



Free New York

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The Official Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of New York

October 2024

STATE CONVENTION HELD WHITMER ELECTED CHAIR



by Andrew Kolstee
LPNY Secretary

The 52nd Convention of the Libertarian Party of New York was held on Saturday, September 21, 2024 at the Albany Courtyard Thruway Hotel in Albany. Chair Andrew Kolstee called the convention and organization meeting to order. The original agenda was adjusted, but once we got started, three vacancies were filled on the State Committee: Evan Lebrecht (JD3), Chuck Dorgan (JD6), and Susan Overeem-Cummings (JD13).

The State Committee voted to restructure the Executive Committee. Since 1972, the LPNY has had two Vice-Chairs, which have been referred to as the 1st and 2nd Vice-Chairs respectively since 2019.

However, the 2nd Vice-Chair position was eliminated and now there is only one Vice-Chair position. Secondly, the Members-At-Large were replaced with Director positions: Communications, Fundraising, IT, Legislative Affairs, Outreach, Political, and Volunteer.

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A panel discussion was held focused on strategies to grow the Libertarian Party and movement with LPNY 1st Vice-Chair Duane Whitmer and LNC Region 6 Representative Pat Ford.

Election of officers took place, first with the position of Chair. Incumbent Chair Andrew Kolstee opted

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not to seek re-election. Nominees were Orange County Vice-Chair Pietro Geraci and LPNY 1st Vice-Chair Duane Whitmer, but Whitmer withdrew from the race. Geraci lost to None of the Above (NOTA) and so another election was held. In the second election, it was between Duane Whitmer and Staten Island Chair Susan Overeem-Cummings. Whitmer defeated Overeem-Cummings in the first round of the second election to become the 36th Chair of the Libertarian Party of New York.

In the election for Vice-Chair, it was between incumbent LPNY Secretary Mark Braiman and Platform Committee Chair Dan Castello. Castello defeated Braiman and was elected the sole Vice-Chair. In the election for Secretary, incumbent Braiman opted not to run for re-election. Chair Andrew Kolstee was elected Secretary unopposed, having previously served in the position from 2020 to 2022. Manhattan Chair Chance Haywood was elected Treasurer, also unopposed.

The seven director positions were elected, with only the Communications Director contested: Brooklyn Chair Christopher Skelly defeated Onondaga County Secretary Rose Leatherman to be elected the new Communications Director, a position that had been vacant since January 2024.

The six remaining directorships were unopposed: former State Chair Mark Axinn was elected Fundraising Director; incumbent IT Director Justin Carman was re-elected to the position; outgoing 2nd Vice-Chair and incumbent Legislative Affairs Director Rich Purtell was re-elected to the director position; Orange County Vice-Chair

Pietro Geraci was elected Outreach Director, a position that had also been vacant since January 2024; incumbent Political Director Paul Grindle was re-elected to the position; and Dutchess County Chair Catrina Rocco was elected Volunteer Director.

The convention concluded with a memorial tribute to Darryl Bonner, Mark Glogowski, Michael Rebmann, and Len Morlock, all who have passed away this year. Their contributions to the party were highlighted and convention participants recounted memories of our fellow liberty activists who have passed.



CHASE OLIVER / MIKE TER MAAT REGISTERED AS WRITE-IN CANDIDATES

by Andrew Kolstee
LPNY Secretary

For the first time since 1956 (Eisenhower versus Stevenson), and the second time since 1872 (Grant versus Greeley), New Yorkers will only have two choices on the ballot for President. New York's increase ballot access thresholds in 2020 and overall restrictive laws have been making it more difficult for third party candidates to get on the ballot.

However, the Libertarian Party's National candidates, Chase Oliver for President and Mike ter Maat for Vice President, have been registered as write-in candidates in New York State. So while the names of the Libertarian Party candidates will not appear on the ballot, voters in New York wishing to vote for Chase Oliver/Mike ter Maat can do so, and it will be counted.

Several people have asked how the write-in process works. There is a "write-in" spot on the ballot. Depending on where you are in New York, the "write-in" box is either the bottom of the column or on the right side of the row corresponding to the office. Note that if there is a fill-in bubble in the write-in box, it will need to be filled in order for the vote to count. See the graphic below.



SAMPLE 1

Office	President and Vice President (Vote for one)
<i>other candidates listed in between</i>	
Write-In	Write-In <i>Chase Oliver</i> <i>Mike ter Maat</i>

SAMPLE 2

Electors for President and Vice President of the United States Vote Once Electores para Presidente y Vicepresidente de los Estados Unidos Vote una vez 美國總統及副總統選舉人團 僅選一次	Write-in candidato por escrito 寫入未列名候選人 <input checked="" type="radio"/> Write-in candidato por escrito 寫入未列名候選人 <i>Chase Oliver</i> <i>Mike ter Maat</i>
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If there is a bubble, it needs to be filled in

other candidates listed in between

LPNY: VOTE "NO" ON PROP 1

by Libertarian Party
of New York

If passed, Proposal 1 would add a wide array of new anti-discrimination categories, including ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, and reproductive healthcare. According to LPNY, this list goes beyond similar initiatives in other states, most of which are narrowly focused on abortion rights. Notably, New York's proposal avoids using the term "abortion" altogether.

