

## LP News



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**Dan Fishman joins LP staff as executive director**

By Nicholas Sarwark,  
LNC Chair

Please join me in welcoming Dan Fishman as executive director of the Libertarian Party. Dan brings an impressive set of professional and political skills to the role. Professionally, he has a background in special education along with more than two decades of experience in computer science. Politically, he has run Libertarian campaigns for Congress and state auditor in Massachusetts, as well as serving as political director and executive director at the state level.

My most memorable personal experience with Dan was being corralled in a free speech cage nearly a mile away from the rigged 2016 presidential debate at Hofstra University in New York, where he was representing the campaign of Gov. Gary Johnson and Gov. Bill Weld as north east director. His remarks that day showed a mix

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Dan Fishman, new executive director for the Libertarian National Committee, meets with Joe Dehn, former representative and national secretary for the LNC, during Dehn's trip to LP headquarters representing the Historical Preservation Committee. In 1994, Dehn originated the Libertarian Party's web presence when he registered the LP.org domain name.

**District court judge puts Kentucky Libertarian candidates on ballot**

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF KENTUCKY COVINGTON DIVISION		Eastern District of Kentucky <b>FILED</b> MAY - 9 2019 AT COVINGTON ROBERT R. CARP CLERK U.S. DISTRICT COURT
JOHN KYLE SWEENEY, et. al.	:	2:19-cv-46-WOB-CJS
v.	:	
JUSTIN CRIGLER, et. al.	:	
<b><u>ORDER GRANTING PLAINTIFFS' EMERGENCY MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION</u></b>		
This matter comes on Plaintiffs' Emergency Motion for Preliminary Injunction. The Court, being fully apprised, finds that said motion is WELL TAKEN and is GRANTED.		
Defendants are hereby preliminarily enjoined as follows:		
1. Defendants shall process the statements of candidacy that were filed by Plaintiffs on or before April 1, 2019, for the 2019 election cycle;		

A U.S. District Court judge granted injunctive relief to the Libertarian Party of Kentucky and ordered the state to put the party's nominees on the ballot for the November 2019 election.

"We knew it was unconstitutional when they did it, and today's order verifies that," said LP Kentucky attorney Chris Wiest. "It's not fair when you rely on an April 1 filing deadline to then pull the rug out from under people and then say, well, it's not April, it's January, and we're applying it to this year's cycle."

The Libertarian Party is ballot-qualified in Kentucky, and it nominates by convention, so no candidate petitions were required. The problem for the party was that the legislature earlier this year had passed

H.B. 114, legislation that moved the declaration of candidacy deadline for the state and local nominees of convention parties from April to January.

H.B. 114 had been signed into law on March 19, so by the time it went into effect it was already too late for the declarations to be filed. The judge called the legislation "arbitrary and capricious."

The 2019 Kentucky Libertarian Party candidates who will appear on the ballot are:

- John Hicks — Governor
- Ann Cormican — Lt. Governor
- Josh Gilpin — Agriculture Commissioner
- Kyle Hugenberg — State Auditor
- Kyle Sweeney — Boone County Clerk

# LP a voice of reason and freedom

## Chair's Corner

By Nicholas Sarwark, LNC Chair

It's less than a year before our Libertarian National Convention will be held in Austin, Texas, and things are already heating up. If you haven't purchased your convention ticket yet, visit LNC2020.com to sign up to be part of our process of choosing a 2020 presidential nominee and do the other important business of the party.



Nicholas Sarwark

Although you may not have an official title, it's members and delegates like you who make up the core of the Libertarian Party and we would not have a party without your support. Thank you!

Libertarian Party members in Texas fought a remarkable battle against H.B. 4416, a Republican-supported law that would have knocked the Libertarian Party off the ballot in that state by raising the percentage requirement for retaining ballot access from 5 percent to 10 percent in a statewide race. When Republicans and Democrats feel like they can't win as easily as they would like, they don't improve their positions, they just try to change the rules to prevent competition.

It's not just Texas. The Libertarian Party of Georgia is fighting against ballot access restrictions that have made that state the only one that has never had a Libertarian candidate for Congress on the ballot in party history. The Libertarian Party of Arkansas is fighting in court to overturn a law that nearly triples the requirement to get our candidates on the ballot.

In federal court, we have had two cases that didn't go our way. One of the challenges to the Commission on Presidential Debates and its exclusion of real voices —

a challenge that would have forced the Federal Election Commission to enforce its own rules — lost in District Court. A notice of appeal in that case has already been filed. In our challenge against campaign finance restrictions on receiving a bequest, a divided panel of the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the FEC's restrictions. Our attorneys are evaluating the options of appealing the case to the Supreme Court.

Hundreds of Libertarians around the country have already signed up to run for office this year and hundreds more are stepping up to run for office in 2020. We are working hard to provide even more resources for candidates and state and local Libertarian Party affiliates to ensure that our 2020 election results meet and exceed our 2016 results.

Some Libertarians may have been disappointed that Gov. Bill Weld decided to challenge the president in the GOP primary, but media discussion of that move was quickly overtaken by speculation about whether big names like Howard Schultz, Tulsi Gabbard, or Justin Amash might seek the Libertarian nomination. More Americans are recognizing that the Libertarian Party is the only third party that can place our nominee on all 50 state ballots and Washington, D.C., and provide a clear voice for the principles our country was founded on.

Together with the rest of the Libertarian National Committee and all of our hard-working staff, I am committed to growing the Libertarian Party into a trusted voice of reason and freedom that provides a refreshing alternative to partisan bickering between the two big government parties. With your support, we will succeed.

Yours in liberty,

## DONOR Appreciation

The following individual became a Chairman's Circle contributor:

Chris J. Rufer

The following individuals became Select Benefactor contributors:



Henry Posner III



Daniel E. Hayes

The following individuals became Pioneer of Freedom contributors:

Michael E. Chastain



Richard Fast

The following individuals became Pioneer of Freedom contributors:

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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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**David F. Nolan Memorial Office Fund**

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**Contribute today: [LP.org/office-fund](https://LP.org/office-fund)**

**Fishman new LP executive director**

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of good humor and political savvy that is key for success as a Libertarian. Seeing him speak since then shows that he has an ability to communicate our message with passion and empathy in a way that can reach audiences where they really make their political decisions: in their heart.

The executive director search committee received 36 applicants, reviewed hundreds of pages of application materials, and conducted many hours of interviews. After interviewing the four strongest candidates for the position, Dan Fishman had the right combination of skills and experience to lead the Libertarian Party as we go into the 2020 election cycle.

Please also join me in thanking Lauren Daugherty for her exemplary service as interim executive director for the last six months. She was able to steer the party through a six-figure cash crunch coming out of the 2018 election, break fundraising records, and empower our staff to tackle new fundraising and marketing initiatives. Few people could do what she did, something the Libertarian National Committee recently recognized with a unanimous Resolution of Appreciation.

This is a very exciting time for the Libertarian Party and I hope you will give Dan encouragement and support as he works to take our party to the next level. He can be reached via LP.org, by phone at (202) 333-0008, or on Facebook: FB.com/lpnxd

**Voters don't trust federal government**

The purpose of government, according to the Declaration of Independence, is to secure the rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Actual government agencies, however, are often destructive of these ends. Public choice economics shows that government officials are just as self-interested as anyone else, that their work in the public sector tends to benefit themselves and bolster their institutional power at the expense of ordinary citizens — and people have noticed. A recent nationwide survey from ScottRasmussen.com reveals that 60 percent of voters believe the federal government primarily looks out for its own interests.

Only 27 percent of people in the same survey expressed belief that the federal government primarily serves the interests of the American people, and only one in six people trust federal officials “to do the right thing most of the time.” It has been 47 years since a majority of Americans trusted the federal government.

“Trust in government is at a breathtakingly low level, and there’s a good reason for that,” said Libertarian National Committee Chair Nicholas Sarwark. “Every day, it’s easy to see the waste, fraud, abuse, and persecution of peaceful people that permeates nearly every corner of government. Unjust wars, sky-high spending and taxes, consensual crime laws that imprison people who have harmed nobody, persecution of minority communities and immigrants, crony capitalist bailouts and favoritism, micromanaging regulation that chokes off small businesses and economic

growth, a dysfunctional health care system, failing public schools — and that’s just the beginning of a much longer list.”

In the early 20th century, mainstream economists treated public officials as though they were somehow extraordinary exceptions to the rules of self-interest that apply to everyone else. The private sector was obviously selfish and greedy, and the public sector was there to keep it in check. The public choice school, pioneered by Nobel laureate economist James Buchanan and several others, turned this conventional wisdom on its head. Being elected or appointed to office doesn’t magically confer special powers of selflessness. The insights of public choice economics explain the behavior that we actually see in the public sector — a culture in which politicians and bureaucrats tend to inflate their budgets and expand their power at every turn.

