



# Colorado Liberty

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## Action Items:

- [Submit Your Activist Form](#)
- [Submit Your Contribution Form](#)
- [Subscribe To The Colorado Liberty](#)
- [Subscribe To Liberty Alerts](#)
- [Join Our Meetup Group](#)

<http://www.LPColorado.org>  
<http://meetup.LPColorado.org>

## From The Chair David K. Williams, Jr., Chair

Each and every one of us is an ambassador for freedom.

Those of us that have joined the Libertarian Party know that neither of the two major parties offers freedom. Some in both of the major parties believe in freedom, but have not yet come to the conclusion that their goals are not being met by maintaining the status quo.

Many are not even aware that there alternatives. It is important to let people know that the two party system is not required. It is not in the Constitution. It is not in any statute. It is not necessary.

We do not have to accept it.

The American plurality voting system, whereby each voter makes one selection and whoever gets the most votes wins, is not the only system. In fact, it is a bad system. It perpetuates the two-party duopoly and often thwarts the will of the voters. The Libertarian Party of Colorado is working to give voters more options and break the stranglehold of the two party duopoly on American political power.

Gaming the Vote, by William Poundstone, is a great book explaining why plurality voting is seriously flawed. It offers alternatives far superior to our current system. Many of these alternative voting systems give third-parties more influence, thereby giving us a chance to break out of the status quo. Read it if you can.

Colorado's own Libertarian super-activist Frank Atwood, among others, has done tremendous work in advancing alternative voting methods in Colorado. Two years ago, he helped get a bill passed that allowed all local governments and municipalities in the state to implement some alternative voting methods if they chose. Aspen has experimented with alternative voting method. Local acceptance of these superior methods is the first step to wider acceptance.

This year, Atwood and the Libertarian Party of Colorado are working to expand the ability of local governments to implement alternative voting methods. We are meeting with state legislators that are sympathetic to the cause of better voting systems, and we are hopeful that a bill will be introduced in the 2010 legislative session.

Stay tuned.

And Let Freedom Ring,  
David K. Williams, Jr.  
Libertarian Party of Colorado State Chair



## Vice Chair Report

By Steve Gallant, Vice Chair

### Affiliate Handbook:

The Affiliate Handbook is almost complete, although it will be an iterative process, updated as needed. Once the cover letter is complete I will send the handbook out.

I worked outreach at the [Littleton Summerset Festival](#). It remains to be determined whether it is worth having a presence at this event next year. The low number of visitors and the small number of registrations may not justify the effort and expense.

## Campaigns Report

By Norm Olsen, Campaigns Director

### Imagine Your Name On The Ballot:

If you have a good understanding of libertarian principles and you are good at presenting your Libertarian views to other people, running for office as a Libertarian may be right for you. The LPCCO has training videos that can help you run for office.

### Imagine Your Boots On The Ground:

Libertarian Candidates need volunteers including candidate trainees, campaign managers, campaign manager trainees, treasurers, volunteer coordinators, web masters, graphic designers, walking list creators, yard sign managers, phone blast software trainees, door knockers, district walkers and sign wavers.

#### Imagine Your Voice Being Heard:

If you are interested in running for a political office in Colorado as a Libertarian or helping with a Libertarian campaign, please [contact us](#).

### F.R. Outreach Report

By [Jeff Orrok](#), [Outreach Director](#)

With Outreach booth season coming to an end, I've been concentrating my efforts on updating my records, contacting prospective members and tending to my Technology Manager responsibilities.

### Monthly Pledge Program

Monthly donations are the best way to help make a political difference. Although contributions are not tax-deductible, we have fixed expenses. Campaigns and events cost money. Choose an amount per month below, and PayPal will automatically send us your donation each month. Don't have a PayPal account? Click any button below and use your credit card or bank account instead. We've made it so easy, there really is no excuse for not contributing right now.

#### Join the "Copper Club!"

Donate \$10.00 each month easily using PayPal.

[Join Now!](#)

Receive a Libertarian bumper sticker, outreach handouts for friends, and a Libertarian cap.



