The Libertarian Party is also the only third party that routinely appears on ballots in every state.

"We now have ballot access for our 2020 presidential ticket in 33 states and Washington, D.C., which represents the best ballot access that any third party has achieved at this stage in the election cycle since 1914," said Libertarian National Committee Chair Nicholas Sarwark. "This will substantially reduce the burden we've so often had in past years for achieving complete full ballot access throughout the United States. We had only 17 states with ballot access at this point after the 1992 midterm election — half as many as today."

The climate is ripe for Libertarian progress. The pieces are all here, ready to be assembled. All it requires is building awareness of the Libertarian Party — our ideas, our values, our practical reforms, and our electoral successes — in the minds and hearts of the American public.

2020 Pay-to-Play Libertarian National Convention Theme Contest

We look forward to seeing all of you in Austin for the 2020 National Libertarian Convention, which will be our biggest and most exciting ever. With this email we are launching the first phase of our 2020 Pay-to-Play Libertarian National Convention Theme Contest. In the first round (pre-season), a donation of at least \$20 allowed members to submit a theme.

We added some twists to this year's contest to make it more fun while allowing the market a greater role in determining the competing themes and the eventual outcome. All themes submitted with a qualifying donation advanced to the second round (regular season), so long as they did not violate the rules published on the donation page.

The pre-season (theme submission phase) of our 2020 Pay-to-Play Libertarian National Convention Theme Contest brought in 63 submissions, resulting in 58 unique themes, and more than \$1,949 raised toward convention expenses.

On Feb. 1, the "regular season" of the theme contest began, in which members started supporting their favorite submitted theme(s) by voting with their dollars. As of press time on March 4, this second round of voting has brought the donation total to \$13,034!

ONLY the top 16 highest vote getting themes advanced to our March Mayhem Theme Tournament.

By the time you read this newsletter, we will be well into March Mayhem and the field will be significantly narrowed to the top few themes. As of press time, though,



here are all the original theme contenders and the amount of support each received by March 4:

- TANSTAAFL (\$3,540)
- Ancapistan (\$3,382)
- Building Bridges, Not Walls (\$1,010)
- Envision Liberty (\$760)
- Minimum government, maximum freedom (\$535)
- End Our Wars (\$450)
- Keep the Libertarian Party Weird (\$350)
- FREEDOM, NOTHING MORE, NOTHING LESS (\$345)
- Make America Free Again (\$240)
- Pro-Choice on Everything! (\$210)
- This Way to Liberty (\$171)
- Because EVERYONE'S rights matter! (\$160)
- All Free - All Accountable (\$130)

- 2020 The perfect vision for the future. (\$105)
- Empowering The Individual (\$85)
- THE Anti-war Party (\$76)
- Mind Your Own Business! (\$75)
- Realizing Liberty's Vision (\$75)
- Life First (\$75)
- Let's be Libertarian Together (\$75)
- Get Off Your Keyboards and Go Outside! (\$70)
- Taxation Is Theft (\$69)
- Tough love served here. (\$60)
- Lovers of Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness (\$58)
- Freedom! (\$55)
- Libertarians: Liberty and Justice for ALL! (\$50)
- The Future of Freedom (\$50)
- Chance, Choice and Change. (\$40)

- Seeing 20-20 (\$38)
- Envision Freedom (\$35)
- LEADING BY EXAMPLE (\$35)
- Now More Than Ever! (\$35)
- Trek to the Stars (The making of the Aliens) (\$35)
- Military home, peace now! (\$30)
- Personal Freedoms: the Roots of Liberty (\$30)
- A Vision for Liberty (\$25)
- EMBRACING THE RIGORS OF FREEDOM (\$25)
- Proud to be Libertarian (\$25)
- Star Above the Rest (\$25)
- What could you do? (\$25)
- United for Liberty (\$25)
- LIVE FREE, OR ELSE (\$25)
- #AuditTheFed (\$20)
- 2020-We've Got Vision (\$20)
- BUILDING THE FREEDOM FARM TEAM (\$20)
- Don't Mess With Anyone (\$20)
- For All People, For All Ages (\$20)
- L's Angels - Road Warriors for Peace and Freedom (\$20)
- Land of the free? Home of the brave? Freedom is the bravery to vote Libertarian! (\$20)
- Liberty & Justice. Para Todos. (\$20)
- Liberty IS 20/20 (\$20)
- Make America REVOLUTIONARY Again (\$20)
- No Borders (\$20)
- PEOPLE GOT TO BE FREE! (\$20)
- SET THE BAR HIGH - FREEDOM (\$20)
- The Biggest Little Party in America (\$20)
- The Future will be Free (\$20)
- Torchbearers for Liberty (\$20)

Secretary update: Working to preserve institutional memory, train activists

By Caryn Ann Harlos,
LNC Secretary

It is with great excitement that I announce that all of the issues of *LP News*, from the beginning of the Party (actually, dating from one month prior), are now digitized and online



Caryn Ann Harlos

for your viewing and research pleasure: LPedia.org/LP_News

This has been a long project that started with a fortuitous visit to Libertarian Party national headquarters in 2017 and blossomed into a massive historical preservation project. We are always in need of volunteers to assist (and the work can be done online anywhere or locally in Colorado). If you are interested, please get in touch with me at secretary@lp.org or (561) 523.2250.

Additionally, there are heartbreaking gaps in our early records. If you are in possession of Libertarian Party records

from the 1970s, I would love to hear from you.

I also have been creating a set of introductory videos to assist new members to get plugged into the party. The videos are featured regularly on the Libertarian Party Facebook page and YouTube channel. There is nothing I love more than mentoring newborn Libertarians.

Lastly, in an effort to make the voting records of your Libertarian National Committee members more accessible, you can view the voting records for this year online here: tinyurl.com/lncvotes2019

Remember, I am here to assist you in

any way I can in the scope of my position, so never hesitate to reach out. I believe that a healthy administrative foundation for the Libertarian Party must include accessibility, accountability, and transparency.

As we approach the 2020 Libertarian National Convention, I am sure many affiliates will have questions on the delegate and convention process, and I am eager to assist. It is an honor to serve the Libertarian Party, thank you.

Caryn Ann Harlos,
Libertarian Party and Libertarian
National Committee Secretary

The Libertarian Party's 2019 State of the Union Address

Delivered by Jeff Hewitt,
Elected Libertarian

Board of Supervisors,
Riverside County, Calif.

Feb. 4, 2019

Watch online: [LP.org/sotu2019](https://www.lp.org/sotu2019)

The Constitution requires that the president “shall from time to time give to Congress information of the State of the Union.” This is one of the simplest and least controversial provisions in the document. But surprise! Republicans and Democrats struggle to agree even on that.

The Libertarian Party is happy to pick up where the old parties fail, so we thought it would be fitting to offer some information you won't hear in the torrent of doom and gloom from our nation's capital.

Across the country, Americans are finding new ways to work together, to prosper, to help each other and to help themselves. New technologies and new markets give us a standard of living that in past centuries the most powerful of kings could have only dreamed of. Voluntary exchange and innovation have given all of us new ways to learn, to communicate, to travel, to heal ourselves, and to heal our world.

Democratic and Republican politicians like Nancy Pelosi and Donald Trump try to frighten Americans by pronouncing disaster after disaster, which they say only they can save us from. Instead of listening to those fear tactics, let's consider how far we have come.

Within living memory, we have seen modern medicine save untold millions from diseases that would have previously been a death sentence. We have seen an agricultural and technological revolution save billions from the threat of famine and starvation. The cost of shipping goods across the world has decreased dramatically, enabling amazing new levels of prosperity and interconnectedness. We have expanded the circle of humanity to embrace the natural rights of people who were previously beaten down by centuries of oppression. We have brought the world together with awe-inspiring new kinds of communications technology, and made computers so affordable that countless people can carry one in their pocket.