Legal Concerns and Case Precedents

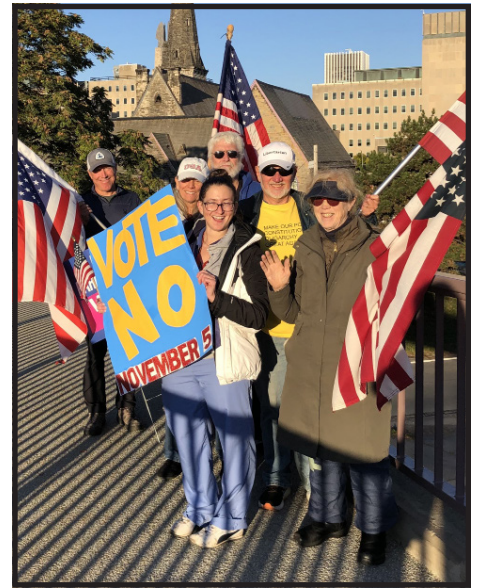
According to LPNY, a key concern is the inclusion of "national origin" as a protected class. In 2021, New York City passed a law allowing non-citizens to vote in local elections, enabling approximately 800,000 new voters. This law was struck down in *Fossella v. Adams*, where the court ruled that it was non-compliant with the New York State Constitution. However, LPNY states that if Proposal 1 passes, the protection of national origin could potentially overturn this decision by giving legal standing to non-citizens, thereby allowing them to vote in state and local elections.

Similarly, the inclusion of "age" as a protected class raises concerns about parental rights according to LPNY. Normally parents have authority over their minor until the age of emancipation and in rare cases judicial due process enables this before age 18. The broad inclu-

sion of age as a category of non-discrimination could lead to expanded autonomy for minors in areas such as medical decisions, as seen in *Parham v. J.R.* (1979), where the Supreme Court acknowledged that parents have the primary role in child-rearing, but also opened the door for state intervention in specific cases (<https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/442/584/>). According to LPNY, amplifying age protections in the state constitution could further erode parental rights, particularly in areas such as gender identity and vaccination, where legislative battles are ongoing.

Section B of the proposal, which could lead to expanded affirmative action and quota systems in the private sector, also raises legal red flags according to LPNY. This section could be interpreted as enabling new mandates for hiring practices, potentially clashing with previous case law on affirmative action, such as the recent Supreme Court decision in *Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard* (2023). In that case, the Court placed limits on race-based affirmative action in university admissions, signaling that such quota-based systems are legally vulnerable under the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. According to LPNY, Section B of Proposal 1 could lead to protracted legal challenges if it extends similar quota systems to the private sector.

From Libertarian Party Legislative Affairs Director Rich Purtell, "The enumerated classes of Age, Gender



Identity, and National Origin are of greatest concern. Age could open the floodgates for many legislative bills which have already been presented in Albany year after year to allow for ease of access between corporate interests and minor children. Gender identity protection would increase the challenges of public schools to limit intrusion of boys into girls' sporting events. The national origin class could reinstate the 2021 NYC voting rights law. The proposal is too broad and too vague. The concept of equal rights for all is of course noble, but this bill would poorly execute the concept if passed."

Conclusion

The LPNY sees Proposal 1 as being too risky and imprecise, opening the door to unintended legal consequences if passed. LPNY urges voters to vote NO on Proposal 1 and to stay vigilant as legislators work on revising the language for future consideration.

U.S. FOREIGN POLICY AND WORLD PEACE

by Vincent O'Neill
State Committee Member (JD10)
LPNY Vice-Chair (2002-2003)

The Foreign Policy of the U.S. has been less than exemplary for quite a long time. We will start with the fact that the United States has bombed at least 32 countries without a preceding Declaration of War since the end of World War II and go on from there.

Once this issue is addressed, the U.S. responsibility to restore Constitutional Foreign Policy could then be addressed. The End of an Interventionist Foreign Policy will be one result. It will also create a foundation where the end of economic interventionism will follow logically.

As long as a sincere effort is made to address this and related issues, the likelihood of a foundation for World Peace being created increases exponentially.

We can start by addressing the actions taken by the United States starting with the first Iraq War.

“We must fight to ensure that the Iraq War and its supporters are never rehabilitated by historians or pundits. Nor should the war, its lies, and its crimes ever be forgotten.”-Ryan McMaken “20 Years Later: Remembering the Disastrous and Failed Iraq War”

The Iraq War Ryan McMaken is referring to is actually Iraq War #2, and began with the 2003 invasion. Its predecessor was just as bad, and

possibly even worse. We can start with the fact that (like Iraq War #2) it was an Unconstitutional, Undeclared War. The Unconstitutional, Undeclared War (along with assorted assassinations and overthrown governments) has been a major feature of U.S. Foreign Policy for more than 70 years.

The Constitution provides a straight forward description of the requirements for a Declaration of War:

“The Congress shall have the power to declare War, grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal, and make rules concerning Captures on Land and Water; To Raise and Support Armies....”-Article One, Section Eight, U.S. Constitution

“Congress ‘ failure to this point to assert its constitutional role in war-making should not preclude its acting now, nor should its history of inaction ever be legitimized as precedent.”- Ed Krayewski, Reason.com

Meeting Constitutional Requirements

The constitutional requirements for U.S. military action have not been met in over 70 years. Unconstitutional actions taken by the U.S. government have therefore been taken in defiance of the American citizen. We have, therefore, NEVER ENDORSED THESE ACTIONS. Since the constitutional requirements for military action have not been met since the U.S. declared war on Rumania in 1942, this is a judgement against the unconstitutional foreign policy actions of the U.S. ‘government’.