#### Join the "1776 Club!"

Donate \$17.76 each month easily using PayPal.

[Join Now!](#)

Receive a Libertarian bumper sticker, outreach handouts for friends, a Libertarian cap, and the book, *"To Save America: How to Prevent Our Coming Federal Bankruptcy"* by Martin L. Buchanan.



#### Join the "Silver Club!"

Donate \$25.00 each month easily using PayPal.

[Join Now!](#)

Receive a Libertarian bumper sticker, outreach handouts for friends, a Libertarian cap, the book, *"To Save America: How to Prevent Our Coming Federal Bankruptcy"* by Martin L. Buchanan, PLUS the book, *"Nanny State"* by David Harsanyi (a Denver Post columnist).



--- Please Get Involved - [Click Here!](#) ---

## BECOME A VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

OPPORTUNITY to help liberty: Volunteer Coordinator for the Libertarian Party of Colorado. This person will use their people skills to find, motivate, and guide the various volunteers that contact the LPCO, matching the volunteer interests to the needs of the organization. This is a volunteer position for a political party that showed 62% growth in the past year and has a Board of Directors that is committed, interesting, and active in the community. A one year commitment with an average of 4-6 hours per week is needed. Please contact [membershipdirector@lpcolorado.org](mailto:membershipdirector@lpcolorado.org) with interest and questions

Clint Jones  
Libertarian Party of Colorado  
6989 S. Jordan Road  
Second Floor, Suite 5U  
Centennial, Colorado 80112  
(303) 936-3874

--- Please Get Involved - [Click Here!](#) ---

### Legislative Report

By [Justin Longo](#), [Legislative Director](#)

Please forward this information to friends and family who are concerned about defending our freedoms!

Urge others to sign up to receive free liberty alerts at:  
<http://lpcolorado.org/lpcolibertyalerts.aspx>

You can read past "LPCO Liberty Alerts" at:

<http://lpcolorado.org/lpcolibalartarchive.aspx>

Sign-up to receive free e-mails from the National Libertarian Party at:  
<https://www.lp.org/signup>

Support the Libertarian Party of Colorado by joining the 1776 Club:  
<http://www.lpcolorado.org/monthlypledges.aspx>

--- Help Wanted - [Click Here To Indicate Your Interest!](#) ---

## HELP WANTED: PETITION DRIVE

The following groups are looking for individuals to collect signatures for three new statewide petitions. This effort is a joint petition drive with a joint flyer. Visit these websites to read the proposals and get other information:

- [www.cotaxreform.com](http://www.cotaxreform.com)
- [www.limitpropertytax.com](http://www.limitpropertytax.com)
- [www.limitcodebt.com](http://www.limitcodebt.com)

For more information: [info@cotaxreform.com](mailto:info@cotaxreform.com)

There is also the possibility of compensation for signature gathering.  
If you are interested in gathering signatures, please contact:  
[Jim Frye](#) or [Debbie Schum](#).

Among other reforms, these petitions will:

1. Undo the new exorbitant fees on vehicles.
2. Undo the illegal property tax increase.
3. Ban future state debt and limit local debt to voter-approved bonds.  
Local debt limited by total amount and 10 year-term.

Colorado voters would appreciate the opportunity to vote on these matters.

--- Help Wanted - [Click Here To Indicate Your Interest!](#) ---

## Media Report

By [Kate Melvin](#), [Media Director](#)

### New Projects:

- Coordinating with the producer of Future of America TV (channels 59 and 60 in Denver) Potential opportunity to have a LP television show produced and aired regularly.
- Working with Dave on an op-ed to the Boulder Daily Camera about Jared Polis' bill to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act. Our view: Why is the government involved in marriage at all?

### Ongoing Projects:

- Letter to the Editor writing campaign. If anyone sees an article worth responding to, but does not have the time, feel free to send it to me.
- Communicating with various radio shows/producers to see if we can get some earned media air time.

Also, I want to give Dave a pat on the back and make sure everyone saw his Op-Ed (The state of marriage) in the Daily Camera today.

