Growing list of endorsements for LP presidential ticket

by Sandra Kallander

Virginia Rep. Scott Rigell made national news in August when he became the first sitting U.S. congressman to endorse Libertarian presidential candidate Gary Johnson.

Rigell told the New York Times, “I’ve always said I will not vote for Donald Trump and I will not vote for Hillary Clinton.”

On Aug. 10, the Washington Post reported that Rigell’s endorsement meant he had to resign from his local party, in a district he described as having the most members and former members of the military in the country.

Rigell told the Post that “what really got me off the sidelines” was Trump’s disparaging remarks about Khizr and Ghazala Khan, the parents of a U.S. Army veteran who was killed in action in Iraq.

“I will help Governor Johnson to the extent that he wants me to help him,” said Rigell of his endorsement.

Rigell appeared on CNN on Aug. 17.

“I’m really surprised that I’m here to support a Libertarian, but I’m happy to do so because he’s the best of the three,” he said.

“[Johnson is] standing for…strong fiscal discipline, a real judicious restraint in the use of military force,” he continued. “As a businessman, my number one concern is our country’s fiscal trajectory. It threatens every one of us, wherever we live, and the

continued on page 4...

Success! Libertarian nominees on ballot in 50 states; first since 1996

by Carla Howell

Gov. Gary Johnson and Gov. William Weld will be on the ballot for president and vice president in all 50 states, plus the District of Columbia, this November. This is the first time in 20 years that the Libertarian nominees have made the ballot in all 50 states.

The Libertarian National Committee (LNC) waged a number of legal battles, and spent more than $400,000 to achieve ballot access. Many state parties, along with the Johnson–Weld campaign, also contributed to ballot access—in both dollars and sweat.

“Fifty-state ballot access is a remarkable achievement,” said Nicholas Sarwark, Libertarian Party chair. “It’s a reflection of the party’s growing popularity, the dedication of its members, and the ballot-access expertise we have developed as the nation’s third-largest political party.”

The last Libertarian nominees to achieve this were Harry Browne and his vice-presidential running mate, Jo Jorgensen, in 1996.

Unlike 2012, when the party faced ballot-access challenges from Republicans in five states, and was outright barred from the ballot in Michigan by Republican Secretary of State Ruth Johnson, there were no serious challenges to Libertarian presidential ballot access this year.

continued on page 4...

CPD cuts Johnson, Weld from first debates

In spite of polls that showed 54–76 percent of American voters want Libertarian Gov. Gary Johnson included in debates, the Commission on Presidential Debates (CPD) announced on Sept. 16 that it will not include him on stage for the Sept. 26 presidential showdown, nor will it include Gov. William Weld in the Oct. 4 vice presidential debate.

The CPD left the door open for Johnson’s inclusion in the last two presidential debates, on Oct. 9 and 19, if his poll numbers continue to rise.

“Bill Weld and I will continue to fight to provide a voice and an alternative for [those] who aren’t satisfied with Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton as their options,” Johnson said. “There are more polls and more debates, and we plan to be on the debate stage in October.”

A Quinnipiac poll released Sept. 14 put Johnson’s support among voters at 13 percent, or about 17 million Americans, more than the 13.7 million who voted for the Republican nominee in the primaries to hand him the nomination, and more than the 16.8 million who voted for the Democratic nominee to secure the Democratic nomination.

Nicholas Sarwark, chair of the Libertarian National Committee, said that the LP will be calling on debate sponsors to withdraw their support “for what has become a campaign commercial for bullies.”

continued on page 4...
596 Libertarian candidates on November ballots
by Nicholas Sarwark, Chair

Election Day is finally upon us. Thanks to the efforts of candidates and activists around the country, the Libertarian Party is on track to have our most successful election year ever. Our presidential candidate, Gary Johnson, is polling above any previous Libertarian Party presidential nominee, and our message has reached more Americans than ever before. For the first time in 20 years, every single American will have the Libertarian Party nominee for president on their ballot.

With all the excitement around the presidential race, it can be easy to lose track of all of the other Libertarian candidates who have stepped up to run for office. This year, there are 596 Libertarians running for offices from United States Senate on down to the town level. You can see a complete list of Libertarian candidates at: LP.org/2016-libertarian-party-candidates

Every one of those candidates is a fellow Libertarian Party member making sure your voice is heard on election day this year. Look up the candidates running in your area and reach out to them to thank them for running. Volunteer for their campaign or send them a contribution, or better yet, do both. Without candidates, there is no Libertarian Party. [See the list of last-minute things you can do, on the back cover of this issue, — Editor]

I want to personally welcome all of the new Libertarian Party members who are reading this in their first copy of LP News. Our membership has skyrocketed this election year, nearly doubling from its level in January. Welcome to a political party that stands up for all rights of all people, all of the time. Whether you came from the right, the left, or somewhere in between, we want to welcome you to your new political home. Our party is the only one that is growing, while the two old parties decline.

The Libertarian Party is different from other American political parties. We’re not seeking power to hand out favors to corporate cronies or lobbyists. We don’t want to be elected to tell other people how they should live their lives. We’re running for office to empower our communities and give back to our neighbors the freedom to pursue happiness however they wish that is their birthright as Americans.

Elections are unpredictable, but there are two things I can predict with certainty as I write this column more than two months before election day: (1) our candidates will get more votes and reach more voters than ever before in the 45-year history of the Libertarian Party, and (2) the Libertarian Party will emerge from this election stronger than ever, in a solid position as one of only three truly national political parties in the United States.

Thank you for all you are doing to contribute to that success. Together, we will achieve liberty in our lifetimes.

Yours in liberty,

Nicholas Sarwark
Two largest Texas newspapers endorse Mark Miller

On Sept. 6, Mark Miller, Libertarian candidate for Railroad Commission of Texas, received the endorsement of the Houston Chronicle, the ninth-largest newspaper in the United States. The commission, no longer involved with railroads, oversees the state's oil and gas industry.

And on Sept. 14, the Dallas Morning News, the 11th-largest U.S. newspaper, also endorsed Miller.

Miller's endorsements may prove to be highly consequential. If either he or Gary Johnson for president gets at least 5 percent of the vote in the state, the Texas LP will retain ballot access. Without it, the party will need to gather 80,000 voter signatures in 2018 to regain it.

The Chronicle editorial board wrote:

“Ask this man anything at all about the Railroad Commission of Texas and he’ll give you a straight, smart answer informed not only by decades of working in the industry and teaching petrochemical engineering at the University of Texas, but also by a mastery of the issues facing the energy business and the state body that regulates it.

“By comparison, none of the other candidates for this office have actually worked in the industry they propose to help oversee.

“If you’re one of those voters who’s unhappy with your choice of presidential candidates in 2016, another good reason to split your ticket is Mark Miller, the Libertarian who’s unquestionably this year’s most qualified candidate for Railroad Commission of Texas commissioner.”

—Houston Chronicle

The Dallas Morning News editorial said, “As the only candidate who offers oil and gas expertise, a passion for limited government, and a plan for industry accountability, Miller is the best choice in this race.”

Miller is one of a handful of Libertarian candidates in the party's history to receive the endorsement of a major newspaper. Others include Matthew Cantrell for Ohio treasurer, endorsed by the Cleveland Plain Dealer in 2010, and Carla Howell for Massachusetts auditor, endorsed by the Boston Herald in 1998.

Campaign website: Miller4TX.com
Johnson endorsements

continued from page 1

only candidate among the top three that I’ve seen who has really confronted it in a wise and upfront way is Governor Johnson.”

Rigell, who is not running for re-election to Congress, defended the endorsement as being a way to help Hillary Clinton win. He later added his name to a list of people requesting the RNC not to fund Trump.

The list of Gary Johnson endorsements continues to grow. Some of the endorsers also changed their party affiliation, and some are using the threat of doing so to try to reshape their parties.