It should be pointed out that from any moral standpoint, the U.S. Foreign Policy of the last several decades has no credibility. It consists primarily of name-calling and passive-aggressive acts of war (economic sanctions, overthrow of foreign governments, bombing foreign countries without a preceding Declaration of War, murder of innocent civilians through drone attacks, etc.) without ever accepting responsibility.

Informed U.S. citizens therefore have responsibilities to meet. These can be expressed as a Withdrawal of Consent from the foreign policy of the U.S. political establishment. The withdrawal of consent, a concept promoted by Hans-Hermann Hoppe in his book “Democracy: the God That Failed”, can take a number of forms.

A simple withdrawal of consent would quickly become noticeable in public opinion.

These can consist of anything from simply knowing and speaking the truth, engaging in honest discussion and debate, to the active anti-war protests of the 1960s.

The U.S. military is also suffering from a decline in enlistments. This is the beginning of the ‘withdrawal of consent’. Acceptance of Constructive Criticism is the important first step toward addressing this problem.

“What we need is a great awakening in America, one in which peo-

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ple's consciences once again begin to operate. Once that happens, the American people will be able to restore America's founding principles of due process of law and America's founding government system of a limited-government Republic." -Jacob Hornberger, "Freedom Daily", March 2020, p.10.

The second Iraq War began with the 2003 U.S. Invasion. It followed the original unconstitutional, undeclared Iraq War that began with the 1991 Invasion.

This was followed by successive U.S. administrations committing Crimes Against Humanity on the Iraqi people. Not only did the U.S. perpetrators suffer no consequences whatsoever, they didn't even try to hide what they had done.

After the first Iraq War: "The U.S. government instigated one of the most brutal systems of economic sanctions in history on the Iraqi people. Over the next 11 years, the sanctions impoverished most Iraqis, with many Iraqi families having to sell their personal effects just to survive. Even worse, the sanctions began killing hundreds of thousands of Iraqi children, especially given that the sanctions prevented Iraqi officials from repairing those damaged water-and-sewage plants.

U.S. Officials didn't care. U.S. Ambassador to the UN Madeleine Albright expressed the sentiment of the U.S. government when she went on "60 Minutes" and declared that the deaths of half-a-million Iraqi children from the sanctions, while difficult, were "worth it". That was in 1996. The sanctions continued for another five years, to the total indifference of U.S. officials." - Jacob Hornberger, "9/11, Afghanistan and

Iraq", Freedom Daily, January 2022, p. 7.

This gives a good description of what U.S. Foreign Policy degenerated into, and why it must be changed and reparations paid.

The U.S. should take the advice Libertarian Party Presidential candidate Ed Clark had for Israel in 1980: "The time to make your peace treaties is when you are at your strongest."

Accepting constructive criticism and responsibility for misdeeds will allow the U.S. to preserve appearances and 'save face'.

Every step in the right direction will then lead to another, and every step in the right direction will become a step permanently in the right direction.

1. A Brief Description of U.S. Foreign Policy

"There is a disturbing pattern over the decades in Washington's negotiations with countries deemed to be adversaries. It is a tendency to adopt a rigid stance marked by unrealistic demands that make achieving a settlement virtually impossible. Often, harsh economic sanctions against the target country reinforce the provocative diplomatic posture.... We are left to wonder whether the approach reflects diplomatic ineptitude or a cynical attempt to force the opposing side to choose between humiliating capitulation or war."- Ted Galen Carpenter, "Intransigent Diplomacy", Chronicles, July 2014, p.21.

2. The "Peace Dividend"

Once the Cold War with the Soviet Union ended temporarily in the late 1980s, many Americans felt it was time to reduce military spending, creating what was called a 'peace

dividend'. Instead of allowing this to occur, the U.S. foreign policy establishment immediately went on a 'search for enemies', and created a few.

Instead of a "Peace Dividend", we had G.H.W. Bush attempt to force his 'new world order' upon us, starting with the unconstitutional, undeclared war that was the 1991 invasion of Iraq.

3. The Lenin and Bush Revolutions

"The real significance of the Lenin revolution is to be seen in the fact that it was the bursting forth of the principle of unrestricted violence and oppression. It was the negation of all the political ideals that had guided the evolution of Western civilization for three thousand years."- Ludwig Von Mises

Change 'Lenin revolution' to "U.S. foreign policy beginning with the 1991 Bush Invasion of Iraq" and you are describing the same situation.

4. Continuing U.S. Foreign Policy Actions

The U.S. political establishment would like to pretend that the following three actions, when undertaken WITHOUT A PRECEDING DECLARATION OF WAR, are actually justified.

- A. Bombing a foreign country
 - B. Imposing economic sanctions
 - C. Overthrowing the government of a foreign country
- Actually, those actions are a combination of criminality and cowardice, and the perpetrators should be held accountable.

This is highly unlikely to happen, since although they are obviously guilty, they also have access to nu-

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clear and other weapons, the lack of conscience typical of sociopaths, and police state yearnings.

This leaves responsibility with the U.S. citizen, and it will be expressed through withdrawal of consent, reduction of the military budget, and a modern adaptation of the Eric-fine for Homicide.

