



## LIBERTARIAN PARTY NATIONAL CONVENTION

# LIBERTARIAN PARTY BACKGROUND

**Party founded:** 1971, in the home of business executive David Nolan in Denver, Colorado, with a group of disaffected Republicans, Democrats, and Independents. The party has grown to become the third largest political party in America.

**Political philosophy:** Libertarians favor dramatically shrinking the size and cost of government, and eliminating laws that stifle the economy and control people's personal choices. The Libertarian Party platform calls for vigorous defense of the Bill of Rights, free enterprise, civil liberties, free trade, no meddling overseas, and private charity.

**Organization:** Organizations are active in all 50 states, and there are hundreds of state, county, college, and local Libertarian groups.

**Registered Libertarians:** Despite unfair and restrictive laws passed by the Republicans and Democrats in many states, there are already more than 123,000 registered Libertarians in 28 states around the USA.

**Libertarians in office:** There are over 170 Libertarians serving in public office, including one State Representative in New Hampshire, one mayor in California, and more than 30 city or town council members around the country. Other Libertarians serve on school boards, as city commissioners, as selectmen, and on town budget committees.

**Presidential candidates:**

- 1972: John Hospers, on the ballot in 2 States. Won: 3,671 votes.
- 1976: Roger MacBride, on the ballot in 32 states. Won: 173,011 votes.
- 1980: Ed Clark, on the ballot in 50 states. Won: 921,299 votes.
- 1984: David Bergland, on the ballot in 39 states. Won 228,314 votes.
- 1988: Ron Paul, former Republican Congressman from Texas, on the ballot in 46 states. Won: 431,616 votes.
- 1992: Andre Marrou, former Libertarian State Legislator from Alaska, on the ballot in 50 states. Won: 291,000 votes.

**1994 election results:** More than 650 Libertarian candidates ran for office around the country, including 82 candidates for U.S. Congress, 15 candidates for U.S. Senate, and 15 candidates for governor. More than 2.2 million people voted for Libertarian candidates, and 11 Libertarians were elected or re-elected to office.

**1996 election plans:** The Libertarian Party is already qualified to be on the ballot for the 1996 presidential election in 33 states, and expects to be on the ballot on all 50 states. In all, the party plans to run more than 1,000 candidates for public office in 1996, more than any other third party. Included in that number will be more than 218 candidates for the U.S. House – the first time since 1920 that a third party has fielded candidates for a majority of U.S. House seats.

**1996 convention:** The Libertarian presidential nominating convention will be held in Washington, DC July 4-7, 1996.