Here in America, violent crime rates have plummeted by 74 percent since their



Jeff Hewitt
County Supervisor, Riverside County, California

peak in 1993 and our standards of living have risen. And across the globe, we are on the verge of making extreme poverty a distant memory. Since 1990, 1 billion people have transcended extreme poverty.

These things are no accident. It is not a coincidence that the human experience has improved more in the last 100 years than in the many thousands of years preceding. We have developed the principles and institutions that make this progress possible. We have made arbitrary political power subject to the rule of law, protected individual human rights to property and contract, and come closer to the true meaning of our nation's creed, that all of us “are created equal,” endowed “with certain unalienable Rights,” including “Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.”

Of course, things are still far from perfect. Too often, governments continue to violate our rights and hinder our progress. Old-party politicians seek to divide us by nationality, by race, by religion, by gender and sexuality, and by any other means they can think of to create categories of people whose rights somehow matter less than the rest of ours. Libertarians say: All Americans should be equal before the law.

Our federal government lacks fiscal discipline. Our national debt has skyrocketed to almost \$22 trillion. That's a massive burden for all of us, at more than 164 thousand dollars per household! Politicians have mortgaged our future to pay for out-of-control, bloated government. Libertarians say: It is not acceptable for politicians to rack up this kind of debt.

We have created an army of interfering bureaucrats. This brings to mind the charge leveled against King George in the Declaration of Independence: “He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harass our people, and eat out their substance.” Libertarians say: We want the government to leave you alone.

At airports across the nation, TSA agents engage in absurd security theater, groping travelers and wasting our time while doing little to make us any safer. An array of intelligence agencies such as the NSA continue their unconstitutional mass spying on Americans. Libertarians say: Restore our privacy! End the surveillance state!

Across the world, our sons and daughters have been deployed to far-flung, never-ending wars without constitutional authorization. This year, the first Americans born after 9/11 will deploy to our war in Afghanistan. Libertarians say: Never-ending wars make Americans less safe. It is time to focus on diplomacy.

At our Southern border, government agents have committed acts of cruelty that shock the conscience in pursuit of the counterproductive and futile goal of controlling the free movement of people. America's immigration bureaucracy has become an authoritarian monstrosity, aimed not just outward at would-be immigrants but also inward at American citizens. The prohibition of immigration requires an extensive apparatus for mass surveillance and government intrusion

into our daily interactions. Libertarians say: The United States should welcome immigrants.

In our prisons, hundreds of thousands are behind bars for no just reason at all. These are the victims of mass incarceration, a misbegotten “tough on crime” and “war on drugs” mentality that punishes people who have harmed nobody, thus devastating communities and destroying lives in the process. Assembly-line justice makes a mockery of our constitutional rights. Coercive plea bargaining has turned the sacred right to a jury trial into a rarely seen farce. And the absurd proliferation of laws has made criminals of us all. Libertarians say: Too often, our justice system is a system of injustice. It is a stain on this nation's conscience ... a moral crisis of our time.

Libertarians stand against these injustices, and for the proposition that Americans deserve better. While Republicans and Democrats careen toward socialism and fascism, Libertarians stand for the timeless principles of justice; the self-evident truths of individual freedom; and the rights of every person to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Americans are better than our current government. With your help, and with your support, Libertarians can provide a way out from the current politics of fear and division. We offer fiscal sanity, restrained government, and a live-and-let-live approach. Our ideas represent what is best about America.

Libertarian officeholders are already working to improve lives and implement real solutions, in offices like the one I hold, on the Riverside County, Calif., Board of Supervisors, or on the town councils and local boards of places like Copperton, Utah; Burnsville, Minn.; and Altamonte Springs, Fla. In these and many other jurisdictions, elected Libertarians are already hard at work cutting taxes, slashing red tape, shrinking government, and offering thoughtful, pragmatic solutions to day-to-day problems.

We're here to offer Americans a better option, from the top of the ballot to the bottom of the ballot, from the smallest of local offices to the president of the United States. It's that dedication that has made us America's fastest-growing political party.

We invite you to join us, as we seek peace, prosperity, and liberty for every American. Thank you.

Patients should remain free to choose kratom

The herbal supplement known as kratom has become a popular over-the-counter alternative treatment for chronic pain. Some people also claim it's effective at alleviating symptoms of coughing, diarrhea, fatigue, depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress. Although the Food and Drug Administration has claimed to link kratom to a few dozen overdose deaths, the National Institute on Drug Abuse points out that those cases involve adulterated doses and multiple drug interactions. There appear to be no clear cases of fatal overdose on kratom alone. No matter how many people use kratom safely and effectively, however, regulators focus only on the possibility of abuse. Their solution? Prohibition, of course.

In 2018, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Stop the Importation and Trafficking of Synthetic Analogues (SITSA) Act, which aimed to grant the Department of Justice broad unilateral authority over classifying chemical analogues or substances like kratom as prohibited drugs. Although the SITSA Act didn't pass the Senate, future iterations of the bill may resurface. State legislatures, including in Utah and Georgia, have also begun to form committees and draft their own forms of kratom regulation.

Grown and used as a pain reliever for centuries in Southeast Asia, kratom acts as a stimulant at low doses and a sedative at high doses, interacting with the brain in a way similar to opiates but reportedly

"[W]e favor the repeal of all laws creating 'crimes' without victims, such as gambling, the use of drugs for medicinal or recreational purposes, and consensual transactions involving sexual services."

LIBERTARIAN PARTY PLATFORM
1.7 Crime and Justice

Learn more at LP.org/platform

without side effects like physical dependence and slowed breathing. The SITSA Act would have allowed the bureaucrats of a single federal agency to determine its legality without needing input or consultation from others.

"The scope of the bill — allowing the Attorney General broad powers to unilaterally decide which drugs should be scheduled — was unprecedented for any time, let alone a moment when the Trump Administration was so intent on escalating the drug war," wrote Michael Collins, interim director of the Office of National Affairs at the Drug Policy Alliance. "We had to fight back."

Thanks to testimony and informational campaigns from the Drug Policy Alliance and other activist groups like FreedomWorks and Human Rights Watch, the SITSA Act fizzled out in the Senate. The Liber-

tarian Party stands with them in opposing the SITSA Act and any similar legislation that may arise at all levels of government. During the 2018 Libertarian National Convention in New Orleans, the Libertarian National Committee adopted a resolution condemning the SITSA Act:

Whereas, the Libertarian Party favors the repeal of all laws creating "crimes" without victims, such as the use of drugs for medicinal or recreational purposes;

Whereas, individuals have the freedom and responsibility to decide what they knowingly and voluntarily consume, and what risks they accept to their own health, finances, safety, or life;

Whereas, the Libertarian Party stands against the gross and negligent overreach of The SITSA Act HB 2851 and

its future Senate counterpart;

Be it resolved, that the Libertarian Party will draft and publish a press release in a timely fashion to both educate and warn the public of the dangers of the SITSA Act.

Although the SITSA Act was abandoned, the prohibitionist mindset that it represents continues unabated. Effective pain relief is more difficult than ever for patients to obtain safely and legally as the federal government cracks down on doctors and pharmacists for doing nothing more than treating the chronic pain of their patients. One out of every five prisoners in the United States is behind bars for a drug offense. Legalizing drugs would save \$41.3 billion in annual taxpayer expense, simply by calling a halt to the wasteful and destructive war on drugs. Drug decriminalization in Portugal has been a stunning success, with decreased overall drug use and the normalization of medical treatment rather than harsh punishment for addicts who truly need help.

It's time to trust Americans to decide what they choose to ingest, and allow the sunlight of legal market activity to eradicate the violence and tumult of black-market drug trafficking. Republicans and Democrats alike consistently vote to keep the drug war funded and continually escalating. Only the Libertarian Party takes individual conscience and choice seriously enough to call for an end to substance prohibition.