U.S. foreign policy has been a giant fraud for quite some time. American presidents, particularly Bush, Clinton, Bush and Obama, have never been held accountable for their actions, and neither has the U.S. government.

Constructive Criticism is a major requirement in a withdrawal of consent. This leads to the Acceptance of Responsibility as a major requirement for an acceptable solution. This is a judgement against their actions. Every step in the right direction leads to another.

Restoration of the written Constitution follows logically. Free (or at least, Freer) Trade is an important part of the solution.

5. Countries Bombed Without a Declaration of War

Since World War II, the United States has bombed at least 32 countries without a preceding Declaration of War. This represents roughly one-third of the people on Earth. A list follows the article.

The United States has also imposed two-thirds of the world's sanctions since the 1990s. It has imposed economic sanctions on more than 20 countries since 1998.

6. Eric-fine for Homicide

The payment of the judgement against and by the U.S. government

will be based on the concept of the Eric-fine for Homicide, a feature of the Celtic Brehon Laws. This is the world's second oldest legal system, and lasted until the beginning of the 17th Century in Ireland, when Celtic Ireland made it last stand. It was also a feature of Viking Law.

The Eric-fine was a fine paid for the killing of a man off the field of battle, which is homicide. Its successful application led to the prevention of vendettas through paid compensation.

It also freed families from having to maintain the worst type of vendetta, one where one of their own was 60% responsible, 40% responsible, etc. In this case, it would be applied to unconstitutional actions of the U.S. government only. Any country the U.S. has bombed, placed economic sanctions on, or had its government overthrown without a preceding Declaration of War will receive compensation.

A fourth action by the U.S. Government will also result in compensation being paid. Any country that had toxins dropped on their country as part of the U.S. 'War on Drugs' would be entitled to compensation.

An example is given by James Bovard: "The US government was dousing broad swaths of Guatemala with toxins to preemptively destroy anything growing below. The year before I visited, a group of Guatemalan beekeepers sued the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), claiming that the spraying had destroyed half of their industry. Herbicides had contaminated local drinking water and many residents had required hospitalization after exposure to the chemicals. A Guatemalan human rights commission asserted that the spraying had destroyed so many farmers' corn and bean crops that serious food shortages could result."

The Fine

The fine would be \$1 billion per violation. It will be paid a maximum of once per country. The payment is an admission of guilt or error and an acceptance of Full or Partial Responsibility by the U.S. toward all affected countries.

In other words, if the U.S. placed economic sanctions on a country 10 times without a preceding declaration of war, it would pay \$1 billion to that country once.

If the U.S. also bombed that country several times without a preceding declaration of war, that would result in an additional one time only payment of \$1 billion.

So Iraq, for example, would receive a one time payment of \$3 billion, plus Free (or Freer) Trade for 3 years. A fourth action by the U.S. Government will also result in compensation being paid. Any country that had toxins dropped on their country as part of the U.S. 'War on Drugs' would be entitled to compensation of \$1 billion once for this infraction.

7. Military Budget Reduction

Budgetary Reduction will occur through a modern adaptation of the Eric-Fine for Homicide. The U.S. will pay the Eric-fine once only per violation, and wipe the slate clean. These payments would be deducted from the annual Military Budget of the U.S., currently over \$800 Billion per year.

The Military Budget will never again be increased.

It should also lead to the Military Budget being cut in half fairly quickly.

The U.S. has more conventional

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weapons than the rest of the world combined, most of which are close to useless in the types of conflict occurring now.

8. Free (or Freer) Trade

In addition, the U.S. would institute either completely Free Trade, or Trade with a maximum tariff of 10%, with the affected countries for 3 years. Ideally this would be reciprocal, but reciprocity is not required. Reciprocity is obviously in the best interest of these countries, but they should be allowed the chance to be magnanimous toward the U.S. on their own.

After 3 years, the results would be reviewed.

9. Exchange of Ambassadors

Communication between Governments will return to civilized behavior through the exchange of Ambassadors. They will be on a relatively informative, mutually respectful level. It is amazing no one thought of this before.

10. Addressing Current Conflicts

This is the strategy to be used to address current unconstitutional military involvements by the U.S.

A. The U.S. will end all offensive military action.

B. The U.S. will continue to defend any territory it currently holds.

C. The U.S. will call for a cease fire and negotiations.

D. The U.S. will acknowledge that fighting may continue for a time, but that it will be without U.S. involvement. Our position will remain as a call for a cease fire and negotiations, only.

11. The Key Question

Would the U.S. political establishment be willing to accept a judgement against it if the result would be World Peace, Free (or Freer) Trade, and morally upright government limited by a written constitution?

Would it be more acceptable to take the actions that have just been described, or to attempt to continue with the unconstitutional, unjust and failed foreign policy based on False Security that was foisted on this country by the Bush-Clinton-Bush-Obama Administration?

The choice is clear, and the American Political Establishment no longer has anywhere to hide.

The choice is to either work for Peace on Earth, or succumb to Endless War.

To Repeat: "What we need is a great awakening in America, one in which people's consciences once again begin to operate. Once that happens, the American people will be able to restore America's founding principles of due process of law and America's founding government system of a limited-government Republic." -Jacob Hornberger, "Freedom Daily", March 2020, p.10.