On July 28, Utah state Sen. Mark Madsen announced his switch to the Libertarian Party, and endorsed Johnson and his vice-presidential running mate, William Weld, saying, “Both parties use the government to pick winners and losers—in business, in health care, in the environment, in education, in every aspect of life. Both parties expand existing programs, create new programs, and expand programs set to sunset, even if the purpose is no longer needed. Differences among us are accentuated, and our core rights, enshrined in our constitution, rather than being upheld as inviolate, are too often seen as impediments to the expansion of the state.”

A few days after he joined the LP, Madsen introduced Johnson and Weld at a rally in Salt Lake City. Madsen had served Utah for 12 years as a Republican. In April, he was a keynote speaker at the Utah LP convention.

“We have over the years interviewed hundreds of politicians—local, state, and national—and there’s no doubt that Johnson belongs in the major leagues, and on the debate stage this fall.”

—The Richmond Times-Dispatch

Partial list of endorsers of the Libertarian Johnson–Weld ticket

| The Richmond Times-Dispatch                      | Melissa Joan Hart, Actress |
| Winston-Salem Journal                            | Dawson Hodgson, State Senator (R.I.) |
| Max Abramson, State Rep. (N.H.)                  | Penn Jillette, Entertainer |
| Stan Adelstein, Fmr. State Senator (S.D.)        | Danny Jones, Mayor, Charleston (W. Va.) |
| Benjamin Allbright, CBS Sports, Mile High Sports Radio | Rob Kampa, Cofounder, Marijuana Policy Project |
| Neal Boortz, Author & Radio Host                 | Ben Kissel, Host, “The Ben Kissel Show” |
| Jonathan Bush, CEO, Athena Health                | Patti Komline, State Rep. (Vt.) |
| Marvin P. Bush, Investment Manager               | Jeff Kraus, Fmr. Mayor, Bozeman (Mont.) |
| Patrick Byrne, CEO, Overstock.com                | Charles Kuck, Immigration Attorney |
| Tom Campbell, Fmr. U.S. Rep. (Calif.)            | Geoffrey Lawrence, Assistant State Controller (Nev.) |
| Drew Carey, Host, “The Price is Right”           | John Layfield, WWE Champion |
| Rudy Carpenter, Quarterback, Dallas Cowboys      | David Leyonhjelm, Australian Senator (N.S.W.) |
| College Republicans at Cornell University        | Chris Long, Defensive End, New England Patriots |
| Ed Crane, Cofounder, Cato Institute              | John MacGovern, Fmr. State Rep. (Mass.) |
| Kathleen Curry, Fmr. State Rep. & Speaker Pro Tem (Colo.) | Mark B. Madsen, State Senator (Utah) |
| Gary Duke, President, Stewart’s Shops            | Jeffrey Miron, Harvard Department of Economics |
| Basil Dannebohm, Fmr. State Rep. (Kans.)        | Mike Munger, Economist |
| Laura Ebke, State Senator (Nebr.)                | Don Myers, Moses Lake City Council (Wash.) |
| Hal Gill, National Hockey League                 | Jennifer Nassour, Chairwoman, GOP (Mass.) |
| James P. Gray, Fmr. Judge & 2012 V.P. candidate  | Krist Novoselic, Bassist for Nirvana |
| Alan Gura, Constitutional Scholar & Attorney    | Juan-Carlos “JC” Planas, Fmr. State Rep. (Fla.) |
| Daniel Hannan, Member, European Parliament (U.K.)| Aron Price, PGA |

Scott Rigell, U.S. Rep. (Va.)
Joe Rogan, Comedian
Dustin Patrick Runnels, WWE (“Goldust”)
Chris Rufer, CEO, The Morning Star Company
Heidi Scheuermann, State Rep. (Vt.)
Peter Schiff, CEO, Euro Pacific Capital
Nicholas Schwaderer, State Rep. (Mont.)
Andrew Sidamon-Eristoff, Fmr. State Treasurer (N.J.)
John Stossel, Host, “Stossel,” Fox Business Network
Michael Strong, Owner, FLOW
Raven-Symoné, Co-host, “The View”
Lisa Torraco, State Senator (N.M.)
Jeffrey A. Tucker, Liberty.me
Jennifer Nassour, Chairwoman, GOP (Mass.)
Jesse Ventura, Fmr. Governor (Mont.)
Brendon Walsh, Comedian
Sean Waltman, Professional Wrestler
Dan Winslow, Fmr. State Rep. (Mass.)
Daniel Zolnikov, State Rep. (Mont.)

An updated list of endorsers is posted at www.JohnsonWeld.com/endorsements.

CPD decision

continued from page 1

“In their attempt to bolster the chances of the two most hated presidential candidates in American history, the Commission’s decision makes a mockery of their stated mission to ‘provide the best possible information to viewers and listeners,’” he said. “Not having Gov. Johnson on the stage for the first debate turns it from the Super Bowl of politics into the Pro Bowl of politics: boring and unwatchable.”

1992 presidential candidate Ross Perot was polling at just 8 percent in a Times Mirror poll when the CPD permitted him on the presidential debate stage.

Since then, they have required presidential candidates to score at 15 percent in polls, Johnson came in higher than Perot—between 9 and 10 percent—in polls selected by the Commission when it made the decision to exclude him.

The Commission, controlled by the Republican and Democratic parties, was created “for the clear purpose of taking control of the only nationally televised presidential debates voters will see,” according to Johnson.

Libertarians remain determined to put up a fight.

“We will continue to go all-out and give voters a chance to rise up against the establishment parties,” said Sarwark. “This election will be unlike any we have seen in our lifetimes.”
A number of large U.S. newspapers, which are usually happy to oblige directives of the Commission on Presidential Debates (CPD), are among the many who have urged the bipartisan group to include Libertarian Gary Johnson in presidential debates regardless of whether his poll numbers reach their required 15-percent polling threshold.

Former Republican governors Mitt Romney and Arnold Schwarzenegger also called for his inclusion.

"Add the 'Governator' to the growing chorus of politicians calling for Libertarian presidential contender Gary Johnson to be included in the presidential debates," wrote the Los Angeles Times.

The Chicago Tribune said in an editorial, "Let's respect the wishes of a dissatisfied electorate and open up the first general election debate to Johnson." The paper cited a Quinnipiac poll that asked whether "he should be included in the presidential debates: 62 percent, nearly two-thirds of respondents, said yes, Johnson should participate."

The Chicago Tribune cited a Quinnipiac poll that showed 62 percent of respondents wanted Gov. Gary Johnson to participate in debates.

The Richmond Times-Dispatch issued this appeal on September 3: "As the nominee of the Libertarian Party, Johnson is expected to be on the ballot in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. He is, in every respect, a legitimate and reasonable contender for the presidency . . . . If the Commission on Presidential Debates wants to perform a real service to its country, it will invite Gary Johnson onto the big stage."

In response to a Monmouth University poll that showed 35 percent of respondents had a favorable view of "neither" Donald Trump nor Hillary Clinton, the Wall Street Journal wryly noted that "neither" would meet the 15 percent threshold established by the CPD to secure a spot in the presidential debates.

On Sept. 6, the Boston Herald wrote in an editorial, "Alas, 'neither' won't get a podium. But Gary Johnson should."

Sen. Bernie Sanders, runner-up for the Democratic presidential nomination, said on NBC’s "Meet the Press," later covered by the Washington Post, that the threshold should probably be lower for third-party candidates, such as Libertarian Gary Johnson, to take part in the fall debates.

Politico quoted Libertarian vice-presidential candidate William Weld as saying in an interview on September 2 that the CPD is aware "they have a duty to be nonpartisan rather than bipartisan."

On Aug. 1, the Orange County Register said that Johnson is "the only person on planet Earth—literally—who could break the debates out of what’s otherwise sure to shape up as a lurid, protracted death hug."