Libertarians support patients who need access to pain relief

It's more difficult than ever for patients suffering chronic pain to obtain the relief they need, thanks to harsh government crackdowns on the availability of prescription painkillers. Instead of helping real addicts overcome habitual drug abuse, these draconian policies target doctors, pharmacists, and the suffering patients who rely on pain management to allow them a baseline quality of life. On Jan. 29, dozens of "Don't Punish Pain" rallies were held around the United States to stand up for the rights of patients who are being denied the pain-relieving medications they need.

"As Libertarians, we support bodily autonomy," said stage 4 cancer patient Cara Schulz, who also serves as the candidate recruiting specialist for the Libertarian

National Committee. "What we choose to put in our bodies, especially when under the care of our personal physician, is our business. We believe government shouldn't get in between doctors or patients. And we know this new Drug War is just as destructive as the last one."

As happens almost universally in cases of substance prohibition, government restrictions on production and availability cause an array of new unintended consequences — without solving the original problems they were meant to address. In 2016, the Centers for Disease Control created guidelines meant to address the increase in fentanyl and heroin overdoses, which led the Drug Enforcement Agency to threaten and harass doctors with prison time, bankruptcy, and loss of their medical

licenses if they continued to prescribe pain medications to cancer patients and those with chronic pain.

"Many physicians, hospitals, and even pharmacies have stopped treating chronic pain altogether," Schulz said. "According to pain management experts, millions of pain patients and cancer patients are being cut off or forcibly tapered down. Suicides are increasing. People who once were able to go to work and have a fairly normal life are now disabled."

Data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health demonstrates that the vast majority of drug abusers are not former pain-relief patients. Whatever social factors may contribute to damaging drug addiction, the doctor-patient relationship is rarely among them. And, for people who are addicted, the

decreasing availability of prescription medication leads them to seek out more destructive black-market alternatives.

Cracking down on doctors results in extra harm for both the patients who need relief and the addicts who need intervention. Instead of prohibiting or severely restricting pain-relief medication, we should offer care and support to those who need it most.

The nationwide "Don't Punish Pain" rallies on Jan. 29 were held in 34 states, and rallies in four other states are being rescheduled for a future date. The Libertarian Party stands together with all patients who demand the right to choose what kinds of pain medications they and their doctors decide will best provide the relief they so desperately need.

THE 2018 LIBERTARIAN PARTY ANNUAL REPORT



The Libertarian Party is amid an exciting time of growth and success, and our achievements in 2018 show how Libertarian ideas speak to more people than ever — people who are willing to take bold action to advance individual freedom.

Election

One of the most significant hallmarks of that success is voter registration, with a 92 percent increase in registered Libertarians during the past decade. Those voters are a driving force behind the success of Libertarian Party candidates. We had about 40 percent more Libertarians seeking public office in 2018 than in 2016, and out of those 833 candidates we had 55 electoral victories in 15 states — Arizona, California, Florida, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, and Wisconsin.

Those victories surpass our 2016 rate by



Libertarian Jeff Hewitt was elected to the Board of Supervisors in Riverside County, Calif., in November 2018, representing nearly 2.5 million residents.

59 percent, and there are now 180 Libertarians now holding elected office as of January 2019.

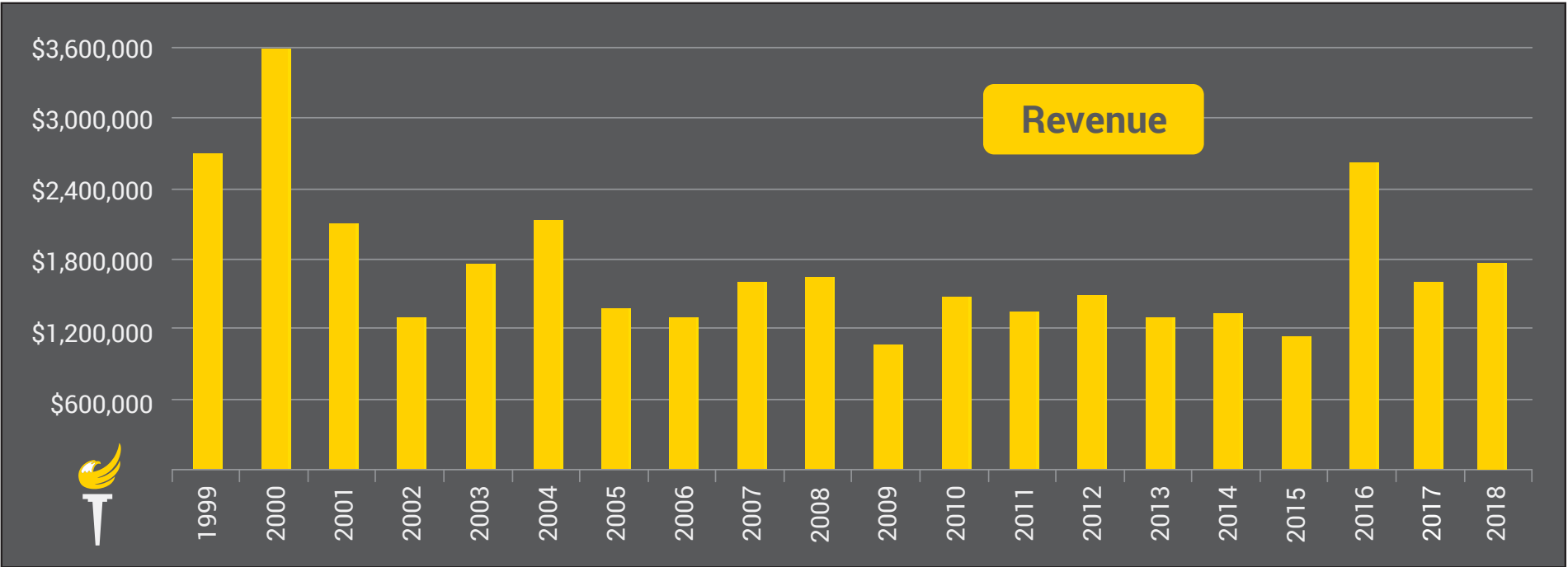
By implementing fiscally sound and socially accepting policies at the local level,

these Libertarian officeholders are showing that real, lasting change happens from the bottom up, not from the top down. Nowhere is this truth more evident than in Riverside County, Calif., where the Libertarian Party had perhaps its biggest electoral victory when Jeff Hewitt won his race for the Board of Supervisors in November. Hewitt now has one of the five critical votes governing a region with a population larger than 15 different states, and he represents more constituents than any other Libertarian elected official in the party's history. Hewitt's victory follows his many years of substantial and successful reform as the mayor of Calimesa and a member of the city's planning commission.

Ballot Access

The 2018 election also brought a tremendous advantage for our 2020 campaigns, because we now have ballot access for our

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2020 presidential ticket in 33 states and Washington, D.C.! Libertarian candidate vote totals were high enough in November to secure the party’s ballot access for future elections in Indiana, Massachusetts, New York, Oklahoma, Wyoming, and Washington, D.C., allowing us and our state affiliates to focus resources on our candidates rather than on the costly and painstaking process of petition qualification.

The more than 90,000 votes that Larry Sharpe received for governor of New York won Libertarian ballot access in that state for the first time in history. Ballot access victories also came from judicial rulings. A federal district court judge ruled that South Dakota’s laws regulating third-party ballot access were unconstitutional, violating the First and Fourteenth Amendment rights of the Libertarian Party. Oklahoma changed its ballot-retention percentage requirement to apply to any statewide race, not just governor or president, which will make it much easier to remain on the ballot there.

We now have a better ballot access position than any third party has achieved at this stage in the election cycle in more than a century. This will substantially reduce the burden we’ve so often had in past years for achieving full ballot access throughout the United States, making it much easier to achieve our goal of ballot access in all 50 states and Washington, D.C., for our 2020



presidential ticket. We had only 17 states with ballot access at this point after the 1992 midterm election – half as many as today. All the resources we would have had to spend fighting the uphill battle of attaining ballot access in those states can now be spent more efficiently doing the real work of spreading Libertarian ideas.