12. Applying the Eric-fine Concept to the Israel-Hamas War

As stated above in #6, "the Eric-fine was a fine paid for the killing of a man off the field of battle, which is homicide. Its successful application led to the prevention of vendettas through paid compensation.

It also freed families from having to maintain the worst type of vendetta, one where one of their own was 60% responsible, 40% responsible, etc."

As long as the concept was modified slightly, applying the Eric-fine Con-

cept to the Israel-Hamas War would go a long way toward bringing peace and prosperity to the region.

The first problem is that many people on both sides wish to assign the war guilt completely to the other side. This problem would be eliminated by focusing completely on the next two issues. This would lead to the question regarding assigning war guilt to simply be dropped.

The second problem is to make sure the money is sent to the proper recipients. The third problem is the proper level of compensation to be provided.

The proper level of compensation to be provided will be a one-time payment of \$100,000 American dollars, tax free.

The recipients would be the 252 Israeli hostages, or their surviving families, who were taken on October 7 by Hamas, the surviving families of the more than 1,200 Israeli civilians killed by Hamas, and the surviving families of the more than 39,000 Palestinians killed by the Israelis in Gaza since October 7, 2023.

This brings the total to roughly 4.1 Billion, slightly more than the \$3.83 Billion the U.S. provided in Foreign Aid to Israel in 2023.

The remaining problem to be addressed is that neither side actually has the money to do it properly. Someone else does.

13. Providing Compensation

The U.S. government (as well as some other interested parties) has the money to do this properly, and has been spending money hand over hand for a never-ending series of foreign policy failures for an extended period of time. A one-time only payment of roughly \$4.1 Billion would provide an acceptable

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level of compensation to the victims and bring the Israel-Hamas War to an acceptable close. It would also provide a basis for prosperity moving forward.

The question regarding assigning war guilt would simply be dropped.

14. U.S. Foreign Aid

“Foreign Aid consists of poor people in wealthy countries sending money to wealthy people in poor countries”- Peter Bauer

The total U.S. Foreign Aid Budget for 2023 was \$60.4 Billion. U.S. Foreign Aid to Israel was \$3.83 Billion.

It is not exactly news to anyone that much of U.S. Foreign policy is related to Israel. Therefore, the situation between the U.S. and Israel is slightly different from U.S. relation with anyone else, and is addressed slightly differently.

With Israel as the only exception, U.S. Foreign Aid to all other countries would end immediately. This results in a more than \$56 Billion Dollar reduction in yearly U.S. Foreign Aid. A one-time expense of an additional \$4.1 Billion can be easily absorbed.

15. Addressing U.S. Foreign Policy and Related Issues

The Foreign Policy of the U.S. has been less than exemplary for quite a long time. We will start with the fact that the United States has bombed at least 32 countries without a preceding Declaration of War since the end of World War II and go on from there.

Once this issue is addressed, the U.S. responsibility to restore Constitutional Foreign Policy could then be addressed. The End of an Interventionist Foreign Policy will be one result. It will also create a foundation

where the end of economic interventionism will follow logically.

As long as a sincere effort is made to address this and related issues, the likelihood of a foundation for World Peace being created increases exponentially.

“So by and by way after many years have gone, And all the war freaks die off leaving us alone, To raise our children in the peaceful way we can- It’s up to you and me, brother, to try and try again.”- Gregg Allman, “Ain’t Wasting Time No More”, 1972.

A list of countries bombed by the U.S. since 1946 is supplied in the article “The All-American Bombardier” by Charles Maurer www.maurer.ca

Afghanistan 1998, 2001-
Bosnia 1994, 1995
Cambodia 1969-70
China 1945-46
Congo 1964
Cuba 1959-1961
El Salvador 1980s
Korea 1950-53
Guatemala 1954, 1960, 1967-69
Indonesia 1958
Laos 1964-73
Grenada 1983
Iraq 1991-2000s, 2015-
Iran 1987
Korea 1950-53
Kuwait 1991
Lebanon 1983, 1984
Libya 1986, 2011-
Nicaragua 1980s
Pakistan 2003, 2006-
Palestine 2010
Panama 1989
Peru 1965
Somalia 1993, 2007-08, 2010-
Sudan 1998
Syria 2014-
Vietnam 1961-73

Yemen 2002, 2009-
Yugoslavia 1999

The list is incomplete. Mali, Nigeria and Kenya have also been bombed by the U.S. without a Declaration of War since 2018 as part of continuing unconstitutional U.S. activity.

“According to the report, the U.S. has provided “counterterrorism” training or assistance in 79 nations since 2018, with U.S. troops carrying out bombing or ground attacks in 10 countries.

Afghanistan, Iraq, Kenya, Libya, Mali, Nigeria, Pakistan, Somalia, Syria, and Yemen were bombed by the US military. American forces participated in training exercises in 41 nations over the past three years. Additionally, under “Section 127e” programs, U.S. special operations forces have planned, controlled, and participated in missions in numerous African nations. – “Costs of War Project”- Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs at Brown University

Also these links complement the article:

<https://mises.org/wire/guatemala-human-rights-nightmare-us-drug-war>

<https://mises.org/wire/thanks-sanctions-us-losing-its-grip-middle-east>

<https://mises.org/wire/20-years-later-remembering-disastrous-and-failed-iraq-war>

<https://www.maurer.ca/USBombing.html>

<https://www.fff.org/explore-freedom/article/the-iraq-war-was-a-systematic-atrocity/>

LETTER TO THE EDITOR: 127TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

by Mark Braiman
State Committee Member (JD6)
LPNY Secretary (2022-2024)

Note: This was sent by Mark Braiman to the Editor of the Cazenovia Republican and the Manlius Eagle Bulletin.