The Columbus Dispatch said, "It’s remarkable that Johnson has been able to hit double digits in any poll in an environment of ballot access constraints, campaign finance laws, and other sizable barriers that the Democrats and Republicans put in the way of alternative parties.

“Another recent Quinnipiac poll found that 62 percent of likely voters want Johnson to be included in the debates,” it noted, adding, “The commission should give Johnson a chance.”

Judson Phillips, founder of Tea Party Nation and on staff at the Washington Times, said in an editorial on Aug. 4, "When asked how best to ensure a quality education, Johnson explained that while the federal government doles out eleven cents on the dollar to fund schools, it imposes fifteen cents in mandates and regulations—a bad deal for local communities. He said he would get rid of the Department of Education.

Fox Business's two-hour "Libertarian Town Hall," hosted by John Stossel, aired on August 26 and included questions from the audience, both in studio and online.

A voter clearly in favor of ending marijuana prohibition really just wanted to know, "How ya gonna do it?"

In response, Johnson said, the "first day in office, we deschedule marijuana as a Class 1 narcotic, which opens up a whole vast research and development . . . and also frees up banking in those states where it is legal.

Johnson drew large crowds at rallies where some attendees used precious vacation time to show their support. Even late summer rain on a Thursday in August didn’t damp the enthusiasm of the crowd at the statehouse steps in Concord, New Hampshire.

On August 5, Johnson and Weld began their tour in Reno with a rally at the University of Nevada, followed by rallies in Salt Lake City (8/6), Las Vegas (8/18), and Albuquerque (8/20). A poll conducted Aug. 19–21 showed Johnson at 16 percent in New Mexico, up 2 percent from May.

The team continued their tour in Burlington, Vermont (8/24); Concord, New Hampshire (8/25); Lewiston, Maine (8/26); Boston, Massachusetts (8/27); Milwaukee, Wisconsin (9/1); Des Moines, Iowa (9/3); New York City (9/10); and Seattle (9/17).

Libertarians held viewing parties nationwide for the New York rally.

On August 17, the Johnson-Weld team also appeared in a forum in Miami, live-streamed and hosted by FUSION, a multi-platform media network of "content that's smart, irreverent, entertaining, and above all—authentic" (rather like the Libertarian candidates). They boast a staff who aims to help "young people cut through the rhetoric [and] divisiveness . . . ."

While in Miami, they also held a rally, plans for which were thrown together in just five days. According to a
Fulfillment frenzy at LP headquarters

Libertarian Simmons takes on Democratic stronghold

Libertarian Thomas Simmons made this powerful appeal to liberals in a Huffington Post article featuring his campaign:

Volunteers Alex Snitker and Danielle Alexandre, and LP Executive Director Wes Benedict

Boxes and outbound packages fill LP HQ daily in Alexandria.

Simmons (center) filing election papers, with LP Mass. volunteers Heather and Mike McNeight

Continued on page 10...
Jon Bombach for comptroller aims to fix Baltimore’s financial mess

It’s an uphill battle. But Libertarian Jon Bombach is determined to take on the crony capitalism he believes is plaguing Baltimore.

“In every neighborhood I lived in—from Seton Hill to Little Italy—people shared the same stories,” he recalls. “Business owners facing stiff regulations. Basic services not being met.”

But he saw politically connected corporations thriving, getting preferential tax deals and other corporate welfare.

If he is elected city comptroller, the former Baltimore mechanic, who pulled himself by the bootstraps to get advanced university degrees in financial management, is determined to fight it, tooth and nail.

“Four years ago the citizens of Baltimore voted to hold City Hall accountable,” Bombach points out. “To date, City Hall has delayed, made excuses, and failed to deliver on the most basic of services and basic accounting of the city’s finances.”

The answer, in his view, is regular, comprehensive audits that will ensure that voters’ hard-earned dollars are spent in line with their mandates.

[Bombach’s] Libertarian solution is to post financial reporting online for public scrutiny, and modernize the process by updating, digitizing, and automating the city’s financial management system.

Bombach believes Baltimore lacks a modern financial reporting system, which is the root cause of what he calls the city’s “murky finances.”

“As unbelievable as it may sound, our city runs nearly a $2.6 billion budget with no system of checks and balances,” he says. His Libertarian solution is to post financial reporting online for public scrutiny, and modernize the process by updating, digitizing, and automating the city’s financial management system.

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<td>Balance Budget</td>
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<td>Stop growth and start to pay down</td>
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<td>Increase by trillions</td>
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<td>Raid, prosecute, imprison</td>
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<td>Medical Insurance Mandates</td>
<td>Repeal Obamacare Enable free-market, competitive health care As governor, cut Medicaid spending</td>
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<td>Waffles on repeal Wants taxpayers to fund medical insurance for all</td>
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<td>Anti-gun</td>
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<td>Acknowledges that ISIS is a result of U.S. military involvement in the Middle East</td>
<td>Continue to provoke ISIS with bombs, drone strikes, and sanctions</td>
<td>Continue to provoke ISIS with bombs, drone strikes, and sanctions</td>
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<td>Bring troops and all U.S. personnel home NOW</td>
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<td>More boots on ground. Kill families of suspected terrorists</td>
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<td>Stay the drift</td>
<td>Has a “secret plan for victory”</td>
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<td>Reduce 20%</td>
<td>Increase spending</td>
<td>Increase spending and “get tough”</td>
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<td>Individuals</td>
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The 10 most important ballot initiatives for Libertarians this November

By Paul Jacob

Opinions in this column are not necessarily those of the Libertarian Party or its affiliates.

 Libertarians can take a large measure of credit for the most prolific issue on state ballots this year, legalization of marijuana or medical marijuana, as well as the issue completely absent from statewide ballots, gay marriage.

Since the party's founding in 1971, Libertarians have supported legalization of marijuana, and all drugs, as well as equal rights for gays. Interestingly, it was through statewide ballot initiatives that both issues were thrust onto the national political agenda.

Gay marriage bans, proposed either by state legislatures or citizen initiatives, passed in more than 30 states. The success in banning same-sex marriage at the ballot box sparked litigation that culminated in a U.S. Supreme Court ruling striking down these once-popular bans. Yet the public votes also prompted sober deliberation among American voters, producing a significant shift in public opinion nationally and leading to several statewide votes in favor of gay marriage.

In the 1990s, voters began seeing medical marijuana measures on their state ballots and passing them with ample margins—well before there was any serious action in state legislatures. Today, 25 states have at least partially legalized marijuana, and in four states—Alaska, Colorado, Oregon, Washington—and the District of Columbia, pot is legal for recreational use. Marijuana again kicks off the Top 10 List of this November's ballot measures important to Libertarians.

1. Legalization of Marijuana (nine states)

Nine states have ballot measures regarding marijuana, with five of those states—Arizona, California, Maine, Massachusetts, and Nevada—deciding whether to legalize cannabis for recreational use. Victories in these five would more than double both the number of states with legal recreational use, and the population affected.

Initiatives in Arkansas, Florida, Montana, and North Dakota would permit pot for medicinal purposes. Arkansas sports two somewhat competing medical marijuana measures, a statute and a constitutional amendment, with some arguing the amendment creates a pot cartel amounting to “crony capitalism.”

Florida's ballot initiative must gain 60 percent of the vote to prevail. A similar Florida measure failed in 2014, while receiving 58 percent of the vote.

2. Nonpartisan Primary or “Top Two”:
   Amendment V (South Dakota)

South Dakotans will decide whether to scrap the state's current party primary system for a nonpartisan primary allowing only two candidates to proceed to the November election. This so-called nonpartisan primary is known as “Top Two,” since only the top two vote-getters move past the low-turnout primary for a runoff during the high-turnout general election.

The Libertarian and Green Parties have long campaigned against Top Two, which obviously marginalizes “third” party candidates and their ideas. “Instead of enhancing voter choice,” argues California-based columnist Steven Greenhut, “this reform significantly contracts it.”