Issue Leadership

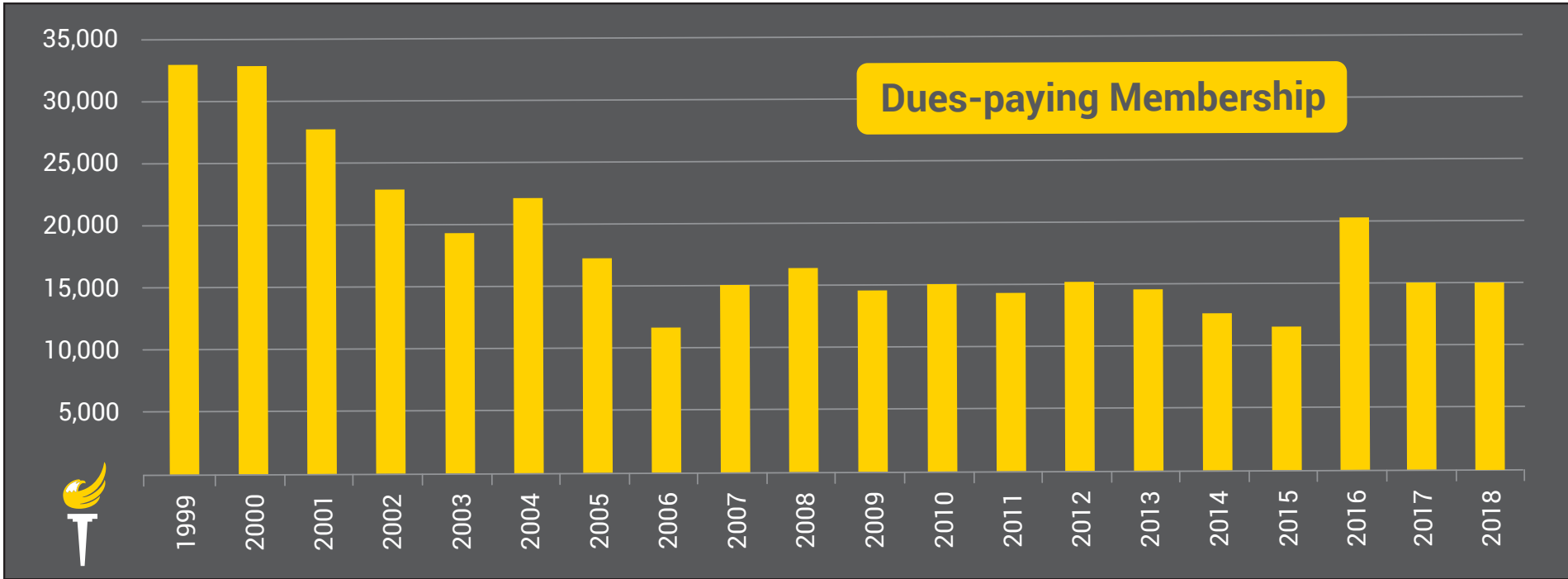
Those ideas bring real, practical benefits to people’s lives. Before the election, for instance, Nebraska’s Libertarian Sen. Laura Ebke demonstrated just how much difference one legislator can make by spearheading and passing statewide occupational licensure reform with nearly unanimous support. This legislation allows countless people throughout the state access to jobs that were previously out of reach, behind a mountain of arbitrary regulations and red

tape. After her enormous success, Ebke will continue to work on these issues in the coming years as a staff member at the free-market Platte Institute.

Libertarian Party messages of fiscal responsibility and social tolerance have also had extensive influence when it comes to issues like drug legalization, criminal justice reform, and economic planning. The rest of the country is gradually catching up to these ideas, moving the needle forward on socially acceptable policy outcomes, but we’ve been ahead of the curve for decades. The 2018 election included ballot initiatives to legalize recreational marijuana in Michigan and medical marijuana in both Missouri and Utah, restore voter rights for nonviolent felons, and defeat destructive regulations like California’s proposed rent control law and price controls on dialysis clinics – both of which would have hurt the very people they were supposed to help.

We’re continuing to take bold stances in favor of individual freedom, no matter which direction the populist winds are blowing at any given moment. At the 2018 Libertarian National Convention, we adopted a new platform plank advocating protection for the rights of sex workers, and strengthened our immigration plank to make it crystal clear that we value the free, unrestricted movement of people across political borders.

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National Convention

Speaking of the convention, we're pleased to report that we had the biggest Libertarian National Convention ever in 2018, setting new records for both fundraising and attendance — surpassing even the 2016 presidential nominating convention, which had set records of its own. This would be great news in any year, but it's especially noteworthy that this happened during a non-presidential election year.

Preparations are already under way for our 2020 Libertarian National Convention in Austin, Texas, where we hope to set new records all over again.

Candidate Strategy

Our new approach to recruiting candidates and focusing resources on strategic races in 2018 showed how targeted campaigning can bring even more electoral success within reach. Apollo Pazell, our campaigns advisor, identified a handful of races around the country with vulnerable seats and an ideal campaigning landscape. His team launched an intensive on-the-ground strategy in Wyoming that included visiting every constituent's doorstep at least twice — and ultimately came within only a few dozen votes of unseating the state House speaker-elect. With more strategic effort in similar campaigns, we can win even more races.

Cara Schulz, our candidate recruitment specialist, has helped candidates get their campaigns up and running in record time. She serves as a resource to every prospective candidate in December 2017, walking them through the steps and strategies involved in running a campaign. Biweekly conference calls and candidate newsletters kept everyone in the loop about the latest ideas in circulation, and Cara also made herself available for one-on-one consulting to brainstorm strategies, insights, and tips for fundraising and outreach. Her approach over the past year serves as a foundation that we will continue to build on in 2019.

We aim to have 200 Libertarian candidates on ballots nationwide in 2019, which would be a 100 percent increase above 2017. We also have a goal of 70 candidate wins in 2019, which would be a 46 percent increase over 2017. These plans are entirely achievable — especially thanks to our new candidate resources that make it easier than ever to run as a Libertarian, and our focus on bringing crucial resources to strategic campaigns.

Fundraising

Thanks to the generous support of our donors and activists, 2018 was a fundraising success. We brought in \$1,762,249 in revenue last year, which was 19 percent more than the average of the prior 10 years. Ex-

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penses were also high in 2018 for the Libertarian National Convention in New Orleans, multiple ballot access lawsuits, campaigning efforts, and much more. In order to ensure that we devote every hard-earned dollar we receive to its most productive uses, our party leadership put their heads together and decided on a realistic 2019 budget, economizing and trimming every unnecessary expense. We will continue to identify ways we can reduce costs in order to use our resources as wisely as possible.

We want to shatter all previous Libertarian Party records during the 2020 election, and it will take dedication and hard work from all of us to make that possible as we set the stage throughout 2019 and beyond. Now is the time to prepare, to rally support, to invest in party infrastructure, to spread Libertarian ideas to friends and relatives who are receptive to the



ideas of sound and responsible government.

Thank you to all our many donors, members, activists, leaders, candidates, and vol-

unteers for making 2018 such a successful year. We look forward to working with you again in 2019.