[http://www.dailycamera.com/guest-opinions/ci\\_13472398](http://www.dailycamera.com/guest-opinions/ci_13472398)

## Membership Report

By [Clint Jones](#), [Membership Director](#)

1. **Candidates** - Do you know who your contributors and activists are in your district? If not, contact me - [membershipdirector@lpcolorado.org](mailto:membershipdirector@lpcolorado.org)
2. With Leah's input, I have drafted a monthly budget that we need to keep in mind as we bring up motions that involve spending money. We have purchasing goals in no particular order of:
  - Dedicated server
  - Two to Four new/refurbished computers/monitors for the LPCO call center (\$1500)
  - New phone blast software
  - Outreach brochures comparing Libertarians to Republicans & Democrats, plus other brochures
  - More Libertarian caps (\$450)
  - Libertarian license plate holders (\$412)
3. I met with 2 contributors to LPCO this past month.
4. I attended 2 health care town hall meetings held by Diana DeGette and asked a question at each. Upon asking, "Since purchasing insurance would be mandatory, what happened to freedom in my country?" About 10% of the 300 attendees booed me.
5. I am still calling registered Libertarians in Denver County using just 4 quick questions on:

- a. [Subscribing to the monthly Colorado Liberty Newsletter](#),
  - b. Supporting Libertarian candidates with signs,
  - c. Supporting Libertarian candidates with contributions,
  - d. Supporting the LPCO with activist time and/or contributions.
6. I have called all the active voters (850), leaving messages at 30%.
    - o I will start calling the ones which I left messages.
  7. I have added 170 people to The Colorado Liberty Newsletter Subscriber List.
  8. I have emailed/mailed Contribution and/or Activist forms to these 170 active voters.
    - a. Almost all of these 170 are willing to place a yard sign/bumper sticker for a Libertarian candidate.
  9. I have an LPCO packet with literature and forms for each Board member and other attendees to keep handy when citizens ask for info or forms to complete.
  10. I am still looking for five to ten more volunteers to help in calling Colorado Libertarians using a short 3 minute script and putting the results in Google Docs. Email me if you want to volunteer calling as few as 100 people this year. [membershipdirector@lpcolorado.org](mailto:membershipdirector@lpcolorado.org).

## Publications Report

By [Jaime Brown](#), [Publications Director](#)

Our publications consist of the [Colorado Liberty](#), the state website, the [LPCO blog](#), and [event announcements](#).

If you would like to be informed about the activities of the Libertarian Party of Colorado, [subscribe](#) to the Colorado Liberty Newsletter (or unsubscribe if you are subscribed and no longer want to be. Every email will end with an unsubscribe link and we do not share your information with anyone).

Subscribers need to make sure that our newsletter is whitelisted, and check their "Junk" & "Spam" boxes. Members are encouraged to make sure that they have added "Libertarian Party of Colorado" [lpcolibrty@lpcolorado.org] to their "Safe Sender's List" so that Newsletters, like this one don't end up in their spam folder.

Also, if your email address ever changes, please remember to [update your email address](#) for your subscription to The Colorado Liberty Newsletter to avoid any interruption in service.

All Colorado Liberty Newsletters are archived at <http://lpcolorado.org/coloradolibrty.aspx>

Thank you for your dedication to liberty.

## Records Report

By [Mary MacFarlane](#), [Records Director](#)

I compiled and filed the minutes and reports from the previous Board meeting.

## Treasurer Report

By [Leah Kelley](#), [Treasurer](#)

## Thank you to our 1776 Club members.

These are the people that keep the doors open and the lights on at the State party. Please consider [joining them!](#)

 Clint Jones	 Grace Reed	 Michele Poague
 Curtis Harris	 Jaime Brown	 Monte Poague
 Daniel Underkofler	 James J. Frye	 Mike Spalding
 Debbie Schum	 Jeff Lucius	 Norman Olsen
 Deni Cates	 Jeff Orrok	 Rand Fanshier
 Doug Anderson	 Jennifer Amerkanov	 Richard Randall
 Eva Kosinski	 Joe Klauser	 Shannon Murphy
 Frank Atwood	 Kathryn Chappell	 Steve Adams
 Greg Woods	 Leah Kelley	 Steve Gallant
	 Martin Buchanan	 Stu McFarland

We have increased our Membership to nearly 12,000 members. Still, there are only Twenty-Nine [1776 Club Members](#).