“It’s easy for anybody to be tempted by the power of government, so doing the right thing in office requires a commitment to the principles of liberty,” Sarwark said. “That’s why it’s so important to vote for Libertarian Party candidates. We’re the only political party that takes freedom seriously. Individual rights are the foundation of every plank of our platform. If we want to see a government that truly secures our rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, we can’t get there with the same business as usual from Republicans and Democrats. Only the Libertarian Party places individual liberty at the forefront of all public policy.”

**MAKE FREEDOM  
YOUR SINGLE  
ISSUE.**



**T LIBERTARIAN**  
All of your freedoms. All of the time.

# How to roll back big government without electing anyone

By Mary Ruwart

When I started running for office as a Libertarian Party candidate in 1983, I discovered how to roll back big government without electing anyone. Being young and naïve, however, I didn't realize that this was also the key to getting elected as a Libertarian. Only in recent years have I been able to articulate and appreciate how powerful a tool we have in our hands — and the heights that we could attain as a party — if only we would use it.



Mary Ruwart

In 1983, I and three other Libertarian Party members created “The Taxpayers’ Protection Slate” of candidates to run in the nonpartisan race for Kalamazoo City Commission. A sitting commissioner, Francis Hamilton, who was a small “I” libertarian, joined our slate. While being on a slate wasn't a requirement, most candidates who weren't incumbents ran that way.

We wanted to lower property taxes in the city, because they were getting so high that many elderly residents were being forced to sell their “forever” homes even though their mortgages had been paid off. Kalamazoo property taxes were, in some cases, higher than their mortgages had once been, and had become a great burden to retirees on a fixed income.

Sheryl Loux, Kalamazoo County chair, was the driving force behind our run. She and I already had substantial name recognition. We frequently spoke against the ever-increasing property taxes at city commission meetings and suggested privatizing city services. These meetings were televised, so those who followed the commission learned about Libertarians and what we stood for.

Most of the incumbents, and the establishment press, decided that the best way to defeat us would be to “expose” us as Libertarians in this nonpartisan race. From our perspective, this strategy backfired. We had to explain what it meant to be a Libertarian, which is what we had wanted to do in the first place. Our goal was to let the public know about the Libertarian Party, because few people had ever heard of



us back then. When we rang doorbells, we received an enthusiastic response because the middle class saw us as their champions against encroaching property tax hikes.

The entire eight-person city commission was reelected, including Hamilton the small-I libertarian. All other members of the Taxpayers’ Protection Slate came in next, with hefty margins over the other two slates that were in the race. Libertarians weren't afraid to say that taxation was unethical, so voters who were displeased with the increasing taxes preferred us over slates populated by Democrats and Republicans who wanted more programs and more taxes.

The individual who polled the highest in the city commission race became mayor. Usually, this person outpolled the other elected commissioners by a dozen or so votes. Hamilton, though, won that position by the number of votes he received through our slate, about 2,500 votes. He appointed Sheryl and me to the Public Safety Task Force as an unexpected quid pro quo, making us some of the earliest Libertarian appointees. The best, however, was yet to come.

*Good ideas don't require force.*



Emboldened by their reelection to another two-year term, the commission proposed a rail consolidation project to route rail traffic through overpasses so that commuters wouldn't have to wait at rail crossings. Trains could already be fined for taking longer than five minutes to clear each crossing, but the city manager insisted that only rail consolidation would solve “the problem.”

This boondoggle would require the biggest bond issue that Kalamazoo had ever had and would take around 25 years to pay off. The city manager would acquire much of the needed property by eminent domain. It handed off a substantial portion to Upjohn, the city's largest and most influential employer, to obtain its support. Sheryl and I were both employed by Upjohn.

When people angry about the proposed bond issue met, the Libertarian Party members attended too. Before the meeting started, an elderly gentleman came up to me and put two \$100 bills in my hand before saying a word.

“Dr. Ruwart,” he explained, “I know your employer is going to benefit by this rail consolidation. But, you, Dr. Ru-

wart,” he continued almost reverently, “are a Libertarian, so I know you are on my side. Take this money and stop the rail consolidation. They want to use eminent domain to take the bicycle shop my brother and I worked so hard to build. Please don't let that happen.”

To make a long story short, the Kalamazoo County Libertarians joined the fight against rail consolidation and helped to defeat it at the polls. We, along with Kalamazoo neighbors who shared our outlook, had prevented our city government from metastasizing. Our collaborators regarded us highly as a result.

Around the country, other Libertarian Party affiliates were also busy rolling back big government without electing anyone. They defeated tax hikes, rolled back existing taxes and regulations, and kept their local governments accountable. LP News shared some of these stories when local affiliates sent them in. The party celebrated these victories — at first.

As time went on, and Libertarians had some electoral success, the Libertarian Party shifted its emphasis from rolling back big government to winning elections. It paid much less heed to state, and even nationwide, successes. Ignoring these victories, I now believe, has prevented us from the growth and success that we could have had by now.

What were some of these largely unsung victories? In 1992, Colorado Libertarians spearheaded The Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (TABOR). TABOR limits government spending to the rate of inflation-plus-population growth. Voters need to approve all tax rate hikes, which they are understandably loathe to do. With a little encouragement, several Libertarian Party state affiliates might have tried — and succeeded — to duplicate their success.

In 1993, Libertarians were instrumental in defeating Clinton Care. Fellow Libertarian Jarret Wollstein and I compiled horror stories from countries with similar programs and distributed them in a book, *Lethal Compassion: The Cure that Kills*. Jarret actually read the entire proposed bill so he could refute its proponents on national radio. About 80 percent of the op-eds and position papers I saw were authored by others in the libertarian movement. Most Libertarian Party members are not aware of this victory, because it was not widely

*continued on page 6...*



# Reaching people by rethinking Libertarian messaging

By Dan Fishman,  
LNC Executive Director

Fellow Libertarians:

My name is Dan Fishman, and I am the new executive director of the Libertarian Party. I specifically sought this position after a very disappointing November. We had high-visibility candidates who did not meet their expectations, myself among them (although Jeff Hewitt FTW!!!). Our lack of performance was especially galling in light of the resources that were committed this cycle. I know my campaign raised more than I would have thought was possible — and to all the donors to every campaign, I am truly sorry that we did not win. I will not, however, apologize about a poor return on your investment, because in reality we gained plenty.

Let's talk first about why we lost.

## Polarization.

The two-party system cranked up the rhetoric HARD using fear and appeals to emotion:

*"If you don't vote blue, Bill Cosby will be the next Supreme Court justice!"*

*"If you don't vote red, Nancy Pelosi will put illegal immigrants in your house and you'll have to feed them!"*

*"Only Democrats have the capacity to love people different from themselves!"*

*"Only because of hardworking Republicans can we afford the welfare state!"*

This is, of course, ridiculous ... but it worked. It kept the base solid, and it created difficult circumstances for Libertarians

to pick off voters who felt if they didn't vote for one of the old parties, the other would make their lives miserable.

**The other method old parties use to gain loyalty is guilt.**

*"Think of everything the party has done for you to protect you from \_\_\_\_\_. The party was there for you when you needed it, now it's time for you to stay true to the party."*

Now Libertarians are despairing because we didn't pull enough people out of the comfortable shell of their party loyalty.

We should not despair. We should redouble. The greatest threat to our country is intolerance, yet the old parties promote intolerance as they demonize the other side. The country has never had a greater need for Libertarians to prevent the real disaster that looms: the prospect of becoming an intolerant nation. The old parties are making such terrible threats about what "the other side" might do that they can justify anything.

That's how the old parties justify saying that you should "vote the party."

So how do we fix it?

1. **Suck it up, buttercup.** I left my comfortable career and moved to D.C. to take this job. We have to reach people, and that doesn't happen through confrontation. Put aside your anger and reach out.

2. **We have to remind America of our name.** We are supposed to be states united, not parties separated. Our messaging has to change.

Consider this example:

*"If you blindly vote red or blue, that's un-American. American colors are red, white, and blue. White is the combination of all colors. The American ideal is the honest consideration and tolerance of all colors of political thought."*

**"Republicans and Democrats have been burning down our collective house for more than a century. It's up to us to save the country."**

Here's another:

*"The old parties talk about big tents. There is comfort for some in the idea of four walls and protection from the elements. But try to exit the tent of the old parties and see how they treat you. If you think you should be able to look up and see the stars and feel the rain on your face when you want to, you're a Libertarian."*

This is where my efforts will be focused in the near future. We are engaged in a mission of salvation in which we find a way to make people remember that they were born free. When I was a teacher in Liberty Hill, Texas, we had a cult deprogrammer come talk to us about kids who had been in a cult and would be joining our program, helping us understand how to reach them.