Libertarian Party candidates elected to office during 2018

Levi Tappan (AZ) — Page City Mayor
Scott Wooden (CA) — Del Mar Union School Board
Kent Fowler (CA) — Feather River Recreation and Parks District Board
James Guadagni (CA) — Liberty Elementary School Governing Board
Vern Dahl (CA) — Lucia Mar Unified School District Board
Jeff Hewitt (CA) — Riverside County Supervisor District 5
Robert Dickson (CA) — Timber Cove Fire Protection District Board
Arman Gorbani (CA) — West Los Angeles-Sawtelle Neighborhood Council
James Chipman (FL) — Batram Springs Community Development District
Steven Milligan (FL) — Bradford County Soil and Water Conservation District
David DeForest (FL) — Charlotte County Soil and Water Conservation District
Michael Cassidy (FL) — Clay County Soil and Water Conservation District
Clarence Strong (FL) — Coconut Cay Community Development Council
Sacha DuBearn (FL) — Coconut Grove Village Council
Samantha Bruntjen (FL) — Collier County Soil and Water Conservation District
Rob Tolp (FL) — Collier County Soil and Water Conservation District
Brandon Kneeld (FL) — Davenport City Council
Martin Sullivan (FL) — Frostproof Mayor
Thomas Warfel (FL) — Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District
Shawn Elliott (FL) — Indian River County Soil and Water Conservation District
Wayne Barricklow (FL) — Martin County Soil and Water Conservation District
Larry Allen Schneck (FL) — Osceola County Soil and Water Conservation District
Jose Vigoreaux, Jr. (FL) — South Dade Soil and Water Conservation District
Jeremy Weinstock (FL) — South Dade Soil and Water Conservation District
Larry Goolsby (FL) — Wakulla Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor
Martha Bueno (FL) — West Kendall Community Council Board
Thomas Laehn (IA) — Greene County Attorney
Cheryl Heacox (IN) — Clay Township Advisory Board

Dean Hartley (IN) — Franklin Township Board
Terry Coffman (IN) — Liberty Township Advisory Board
Jamie Owens (IN) — Liberty Township Trustee
Cory Fitzpatrick (KY) — Boyd County Magistrate District 3
Shane Walker (KY) — Graves County Magistrate District 1
Trevor Applegate (KY) — Mason County Magistrate District 4
Shannon Denniston (KY) — Montgomery Justice of the Peace District 2
Art Torrey (MA) — Billerica Town Meeting Representative Precinct 11
David Blau (MA) — Walpole Town Meeting Precinct 6
Vince Workman (MN) — Burnsville City Council
Olga Parsons (MN) — Crystal City Council Section 2
Nick Roehl (MN) — Plymouth City Council Ward 2
Shawn Ruotsinoja (MN) — St. Bonifacius Mayor
Ismaine Ayouaz (MO) — Crestwood Alderman Ward 4
Keith Ottersberg (NE) — Wymore City Council
Richard Manzo (NH) — Goffstown Budget Committee
David Greer (OK) — Dougherty City Council
Artie Buxton (SC) — Florence County School District
Cole Ebel (TN) — Carthage City Council
Joshua Beale (TN) — Montgomery County Commissioner District 14
Erika Ebel (TN) — Smith County Commissioner District 4
Stephen Chambers (TN) — Trousdale County Mayor
Larry Bush (TX) — Jarrell City Mayor
Jerry Albert (VT) — Bennington Justice of the Peace
Dave Ripp (WI) — Dane County Board of Supervisors District 29
Brian Christian (WI) — West Bend Alderman District 2
Brian Defferding (WI) — Winnebago County Board of Supervisors District 6

Ballot access for the 2020 Libertarian presidential nominee

The Libertarian Party came out of the 2018 midterm elections with the best ballot access for any third party since 1914!

We currently have ballot access for our 2020 presidential ticket in 33 states and Washington, D.C. This is a major accomplishment, of which we should all be proud. In fact, it is exactly *double* the 17 states in which the LP had presidential ballot access for 1992 after the 1990 midterm elections.

The Libertarian Party has made great progress on the ballot access front over the past 28 years.

And, there is more good news. Of the remaining 17 states, seven of them require 2,000 or fewer valid signatures, so those states should be able to place the LP 2020 presidential ticket on the ballot without help from the national party.

Only 10 (and, hopefully, fewer) states



are likely to need financial and operational assistance to place our 2020 presidential ticket on the ballot, so we should be spend-

ing less than ever over the next two years for presidential ticket ballot access.

But we still need to be thoughtful, de-

liberate, and strategic if we want to achieve 50 state (plus D.C.) ballot access for our 2020 presidential ticket.

Toward this, this year, the national party would like to spend about \$45,000 to help Alaska and Arkansas achieve ballot access. These are two states we could cross off the list this year, so that we can focus on the remaining states in 2020.

An added benefit in doing this now is that it will be cheaper to do the ballot access petitioning this year, when demand for petitioners is low, than next year, when demand for petitioners is much higher.

Would you like for our 2020 presidential ticket to be on *every* ballot in America next year?

If so, please consider giving today to help make this happen: LP.org/2020ballotaccess

Bill Redpath

Chair, Ballot Access Committee

Supreme Court rules against highway robbery through asset forfeiture

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled unanimously on Feb. 20 that civil asset forfeiture as widely practiced by state and local governments can violate the Eighth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and its prohibition against excessive fines. On her second day back on the bench after undergoing cancer surgery, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg announced the *Timbs v. Indiana* decision.

“For good reason, the protection against excessive fines has been a constant shield throughout Anglo-American history: Exorbitant tolls undermine other constitutional liberties,” Ginsburg wrote. “Excessive fines can be used, for example, to retaliate against or chill the speech of political enemies. ... Even absent a political motive, fines may be employed in a measure out of accord with the penal goals of retribution and deterrence.”

Tyson Timbs, a recovering drug addict, received cash from his father’s life insurance policy in 2012 and used about \$42,000 to purchase a Land Rover. He also slipped back into drug use, financing his habit by selling small amounts of heroin to others. After undercover officers arrested him, he pled guilty and was sentenced to a year of house arrest, five years of probation, and \$1,200 in fines, which he paid. Indiana officials also confiscated his Land Rover using asset forfeiture laws because the truck

LIBERTARIAN

1.3 PRIVACY

Libertarians advocate individual privacy and government transparency. We are committed to ending government’s practice of spying on everyone. We support the rights recognized by the Fourth Amendment to be secure in our persons, homes, property, and communications. Protection from unreasonable search and seizure should include records held by third parties, such as email, medical, and library records.

had been used to transport drugs.

With pro bono representation from the Institute for Justice, a libertarian public-interest law firm, Timbs sued in Grant County Superior Court and won. The court ruled that the value of the Land Rover was more than four times his potential maximum penalty of \$10,000 and 30 times the fine he paid, thus violating the Eighth Amendment prohibition against excessive fines.

Timbs prevailed again at the Indiana Appellate Court, but lost at the Indiana Supreme Court, which ruled that the Eighth Amendment had not been incorporated to

the states. This new U.S. Supreme Court decision has established precedent that definitively applies the Eighth Amendment’s prohibition of excessive fines to state and local governments.

“Today, a unanimous Supreme Court struck a blow against the organized system of highway robbery that state governments have used to take the life savings of people over minor drug offenses,” said Libertarian National Committee Chair Nicholas Sarwark after the verdict. “Thanks to the efforts of attorneys from the Institute for Justice, people all over the country will be

safer from civil asset forfeiture.”

Civil asset forfeiture has long been used to take property from people who haven’t even been charged with a crime, much less convicted, because officials suspect that property could potentially have been used in connection with criminal activity. By preventing state and local law enforcement agencies from confiscating property valued out of proportion with the potential penalties for suspected crimes, however, this new ruling should drastically scale back most existing forfeiture practices.

The Institute for Justice received amicus brief support from the libertarian Pacific Legal Foundation, but support for this case also proved to span the ideological spectrum. The left-leaning American Civil Liberties Union, the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, the Constitutional Accountability Center, and the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers also filed their own supportive briefs alongside the right-leaning Judicial Watch, the Institute for Free Speech, and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

“This judicial check on government expropriation illustrates the resilience of the separation of powers provided for by the Constitution,” Sarwark said. “It also illustrates how people from across the political and social landscape can band together to halt government abuses. When we work together for individual liberty, we can move mountains.”

US intervention won't cure Venezuela's socialist disease

In a speech in Miami on Feb. 18, President Donald Trump addressed the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Venezuela. He correctly pointed out that the people of Venezuela are afflicted by the malady of tyrannical socialism, a sociopolitical disease introduced by deceased President Hugo Chavez and now incubated by President Nicholas Maduro. Despite getting the diagnosis right, Trump doesn't understand the cure when he suggests that "All options are on the table" for potential U.S. intervention.