“Top Two is used in both California and Washington state, to very mixed reviews. Studies show it doesn't lead to more moderate officeholders—a questionable goal for public policy to begin with. Nor has Top Two increased voter turnout.”

In 2014, efforts to bring Top Two to Arizona and Oregon were defeated at the ballot box. Libertarians should help defeat South Dakota's Amendment V as well.

In 2014, well-funded initiative efforts to bring Top Two to Arizona and Oregon were defeated at the ballot box by whopping two-to-one margins. South Dakota Libertarians should help defeat Amendment V as well.

3. Ranked Choice Voting:
   Question 5 (Maine)

Maine's governor has been in the news recently for a profanity-laced tirade he left on a legislator's answering machine. Gov. Paul LePage has been controversial, but he has also been elected to two terms by garnering a plurality, but not a majority, of the state vote.

In fact, in 42 years, Maine hasn't elected a governor obtaining a majority of the vote.

If Mainers back Question 5, the “No more wasted votes” initiative, the state would be the first to use a voting system wherein voters rank their choices. The idea behind ranked-choice voting is that no candidate should be elected until receiving a majority. When a last-place candidate is eliminated, the second-choice votes from those who had picked that eliminated candidate as their first choice are reallocated to the remaining candidates. This process continues until one candidate has gained a majority of the votes.

The big advantage for Libertarians and other alternative-party or independent candidates is that ranked-choice voting wipes out the argument that by voting for a candidate one believes in, but who is unlikely to win, one's vote is wasted. Under the ranked-choice system, that vote is tallied and counted for the candidate one continued on page 9...
Kim Tavendale: “Root out crony capitalism”

Libertarian Kim Tavendale is in politics because of the arrogance of power. Not her own, but of those who hold elected office in her home state of Colorado.

She vividly remembers the day several years ago when she called the office of her state representative, Democrat Dianne Primavera, to voice her opposition to a gun bill being considered by the legislature.

Among other things, the measure provided for limiting the size of ammunition magazines, making the gun Tavendale had at home practically illegal.

She wanted to give Rep. Primavera a piece of her mind, but did not even get through.

“I spoke to someone in her office, and the essential message I got from that conversation was ‘We don’t care,'” Tavendale recalls. “I understood that my opinion was not even wanted.”

It is this arrogance of power, which has metastasized from faraway Washington all the way to Denver and beyond, that Tavendale, a multifaith minister from Broomfield, Co., is vowing to fight.

“We have too many career politicians,” she told LP News. “It is not what the Founding Fathers wanted. Ordinary people don’t get involved in politics anymore. And if we don’t get involved, we lose our ability to participate in the system.”

The immigrant from New Zealand who arrived in the United States in 1999 and is now a proud citizen wants Primavera’s seat, and she is convinced that her inclusive Libertarian agenda will resonate with voters tired of politics as usual.

“First, we need to root out crony capitalism and return to the rule of law,” Tavendale declares, proposing an economic agenda that includes eliminating regulations that insulate market incumbents from competition, abolishing government subsidies of specific industries or companies, and phasing out special tax and regulatory treatment of particular industries or companies.

On fiscal matters, she favors user fees over general taxes. She calls for eliminating business taxes, which, she says, “hide the cost of taxation, burden employers, and reduce business activity.”

On education, the Libertarian candidate proposes private-school deregulation and public-school reform that would ease licensing and certification rules, accreditation requirements, and reduce unfunded state and federal mandates.

She strongly favors a repeal of Obamacare, arguing that “federal policies are a major source of the pathologies in our healthcare system.”

“Federal policies are a major source of the pathologies in our healthcare system.”

—Kim Tavendale

Tavendale also promises to work tirelessly to stop wasteful government spending and get government out of businesses, where it does not belong.

“These days, politicians run trains, bail out banks, construct houses, sell insurance, print books, and build basketball courts,” the Libertarian candidate points out. “But the fact is, every service supplied by the government can be provided better and cheaper by private business in a competitive marketplace.”

On drugs, she argues that drug use that does not harm others is a personal matter and “should not be punished.”

Tavendale, 45, has lived in Broomfield since 2008, with her husband, a software developer who works in nearby Boulder, and their two children.

She believes she has a good chance of reaching out to voters in her 33rd District because a majority are independent, rather than Democratic or Republican.

She vows that if elected in November, her office will be made accessible to the people she wants Tavendale to vote.

“I will always be willing to listen,” the Libertarian tells her constituents. • Campaign website: www.KimForColorado.com

Exemplifying Libertarian generosity

by Carla Howell

When he heard the call that a fellow Libertarian needed a kidney to save his life, Dave Sten, a 16-year LP activist and former Maryland LP chair, quickly stepped in.

Leo Dymowski, 2016 candidate for circuit court judge and another long-time Libertarian activist, was born with only one kidney. It had been slowly failing for decades, when its function dropped to less than 10 percent, requiring a transplant.

No one in Leo’s family was eligible to be a donor. They needed to find someone else willing to part with a kidney.

So, on March 16, the Maryland LP posted a call for help at its website.

When Dave saw the announcement, he wanted to donate, but needed to sleep on the decision. The next morning, he told his wife, “I really want to do this.”

He contacted Leo’s family, called the hospital, and arranged to take the needed tests to determine whether he was eligible to be a donor.

“It worked out wonderfully,” he said. After their operations on Aug. 4, both men recovered quickly and successfully. Dave was back at his job by Sept. 1, and Leo’s life was saved.

“Dave Sten is one of my heroes,” Leo said. “He had to go through months of testing. And the thought of contributing a body party is just amazing. My family and friends are so grateful for his generosity.”

“Right after the operation, I felt better than I had in thirty years,” he said.

A lawyer of 25 years, Leo Dymowski was the LPMD candidate for attorney general in 2014, and won over 57,000 votes. It was the most of any alternative-party candidate running for a statewide office in state history, eclipsing Ralph Nader’s presidential vote totals in 2000.

Leo is charged up about his 2016 campaign, where he’s running against two vulnerable incumbents. He’s running radio ads in October.

“It’s great to see Leo so high-energy and running another great campaign, especially after coming off major surgery,” said LPMD state chair Bob Johnston.

Dave, who ran for school board in 2010 and served as LPMD state chair from 2005 to 2007, said, “The Libertarian Party is about free choice and what you do with your own body. It’s about helping people through charity. Being humane.”

Campaign website: LeoForJudge2016.com

Kidney donor Dave Sten and recipient Leo Dymowski recovering quickly after operation on August 4

Ballot initiatives

...continued from page 8

most supports, but it can also, if no candidate garners a majority and the Libertarian is eliminated, go on to count for another candidate one prefers over others.

In such a system, voters might be far more inclined to support Libertarian Party candidates.

4. Reclassifying Drug and Property Crimes as Misdemeanors: State Question 780 (Oklahoma)

State Question 780 also relates to the drug war. The initiated statute would take numerous crimes now classified as felonies—most notably, regarding drug possession—and demote those offenses to mere misdemeanors. The measure would save the state considerable funds, in addition to saving real people from being labeled felons and losing many rights, for life. Currently, one of every 12 Oklahomans is a felon.

5. Minimum Wage (five states)

Voters in four states—Arizona, Colorado, Maine, and Washington—will decide whether to hike their state’s minimum wage. In a fifth state, South Dakotans will vote to approve or reject a law passed by the state legislature creating a lower minimum wage for those under 18 years of age.

Ballot measures upping the minimum wage have been a perennial device to boost Democratic Party turnout, and the initia-
Scott Ford, an educator of 16 years and the Libertarian for state rep running in a northern suburb of Houston, Texas, has always put principle before profit.

A few years ago, the National Security Agency offered Ford a lucrative, $150,000-per-year job as a trainer.