He told us this story: Imagine an arsonist who likes to burn down buildings with people inside them. To facilitate this, he dresses up like a police officer, knocks on the door, and says to the person who answers:

*"There is a sniper in the area. He's trying to shoot people, so please stay in your house. Don't come out until a policeman comes and tells you it's OK. He has an accomplice who might try to trick you into coming out, too, so stay inside no matter what."*

Then he sneaks behind the house and lights it on fire.

Imagine seeing this. How would you persuade the people inside the house to come out?

You might have a hard time even persuading them to come to the door, but if you can communicate with them you might say something like, *"The house is on fire! You need to come out right now!"*

They have been programmed to resist you, though, and if you try to remove them forcefully they will fight you. If you give up and leave them in the house, they will die.

So you have to reach them.

**The most effective persuasion is often less direct.** *"I smell something. Do you smell anything? It smells like smoke to me, but I'm not sure?"* They will also smell it, and you have created a common experience. You have reached them.

*"There is something bright by the back of your house. I'm not sure what it is, but I'm going to walk back there. Maybe you can stay inside but go to the back of your house and look with me?"*

Even though you've already reached them, their trust is tentative and they aren't yet willing to come out of the house, but they may be willing to meet you.

*"I touched this bright thing and it's very hot. In fact, it burned me. Do you know what this is?"*

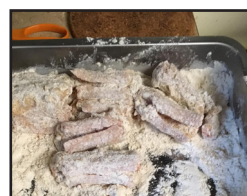
Then they will look at you like you are crazy and scream, "OH MY GOD, THE HOUSE IS ON FIRE," and run outside. Your patient and gentle guidance will have saved them.

**Republicans and Democrats have been burning down our collective house for more than a century. It's up to us to save the country. Republicans and Democrats are in a cult, and we have to deprogram them.**

Do you remember our great words?

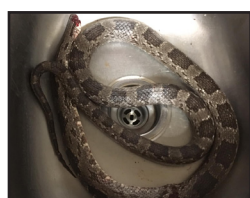
"We, the members of the Libertarian Party, challenge the cult of the omnipotent state and defend the rights of the individual!"

Are you with me?



Libertarian Amanda Collins shared a set of photos on Facebook showing how to turn a threat into an opportunity:

*"This lovely fellow was trying to kill my duck at 1am this morning, so tonight he rests beside slaw and hushpuppies. 77" of fried yumminess."*



# Parliamentary lesson: Basic steps of a motion

By Alicia Mattson,  
LNC At-Large Representative

When attending meetings of a political party or a governmental body, you quickly see the importance of parliamentary procedure. Many groups use *Robert's Rules*

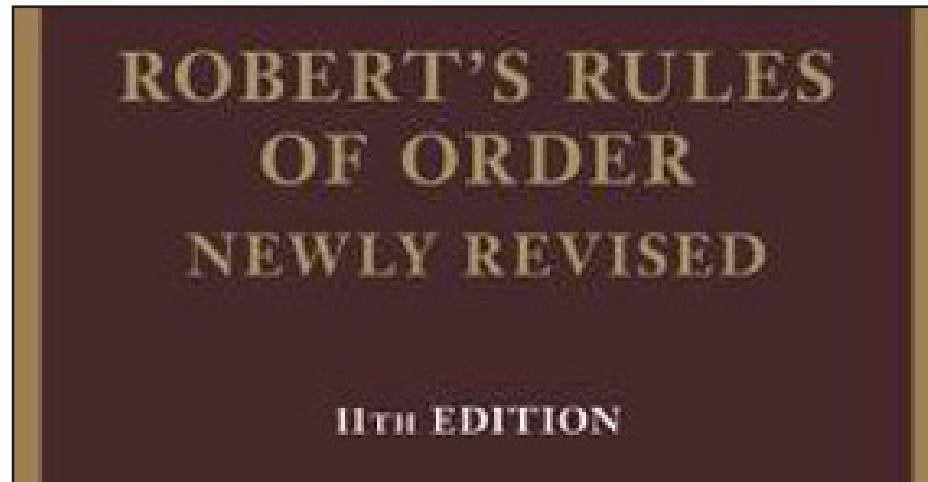


Alicia Mattson

of *Order Newly Revised* to conduct business. It's easy to feel intimidated at first by a process you don't yet understand, but the solution is to learn how it works a small piece at a time so that you know how to participate.

A good first lesson is the basic steps for handling a motion. A motion is nothing more than words that precisely describe what a member proposes that the group do, such as, "I move that we have a fundraising dinner on Sept. 1." One person proposes an idea. Then the whole group can discuss the idea and vote whether or not to approve it. Robert's Rules describes how to do that in an orderly fashion.

Nothing is accomplished if everyone



speaks at once, so we must take turns. To make a motion, first you need to seek "recognition" from the chair. Depending on the group size, this might be done by standing and saying, "Mr. Chairman," or by raising your hand from your seat, or in large groups by approaching a microphone.

**Step 1:** When the chair recognizes you to speak, make your motion, such as, "I move that we build a treehouse."

**Step 2:** The whole group should not spend time on things that only have the support of one person, so the next step is to see whether any other member wishes

to consider the motion. If so, they should "second" the motion by immediately saying out loud, "Second!"

**Step 3:** Next, the chair should state the question. This important step is sometimes skipped. If the chair determines that the motion is allowed by the group's rules at that time, the chair should say, "It is moved and seconded that we build a treehouse." This indicates that it is time for debate.

**Step 4:** Next, the group can debate the proposed idea. The person who made the motion is entitled to speak in debate first to advocate why the motion is a good idea.

Then other members can speak either against the motion or in favor of it. Debate comments should only be about that motion and whether or not the motion should be approved. Stay on topic. During debate members can consider amendments to the motion that might improve the idea or specify important details.

**Step 5:** After debate, the chair should put the question to a vote. First the chair should ask for the votes in favor of the motion, followed by the votes opposing the motion. Most motions require a majority vote (more yes votes than no votes) to be adopted, but there are exceptions.

**Step 6:** Finally, the chair should announce the result of the vote in three parts: whether the yes or the no votes prevailed, whether the motion was adopted or lost, and the effect of the vote. The chair might say, "The ayes have it, the motion is adopted, and we will build a treehouse."

This basic pattern is repeated many times during most meetings, and knowing the pattern will help you start to participate in group decisions.

*Alicia serves on the LNC as an At-Large Representative, and she is a Professional Registered Parliamentarian.*

## How to roll back big government

...continued from page 4

acknowledged as "our" win. When the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) was proposed, much of this research was used by the bill's opponents.

In 1996, Libertarian Steve Kubby and others from the Libertarian Party of California formed a coalition to pass Proposition 215, the first state medical marijuana bill. Most states have now adopted similar compassionate use programs, and nine states have virtually legalized recreational use. Libertarian Party members have been involved in many of these statewide efforts. Most drug arrests are marijuana-related, so legalizing cannabis will likely play a large role in collapsing the war on drugs. If we celebrate our role in marijuana legalization state-by-state, where appropriate, we will be poised to take credit for ending the drug war along with its destructive costs, in terms of both money and lives.

Whether acknowledged or not, Libertarians are rolling back big government without electing anyone. We can and should do more of it. When our detractors say, "You can't elect anybody!" we can respond, "We don't need to elect anyone in order to roll back big government," and point to our successes.

After all, we have huge obstacles to overcome in or-

der to win elections. Ballot access has sucked up a huge percentage of Libertarian Party donations for its entire existence. Once we get on the ballot, our candidates, especially our presidential candidate, are often denied entrance into the debates. On election day, the "wasted vote syndrome" kicks in, eviscerating our vote totals further. Many of us have experienced outright fraud in the vote counting as well.

Even in the rare cases where these obstacles are overcome, our victor can find him or herself alone in a governing body that rules by majorities. For that very reason, Dr. Ron Paul, whom I greatly admire, was more valuable as a whistleblower than as someone who was able to stem the tide of rising government. We can't wait to roll back big government until a Libertarian majority sits in Congress. We simply don't have that much time before our nation is lost.

Luckily, we don't have to elect Libertarians to roll back big government. The very successful nonprofit law firm Institute for Justice does it by defending the little guy or gal in court. Because of its successes, local governments now back off when the Institute for Justice gets involved. Wouldn't it be thrilling to see city and state governments do the same when the local Libertarian Party affiliate decides to take them on? We could become a force to be reckoned with instead of

merely a "spoiler" in most elections.

Circumstances beyond our control require us to pay dearly to win elections, especially when the cost of ballot access is factored in. In contrast, the same organizational skills that have us running large numbers of candidates with a relatively small membership allow us to excel in rolling back big government without electing anyone. When it comes to local action, we are tough to beat.