"Trump has demonstrated a remarkable ability to be both right and utterly wrong in the same speech," said Libertarian National Committee Chair Nicholas Sarwark. "He is correct that socialism has completely destroyed the economy of what was once the most prosperous country in South America. Socialism has also squelched production from the largest oil reserve in the world. Trump is terribly misguided, however, in thinking that U.S. intervention will solve Venezuela's economic crisis, whether in the form of economic sanctions, public threats, or military action. The specter of U.S. intervention will only allow Maduro to shift the blame for his country's problems away from his own misbegotten policies."

This renewed U.S. interest in Venezuela has largely been spurred by the rise of Juan Guaidó, leader of the now largely powerless Venezuelan National Assembly, which claimed Maduro's reelection was illegitimate and then appointed Guaidó as the "interim president" until fair elections could be held. The United States now recognizes Guaidó as the rightful president of Venezuela, but the Maduro regime has retained the support of Russia and China.

During his remarks, Trump threatened Maduro's supporters in the Venezuelan military by hinting that the United States knows

"American foreign policy should seek an America at peace with the world. Our foreign policy should emphasize defense against attack from abroad and enhance the likelihood of peace by avoiding foreign entanglements. We would end the current U.S. government policy of foreign intervention, including military and economic aid."

LIBERTARIAN PARTY PLATFORM
3.3 International Affairs

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where they've stored their money. He indicated that the generals can either abandon support for Maduro and keep their money in peace, or lose it all and face retribution if they do not. Interventionist plots to force regime changes have a long history of failing and backfiring, though. Ultimately, nothing works better to bring about real change than open and honest trade.

"Peace, commerce, and honest friendship with all nations — entangling alliances with none," Sarwark said. "Thomas Jefferson's prescription for successful international relations remains good advice to this day. Wherever we have followed it, we have been successful in improving the lives of ordinary people in other countries, along with the people in our own country, through mutually beneficial trade."

After losing the war in Vietnam, the United States began trading freely with the people there, enriching both countries simultaneously. After the Cold War ended, China, Russia, and the countries in formerly communist Eastern Europe all became valuable trading partners. Despite ongoing political oppression in some of these countries, mar-

ket reforms have led to dramatic improvements in standards of living for their people.

We've maintained hostile relationships with other countries, though, like Cuba, Iran, and other Middle Eastern countries, and the opposite has held true for them. Animosity and economic boycotts have not only failed to bring about regime change, they have devastated the lives of ordinary people.

The gravest danger would be to foment a global war with by staging a military attack on a regime that has the support of countries that can return attack. Trump is right when his gut tells him that the United States should withdraw from its military interventions in Syria and Afghanistan, but he is gut-wrenchingly wrong when he advocates new military adventurism in South America.

"It is not our role to impose any electoral outcome on Venezuelans," Sarwark said. "The United States succeeds when it leads by example: Engaging in free trade, ensuring freedom and liberty for our own citizens, and offering that freedom and liberty to others by making immigration easy and accessible. The talented and oppressed people of Venezuela, Nicaragua, Cuba, and elsewhere

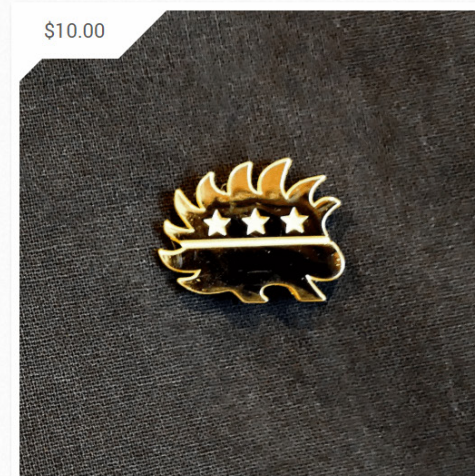
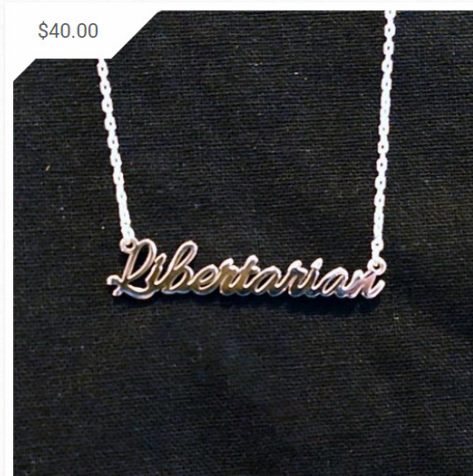
should be allowed to build homes, families, and careers within the relative freedom of America. Their presence here expands our own economy and enriches our culture."

Although the United States has a much stronger culture of freedom than socialist countries like Venezuela, politicians on both sides of the aisle are trying to change that.

On the left, we see increasingly popular calls for "democratic socialism" from congressional newcomers like Democratic Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and long-time veterans like Sen. Bernie Sanders, who has just officially announced he plans to seek the U.S. presidency in 2020. They demonize free trade, advocate massive new forms of spending and taxes, and announce utopian schemes to force the entire economy into their egalitarian mold. Following their advice would set the United States down the same road that led to Venezuela's downfall.

On the right, any pretense of conservative principle has fallen victim to Trump's destructive populism. Just like the left, the right now demonizes free trade and embraces the same forms of protectionism that have been discredited since the age of Adam Smith. Republicans pass record-high federal budgets and call for enormous new spending programs in their xenophobic attempts to keep immigrants away — immigrants that would improve the economy if only they were allowed to work and trade in peace. No matter how much Trump claims to oppose socialism, the policies he supports would lead the United States down a similar road of authoritarian control.

"Only the Libertarian Party recognizes that free trade and individual liberty are the real solutions to the problems that face us and all other countries," Sarwark said. "Prosperity arises from the bottom up. It can't be imposed from the top down."



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AFFILIATE

Updates

Alabama

Gearing up for 2019 annual convention

The Libertarian Party of Alabama is gearing up for its 2019 annual convention, to be held March 22–24 in Auburn. In addition to election of Executive Committee members, Robin Koerner of WeaponsofMassPersuasion.com will be speaking at lunch and Scott Horton of The Scott Horton Show and AntiWar Radio will be speaking at the Saturday evening Awards Banquet. Cara Schulz, LNC candidate recruiting specialist, will be presenting a campaigns and elections workshop on Sunday that's open to everyone.

After reviewing the StateCRM project with Andy Burns, LP Alabama is also beginning steps to migrate over from NationBuilder, as our needs have outgrown what it offers. We are looking forward to the transition and working with Andy and the team.

Last, but certainly not least, the LP Alabama Executive Committee approved going forward with suing the state of Alabama for discrimination against minor parties because of its charge of 1 cent per name on the state-wide registered voters list; this equates to approximately \$35,000. The Republican and Democratic parties are not required to pay this fee, and receive the list several times per year. After long

discussions with Richard Winger, Ballot Access News, and attorney David Schoen, the complaint was filed in the U.S. District Court for Middle District of Alabama on Jan 23.

A quote from the complaint: "Sections 17-4-33 and 17-4-38 and other provisions of Alabama law described herein that discriminate between major political parties on the one hand and minor political parties and independent candidates on the other with respect to the provision of voter registration lists, providing such lists to the former free of charge and to the latter only upon payment of an unjustifiably exorbitant, prohibitively expensive price, effectively denying them a copy, on their face and as applied to this plaintiff, violate plaintiff's rights guaranteed to them under the First Amendment and under the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution.

"The plaintiff seeks preliminary and permanent injunction to prohibit the defendant from enforcing the statute and require the defendant to provide it free of charge, award attorney's fees, costs of action, and such and further relief as the court deems just and equitable."

LP Alabama is considering another suit, as well, pertaining to ballot access signature requirements.