I am writing to endorse Tim Kelly for our 127th District Assembly seat. I circulated independent nominating petitions in April and May, trying to get myself on the ballot for this race as a third-party candidate, but only managed to collect about 300 of the 1500 signatures needed.

Having had several opportunities this year to chat with both candidates on the ballot, I am decidedly with Tim Kelly on the most important issues—the ones where I know he could benefit our community by voting differently from the incumbent.

1. The incumbent in 2022 voted for a revised wetlands law (ENV 24-0701) that eliminated the long-standing requirement for the Department of Environmental Conservation to publish a map of NY's wetlands, instead leaving it open to a complex new 4260-word-long definition (DEC Regulation 664). This definition is, well, muddy, but it likely subjects up to 20% of Cazenovia Lake's shoreline and adjacent properties to onerous regulations set to go into effect this January. These would (for example) require a permit from the DEC each time a wood campfire or charcoal cooking fire of any size is burned within 100 feet of the Caz Lake shoreline. They would also make it much more difficult for the Town of Cazenovia and Cazenovia Lake Association to continue their effective and scien-

tifically-sound 50-year stewardship of the lake, instead turning it over to distant pseudoscientific bureaucrats. The incumbent Assemblyman has turned down the urgent request of these local organizations, to co-sponsor a bill with State Senator Griffo to exempt Cazenovia and other similar lakes from this ambiguous and over-complex wetlands definition. The incumbent evidently does not believe in continuing the long-established and effective local authority to combat milfoil, zebra mussels, and other invasive species to protect sound recreational uses of Caz Lake. Tim Kelly has promised to co-sponsor the Griffo legislation if elected.

2. The incumbent supported the Democratic supermajority in the Legislature in 2022 and 2024 in gerrymandering Madison County into multiple Assembly districts—five in 2022, and four in 2024. These are the first times since Madison County's establishment ago 200 years ago that it has lost its undivided voice in the Assembly, in clear violation of the plain text of the New York Constitution. As recently as the 2020 election, an undivided Madison County made up the majority population of the 121st District. Now, Cazenovia is the sole Madison County town, barely 5% of the district population, in a predominantly Onondaga County district 127. Cazenovia's Assembly District has been divided for the first time from Nelson and Fenner, making it harder for Cazenovia School District residents to combine and influence any Assembly member. Worse, the incumbent supported the repetition of this Downstate-devised gerrymandering throughout Upstate, depriving dozens of small Upstate counties

of an effective voice in the Assembly, and subsuming their interests to larger neighboring, and more heavily Democratic, areas.

3. The incumbent voted for the 2023 New York State budget that included a provision, promulgated by the Downstate-dominated Climate Action Council without public hearings, to ban new natural-gas and propane hookups for homes. Under this law, a new residential building after January 2026 would have to exceed 7 stories to connect to a natural-gas utility line or even a propane tank. What housing in our town is likely to qualify in the next few decades? None. The only allowed source of new-home heat will be electric heat pumps, expensive to install and to maintain. The amount of annual CO2 reduction that this ban can possibly produce statewide by 2040, even if all of Governor Hochul's proposed housing units get built, would still pale in comparison to the 20 million tons a year that could be saved just by banning cruise-ship and private-jet departures from the state. My coastal-elite friends point out to me "Oh but banning those luxury transportation methods would put a serious dent in the economy." But they seem to lose sight of the more widespread economic effects of the gas ban on the Upstate economy. This law will put a complete stop to moderate-cost residential construction in Cazenovia and many other Upstate communities, making it impossible for the middle class to grow and replenish our shrinking school districts, not to mention putting tens of thousands of homebuilders out of work. Tim Kelly has made reversal of this law a centerpiece of his

(continued on page 11)

(continued from page 10)

campaign. We need an Assembly representative like him, who will be a voice for our economic interests in the rough-and-tumble science-policy debates on these issues that should be occurring the Legislature.

I was enrolled in the Democratic Party for almost 20 years after I turned 18. I have never voted for a Republican presidential candidate, and won't this year either. (I am an elector pledged to a nation-

al third-party Presidential candidate). I have vote for hundreds of down-ballot Democrats in my life, and only a few dozen Republicans. But on this occasion it is necessary, in order to hold a particularly egregious Democrat regime accountable—even if it means voting out a very personable incumbent Democratic machine man. I can do so with a clear conscience because a thoughtful Republican alternative is available.

I had the good fortune to be Tim Kelly's introductory chemistry pro-

fessor nearly two decades ago when he was a Syracuse University physics major. I have first-hand knowledge of his much deeper understanding of crucial scientific issues than the incumbent Democrat. I know for certain that unlike that incumbent, Kelly will speak out against the Downstate machine when it works against our local interests. This November is a golden opportunity to vote for Tim Kelly and hold the downstate Democrats accountable, for their unreasonable and extreme actions against Cazenovia's local interests.

2024 ELECTION: NEW YORK ONLY STATE WITH 2 PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

by William Redpath
LNC Ballot Access Coordinator

Due to some of the most difficult ballot access laws in the United States, the State of New York will have only two candidates on the ballot for President and Vice President of the United States this fall.