Ironically, focusing on rolling back big government would also likely result in more electoral wins. When we as Libertarians fight against injustice, those whose lives we change will back us with money and votes. Had Sheryl or I run for city commission in the following election, one or both of us would almost surely have won. We, along with our fellow Libertarians, were city heroines to those who could have been trampled by the rail consolidation and soaring property taxes.

The formula for rolling back big government is simple: Run as a candidate who isn't afraid to proudly promote our principles. Participate in local and state attempts to stop government oppression. Share the Libertarian philosophy with your colleagues in that effort (collaboration is a great recruitment tool). Repeat.

Whether or not we get elected, we can roll back big government. Isn't that what we joined the Libertarian Party to do?



# Register for 2020 National Convention in Austin, Texas

The **2020 Libertarian National Convention** will be here before you know it! The convention packages allow you to get as little or as much out of the convention as you want. Order now to lock in Super Early Bird prices!

**Basic Package:** \$139 (\$199 at the door)

(Includes training and breakouts, branded lanyard, after party, swag bag with swag, opening reception with speakers and entertainment, lots of speakers, lots of exhibitors, and lots of excitement.)

**Bronze Package:** \$239 (\$309 at the door)

(Includes above, plus one breakfast with speaker.)

**Silver Package:** \$339 (\$409 at the door)

(Includes above, plus two lunches with speakers and entertainment.)

**Gold Package:** \$429 (\$479 at the door)

(includes above, plus Gala ticket with speakers.)

**Welcoming Committee:** \$1,000

(Includes above, plus sponsorship listing on various media and signage and lots of support for the convention.)

**Gala Only:** \$139 (\$199 at the door)

The 2020 Libertarian National Convention will be held May 21–25, 2020, in Austin, Texas. For more information about convention details and online registration options, visit:



## LNC2020.com

## Join the Welcoming Committee for 2020 Libertarian National Convention

### Want to help the Libertarian Party host the 2020 Libertarian National Convention?

Join the Welcoming Committee with a donation of \$1,000 or more and receive a Gold Registration Package plus your name/logo listed on signage, in the Convention Book, and on the convention website in recognition of your sponsorship.

Limited number of packages available for this sponsorship. Please join the Welcoming Committee today!

**Visit: LNC2020.com**







# Conventions, delegates, and national memberships, oh my!

By Caryn Ann Harlos,  
LNC Secretary

When I first joined the Libertarian Party, I had never been deeply involved in politics and certainly had little to no understanding of the internal processes of political parties. I am sure many of you are presently in that same position.



Caryn Ann Harlos

With increasing frequency, you will hear news about the upcoming national convention in Austin, Texas, on May 21–25, 2020 (see LNC2020.com for information and tickets). You may wonder what “becoming a delegate” means, and what is required to actually become one. To this end, I will be writing short columns for LP News providing basic information and pointing you in the right direction.

First of all, what is a national convention delegate? Put simply, it is a person sent by a state affiliate party with full voting rights on questions put before that assembly, such as elections of party officers and representatives, nominations for the party’s presiden-

tial and vice-presidential candidates, and changes to the party platform and bylaws.

Each state affiliate party earns a set number of delegate seats calculated using a formula based upon the number of national party sustaining members within that affiliate and the percentage of the votes cast nationwide for the party’s last presidential candidate in that state (see Bylaws, Article 10, Section 3).

The number of delegates that each state can send is therefore directly related to the number of national party members in that state. The deadline for the number that will be used in calculating delegate allocations for the 2020 convention is Oct. 31, 2019, so there is time to help boost your state’s national membership numbers.

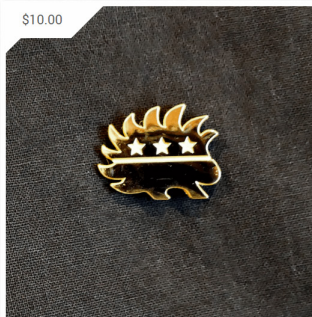
At right is a table containing the current national membership numbers, the number of seats already earned via the vote percentages from the 2016 presidential election, the number of delegates allocated in 2018, and an approximate projection of the 2020 delegate allocations if the cut-off were based on the current membership data.

In the next column in this series, I will let you know what you need to do in order to be considered by your state for a delegate seat. Until then, help boost your state’s national sustaining membership numbers — the seat earned may be your own!

Visit: LP.org/join

STATE	CURRENT MEMBERS	2018 DELEGATE ALLOTMENTS	2020 DELEGATE ALLOTMENT PROJECTION*		
			Via 2016 Vote %s	Via Member #s	Total
AL	205	14	3	11	14
AK	67	7	2	4	6
AR	108	7	2	5	7
AZ	334	23	7	17	24
CA	1558	109	31	79	110
CO	459	34	10	24	34
CT	158	13	4	8	12
DC	39	4	1	2	3
DE	52	4	1	3	4
FL	809	53	14	41	55
GA	408	30	8	21	29
HI	54	5	2	3	5
IA	124	11	4	7	11
ID	77	6	2	4	7
IL	489	40	14	25	39
IN	392	29	9	20	29
KS	130	11	4	7	11
KY	136	11	4	7	11
LA	180	15	3	10	13
MA	247	22	9	13	22
MD	293	21	6	15	21
ME	77	7	3	4	7
MI	454	36	11	23	34
MN	207	19	8	11	19
MO	248	20	7	13	20
MS	92	6	1	5	6
MT	59	7	2	3	5
NC	381	28	9	20	29
ND	36	5	2	2	4
NE	85	8	3	5	8
NH	174	11	2	9	11
NJ	310	21	5	16	21
NM	145	12	5	8	13
NV	181	11	3	10	13
NY	685	44	12	35	47
OH	647	41	12	33	45
OK	158	14	6	8	14
OR	156	15	6	8	14
PA	599	39	10	31	41
RI	33	3	1	2	3
SC	219	16	4	11	15
SD	40	4	2	3	5
TN	330	24	5	17	22
TX	1085	73	19	55	74
UT	100	8	3	6	9
VA	565	41	8	29	37
VT	32	3	1	2	3
WA	477	35	11	24	35
WI	261	21	7	14	21
WV	65	5	2	4	6
WY	41	3	1	3	4

Please note that the 2020 estimate is a rough approximation for informational purposes, based upon current data, and not intended to be an official calculation or projection of future data.



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# LNC chair agrees with Rep. Justin Amash on Trump criticism

The recent highly publicized criticism of President Donald Trump by Rep. Justin Amash received support from Libertarian National Committee Chair Nicholas Sarwark in a May 19 interview with *Salon*. Sarwark also weighed in on the possibility that Rep. Amash could seek the Libertarian Party nomination for the 2020 presidential race. From *Salon*:

Nicholas Sarwark, the chairman of the Libertarian Party, told *Salon* on Sunday that he agrees with GOP Rep. Justin Amash that President Donald Trump committed impeachable offenses... and also argued that Amash could be the Libertarian presidential candidate in 2020.

"Based on my own reading of the redacted Mueller report, I agree with Representative Amash's conclusions that the President committed impeachable offenses and would have been indicted for obstruction of justice if he was not the sitting President," Sarwark told *Salon* by email. "Our constitution provides impeachment as a tool, but whether to use that tool is up to the House."

As Sarwark explained to *Salon*, however, the Libertarian Party's interest in Amash



**Justin Amash** @justinamash · May 18

Here are my principal conclusions:

1. Attorney General Barr has deliberately misrepresented Mueller's report.
2. President Trump has engaged in impeachable conduct.
3. Partisanship has eroded our system of checks and balances.
4. Few members of Congress have read the report.

goes beyond his willingness to break ranks and call for Trump's impeachment.

"Many Libertarian Party members have been publicly encouraging Representative Amash to seek the 2020 nomination. Of all the members of Congress, his positions seem to most closely match those of the Libertarian Party, so he would likely have a base of support within the party if he joins the contest that will be decided in Austin next May," Sarwark wrote.

In a series of tweets posted on Sunday, Amash argued that "1. Attorney General Barr has deliberately misrepresented Mueller's report. 2. President Trump has engaged in impeachable conduct. 3. Partisanship has eroded our system of checks and balances. 4. Few members of Congress have read the report." Amash specifically pointed to actions discussed by special counsel Robert

Mueller which suggested that Trump had attempted to obstruct justice by meddling in the investigation into alleged collusion between his 2016 presidential campaign and the Russian government.

In his emails to *Salon*, Sarwark also identified the issues where Libertarians tend to disagree with the Trump administration's policies.