LP Illinois Archivist Kate Nadolski poses with Ed Clark for President flag, part of the LP Illinois archive collection.

Arizona

Building a Libertarian future in Arizona

The Libertarian Party of Arizona held its annual convention on Jan. 26, 2019, in Phoenix, with the theme "Coming Together — Building a Libertarian Future." The event was even livestreamed.

Zach Foster was the luncheon speaker, and he outlined the activities of the Libertarian Party in Cuba and Venezuela, explained how libertarians there deal with such repressive environments, and emphasized the need for help from the Libertarian Party here in the United States.

Our very own LNC chair, Nicholas Sarwark, spoke alongside former LNC at-large representative Evan McMahon, to describe how libertarians can come together to make a libertarian future when candidates focus on the needs of the individuals in order to get elected.

In business matters, a change was made in the LP Arizona bylaws governing the election of LP Arizona delegates to the Libertarian National Convention. The change

is currently noted on the LP Arizona website.

The following individuals were elected for a two-year term:

- Howard Blitz — Chair
- Jeff Daniels — Secretary
- Robert Pepiton — Treasurer
- Jonathan Winder — 1st Vice Chairman
- Mike Shipley — 2nd Vice Chairman
- Assistant Secretary — Emily Goldberg
- Assistant Treasurer — Marge Tendler

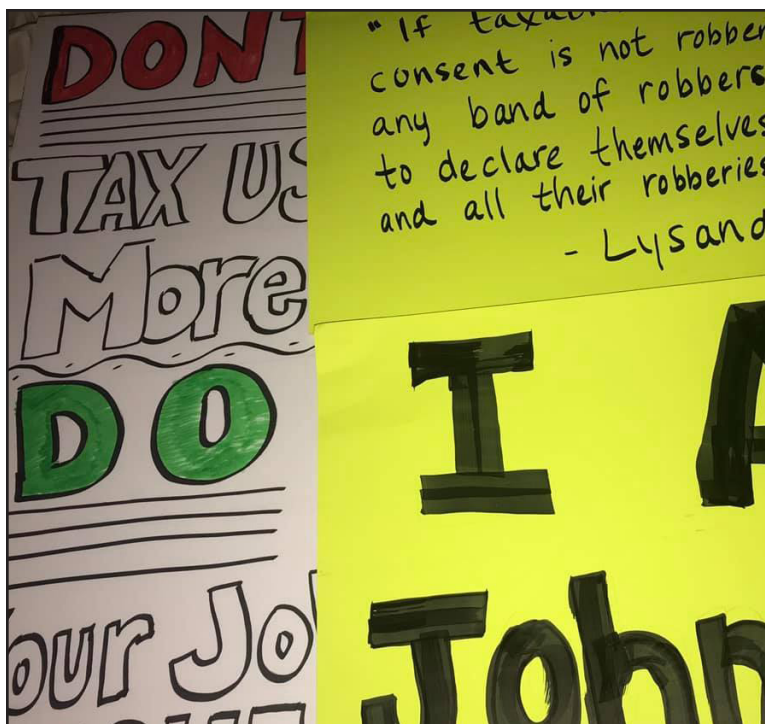
Illinois

New Lifetime Membership program

The Libertarian Party of Illinois has launched a new Lifetime Membership program. Those who make a large donation to become Lifetime Members of the Libertarian Party of Illinois are able to attend annual Illinois state conventions free of charge, for life. They are recognized at state conventions and are also given a Lifetime Member pin, similar to the one offered by the national organization. Illinois once had a legacy Lifetime Membership program

continued on page 14...

LP Illinois activists met outside the state treasurer's office on Jan 9 to protest tax increases, using the event "as an opportunity to communicate to the treasurer and all other legislators that us taxpayers have had enough and we are watching!"



...continued from page 13

that hadn't been offered in decades. Those original Lifetime Members are recognized in this new program, which is an excellent way to re-engage with our older members.

Illinois is in the process of hiring an executive director. This executive director role will be a paid fundraiser whose pay will be entirely commission-based. Illinois has hired paid fundraisers in the past to fund ballot access drives. Rather than using paid fundraisers exclusively before petitioning, the Libertarian Party of Illinois will soon have a paid fundraiser year-round.

LP Illinois Archivist Kate Nadolski has done an outstanding job acquiring and organizing records, documents, and artifacts from members and chapters around the state. She has arranged the LP Illinois collection to be professionally maintained by the University of Illinois–Chicago. While Kate has had a lot of fun meeting people and collecting historical items from all over Illinois, she looks forward to getting the collection out of her basement and accessible to the public through the UIC Library this Spring.

Minnesota

Ballot Access Inclusiveness Bill in MN

If a blank page spits out of your copy machine, hold it up and think, “this is what Minnesota looks like right now, but colder.” Despite record low temps that kept the postman home for the first time ever in January, and what is piling up outside as maybe the most snow ever in February, we trudge on for liberty!

Longtime local Libertarian leader Roger Parras (re)won a seat on the St. Peter City Council (a Mankato suburb). He bested 10 candidates in a special appointment vote, by the existing city council, to replace a vacancy. Roger had served via public election there for four of the last six years, and we hope he runs again this fall. Thanks and congrats!

The Minnesota legislature recently filed SF752/HF708 based on proposal by the Libertarian Party of Minnesota to ease ballot access restrictions. At our request, LNC Chair Nicholas Sarwark obliged to fly in for a day to speak at the Minnesota state Capitol press conference in support of our Ballot Access Inclusiveness Bill (BAIB) coalition. We also “used” him for a radio show and a donor dinner to make the most of his 24 hours, and of course it happened during a blizzard (if 8” of snow and high temps of -1 qualify). Another liberty blizzard! We are extremely grateful to Nick and Valerie for making this hap-



Libertarian National Committee Chair Nicholas Sarwark appears on the *Justice & Drew* radio talk show on KTLK AM in Minneapolis, in support of LP Minnesota's Ballot Access Inclusiveness Bill.

pen on rather short notice. If you want “in the weeds,” details you can find them on LPMN.org in the “Ballot Inclusiveness” section or on our Facebook page, which recently passed the 10,000 followers mark.

Last of note, the LP Minnesota state convention will be held on April 27 in Maple Grove, Minn., once again. We have a great line-up and expect another snow storm. Come shovel with us!

Nebraska

Adding affiliates, recruiting candidates

We have signed on another county affiliate, and continue to recruit candidates for 2020. Right now we are work-

ing hard to elect James Herrold for Lincoln City Council. James has been endorsed by the Lincoln Independent Business Association (LIBA), marking a first for a new Libertarian candidate in Nebraska. The Lincoln primary is in April and the general election is in May. If you'd like to help out, please visit: JamesHerrold.com

New Mexico

Ongoing effort to add county affiliates

The Libertarian Party of New Mexico is holding its state convention on March 23 at the University of New Mexico Law Library. Guest speaker Jeff Hewitt, who was elected to the Riverside County

Board of Supervisors in California will, be a speaker both at the convention and the social events on Friday night.

We are in the middle of a major drive to spin up county affiliates with some success in the major population centers. This effort is ongoing.

We have already recruited 11 potential candidates for the 2019 elections, and hope to recruit more over the next several months.

Ohio

Successful national park cleanup event

On Jan. 12, members of the Fairfield County Libertarian Party braved cold weather to clean up the Hopewell Culture National Historical Park in Chillicothe, Ohio. This was just one part of a nationwide effort by libertarians to demonstrate that “non-essential” government work can be replaced by voluntary action.

On Feb. 6, the Cuyahoga County Libertarian Party celebrated Ayn Rand's birthday with dinner and drinks.

On Feb. 19, members of the Libertarian Party of Ohio attended an audition for *The Price is Right*, hosted by known libertarian Drew Carey. They wore matching shirts, auditioned to get on the show, and had a chance to get some publicity and win money for the state party! A generous sponsor donated \$20 to the Libertarian Party of Ohio for every libertarian that showed up.