But he turned it down.

“I walked away from this job when I found out about their unconstitutional collection of our private information,” he tells LP News. “Everyone knew that we were doing it to our enemies. But to find out we were doing the same to our own people was absolutely shocking.”

Ford’s only opponent in this race is establishment-Republican Dan Huberty, who has held the post since 2011 and who ran unopposed for re-election in 2014. So entrenched is he that Democrats see it as futile to try to challenge him.

But not Ford, who sees weaknesses in Huberty’s candidacy.

When the incumbent was board president of Humble Independent School District (2009–10), the district was ranked as having four of the worst schools in Texas. When he was in the state house, Empower Texans, a group who fights profligate spending, graded Huberty “F” on fiscal responsibility.

Ford is a strong believer in cutting budgets and increasing efficiency.

“The money we spend in local, state, and the federal government is criminal,” he notes.

If elected, Ford said he will advocate cutting the budget of every government agency by 50 percent.

He will also reform property taxes that he finds prohibitively high. He favors a sunset provision in the tax law that would end collection of property taxes after a set number of years.

“No money for professional-style stadiums or administration buildings” while classroom supplies go unfunded, argues Ford. “Teachers and staff should be able to evaluate their school administrators.”

He is also calling for the immediate expulsion of students who attack teachers.

Scott Ford promises never to vote for any bill that tries to take away Americans’ right to bear arms, and never to support any ban on weapons or ammunition. He firmly believes in the constitutional right to carry a gun, which makes all kinds of governmental gun permits unnecessary.

“I also fully support the right of a business to make its own decisions on allowing open carry, concealed carry, or banning guns,” he says. “However, any business that bans guns should be 100 percent liable for their patrons’ protection.”

Campaign website: ScottFordYourTexasRep.com

**Thom Simmons**

...continued from page 6

sees as an instrument of “corporate welfare.”

The Pentagon budget would see a cut of 20 percent.

“We should stop using our servicemen and -women for empire building around the world, protecting oil interests, and siphoning off the military budget to buy unneeded equipment from industrialists,” argues the Libertarian candidate.

Simmons, an active member of the all-volunteer U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, wishes to redirect military spending away from armaments and toward overhauling the Veterans Administration and addressing veteran’s issues, such as homelessness.

He favors a greater reliance on the National Guard to protect U.S. borders and assist communities with disaster relief.

His opposition to Common Core and government regulations has earned him the support of teachers’ unions and local farmers, while his uncompromising stance in support of the Second Amendment is resonating with a more conservative part of the electorate.

Simmons’s candidacy also has a unique personal aspect. A family man with six adopted children, he is running as an openly gay and openly HIV-positive candidate, which puts him in a very narrow category of politicians.

“We must never give in to hate, whether that hate is directed against the gay community, immigrants, or the Muslim community,” Simmons said in a statement issued in June, in the wake of the mass shooting at a gay nightclub in Orlando.

“The politics of hate and division has been all too prevalent in recent political campaigns, and Americans from all walks of life must stand together in refusing to allow our diverse, liberty-loving nation to be torn apart by those who would seek to divide and conquer.”

Whether accompanied by volunteers or alone, Simmons is on the campaign trail every day, crisscrossing the largest congressional district in Massachusetts.

To appear on the ballot, he collected 2,950 signatures from voters in 79 towns and cities in the district, ending up with 200 more than the 2,000 valid signatures required.

Eleven more major campaign appearances are planned at the time of this writing, including at the Easthampton Cultural Chaos Arts festival, the Agawam Chamber of Commerce, farmers’ markets, the Westfield State University Political Science Club, and the Pittsfield Rainbow Seniors.

Campaign website: www.Simmons4Congress.com
Ballot initiatives to watch
...continued from page 9

tives rarely meet any organized opposition. Libertarians understand that minimum-wage laws are arbitrary restraints on the freedom to contract of both employees and employers. Moreover, those hurt most are the poor and low-skilled workers yearning for an entry-level job.

Libertarians could play an outsized role in this debate by actively opposing these ballot initiatives on moral principle, while illuminating the harm a wage floor can inflict on those the regulation is allegedly supposed to help: the poor and disadvantaged.

6. Make Constitutional Initiatives More Difficult: Amendment 71 (Colorado)

Bipartisan establishment forces are behind Amendment 71, which would require constitutional amendment ballot initiatives to (a) qualify their petitions not only statewide but also in each of the 35 state senate districts, and (b) win a supermajority of 55 percent in order to prevail.

By requiring success in each of 35 separate senate-district petition drives on top of meeting the current statewide signature threshold, the new requirement dramatically increases the cost and difficulty of qualifying a ballot measure. The impact will be far more problematic for grassroots efforts than for powerful interests. Moreover, the measure allows a well-financed opposition—special interests, big business, big labor, or all of the above—to defeat reforms by running negative campaigns designed to hold support down to 54.9 percent or less of the vote. One opponent dubbed it “the Rich Guy Protection Act.”

A coalition of grassroots groups opposing Amendment 71 includes several Libertarian Party activists and is co-chaired by Common Cause and the Independence Institute.

7. Revision of State Campaign Finance and Lobbying Laws: Initiated Measure 22 (South Dakota)

This initiative statute would create an appointed state ethics commission with broad powers, a new system of public financing through which taxpayers could earmark public funds to candidates of their choice running for state or legislative office. It would also constrain further the dollar limits on campaign contributions and create more stringent disclosure requirements for candidates and ballot measures.

Initiated Measure 22’s use of government funding for political activity, while also limiting private contributions and requiring disclosure that threatens to chill First Amendment activity, is anathema to Libertarians.

8. One Percent Sales Tax: State Question 779 (Oklahoma)

This initiated constitutional amendment would hike the state’s sales tax another penny on the dollar—a 22-percent increase over the current rate of 4.5 percent—mostly to fund pay raises for teachers but also to fund other programs aimed at “addressing teacher shortages,” improving “reading in early grades . . . high school graduation rates, college and career readiness, and college affordability . . . and increasing access to voluntary early learning opportunities for low-income and at-risk children.”

Despite being one of the nation’s most anti-tax states, Oklahoma has managed to maintain a healthy public-education budget. So a victory here for a measure adding a regressive tax increase to the state constitution, hitting the poor hardest—shopping in some neighborhoods could cost an extra 12 cents on every dollar—would set a terrible example and greenlight tax hikers in the Sooner State—and across the country.

9. Tax the Rich (Maine and Oregon)

Two statewide ballot measures seek to tax the rich. In Maine, Question 2 would slap a three-percent surcharge on the portion of individual incomes above $200,000 per year and use the funds for education. Measure 97 on Oregon’s ballot would establish a tax of 2.5 percent on the portion of corporations’ gross sales in excess of $25 million per annum. The Oregon Legislative Revenue Office has calculated that corporations with sales of $20 million and below would be unaffected, while those with $70 million or more in sales would see a whopping 23-fold tax increase.

The idea behind both the Maine and Oregon tax measures is to tax the rich. Libertarians will oppose both measures, because taxpayers and businesses shouldn’t be forking over more money to government, nor should success be specifically punished.

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Highlights of July LNC meeting

by Alicia Mattson, LNC Secretary

The Libertarian National Committee (LNC) held a one-day meeting on July 17, following the FreedomFest conference in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Due to increased interest in our presidential ticket this year, the financial reports from our national convention were unusually good. The LNC made a few budget adjustments to accommodate expenditures for ballot-access petition drives and to account for greatly increased sales of Libertarian-branded items from our online store.

The untimely death of Dr. Marc Feldman had created a vacancy in one of the LNC at-large positions. The LNC chose Joshua Katz of Connecticut to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term.

The LNC appointed Joe Buchman, Julie Fox, and Aaron Starr to serve on the Audit Committee for this term.