"The Libertarian Party opposes the President on immigration, free trade, the national debt, his support for the racist war on drugs, and his support for Saudi Arabia and their bombing of Yemen with our munitions," Sarwark explained. "We have applauded his statements about getting out of Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan, but haven't seen any meaningful follow through yet."

Amash has also parted ways with the president on immigration, trade policy,

spending, foreign policy and the war on drugs.

This isn't to say that it would be easy for Amash to defeat Trump in the 2020 presidential election if he becomes the Libertarian Party nominee. Because he is part-Palestinian and part-Syrian, he could encounter racism as a result of his Middle Eastern background. In addition, although the 2016 Libertarian Party nominee Gary Johnson had the best showing of any third-party candidate in 20 years and outperformed every previous Libertarian presidential nominee, he still only garnered roughly 3 percent of the popular vote.

"Every presidential election presents new challenges, so the specific strategy will have to be tailored to our candidate and whoever the two old parties end up nominating," Sarwark told *Salon* when asked about the challenges of competing in a presidential election. "We are fighting for ballot access in the states to ensure our nominee is on the ballot in all 50 states and DC and building up state and local infrastructure and recruiting down ballot candidates to be prepared for what should be a very exciting 2020 race."

## LNC meets odd-year obligation to help pay down LPHQ mortgage



In mid-April, the Libertarian National Committee met its Wiener Rule obligation for 2019 to pay down the mortgage on the David Nolan Memorial Office Building.

The Wiener Rule, named for former LNC member Dan Wiener, currently requires the LNC to pay at least \$20,000 each odd-numbered year toward the mortgage on the headquarters building, so that the mortgage can be paid off prior to the due date for the balloon payment, which is in 2024.

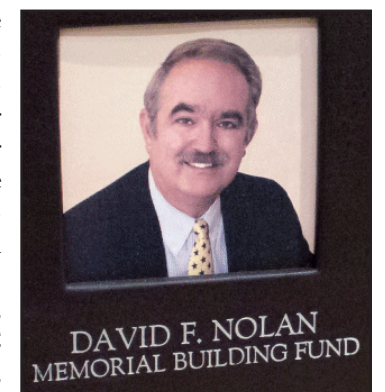
A donor recently offered a \$10,000 match to help pay down the mortgage. More than \$11,000 was raised by the other donors from January through April.

Thanks to the generosity of these and other donors, 79 percent of the building has now been paid off!

Approximately \$177,000 remains on the mortgage.

Many thanks to all of the generous donors who have contributed to the building fund!

**Donate today: LP.org/office-fund**

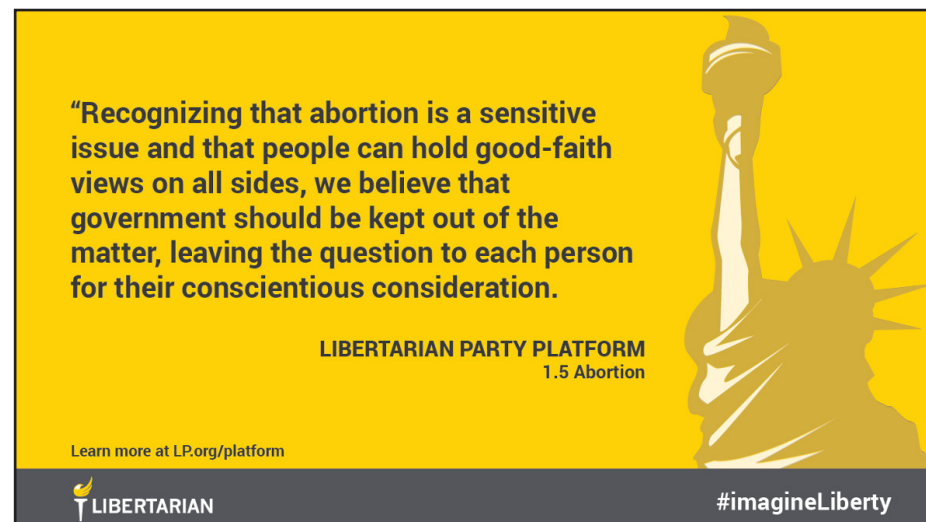




# Abortion is a matter for individual conscience, not public decree

Alabama is the most recent state to pass newly restrictive anti-abortion laws in 2019, following Iowa, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Ohio. Abortion remains legal at the federal level, so it is likely that as the new state laws are challenged, one or more cases will eventually reach the U.S. Supreme Court as a challenge to the precedent set by *Roe v. Wade* in 1973. The Libertarian Party contains both people who may describe themselves as “pro-choice” or “pro-life,” but the party platform clearly states that these views should remain matters of individual conscience and not public policy.

“Recognizing that abortion is a sensitive issue and that people can hold good-faith views on all sides, we believe that government should be kept out of the matter, leaving the question to each person



for their conscientious consideration,” the 2018 Libertarian Party platform states.

This position dates back to the earliest years of the Libertarian Party, especially

the 1974 platform, which called for “the repeal of all laws restricting voluntary birth control or the right of the woman to make a personal moral choice regarding the ter-

mination of pregnancy.”

Libertarians also oppose the use of taxpayer funds or other government resources for abortion. Like other matters of individual conscience, abortion should be kept out of the public sphere.

“The Libertarian Party calls for an end to government persecution and prosecution of the women who choose abortions and of the medical personnel who assist them,” said Libertarian National Committee Chair Nicholas Sarwark. “We also call for an end to subsidies, an end to prescription requirements for contraception, and an end to restrictive demographic adoption policies. Those who truly want to reduce abortions should consider that a culture of freedom, persuasion, and real individual choice can accomplish far more than a culture of prohibition and punishment ever has.”

# Individual freedom and employment choice to be a sex worker

By Kristin Calhoun



As Libertarians, we all support individual ideas and the freedom to choose our own paths in life. This includes things like starting or running a business if we so choose with few to no obstacles from government, as well as supporting individual life choices that best suit individual needs and desires. Intersecting all of these things is something often discussed in whispers and with confusion: sex work.

Although the Libertarian Party supports the full decriminalization of sex work, many don't know much about sex workers. I am a sex worker and am a member of the Libertarian Party. I am also one of the co-founders of the Libertarian Party Sex Worker Rights Caucus. Our caucus was created to dispel the myths surrounding sex work and also align with other sex worker rights organizations to push forward for full decriminalization of sex work.

First and foremost, consensual sex work and sex trafficking are not the same. Opponents of the decriminalization of sex work continue to feed misinformation to the public, claiming that no sex workers would voluntarily choose this profession, that all sex workers are being trafficked, that all sex workers have pimps who steal their money and beat them daily. These things do unfortunately occur sometimes, but they happen to only a very small percentage of sex workers. The majority of sex workers (including myself!) live very normal lives. Normal can be pretty boring, and normal and boring do not make for sensational news stories.

Although the job title is sex worker, many would be surprised to learn that sex is really a small part of what I do. My clients book hours to spend with me, sometimes even days. We do all of the normal things that people would do on a date. We share a bottle of wine, eat dinner together, snuggle on the couch while we watch a movie, or even get silly and share lots of laughs while playing the card game Uno. We hug, we kiss. We talk about our day. We talk about our families. We talk about our struggles in life. We connect.

People start in sex work for many reasons, but often the reason is quite simple: it is a lucrative profession. People work part time as a sex worker to pay for their college tuition so they are debt-free when they graduate. Moms do sex work because they are able to support their families with a part time job that allows them to stay home when they need to care for their children. Some people do sex work just for the thrill of it, so they are able to live out sexual fantasies. One thing that all sex workers have in common is that they are all individuals who want to be able to do practice their profession without fear of arrest. This fear is real, even though there is clearly no victim.

Sex workers are regular humans who want the same things in life that you the reader also want in life: liberty and the pursuit of happiness. With the help of the Libertarian Party, we know that this can be achieved with the full decriminalization of sex work.

*Kristin Calhoun is the Libertarian Party of Wisconsin's alternate representative for the 7th Congressional District and chair of the Libertarian Party Sex Worker Rights Caucus.*



## 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](https://LP.org/legacy)

## Appeals court restricts LP bequest access

In a 7-3 ruling handed down on the morning of May 21, the full U.S. Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit turned aside the Libertarian National Committee's (LNC) First Amendment challenge to federal restrictions on the use of a large bequest, as well as its challenge to recently enacted content-based restrictions on the speech of political parties. When former Libertarian Party member Joseph Shaber passed away, leaving the party \$235,000, the federal government restricted the party's access to Shaber's gift, ruling that it was subject to annual contribution limits for donations that are typically applied to living people. Other donors also stand ready to give the party significant donations, but refrain from doing so because the federal government severely restricts how political parties can use large gifts to express themselves.