LNC Chair Nicholas Sarwark speaks in favor of LP Minnesota's Ballot Access Inclusiveness Bill with the bill's legislative sponsor, state Sen. Scott Jensen, and LP Minnesota Chair Chris Holbrook standing behind him.



Leave a Legacy of Liberty



Have you considered designating the Libertarian Party in your will?

Many Libertarians have done this and we are very thankful for their generosity. Their bequests have done tremendous good by growing the Party and spreading the timeless and precious message of Liberty.

To better honor these special folks, we have created a program called Legacy Libertarians. The Libertarian Party will honor these generous supporters by listing their names on a permanent plaque at our headquarters.

Please know that current law places limitations on the amount we accept per year from any donor, including estates. So, when generous Libertarians leave sums larger than the yearly limitation, the remainder goes into a trust that then transfers funds each year until all the money has been transferred.

But the important point is that there is no maximum limitation on the amount of money you can leave to the Libertarian Party in your will. Use the following information to include the party in your will. Beneficiary name: Libertarian National Committee, Inc. Address: 1444 Duke St., Alexandria, VA, 22314. Tax ID number: 52-1170810

Learn more at LP.org/legacy

Libertarians clean parks

...continued from page 1

and local NPR radio covered it. Many people who passed us said ‘thank you,’ helping change stereotypes about Libertarians.”

On Jan. 8, the national Libertarian Party sent out an email asking supporters to consider pitching in during the government shutdown to help clean up the national parks across the country. Libertarians responded quickly, and 28 park cleanup events were organized in just days from California to Maine. These events brought significant press coverage, including articles from the *Winston-Salem Journal* in North Carolina, the *Jackson Sun* in Tennessee, and the *Hanford Sentinel* in California.

“As Libertarians, we advocate replacing federal taxpayer funding for many services with private charity or privatization,” said Libertarian National Committee Chair Nicholas Sarwark. “We wanted to show how this could be accomplished by volunteering in our local communities. We know that people are inherently generous with their time and energy. We want to set an example by calling on the public to join us in maintaining our beautiful parks and landmarks this weekend and throughout the government shutdown.”

Adam Theo, chair of the Libertarian Party of Northern Virginia, organized the original D.C. project alongside Bishop-Henchman and Bruce Powell Majors, the 2018 Libertarian Party candidate for D.C.’s at-large seat in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Government does many essential things, but the fact that they are essential does not mean that government must do them. Picking up trash in parks does not require federal involvement. Libertarians are more than happy to help, and so are countless other people across the country when need and opportunity arise.

Taking out the trash is a handy metaphor for the vast array of government bureaucracies, edicts, and actions that we can all do without. It’s time to eliminate the burden of paying for public services that don’t actually serve the public.

“It’s no secret that Libertarians believe the federal government does too much,” Sarwark said. “Everyone who can read a balance sheet agrees that the federal government does more than it can afford to do, spending far more money than it takes in. The two old parties have worked reliably together for decades to increase the budget deficit and our national debt to crisis levels. The Libertarian Party is the only political party that has consistently called for spending reductions to get the federal government to live within its means. Shutting down a few departments for a few weeks is not the way to do it.”

LP Contact

LIBERTARIAN PARTY® • LP.org
1444 Duke St., Alexandria, VA 22314
Phone: (202) 333-0008
Fax: (202) 333-0072

NATIONAL CHAIR
Nicholas Sarwark

STAFF

INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Lauren Daugherty

OPERATIONS DIRECTOR
Robert Kraus

**EDITOR &
TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPER**
Eric D. Dixon

PRESS SECRETARY
Richard Fields

**CANDIDATE & AFFILIATE SUPPORT
SPECIALIST**
Bob Johnston

**CANDIDATE RECRUITING
SPECIALIST**
Cara Schulz

CAMPAIGNS ADVISOR
Apollo Pazell

SPECIAL PROJECTS
Nick Dunbar

**STATE AFFILIATE
DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST**
Andy Burns

MEMBERSHIP MANAGER
Jess Mears

MEDIA COORDINATOR
Elizabeth C. Brierly

MEMBER SERVICES MANAGER
Matthew Thexton

MEMBER SERVICES ASSISTANT
Tyler Harris

Contact info for state affiliates:
LP.org/states

**Contact info for Libertarian
National Committee:**
LP.org/lnc-leadership

Thinking of running for office? Just want to learn more?

Go to **LP.org/run** and send us your inquiry. You'll receive information from your state LP affiliate or from the national LP headquarters that you need to get started on your campaign.

Upcoming LP conventions

March 15–16:	Georgia	April 5–7:	California
March 16:	Pennsylvania	April 13:	Michigan
March 22–24:	Alabama	April 26:	Colorado
March 22–24:	Indiana	April 27:	Minnesota
March 29:	Iowa	May 3–5:	Florida
March 29–31:	Washington	May 4–5:	Illinois
March 30:	Tennessee	May 4–5:	Wisconsin
April 4–5:	Louisiana	May 31–June 2:	North Carolina

For updates, visit: LP.org/events

US should stop creating chaos in Latin America

The Libertarian Party calls for the United States to end its policies of intervention and prohibition, which have fueled chaos and violence in Latin America and have led so many innocent people to seek asylum at the southern border.

The failed war on drugs is the primary driver of organized crime in the region. With the profits provided by this black market, gangs and cartels have severely threatened public safety and stability in nations such as Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador. The war on drugs effectively subsidizes lawlessness and violence, just as it did with Al Capone under the prohibition of alcohol.

At the same time, Washington bribes and bullies Latin American governments into fighting this disastrous war on drugs through the escalating use of force and crackdowns on civil liberties. This vicious cycle puts innocent people in fear for their lives from both the cartels and their own governments, but it does nothing to stem the flow of illegal drugs into the United States.

This dynamic has been exacerbated by repeated U.S. interventions in the region, leading to greater instability and the fail-

ure of needed institution-building in Central and South America. Coups, civil wars, and direct military interventions have too often been inflicted on nations that pose no real security or military threat to the United States.

Libertarians reject these failed approaches to inter-American relations. As we have already seen with marijuana, ending the war on drugs is the only real way to stop the black market and cut off the flow of profits to the cartels. A foreign policy of peace and non-intervention would allow Central and South American governments to worry more about earning the confidence of their people instead of seeking the favor of Washington.

Libertarians support the rights of all peaceful migrants who seek a better life in the United States. We also recognize, however, that U.S. government policies, led by Republicans and Democrats, have created and exacerbated the intolerable conditions that many asylum-seekers are fleeing. Instead of building walls, the United States should stop creating chaos in Latin America.

Nicholas Sarwark
Chair, Libertarian National Committee

Media Buzz

"[R]ecently elected Riverside County Supervisor Jeff Hewitt just might be the strangest Libertarian of them all: a politician capable of winning elections who could move the party from the fringes into the mainstream. ...

"A swimming-pool contractor by trade, Hewitt is now the most powerful Libertarian ever elected in the United States. Though party members have served as mayors, district attorneys, and even state senators, only two people before — both city council members in a Minneapolis suburb — had represented an area of more than 50,000 residents. Hewitt's District 5 holds 438,000."

Los Angeles Times, 2/5/2019

"The Libertarian Party of Alabama has sued Secretary of State John Merrill because Merrill's office is charging the party about \$34,000 for a voter list provided to the Democratic and Republican parties for free. ...

"Attorney David Schoen of Montgomery, who represents the Libertarian Party, said there's no justification for charging a minor political party for an electronic copy of a list that's already prepared and given at no cost to the major parties.

"'Literally they have to press send and they want to charge \$34,000,' Schoen said."

AL.com, 2/19/2019

"Republicans and Democrats may be sniping at each other over the partial government shutdown, but it's the Libertarian Party which is putting words to action. Libertarians have organized multiple national park cleanups over the last week to show maybe the government isn't needed to provide services."

Hot Air, 1/13/2019

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