New York will be the only state with only two presidential candidates in 2024. Additionally, except for Oklahoma in 2004, 2008 and 2012, no other state has had only two presidential candidates between 1985 and 2024. Oklahoma eased its ballot access laws after 2012 and has five presidential candidates on its ballot in 2024.

There are many presidential candidates with policy positions substantially different than the two older party candidates, Libertarian Chase Oliver among them. But, New York voters can now only express their support for such candidates through write-in votes.

This situation came about due to the New York General Assembly, at the behest of disgraced former Governor Andrew Cuomo, passing a law in 2020 that tripled the number of signatures, from 15,000 to

45,000, to qualify a statewide candidate slate for the ballot and kept the petitioning period to only six weeks, which is the shortest legal petitioning period in the nation for presidential candidates.

Additionally, the petitioning period was shifted from early July to late August to mid-April to near the end of May. This makes petitioning much more difficult due to poorer weather conditions and many fewer outdoor events, which make for the best petitioning opportunities.

New York is also in a minority of states that only allows voters to sign a petition for one candidate for a given political office. As many voters only pay attention to politics after Labor Day, this is an unfair restriction on voter choices at the ballot box. It also means that candidates trying to get on the ballot have to gather many more signatures than they otherwise would to make sure they have enough unique signers of their petition.

It is also much harder for minor parties to stay on the ballot in New York. The 2020 election law changed the ballot access retention vote test from 50,000 votes for

Governor every four years to 2% of the vote for President or Governor every two years to further reduce voter choices in the Empire State.

It is ironic that New York has become more hostile to minor party and independent candidates due to its rich history of electing such candidates. New York elected three minor party nominees for the US House in 1948 and 1949. No minor party nominees, who were not also major party nominees, have been elected to the US House in any state since then.

Also, New York City elected an Independent candidate for Mayor, Vincent Impellitteri, in a special election in 1950, and it reelected John Lindsay as Mayor in 1969, even though he was not the nominee of any party other than the Liberal Party.

The Libertarian Party of New York calls upon the General Assembly to return the state's petition signature requirements to what they were prior to 2020 (or lower) and to return the vote test for political parties to remain on the New York ballot to 50,000 votes (or lower) for Governor.

COUNTY AFFILIATE NEWS

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ALLEGANY

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County Liasion
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LEARN MORE:

fb.com/AlleganyCountyLP

CHAUTAUQUA

NEXT MEETING:

Tues., Nov. 5, 2024 @ 7:00 PM
Shawbucks, Jametown, NY
and Zoom

CONTACT:

Andrew Kolstee, Chair
akolstee@lpny.org

LEARN MORE:

www.chautauquaLP.org
fb.com/chautauquaLP

CHEMUNG

CONTACT:

Craig Colwell, Chair
ccolwell78@gmail.com

LEARN MORE:

lpchemung.org

COLUMBIA

NEXT MEETING:

Wed., Nov. 20, 2024 @ 7 PM
Google Meet
(third Wednesdays)

CONTACT:

Scott Hoskins, Chair
scottdhoskins@gmail.com

CLINTON

CONTACT:

Zachary Remian,
County Liaison
zremian@lpny.org
(518) 310-6664

DUTCHESS

NEXT MEETING:

Sat., Nov., 16, 2024 @ 5 PM
Location Varies
(3rd Saturdays)

CONTACT:

Robert Cocomello, Chair
Catrina Rocco, Vice-Chair
info@dutchesscountylp.org

LEARN MORE:

dutchesscountylp.org

ERIE

NEXT MEETING:

Held Monthly via Zoom

CONTACT:

Duane Whitmer, Chair
chairman@eriecountylp.org

KINGS (BROOKLYN)

NEXT MEETING:

Tues., Nov. 19, 2024 at 3 PM
@ Fourth Avenue Pub
76 4th Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11217
(3rd Tuesdays)

CONTACT:

Christopher Skelly, Chair
cskelly@cskelly.tech

MADISON

NEXT MEETING:

TBD
Hamilton Public Library

CONTACT:

Mark Braiman, Chair
mbraiman@lpny.org

MONROE

Contact the Monroe County Libertarian Party for meeting link. We also have monthly social meetings that you don't want to miss. There is also Google Group for announcements.

NEXT MEETING:

Thurs., Nov. 7, 2024 @ 7 PM
(first Thursdays)

CONTACT:

Steve Becker, Chair
drsbecker@aol.com

LEARN MORE:

monroecountylp.org

NASSAU

NEXT MEETING:

Thurs., Nov. 14, 2024 at 7 PM
@ Landmark Diner
(2nd Thursdays)

CONTACT:

Jon Gunther,
Executive Committee Chair
jonguntherlibertarian@gmail.com

Blay Tarnoff,
County Committee Chair
LPNY@eblay.com

NEW YORK (MANHATTAN)

CONTACT:

Chance Haywood, Chair
chaywood@lpny.org

NIAGARA

CONTACT:

Wendi Szabo,
**Acting County Chair/
County Liaison**
wendiszabo@gmail.com

NEXT MEETING:

TBD

ONEIDA

NEXT MEETING:

Contact Keith for the link

CONTACT:

Keith Redhead, Chair
kredhead@lpny.org

ONONDAGA

NEXT MEETING:

TBD

CONTACT:

Rachel Becker, Chair
reb4128@rit.edu

ORANGE

CONTACT:

Juan Ayala, Chair
livefree@juanrayala.com

PUTNAM

NEXT MEETING:

Thurs., Nov. 14, 2024 at 7 PM
at McCarthy's
374 Route 52, Carmel, NY 10512
(2nd Thursdays)

CONTACT:

Bill O'Donnell, Chair
billod10704@gmail.com

QUEENS

NEXT MEETING:

TBD

CONVENTION:

TBD November 2024

CONTACT:

John Clifton, Chair
mrjclifton@yahoo.com

RENSSELAER

Since October 2022, the Rensselaer County Libertarian Party has been collecting food items and monetary donations to give monthly to StreetSoldiers Rensselaer.

NEXT MEETING:

Wed., Nov. 6, 2024 at 6:30 PM
Alexis Diner, North Greenbush
(first Wednesdays)

CONTACT:

Jennifer O'Connor,
Acting County Chair
joconnor@lpny.org

RICHMOND (STATEN ISLAND)

NEXT MEETING:

Thurs., Nov. 21 2024 @ 7 PM
@ Coffee and Collectibles
(3rd Thursdays)

CONTACT:

Susan Overeem Cummings,
Chair
susanovereem@gmail.com

SARATOGA

CONTACT:

Naz Garabedian, Chair
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@lawsonproducts.com

SCHOHARIE

CONTACT:

Lora Newell, Chair
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SUFFOLK

CONTACT:

George Ostrowski, Chair
gostrowskijr@msn.com

TIOGA

CONTACT:

Sara Price, Chair
sprice@lpny.org
Rich Purtell, Vice-Chair
rpurtell@lpny.org

ULSTER

NEXT MEETING:

Mon., Nov. 11, 2024 at 6:30 PM
Hickory BBQ, Kingston, NY
(second Mondays)

CONTACT:

Sam Kniffen, Chair
samkniffen01@gmail.com

LEARN MORE:

www.UlsterLP.org

WAYNE

NEXT MEETING:

Sat., Nov. 23, 2024 at 10 AM
Yellow Mills Diner
2534 NY-31
Palmyra, NY 14522
(last Saturdays)

CONTACT:

Jim Dayton, Chair
jdayton@lpny.org

LEARN MORE:

lpwaynecounty.org

WESTCHESTER

CONTACT:

Rajib Maitra
Acting County Chair/
County Liaison
rajib.maitra1@gmail.com

YATES

CONTACT:

Jeff Bradley, Chair
jbradley@lpny.org

Don't see your county listed?

**We are looking for Libertarians
to organize new County Affiliates!**

Contact us for more details!

affiliates@lpny.org



CHASE OLIVER



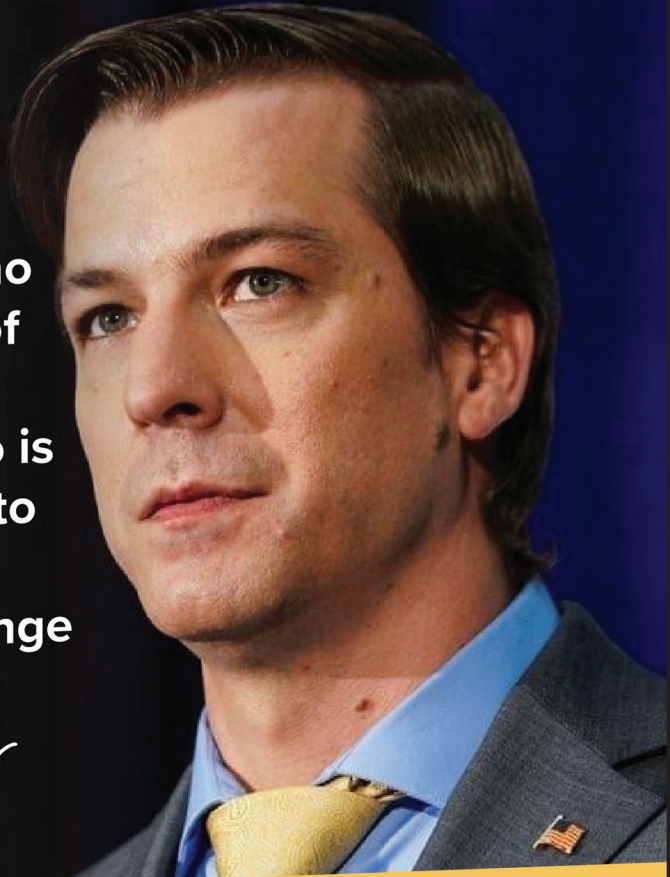
RollingStone VICE

The Washington Post



“AMERICA NEEDS A CHOICE who understands both the realities of modern life and the challenges faced by a new generation; who is both dynamic enough to adapt to new conditions and energetic enough to bring innovative change to old institutions.

-Chase Oliver

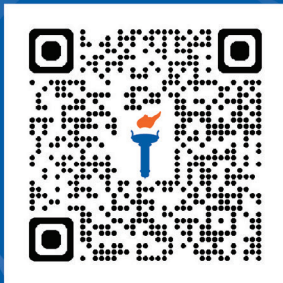


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The New York Times

Bloomberg

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution



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Maura Botsford (JD8)	

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