Daniel Hayes was chosen to chair the Affiliate Support Committee, and Hayes selected David Demarest, Patrick McKnight, and Steve Nekhaila from the LNC to serve with him. The remaining three positions on the Affiliate Support Committee are selected by the Libertarian State Leadership Alliance, and they appointed Leigh Lachine, George Phillips, and Michael Pickens.

Based on a presentation by Trent Somes, the LNC sanctioned his desire to formally develop plans to conduct a National Register Week, encouraging youth to change their voter registrations to Libertarian.

The LNC revised its retainer agreement with our legal counsel to adjust for his increased workload, voted to contribute $10,000 to the re-election campaign of Nevada Assemblyman John Moore, and allocated $10,000 to the Affiliate Support Committee.

The next LNC meeting will be held on Dec. 10–11, 2016, in Alexandria, Va. •

Balloon initiatives

...continued from page 11

10. Mandated Condom Use in Pornographic Films: Proposition 60 (Calif.)

Lastly, California’s Proposition 60 superbly demonstrates the absurd lengths government can go to in regulating behavior. This statutory initiative would mandate that adult-film actors wear condoms during sexual intercourse scenes. The measure also requires film producers to pay for medical examinations for performers, and it allows any citizen to sue to enforce the various provisions of the ballot measure.

It’s noteworthy that the Golden State’s Republican and Democratic Parties have joined LP California in opposing the proposition. Also against the initiative are the Adult Film Advocacy Committee and many civil-rights organizations, who charge that the measure is designed not to protect performers but to enable a “bonanza” of lawsuits against the adult-film industry.

Libertarians have a lot of opportunities to make a difference this election, including on these and the rest of the 160 statewide ballot measures in 35 states. By supporting freedom-enhancing ballot measures and opposing those which expand big government, Libertarians can show the public our principles, and start to fashion better public policies without waiting for election of Libertarians to the executive branch or state and federal legislatures.

Paul Jacob is a longtime LP member and former national director. He currently serves as president of Citizens in Charge, a pro-initiative advocacy group. He writes commentary daily at ThisIsCommonSense.com

Fundraising by PACs

...continued from page 3

unpopular within their own parties, not to mention the general public. And the Libertarians are putting forth two very successful former governors.

Americans Deserve Better, another super PAC supporting the Libertarians, ran ads in Maine’s second congressional district that resulted in nearly doubling Johnson’s poll numbers there. The PAC is co-led by Geoff Neale, former Libertarian National Committee chair.

A third PAC, Free the People, led by former FreedomWorks president Matt Kibbe, created an ad called “Dead Abe Lincoln” which Adweek called “the most viral ad of the 2016 election.”

The ad logged more than 18 million views and 420,000 shares in two weeks, according to Adweek. It promotes a vote-exchange program called Balanced Rebellion, which matches disenfranchised voters who don’t want Hillary Clinton for president but can’t stand Donald Trump, with those in their state who don’t want Trump for president but can’t stand Clinton. Each agrees to instead cast his vote for Gov. Gary Johnson, allaying their fear of being the cause of their state’s electoral college votes going to the candidate they like least. •

Thinking of running for office?

It’s not too early to plan your run for 2017 or 2018.

Visit: LP.org/run-for-office

and send us your inquiry. You’ll receive information you need to get started, file your campaign, comply with your state’s election laws, and get on the ballot.

Campaining hard

...continued from page 5

report in the Palm Beach Free Press, “The event was held at the Wertheim Performing Arts Center which had a capacity of 585 when well in excess of 700 people showed up to see the two governors. People turned away were in the outside rotunda watching the event on their smartphones as it was being live streamed.”

Shawn Elliot of Vero Beach told the paper, “Gary Johnson took it upon himself to walk out front of the auditorium and talk to the people that were unable to gain entrance. This man is pure class. He is a true man of the people. Approachable as anyone can be. If you want government to work as it should and unconstitutional laws to be a thing of the past, I urge you to Google Gary Johnson and the Libertarian Party, and get on board. He wouldn’t be running if he didn’t have a chance to win.”

The paper quoted a new supporter, Randy Barnaby, who said, “My head is about to explode from all the common sense.”

On Sept. 2, the campaign drew a crowd after posting a casting call to their millions of Facebook and Twitter followers, to gather at Balboa Park in San Diego to help shoot a campaign video. •

Media and debates

...continued from page 5

Aug. 30 that not only should Johnson be included in the CPD debates, but also that NBC and MSNBC should include him in their Commander-in-Chief forum, which would air live on Sept. 7.

The networks excluded him despite a well-publicized protest by veterans bolstered by media coverage. The Hill reported on Sept. 1, “Hundreds of military veterans are demanding that Libertarian nominee Gary Johnson be included in a televised presidential forum hosted next week by Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America” (IAVA).

The paper noted that IAVA’s social-media pages were flooded with calls from veterans to allow Johnson on stage with Trump and Clinton, and that IAVA’s Facebook rating plummeted from 5.0 to 2.4 when it refused to budge.

IAVA subsequently invited Johnson to participate in one of a series of separate Commander-in-Chief forums.

As of Sept. 12, 826,888 people had signed a petition at the Johnson–Weld campaign website (JohnsonWeld.com) calling for inclusion of Gary Johnson in debates. •
Impact of 2016 presidential vote on Libertarian Party ballot access

In most states, gaining full-ballot access allows the LP to run candidates up and down the ticket and significantly reduces requirements for petitioning and/or filing. Arizona, New York, and Massachusetts are notable exceptions.

The following table shows the impact that various Libertarian presidential vote results will have on particular states. States not listed are not affected by the presidential vote.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Vote Requirement</th>
<th>Access Duration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AR</td>
<td>3% in the presidential race</td>
<td>two years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CT</td>
<td>1% in the presidential race</td>
<td>four years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DC</td>
<td>Candidate for president, city council, or delegate to U.S. House must get 7,500 votes</td>
<td>last time in 2012. Signature requirements to get candidates on the ballot would be significantly less in 2018.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GA</td>
<td>Approximately 1.5% of votes cast (1% of registered voters)</td>
<td>no requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IL</td>
<td>5% in race for president, U.S. Senate, or comptroller</td>
<td>no requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IA</td>
<td>2% in the presidential race</td>
<td>no requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KY</td>
<td>2% in the presidential race</td>
<td>four years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MA</td>
<td>3% in the presidential race</td>
<td>two years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MN</td>
<td>5% in the presidential race</td>
<td>four years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NC</td>
<td>2% in the presidential race</td>
<td>four years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NH</td>
<td>4% in the race for governor or U.S. Senate</td>
<td>first time since November 1996. Would remove a significant petitioning requirement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ND</td>
<td>5% in the race for president or governor</td>
<td>two years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OK</td>
<td>2.5% in the race</td>
<td>two years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RI</td>
<td>5% in the presidential race</td>
<td>four years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TX</td>
<td>5% in any statewide race</td>
<td>two years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WA</td>
<td>5% in the presidential race</td>
<td>no requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WV</td>
<td>1% in the race for governor</td>
<td>no requirements</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Libertarian candidates likely to secure 10-year ballot access for LP Hawaii

The Libertarian Party of Hawaii is on the cusp of securing ballot access for the next ten years, thanks to six candidates running for the state Senate there.

“It is almost a mathematical certainty,” Tracy Ryan, state chair of the Libertarian Party of Hawaii, tells LP News. “Since three of our six candidates are in two-way races, we should easily meet the four percent of total votes cast in state senate races needed to qualify for the 2018 ballot.”

Libertarians are fielding more candidates for state Senate than are Republicans, who have managed to field only five this year.

Libertarians are fielding more candidates for state Senate than are Republicans, who have managed to field only five this year.

Under Hawaiian law, if a party meets one if its ballot-status qualification requirements in three consecutive electoral events, it can enjoy automatic and unlimited ballot access in five subsequent election cycles, or for 10 years. Winning 4 percent of the total Senate vote is one of the ways to qualify.