Please [join these 29 dedicated individuals](#) who help Coloradans hear the vigilant voice of liberty. With their support, Libertarians have ballot access, basic support for local Libertarian Candidates, rent, utilities, outreach/education for Colorado Voters.

**Any amount helps. [Please donate.](#)**

Libertarian Party of Colorado September 2009 Income	
Income	%
Donations	100%
<b>Total % of Income</b>	<b>100%</b>

Libertarian Party of Colorado September 2009 Expenses	
Expenses	%
Bank Charges	0.37%
Credit Card Fees	5.59%
Membership Expenses	5.32%
Office	0.21%

Publications	12.38%
Rent	30.95%
Utilities (Total)	45.18%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>100%</b>

**W.S. Outreach Report**

**By Debbie Schum, W.S. Outreach Director**

Until I can start trying to get our candidates into the Club 20 debates (is anyone going to run for governor?), I have been focused on outreach based on "health care reform" outrage, and the 3 great statewide ballot initiatives.

I still have lots of petitions left, and we have one month left to collect signatures. Please call me at 970-234-8056 so I can send you a set!

### Letters To The Editor:

#### Libertarian 101: Corporate Greed - By Barry Ritchey, II:



A big argument I hear against the libertarian cause pertains to the previously unfathomable growth of private corporations. People fear the Wal-Marts, Comcasts, and GEs of the world growing and influencing 'too much.' But, the same people that fear omnipotent private corporations don't have corresponding worries of the Central government, which makes combating the perception of 'corporate evil' doubly difficult. But that isn't going to stop me from giving you the facts. Libertarians feel it makes more sense to fear the people with the most guns, not the ones with the most money.

The fact is, the Federal government *creates* these seemingly insurmountable entities. Mainly through military contracts and government subsidized industries (including healthcare, education, charities, and housing) . But the majority of the 'gigantism' happens because of the taxing and regulatory stifling of the market. Higher taxes (punitive and otherwise) actually encourage the domination of a market by a select few companies who are able to absorb short term losses and willing and able to accept more taxpayer monies and regulation to 'bail them out' in the future, further stifling their competition. All at the expense of you and your family's budget. Keep in mind, even with these draconian measures, it is extremely rare for a company to remain in the biggest 500 companies for more than twenty years. Which is why libertarians largely don't understand the beef against free-market answers from the political left.

Libertarians would make it impossible for corporations to grow fat on those 'sweetheart deals' paid for by you and me by lowering the cost of capital by dramatically cutting taxes and government-regulation. We understand the need to encourage entrepreneurship and market fluidity by letting the market and consumers determine the size of a company, not the 'czar' in Washington. In short, if your company isn't sound, don't come to taxpayers saying you're 'too big to fail'. Libertarians understand there is an American out there that has the idea and the will to implement it. More red-tape for him to cut through isn't going to get his innovation to the consumer any sooner, it'll only make it a less cost effective alternative before he even starts.

Enforcing regulation, licensure, and punitive taxes against that individual isn't going to encourage his free-market answer for the consumer and his risk of opportunity. It will only keep in place the original failing and irresponsible company, thereby creating that omnipotent force the environmentalists, politicians, communists, and socialists so often point to as evil: and frankly, sometimes are.

But understand, the most irresponsible and downright dangerous companies to the well-being of Americans and our environment are always subsidized, at least partly, by government. Large corporations are eager to take your rights away and roll in the sheets with the Feds because it ensures their immunity from mistakes. If they truly had to pay for errors out of their own pockets instead of ours, their only answer is accountability to the consumer, therefore making a safer, more effective product as well as having to protect their resources from degradation.