Judge Thomas B. Griffith noted in dissent that it is "hard to imagine how" the government's current restrictions "serve anticorruption goals sufficiently to justify the resulting constitutional burden." Also dissenting, Judges Gregory G. Katsas and Karen L. Henderson explained that the government's analysis was "flawed at every turn," and its proposed standard for evaluating the LNC's First Amendment claim was "radical."

"As the court has previously stated, only dire circumstances can necessitate restrictions on the First Amendment," LNC Chair Nicholas Sarwark stated. "Hearing several appellate judges reaffirm that, even in dissent, is an encouraging sign."

The Libertarian Party will continue to pursue legal action as appropriate in order to defend its constitutional rights.

"The Libertarian Party is committed to a stalwart defense of the Constitution," said Executive Director Daniel Fishman. "The Bill of Rights, however, is not just for Libertarians. We look forward to continue working with our allies as we weigh our options going forward."

The Libertarian Party is the fastest-growing party in the country. In 2016, presidential candidate Gary Johnson appeared on the ballot in every state and the District of Columbia.

## AFFILIATE

## Updates

## Alabama

*Fighting Gov. Kay Ivey's RAIP plan*

Alabama citizens and businesses are once again fighting off another attempt by the state to satisfy its thirst for money.

Not only has Gov. Kay Ivey gone back on her campaign promise of no new taxes, she is on record stating in an interview that the legislators were “coached” on the plan.

Retired CFO Gene Finley noted additional hidden and relatively unknown taxes in these bills, saying, “The fuel tax is indexed to the National Highway Construction Cost Index. Both the tax and the license fee provide for a built-in increase every year for the tax and every four years for the license. This bill effectively provides for tax increases in perpetuity. That’s right, vote once, heap on new fees forever.”

Residents of Alabama who are tired of politicians reaching further into their pockets should blow the whistle on what the officeholders themselves have called RAIP (Rebuild Alabama Infrastructure Plan) and the accompanying taxes and de-

mand that this plan be put forward for a vote by the citizens.

“The feeling of politicians eying my wallet with gleam in their eyes fills me with a dreadful sense of danger,” said Libertarian Party of Alabama Chair Laura Lane. The RAIP calls for a 10-cent increase over and above the current 18-cent state tax on gas and 19-cent tax on diesel, as well as other hidden taxes.

The Alabama state legislature is ignoring the citizens’ cry for online betting, a lottery, marijuana sales, and legalized gambling. Drawing in out-of-state travelers who would provide a substantial portion of the required revenue is the rational choice rather than hammering residents for more of their paycheck and retirement funds.

RAIP moves to the state Senate now, and we demand they provide a legislative referendum for the citizens to vote.

A few years ago, about 100 elected officials and government employees visited a European air show! Some also visited other countries to evaluate their school

systems. The transportation fund was raided to give pay raises to judges. How many miles of road and bridge work were sacrificed? How can we trust the state with more of our money?

The Macon County Commission, accepting the lead of the Association of County Commissioners of Alabama, has moved a resolution to legislature for an increased 4-cent fuel tax and the option for taxpayers to vote on an Ambulance Tax, said Macon County resident Frank Dillman. The commission unanimously supported a 1-cent sales tax for the school system.

Dillman continued, “Between state, county and municipality fees, occupational licensing, and taxes, when is this going to end? Macon County’s per capita income is about \$17,000 and the state is also pushing through a fuel tax and additional registration fees on vehicles and motorcycles.”

These bills are being rushed through before most citizens have the convenience to study them, which denies citizens’ engagement and is unethical. In fact, the three bills for the RAIP could be on the governor’s desk within seven days of its original reading in the House.

In addition to the greater costs at the pumps, the bills provide for exorbitant registration fees on electric and hybrid

cars and increased registration fees on gasoline automobiles and motorcycles.

The Libertarian Party of Alabama, a recognized affiliate of the national Libertarian Party, has been working to keep government from trampling the rights of individuals in our state since the early 1970s. For more information about LP Alabama, visit: LPAlabama.org

## Arizona

*Promoting a vision of voluntary society*

In its effort to register more individuals as Libertarian voters, Jim Iannuzzo of the Maricopa County Libertarian Party spoke to Glendale Community College students about the libertarian approach to environmental issues on Earth Day. In addition, the Yuma County Libertarian Party had a presence at the Yuma County Fair discussing libertarian principles and registering individuals as Libertarians.

In the vein of supporting voluntarism over government “charity,” the Libertarian Party of Arizona is providing some funds to promote the libertarian vision of a voluntarist society without government taxation to help the unfortunate by providing funds to the local Yuma Salvation Army to provide

*continued on page 13...*



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How often does a T-shirt, of any kind, get mentioned in the *Washington Times*?

One of ours did!

*Libertarians have also gone into feisty campaign mode, borrowing the “Don’t Tread On Me” motto from the tea party and splashing it across classy T-shirts, complete with signature snake graphic and “1776” front and center.*

We are again in “feisty campaign mode” as we prepare for the 2019–2020 elections, and we hope you are too.

**Get your “Don’t Tread on Me” shirt or other Libertarian gear at LPStore.org!**



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voluntary humanitarian charity and help for people in need regardless of their “documented” status. Government has caused this situation and as libertarians it is our duty to point this out and show others how voluntary charity and not government taxation works best.

## Colorado

### *Convention elects new board of directors*

The Libertarian Party of Colorado held its annual state convention in late April at the Hotel Elegante Conference Center in Colorado Springs. A total of eight board positions were up for election, and each of those eight were filled by a bevy of excellent professional political activists. Most notable were the chair and vice-chair races, which were both highly contested and complete with formal debates both on and off the convention floor.

State Chair — Victoria Reynolds

Victoria Reynolds has been active at the local and state level since 2016, first as a volunteer coordination for Douglas County in the presidential election, then as chair of the Libertarian Party Development Group of Denver. Prior to her election as chair, Victoria previously held the position of fundraising director for the Libertarian Party of Colorado and has created a culture of monthly phone banking that she hopes to continue into the future.

Victoria has expressed that, as chair, her primary objectives within the party are to find the best resources for educating, empowering, and engaging future Libertarian Party leaders by focusing on winning races and building the party from the grassroots up. With her background of creating frameworks and mechanisms of activation for activists and affiliates, she hopes to bring the Colorado group into the limelight with her message of hope, teamwork, and commitment.

State Vice Chair — Eric Mulder

Eric Mulder is a Libertarian from Aurora, Colo. He has served in several roles in the Libertarian Party, including Arapahoe County outreach director, fundraising director, and Arapahoe County chair. He ran for sheriff of Arapahoe County in 2018. He is a graphic designer and studied at Rocky Mountain College of Art + Design.

Campaigns Director — Michael Lopez

Michael Lopez is a freelance writer, entrepreneur, and Colorado Libertarian who is dedicated to protecting the union that our founders established for us. You can read

more of his thoughts at [deadletters.org](http://deadletters.org).

Affiliates Director (formerly Regions Director) — Stevel Gallant

Always libertarian, Steven Gallant became a Libertarian in 1993 while living in the belly of the beast. There, he worked at the Libertarian Party National headquarters, maintaining the membership database. After obtaining his graduate degree, Gallant worked for several “Beltway bandits” and federal government agencies, experiencing firsthand government profligacy and incompetence. After moving to Colorado in 1999, he became active in the Jefferson County Libertarian affiliate as well as the state party. Gallant has run for public office several times at the county and municipal levels. Gallant has served in several state board positions, and he looks forward to helping the party continue its record growth.

Communications Director — Lance Cayko

Lance Cayko is a serial entrepreneur from Longmont Colo. He is also the Deputy Director of social media at Being Libertarian and chair of the Libertarian Party of Boulder County, and the communications director for the Libertarian Party of Colorado.

Secretary (formerly Records Director) — Mike Spalding

As a near native who has lived in Colorado since he was in high school, Mike is committed to preserving the freedoms that help make this a great state. He has built and successfully grown a software business, an insurance company, and a real estate business. He is involved in Boy Scouts, an Austrian economics group, and myriad local activities.

Mike has financially helped the campaigns of several Libertarians and the state and national parties. He has provided treasurer and other services for various campaigns and was formerly the treasurer for the Libertarian Party of Colorado. He has been a major participant in several statewide initiatives and helped repeal the sales tax on food in Lakewood. Mike also has run for election a couple of times. He garnered 23 percent of the vote running for state representative, and was elected to the Ken Caryl Water Board where he currently serves.

Legislative Director — Michael Stapleton

Michael is a Colorado Native, living in Pueblo where he has lived and worked most of his adult life. He has always been politically active, a follower of Libertarian philosophy, and an advocate for limited government and maintaining its proper role. His true ac-

tivism came out with the recall drive against former state Sen. Angela Giron after her sponsorship and votes for the anti-gun legislation. After the recalls ended, he did not want to stop, for he could see that our freedoms and liberties were eroding at a rapid pace — all at the hands of government. His goal is to get Libertarians engaged in holding our elected accountable, to inform our friends and neighbors on our Libertarian principles of individual liberty, responsibility, limited government and free markets, and to grow the party.