This means access to the ballots in presidential, congressional, and local races, according to Ryan.

The Libertarians met the 4-percent requirement in 2012, when they conducted a signature drive to get on the ballot, and in the state Senate elections of 2014. They are well on their way to repeat the success of two years ago.

Leading the list of candidates is Kimberly Arianoff, running in the state Senate’s 1st District, which includes her hometown of Hilo.

Arianoff is calling for ending the state income tax in Hawaii, arguing that its repeal will return $4,300, on average, to Hilo families to reinvest in their lives.

She is also for rolling back job licensing regulations, which she sees as a contributing factor to the state’s high unemployment.

“What imminent danger is there in getting hair cut or toenails painted?” she asks.

“Our government should help success, not hinder it. In a state with the highest cost of living and the highest homelessness per capita . . . in the nation, occupational licensing hurts the most vulnerable citizens.”

Running in the second state Senate district is Fred Fogel, a former Marine Corps F-4 Phantom fighter pilot, whose platform includes balanced budgets, mandatory term limits of eight years for any politician, and elimination of sales tax on food and medicine.

Fogel is a staunch opponent of government welfare.

“The government cannot give to anybody anything that the government does not first take from somebody else,” he points out.

Lawyer Arnold T. Phillips is aiming for the Senate seat in Hawaii’s 10th district.

“I believe that everyone has the right to their own life, their liberty, and their own property, as long as they respect, in kind, the rights of others,” he insists.

Libertarian Harry Ozols from District 13 is a former United Airlines pilot who is worried about the situation in the education system, which he sees as bureaucratized and inefficient.

According to Ozols’s research, the state of Hawaii spends nearly $12,000 to educate each student, every year. Meanwhile, the cost of private education there is closer to $11,000.

“With an Education Savings Account, parents could choose as to where to educate their children, and our children would wind up the best educated in the country,” the candidate points out.

Rounding out the list of LP Hawaii candidates are Joseph Kent (District 11) and Roman Kalinowski (District 15). •
Arizona
Meetings every second Monday of month
The activism of LP Arizona happens through its county affiliates. The largest and most active county affiliate, the Maricopa County Libertarian Party (Phoenix), will be holding its monthly meeting on Oct. 10.

Where: China Village
Where: 2710 E. Indian School Rd.
Where: Phoenix, Arizona 85016
When: Monday, October 10, 2016
6:30 PM: Dinner & socializing
7:00 PM: Call to order

LP of Maricopa County meetings are normally held on the second Monday of each month.

Colorado
Sign holders draw support
The LP of Colorado has had an amazing season of successful outreach events since the Libertarian National Convention.

Recently, a group of more than 50 grassroots activists gathered on a Denver overpass, just before a Denver Broncos game, with both home-made and professionally printed signs showing their support for Gary Johnson and inviting motorists to honk. The honking was nearly nonstop. Party spokespersons have been interviewed for important local news outlets including the Denver Post, Westword, and Colorado Public Radio.

Senatorial candidate Lily Tang Williams continues to inspire crowds with her passion for liberty and her testimony of life in communist China, and LPCO expects a strong showing in her race, along with those of other strong, principled local candidates.

Distribution of Gary Johnson 2016 yard signs obtained via the bulk purchases program through LP.org has begun and is off to a fantastic start. Additionally, grassroots activists have started door-hanging programs.

Through the assistance of Andy Burns, LPCO has launched a NationBuilder website, drawing multiple leads per day, and has been a tremendous boon for the party and its growth.

Illinois
75 new members every month
LP Illinois county chairs report that they are having record attendance. Volunteers for our statewide candidates, including the Johnson–Weld campaign, are stepping up in record numbers to call voters, canvass their neighborhood, write letters to editors, and attend events. A Chicago businessman donated an office building to the campaign, so we now have the Gary Johnson Victory Center in Chicago, where 24,000 people pass by our campaign signs every day.

Controller candidate Claire Ball and senate candidate Kent McMillen attend many events weekly. They have visited more than 50 cities, towns, and villages across the state, speaking at fairs, schools, and town halls. They sometimes travel 300 miles or more to attend events and meet voters. Our growing teams of volunteers are already distributing door hangers with information about all of our LP candidates.

Like most states right now, Illinois is having an influx of new members and volunteers. All year long, we have averaged two to three new members per day, and we have filled the majority of our state offices. We have approved four new county chapters, and three more are ready to file papers.

Meantime, Libertarians working hard, doing what we do best: fighting taxes and government corruption. Fox Valley Libertarians (FVLP) have been working to stop a proposed 14-percent property tax increase in the downtown West Dundee business district. FVLP members are working with property owners and others to sway the village board of trustees to vote down the increase. FVLP members have been busy with phone banks, literature distribution, canvassing, sign waving, letters to the editor, and circulating petitions, to get the word out.

Iowa
Running a record number of candidates
Iowa will have a record 24 Libertarians running for office, exceeding the slate of 18 who ran in 2002. The record number of candidates is attributed to two factors:

- Developing Facebook connections with liberty-minded people and groups, and
- Campaigns and Elections Chair James Schneider’s $15 investment to boost a Facebook post asking for candidates.

That $15 Facebook post produced a slew of inquiries about running for office. James spent lots of time communicating with each respondent, using a candidate vetting questionnaire to determine whether each prospect was libertarian-minded.

Currently, six LP Iowa members hold nonpartisan offices. 2016 may become the year that Iowans elect their first Libertarian to a partisan office.

Kansas
Featured in Topeka Capital-Journal
Excitement is running high in Kansas this election cycle.

On Sun., Aug. 28, the Topeka Capital-Journal ran a nice front-page story about the party, headlined, “Kansas libertarians bullish on 2016, pursue 'major party' status for 2018.”

On Fri., Aug. 26, there were five well-attended watch parties across Kansas, for the Libertarian Town Hall on Fox Business.

The Kansas State Fair was held Sept. 9–18. For the 25th consecutive year, the LPKS had a presence. And, as has been the case for many of those 25 years, the booth was right across the aisle from the booth of the Kansas Secretary of State.

The state fair is very popular. Many local middle and high schools sponsored field trips, and students were encouraged to stop by the political booths to ask questions and pick up literature. On weekends, attendees crowded the aisles. The LPKS booth was always stocked with voter registration forms, and once an attendee registered as, or changed his or her affiliation to, Libertarian, the Secretary of State’s booth was just a few feet away to process the form. Many volunteers staffed the booth, from all over the state.

The LPKS executive committee meets monthly, usually by phone. But four times per year, meetings are held in person, rotating the venue among the four congressional districts; those meetings are open to the public. The meeting on Aug. 14 in Topeka had the highest attendance ever, including a number of newcomers who have since become active members.

Al Terwelp has been named chair of the
...continued from page 14

Liberarians of NE Kansas (Topeka area).

Third District LP of Kansas (Kansas City area) hosted a Liberty's Night Out event on Aug. 27 to fund campaigns for several local candidates.

Massachusetts

Three candidates on ballot

Massachusetts Libertarians are on the ballot, including Thom Simmons (U.S. Congress, 1st District, western Massachusetts), Bob Underwood (state representative, Springfield and Chicopee), and Daniel Fishman (state representative, Beverly).

Ballot line acquisition has also been obtained for our presidential and vice-presidential candidates.

Montana

Outreach at county fairs and parades

It has been a busy summer in Montana. The Gary Johnson campaign opened an office in Billings, our largest city, and at our yearly fair booths, visitors have been asking for his 2016 yard signs and bumper stickers. So far, we’ve had booths at the Gallatin County Fair, Yellowstone County Fair, Ravalli County Fair, and the Western Montana Fair.

MTLP hit the parade route as well, with entries in the Heritage Day Parade in Stevensville, Kalispell’s Fourth of July parade, the Kalispell Fair parade, and the Ravalli County Fair parade. At the time of this writing, we are making plans to march in the University of Montana homecoming parade in October.