The examples are endless; Microsoft spent millions and failed at the Microsoft Network, Coca-Cola spent \$250 million to convince us 'New Coke' was better than 'Coke Classic', Ford spent over \$1.5 billion on the Edsel. Harry Browne gave us these examples in The Great Libertarian Offer to illustrate the ultimate corporate regulation; the will of the consumer to buy it. Knowing the greatest changes in Washington have come from the boycotting of companies, the consumer still has the ultimate control in our country; unfortunately we see it constantly being leveraged by both Democrats and Republicans for political gain.

Consider the government-run failures the Post Office, War on Drugs, foreign aid, healthcare, welfare, Fannie and Freddie; the list goes on and on. These were created mostly by well-meaning, though ideologically erroneous politicians. Keep in mind that they take you and your neighbor's money; you have no choice whether to pay for their service. If you don't pay, you will be imprisoned, regardless of whether you use it or agree with its function or not. Why would we expect anything better out of an entity run by those rules, than of a private enterprise?

That is not the America libertarians understand to have made us the most powerful economic engine the world has ever known and providing much more than mere subsistence, but quite literally luxuries even for the poorest

among us (ie. A/C, cars, cooked and served food, etc.)

But, the true measure of government intrusion's effects aren't easily quantifiable. One would have to measure their current situation against what it could be had half of your family's earnings not been confiscated by government for at least the last 3 generations. And how many innovations and improvements have they destroyed by propping up failing industries?

Imagine if the Fed made 8-track cartridges the "industry standard" in the 60's, or announced MS-DOS as the operating system for all computers to be built around in the 80's. Luckily they didn't, look how far we've come in such a short time without the heavy hand of regulation in these technologies, yet.

Libertarians have more faith in our neighbors than that. We know individual freedoms, rights to personal property and profits, and decreased government intrusion into business is how to attain that 'greater good' referenced so much by misguided nincompoops singing the praises of the nanny state.

We truly want you to have the freedom to work, earn, and buy without checking with the Fed first.

**For more info:** <http://www.harrybrowne.org/GLO/FreeTrade.htm>

**This letter to the editor appears at:** <http://www.examiner.com/>

### **In This Economy, Don't Add More Taxes - By Jim Frye:**

Election season is right around the corner so it must be time for another tax increase in the City of Aurora.

This year is no exception.

The city is pursuing a \$12.5 million property tax increase on most Aurora property owners. The tax is couched under the guise of a "Library General Improvement District (4A)".

The city council and city manager have decided to arbitrarily propose a 2010 budget that slashes the existing library budget. This new proposed property tax increase would be solely dedicated to libraries, thus freeing up the existing library budget to fund other city operations.

- The current mill levy property tax component of the City of Aurora is 10.664
- The proposed mill levy increase amounts to 4.29 mills
- This would provide for more than a 40% tax increase on the city component of your property tax
- The initial amount of money raised would be \$12,514,000
- This amount is permanently guaranteed
- If your assessed property value is lowered, your mill levy will be increased to maintain this base funding
- In addition, there is wording in the ballot measure that provides yearly increases in funding to adjust for the rise in the consumer price index (CPI). Again, this is permanent. You will not be allowed to vote on additional tax increases

Many Aurora voters have had to adjust their budgets downward with the loss of income during this current economic downturn. Seniors have seen their 50% state property tax exemption removed this year and the media is reporting that they anticipate there will be no Social Security increases for the next two years.

The City of Aurora apparently thinks that citizens should ante up even more of their hard earned money so they can continue with the concept of more brick and mortar libraries in this age of the internet.

Given the condition of the local, state and national economies, it defies logic that our local government is again pressing us for more taxes. Amazingly, with private citizens seeing their income erode, the City of Aurora has never considered reducing city salaries or benefits.

With automatic guaranteed funding, forever, the libraries have no incentive to be more creative and do things more efficiently.