Treasurer — John Hjersman

John is a California native who moved to Nebraska in 1976 at the age of 29. He moved to Colorado in September 2013. John graduated from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in 1968 and sailed on cargo vessels as a licensed engineer until his retirement in 2012. The last 34 years of his career, John sailed as chief engineer for American President Lines. An instinctive libertarian, it wasn't until his interest in combating erosions to our Second Amendment rights brought his attention to the existence of the Libertarian Party that he became a member of the party in 2000. John has been treasurer of the Libertarian Party of El Paso County since early 2015.

Membership Director — John Pickerill

John relocated to Pueblo in 2017 from Indiana, where he was active in the Libertarian Party, having established the Libertarian Party of Montgomery County and served as its first chair. He was a delegate to the 2018 Libertarian National Convention. He has also run for elected office, having been the Libertarian candidate for Indiana House District 41 in 2016 and for Colorado Senate District 3 in 2018. His primary focus as membership director is to persuade as many LPCO members as possible to become activists and candidates.

Outreach Director — Anthony Hale

Anthony Hale grew up in the cotton fields of Western Tennessee and later enlisted as an infantryman into the Army, where he served 4 years beginning in 2013, and was deployed to two countries. He's now lived in Colorado for six years and currently works as a pipefitter and welder on the front range. Anthony is no stranger to hard work, and believes the party has a long way to go, and needs some heavy hitters to be out there putting in the work and convincing people why we're the political party they should belong to. Anthony is a people person and loves talking to and engaging with people in discussions. He especially loves explaining the uniqueness of the Libertarian Party.

Anthony's primary goal is to outreach to younger people in this new position.

Fundraising Director — Angela Plummer

Angela K. Plummer has been proclaimed libertarian for 20 years and an active member of the Libertarian Party for 11 years. She has recently moved from California, where she served on the board of Contra Costa County. She currently resides in Glenwood Springs, Colo., and hopes to bring greater libertarian engagement to the Western Slope.

Staff volunteers as follows:

Welcome Committee — Marc Montoni

Marc Montoni joined the Libertarian Party in 1980. From 1985 to 2016, he served LP Virginia in various capacities including as chair, vice chair, treasurer, secretary, database manager, and newsletter editor (1985–2012). He started affiliates in many localities in the state, some of which are still meeting to this day. He is a Lifetime Member of the national Libertarian Party and a member of the Libertarian Party of Colorado since he moved to Mesa County with his family in 2016 after a job transfer. He is currently working on getting some activity going in the Grand Junction area, as well as contacting new inquiries to invite them to become supporters of the Libertarian Party at the local, state, and national levels.

Technology Director — Mike Quinlan

Mike Quinlan is a Colorado native who was born in Denver in 1990. From 2008 until 2012 he attended the Colorado School of Mines in Golden, where he received a bachelor's degree in mathematics and computer science. He has been working as a professional software engineer since 2010 at various startups in and around the Denver Metro area. In 2014, he married his wife, Gavin, and bought a house in Northwest Denver.

Mike has always been a strong supporter of personal liberty and fiscal responsibility. After becoming more interested in politics in 2014, he realized that neither major party was putting forth candidates and policies that aligned with his political beliefs. After the 2016 election night (and a few drinks) he registered as a Libertarian and has not looked back.

Database Manager — David Aitken

David has been a registered Libertarian since 1984 and was active in the late '80s and '90s as finance chair and state chair. He played a major role in getting minor party status for the party in 1998. Software consulting and database management was his career for 45 years, so managing the party's database and website is a natural fit.

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## Georgia

### *No more 'Special Status' for state lawyers*

A quirk of the Georgia code provides a way for lawyers who also serve in the state General Assembly to postpone cases almost indefinitely. Not only does this special right make it easier for lawyers to get elected and reelected (farmers and carpenters can't shirk their work and still get paid), but it provides an excuse to delay justice.

Speaker David Ralston is a defense attorney, who requested more than a thousand of these special constituencies to delay lawful prosecution of more than 200 of his personal clients. He collected hundreds of thousands of dollars from accused predators, rapists, and domestic abusers, then used the continuance exception to keep them out of jail for years.

This resolution from the Libertarian Party of Georgia condemns the special preference and asks that it be removed from state law. We're also asking for accountability for Speaker David Ralston and others who've been abusing this policy to enrich themselves by delaying and denying justice for victims.

## Illinois

### *More than 80 attended state convention*

The Libertarian Party of Illinois 2019 State Convention was held May 3–4 in Bloomington, Ill. The state convention was very successful, especially for a non-election year, with more than 80 people in attendance. The keynote speakers were sex worker activist Maggie McNeill, who spoke during the luncheon, and Nebraska State Sen. Laura Ebke, who spoke during the dinner.

State Chair Bennett Morris was re-elected to the national Platform Committee, with Julie Fox serving as the alternate. During the business meeting, members of the body passed a resolution to call for the secession of Illinois from the city of Chicago.

LP Illinois also recognized three members who won their election:

- Brandon Wisenburg — Village Trustee for Peoria Heights, IL
- Aisha Pickett — Treasurer for Harvey, IL
- Jenae Wise — Village Trustee for Kinsman, IL

Later that night, many members of the party were recognized for their hard work. The following people received awards for their efforts:

- Tonie Nathan Award: Amanda Parsons and Kelly Liebmann

- Lex Green Chair's Choice Award: David Jahntz and Kevin Woodard
- Edward Bushel Award for Outstanding Service: Russ Clark
- Jim Waldron Award for Outstanding Local Service: Jim Byrne
- Libertarian Leadership Award: Mike Leheney
- David Nolan Founder's Award: Kate Nadolski
- Rookie of the Year Award: Paul Durr
- Young Libertarian Award: Henry Wissmiller

## Indiana

### *County affiliate sponsors food pantry*

Liberty Loves Food Pantry, sponsored by the Libertarian Party of Clark County, began operating in Sellersburg, Ind., in January 2019.

Non-perishable food items are given to Clark County individuals and families reporting income at or below 200 percent of federal poverty guidelines. The pantry is open from 11 a.m.–1 p.m. on the second Saturday of every month, and volunteers come in earlier to organize and prepare. The pantry has so far served 32 families, including a family of six in the last month.

"I've been really impressed by how our membership has stepped up and answered this call to donate and volunteer. We had

more volunteers than folks to serve the first months as we were getting the word out, so it also provided a way to check in, do a little party business and just spend time together," said former county Chair Kelley Curran.

"The support from the state party has been great. The Libertarian Party of Indiana organized a food drive in conjunction with our state convention and included a donation of tote bags to support the cause," said Arthur Ritchings, chair of the food pantry committee.

"This is a way for us to live our principles by serving our neighbors directly and voluntarily rather than relying on a government agency to do it for us," Russell Brooksbank, party chair, said.

Donations and volunteers are welcome. For more information on volunteering, donating or receiving food, please contact Liberty Loves Food Pantry Committee Chairman Arthur Ritchings at 502-644-8915 or via email at Arthur.Ritchings16@gmail.com. You can also follow the pantry on Facebook at FB.com/LibertyLovesFoodPantry

## Ohio

### *Ohio district map ruled unconstitutional*

The Libertarian Party of Ohio celebrates the federal ruling that the congressional district map is an "unconstitutional partisan gerrymander" and that districts

must be redrawn after the 2020 census. An appeal is likely contingent on a U.S. Supreme Court ruling on challenges to the Republican favored districts of North Carolina and the Democratic party's advantage in Maryland.

## Pennsylvania

### *Address by new Chair Steve Scheetz*

Fellow Pennsylvania Libertarians and those interested in what is going on with the Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania:

Most of you are already aware that our convention was this past weekend, and during the Officer Elections, I was elected to chair.

First, I would like to thank those who believe in me enough to put me in this position, but I will also say that without your continued support and help, we will not see our goals come to fruition, and I will outline some of the plan after I congratulate the rest of our team!

Jennifer Moore won re-election to eastern vice chair. Her hard work in helping to create new affiliates is an inspiration, and I am looking forward to seeing what happens in 2019!

Bill Sloane won re-election to central vice chair. He has participated in a number of committees, including chairing the

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Brandon Wisenburg, a candidate for the Libertarian Party of Illinois, was elected as a village trustee for Peoria Heights.



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committee to draft a contract for an executive director. It is a good contract, and if our board hires an executive director, I am expecting something really good to come from that relationship!