Our U.S. House candidate has been invited to all the debates, but health concerns have put a damper on that. We expect he’ll be able to participate in the Great Falls debate in October.

Our newly redesigned website is up and running. We invite LP News readers to check it out. The MTLP is fairly confident that in November, we’ll achieve the 5 percent needed to retain our major-party status for another four years.

Website: www.MTLP.org

New Jersey

Record-breaking slate of 20 candidates

LP New Jersey membership has exploded above 68 percent in 2016, so far. A record-breaking 20 Libertarian candidates will appear on the ballot in N.J. this November.

Presidential candidate Gov. Gary Johnson and his running mate, Gov. William Weld, have tapped former N.J. state treasurer Andrew Sidamon-Eristoff as their state campaign chair. The story began when Eristoff publicly broke with the Republican Party in a Facebook post, writing, “Although I have always been a strong Republican, I cannot support my party’s nominee this year. Instead, I will happily vote for Johnson–Weld this November.”

Sidamon-Eristoff, a former city councilman for New York City in Manhattan, represented some of the most reliably Democratic voters in the country, but he won and persevered for three terms, before joining the Giuliani administration. As finance commissioner from 1999 to 2002, he earned a reputation as someone who could control costs with innovative use of technology.

From 2003 through 2006, Sidamon-Eristoff served as commissioner of the New York State department of finance under Gov. George Pataki. In 2010, he was nominated by Gov. Chris Christie for New Jersey treasurer, and became the longest-serving state treasurer in almost 40 years. In addition to overseeing the development of a succession of $30 billion state budgets which controlled taxes and spending while maintaining core services, he played a key role in developing and pushing through historic reforms in 2011 to begin addressing the state’s broken pension and health-benefit system.

North Carolina

State LP names multipartisan slate of presidential electors

The LP of North Carolina nominated a slate of presidential electors that includes Libertarians, Democrats, Republicans, and unaffiliated registered voters. This is the first time in its history that the party has had a full complement of electors: 15 electors, 15 first alternates, and 14 second alternates.

“We wanted our electors to match the vision and original intent of the Constitution,” said Brian Irving, state party chair. This slate includes 15 registered unaffiliated voters, two registered Democrats, and two registered Republicans.

“This represents an electoral college membership the Founding Father intended,” Irving said. “Their design was not to have the president and vice president chosen by popular vote, but by a small, deliberative body of distinguished citizens.”

“I grew up in a very socially liberal town, as the child of a very fiscally conservative father,” said elector Keane Matthews of Concord, a registered Republican.

“As a result, I have always known that I just didn’t fit into the two-party paradigm of American politics. After finding the World’s Smallest Political Quiz, it became obvious to me I was a libertarian. I’m honored to serve as an elector for the Libertarian Party in North Carolina.”

Another elector, Democrat Richard Karp of Fayetteville, said he’s glad “to do my small part in helping to free the Republic from the shackles of tyranny.”

Libertarian elector Tom Howe attended the Libertarian National Convention that nominated the Johnson–Weld ticket.

“I voted for Gary Johnson at the Libertarian convention; I’ll get to vote for him again on Nov. 8,” he said proudly. “If I’m very lucky, I will get to vote for him a third time in December.”

Ohio

Submits 12,000 signatures for ballot access

On Aug. 24, LP Ohio was informed by the office of Ohio Secretary of State Jon Husted that a sufficient number of signatures on their petitions had been verified, so the LP ticket of Johnson and Weld will appear on the Ohio ballot this November.

LPO activists had submitted on Aug. 9 more than 12,000 petition signatures for the ticket. Because of machinations by Ohio’s governor in 2014, including his ramming through the legislature a draconian ballot-access law, the LP ticket will have to appear on the Ohio ballot without a party label. On Aug. 15, the committee that had originally begun the petitioning in March submitted paperwork to replace the “placeholder” candidates whose names appeared on the petition, with the names of Johnson and Weld. The same day, the secretary of state issued a ruling that the substitution would be accepted. The LPO had submitted about 2.5 times the signatures needed, and volunteers had vetted more than 6,500 of the signatures, far more than the required 5,000.

The Libertarian Party of Ohio held its special 2016 convention on Sat., Aug. 13, at Creekside Conference Center in Gahanna. Delegates attended a central committee meeting and heard several speakers. Brett Bittner, executive director of Advocates for Self-Government, provided the keynote speech at the luncheon, and later put on his “second hat” to report on his duties as Region 3 rep to the Libertarian National Committee. Several members were recognized with awards for their service to the party over the past year, and Steven R. Linnabary received the third niche in the party’s Hall of Liberty in recognition of his lifetime of service.

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Want to help the Libertarian Party and our candidates? Here are 10 things you can do.

1. **Promote** the LP and Libertarian candidates with door hangers, yard signs, bumper stickers, T-shirts or buttons: LPStore.org
2. **Support local Libertarian candidates** on Election Day. Find the ones nearest you: LP.org/2016-libertarian-party-candidates
3. **Share on social media**: Like our Facebook page and post blog entries at LP.org, then repost them on your wall: LP.org/social-networks
4. **Sign up** for LP e-mail announcements: LP.org/signup
5. **Call in to your favorite radio talk show** and urge listeners to vote for LP candidates.
6. **Donate** to the Libertarian Party: LP.org/contribute
7. **Sign up to volunteer**. Your name will be passed on to your state affiliate when you sign up at: LP.org/volunteer
8. **Sign up to help the Gary Johnson campaign**: JohnsonWeld.com/volunteer
9. **Make your own fliers** or handout cards and give them out everywhere you go.
10. **Write letters** to the editor promoting LP candidates. Search “to the editor” and “Gary Johnson” at News.Google.com/news for ideas and examples.

Bombach in Baltimore

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“Do you think that Gary Johnson, the Libertarian candidate for president, should be included in the presidential debates this year, or not?”

Likely voters: Yes: 62%; No: 29%; Don’t know / no answer: 9%

Voters 18–34: Yes: 82%; No: 13%; Don’t know / no answer: 4%

—Quinnipiac Poll; 8/25

There’s ample reason to believe the Libertarian ticket will turn in the strongest general election performance of any third party in decades.

—CBS News; 6/15

This Libertarian [presidential] ticket has the potential to transform this race from one about insults and scandals to one about issues and honor.

—Winston-Salem Journal; 9/11

People are so obviously shopping and wishing for some other choice.

—Mitch Daniels, two-term governor of Indiana and member of the Commission on Presidential Debates, IndyStar/USA Today; 9/8

We are enthusiastic about [Johnson’s] participation in the debates. He has qualified for the ballot in all 50 states, which should count for something. The Commission on Presidential Debates is really the Commission on Democratic-Republican Debates, intent on maintaining the two-party duopoly.

Even a losing candidate can accumulate impressive vote totals and thereby affect the political landscape.

—Washington Post; 9/13

[Johnson] proposes “a 20 percent reduction in federal spending. To do that, you’ve got to include Medicaid, Medicare, military spending.” That’s responsible budgeting.

Johnson and Weld are much better than Clinton or Trump. They favor free trade, work visas for migrant workers, and entrepreneurial innovation. The future, Johnson says, is “Uber everything—get government out of the way.”

—John Stossell on Fox News; 8/24

“The American people want to hear the voices of Governors Gary Johnson and Bill Weld in the debates this fall—in a recent USA Today poll, 76 percent of voters said they deserve a spot on the stage. I completely agree,” the former California governor wrote on his Facebook page Friday.

—The Hill, quoting Arnold Schwarzenegger; 9/9

“I hope voters get to see former GOP Governors Gary Johnson and Bill Weld on the debate stages this fall.”

—Mitt Romney, 2012 Republican presidential nominee, former Mass. governor