**I urge Aurora residents to vote NO on this measure.**

**This letter to the editor appears at:** [YourHub.com](http://YourHub.com) - [Aurora](#)

### **Greg Golyansky & Rob McNealy Testify At Aurora City Council:**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jgaAgNOe6W0>

### **Wake Up: City Property-Tax Increases Of 40% - By Larry Weygand:**

A vote "yes" for the separate Aurora Library "Taxing" District will result in your Aurora property taxes increasing a minimum of 40% (4.29 mills based on 2008 valuations) in monies paid to the city for city services. Look at your present property tax bill: Depending on location, we citizens presently pay the City of Aurora 10.664 mills for various city services, INCLUDING THE LIBRARY. A "yes" vote for a separate Library District simply removes library funding from the General Fund, and replaces it with ADDITIONAL TAXATION. The Library will be freed from having to share the diminished General Fund with other city agencies, and will be successful protecting their turf, unlike other agencies that will be asked to economize and operate with maximum efficiencies within available funding. The combined mill level (City of Aurora services/Library) with passage of the proposed Library District will increase the combined City/Library District mill levy from 10.664 to 14.954 mills. Other non-Aurora General Fund items, including schools, are added to this total annual property mill levy.

To add insult to injury, the tax billing, could, in fact be much worse. The assessed valuations by the Arapahoe and Adams County Assessors recently resulted in substantially reduced property values for tax assessment purposes. Since the Library District is seeking \$12.5 million dollars the FIRST year, I suggest to you, that an increased mill level will need to be substantially higher to produce their desired funding. The ballot initiative

allows them to get \$12.5 million ONE WAY OR ANOTHER! They have also cleverly worded the initiative eliminating the necessity to seek your approval for annual increases in salary/ benefits/expenses based on inflation. In other words, the Library really isn't answerable to you the taxpayer-they are an entity onto themselves.

The Library states that the Library District will not be a NEW or additional layer of government, and yet the same Aurora City Library Board will continue to oversee. Who's guarding the hen house and demanding cost efficiencies? With approximately \$7 million in new-found tax money, this becomes a legitimate question every taxpayer should heed. Give it to the Library and I guarantee they'll find a way of spending it. They are already planning to add 32 full time staff to the present 86 FTE. That's a lot of librarians to hand out books!

Yes, some library personnel will lose their jobs. Yes, the library will be forced, if they wish to remain a relevant city service, to do more with less. Certainly, with all their books, they should be able to access some reference materials on cost and work efficiency.

Vote "No" for additional taxes for a new library district. While a Library is a desirable service, it must function and simply adjust and learn to live within the city's budgetary means and share tax existing revenue with other Aurora city departments and services.

**This letter to the editor appears at: [YourHub.com](http://YourHub.com) - Aurora**

**This Just In:**

The tax also applies to commercial property, which could cause Aurora to lose retail businesses and further compound the General Fund's loss of sales tax revenue. Apartment house complex owners faced with the new tax will no doubt have to raise rents, ditto condo monthly fees. There's no free lunch in this even for non-property owners and lessees. If inflation increases to 10-15% as predicted within three years, the Library, by having cleverly de-bruced the necessity to request further funds, will enjoy the percentage increases without returning to the taxpayers for a vote of approval.

You may wish to checkout: [www.saveaurorahomes.com](http://www.saveaurorahomes.com)

**Support Libertarian Candidates - By Mike Spalding:**

Libertarians in office can increase your personal and financial freedom. Thanks to your help in the past Doug Anderson has been restraining the growth of taxes in Lakewood. His term as City Councilman ends in November.

The Travis campaign for Littleton City Council is off to an outstanding start. Whole neighborhoods are sprouting Vote Nicks signs. Frank Atwood has organized flier drops for nearly half the district. And Travis has pressed more doorbells than he can remember. This is one of two City Council campaigns we can win this year. Email Frank Atwood at [frank\\_atwood80120@yahoo.com](mailto:frank_atwood80120@yahoo.com) to pick the day you will help drop off fliers.

The Jeffco Libertarians will be planning this fall's campaigns on Wednesday, October 7th.

Join us with your ideas and enthusiasm at the Golden Library (1019 10th Street) at 7pm. Refreshments will be served.

**[Uncle Sam Theatre: The Government Can](#)**

The Colorado Liberty Newsletter was sent by:

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Phone: 303.837.9393

Contact the LPCO [Online](#)

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