David Vesely won reelection to western vice chair, and his efforts have actually brought together Libertarians and other liberty-minded individuals out in the West. I expect his organizational efforts to bear even more fruit in 2019!

Kathleen Smith won as secretary. When we first met, she was running for lieutenant governor, and it was clear that the party would be much poorer if she chose to leave it. I am excited to have her as part of the team to lend her abilities and efforts to our cause!

Kyle Burton won as treasurer. Having spoken with Kyle, his goal is making our party strong financially. Moving forward, it will be necessary to have someone with a finance background, as well as someone to work on the reporting that will become necessary once we begin raising money over the next several months. His professionalism is most welcome!

So much has been learned over the course of my political adventures, and all that has been learned will be applied to my new role. It is my intention to use my experience, as well as to draw upon others' experience in order to help facilitate the growth and effectiveness of the party by working on fundraising for such activities as achieving ballot access. One of the other goals is to help support our candidates wherever possible. This means helping with messaging, branding, etc. It is my hope that our team will not only bring together experienced candidates, but bring together inexperienced yet willing to learn candidates. I want us all working together, running for offices working with those who want to run but need/desire help, and hopefully 2019 will see the largest number of elected Libertarians in the history of LP Pennsylvania!

I am excited for this opportunity, and I am looking forward to serving! Again, thank you all, and Congratulations to everyone who won election or re-election this past weekend, we have an AWESOME team, and I am proud to be part of it!

*Update after the April 27 Board Meeting:*

A great deal of work was done at the latest board meeting in Shippensburg on April 27. Once the board heard the report from our IT Committee and then heard from Ken Moellman about CiviCRM, I am proud to announce that Pennsylvania is in the queue for signing onto the national

party's CiviCRM project!

Also on the agenda was discussion about an executive director contract. A small group of us took time out of our evenings and hammered out the details of a contract, and after those details were hammered out, it was sent to the candidates interested in serving as executive director from Pennsylvania. The one who was most interested in the job offered some edits of his own, and then, at the meeting two other tweaks were suggested and implemented. Once the board adopted the contract, we hired Kevin Gaughen as executive director! Once he was appointed by the board, he wasted no time laying out a plan to increase membership by reinvigorating those people who have left the party over the years, as well as promoting new membership with his latest drive.

Kevin says: "I want to see established affiliates in all 67 counties, as well as Libertarians on the ballot in all 67 counties!"

He took the lessons learned during the 2018 petition drives, and while most of us who were working on those drives are still promoting and pushing, it is an awesome feeling to know that we have an executive director working on these projects with us, and helping to make them all successful! 2019 will demonstrate a large number of Libertarians on the ballot across the state, and together we stand to make history as we start the process to turn Pennsylvania GOLD!

Maj Toure (founder of "Black Guns Matter") is gaining a great deal of interest in his run for City Council in Philadelphia!

**Amber Christiansen Beltran (left), new chair of the Libertarian Party of Utah, and former LP Utah Chair Joe Buchman, present a \$1,000 donation to Jencie Anderson, legal director for the Rocky Mountain Innocence Center.**



The Libertarian Party of Utah elected a new Executive Committee on April 20. From left to right: Barry Short (vice chair), Susan Sandberg Baird (secretary), Taylor Pazell (treasurer), and Amber Christiansen Beltran (chair).

With a large number of volunteers petitioning, we hope to not only have him on the ballot, but we hope to actually win an at large seat on the City Council! We need to bring freedom back to the city where the Declaration of Independence was signed, and Maj is working to make that happen! Visit: [majforphilly.com](http://majforphilly.com)

## Utah

*Working toward criminal justice reform*

On April 23, Dr. Joe Buchman, chair of the Libertarian Party of Utah from 2017–2019, and newly elected chair Amber Christiansen Beltran attended Rocky Mountain Innocence Center's (RMIC),

Hope for the Innocent Breakfast. This organization is devoted to freeing those wrongfully convicted and working with state leaders to pass legislation to make the process of proving innocence even possible.

Both the former Utah chair and the current chair presented Jencie Anderson, RMIC's Legal Director, with a donation of \$1000. With the Florence J. Gillmor Foundation's matching donation, it will be doubled. The check number was fittingly 1776.

## Washington

*Note from new chair Randy McGlenn II*

Just a few weekends ago on March 30–31, we came together in Issaquah, Wash., to work on important party business and elect our leadership for the next two years. I am honored and excited to be the chair for another term. My team has been working hard to lay the foundation for new membership growth and for a higher level of engagement with our state than ever before. With the challenges of years past in the rearview mirror, I am eager to focus on shrinking the strangling policies of Washington state and see success in electing a statewide candidate!

It was rewarding, to say the least, to recognize a number of our hardworking members. David Johnson was recognized for his leadership as King County chair with the Torchlight Award, Layla Bush was recognized for her engagement in the LP Washington community with the Porcupine Award, Daniel Hodun was recognized with the Patriot Award for his support as legislative director, Chris Rohloff was recognized with the Liberty Bell award for

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**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

May 31–June 2: North Carolina  
May 31–June 2: Ohio

June 8: Oregon  
June 15: South Dakota

For updates, visit: [LP.org/events](http://LP.org/events)

## Affiliate News

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his hard work as communications director, and Alan Acosta honored with the Gadsden Award for his activism.

The great work did not stop there, many of our leadership team has been working tirelessly to bring new energy to our brand and outreach to members as well as building new connections in Olympia; I appreciate all of their efforts. An organization page on our website will be provided soon to give a directory of our staff and connections to county organizations so that you can reach out to them for any particular needs within the party.

I am relieved to announce that our PDC reporting is once again back in order with our new treasurer, Brett Borden, and we have gotten our financials back in order. The new board is also working on ensuring proper counter measures are in place to give better oversight on our financials to prevent abuse or non-performance in our most critical areas of government oversight.

At this time, I would like to welcome in our new 2019-2020 State Executive Committee:

- Chair — Randy McGlenn II
- Vice-chair — Tiffany Diaz De Leon
- Secretary — Rory Leckband
- Treasurer — Brett Borden

### Region 1

- Representative — Jacob Lamont
- Alternate — Larry Nicholas

### Region 2

- Representative — Michelle Darnell
- Alternate — Layla Bush

### Region 3

- Representative — Bill Johnson
- Alternate — Raylene Lightheart

### Region 4

- Representative — Josh Cupps
- Alternate — <Vacant>

### Region 5

- Representative — <Vacant>
- Alternate — Ralph Edwards

### Region 6

- Representative — Sonny Patterson
- Alternate — Shannon "Sam" McCutcheon

### Region 7

- <Vacant>

### Region 8

- Representative — Ryan Whitten
- Alternate — <Vacant>

If you are interested in filling a vacancy in your region, please contact me. Additional contact information will be provided on the LPWA.org website for your region.

My focus through May will be to update our website; appoint a new communications director, a new legislative director (Daniel Hodun will be stepping down soon), and a new Audit Committee; and to fill additional roles not filled at this time. Positions will be announced on our website soon and I encourage you to reach out if you are interested in any open positions. We will send out an email when the website has been updated.

Lastly, I would like to take an opportunity to ask you for your support to help fuel the party to carry out its objectives. A small donation of just \$40 will make a huge difference in our ability to support and engage our communities and Olympia. Please help us make a difference and donate today: [LPWA.org/donate](http://LPWA.org/donate)

I look forward to working with you for another two years and to position our party for a strong 2020 election season. Let's come together and make liberty the resounding voice in Olympia!

## Media Buzz

"The Libertarian Party is basically the party of small government,' said party member Lazarus Austin.

"The way I look at is a really strict adherence to the constitution and the freedom ideals that founded this country,' said party member Dathan Lambeth.

"Lambeth has been a member of the Libertarian Party since 1996.

"He said it's important to have a third political option.

"You have a choice besides the two major parties. There are other voices. If you want to help be a part of that voice, we would love to have you. Also, it's a big tent. It's really about freedom,' said Lambeth."

**WCBI, 5/18/2019**

"A bill on track to reach Gov. Greg Abbott's desk appears designed to make it easier for Green Party candidates and harder for Libertarian candidates to get on the Texas ballot in 2020. Democrats say House Bill 2504 is a ploy by Republicans to boost their reelection bids while siphoning off votes from Democrats.

"Currently in Texas, Democrats and Republicans have to either pay a filing fee or secure a certain number of signatures to get on their party's primary ballot. Texas filing fees for a candidate range from \$75 for county surveyor to \$5,000 for U.S. senator.

"The Libertarian Party, meanwhile, has avoided those requirements while routinely gaining a spot on the general election ballot by meeting a different threshold: at least one of its candidates has managed to win more than 5% of the vote in a statewide race during the previous election cycle."

**The Texas Tribune, 5/20/2019**

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