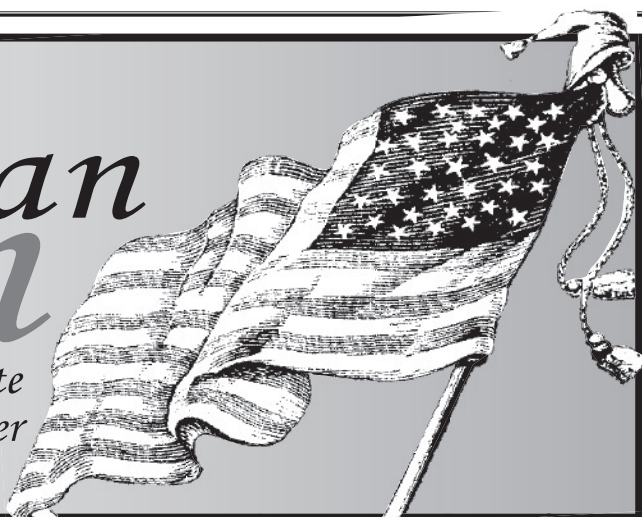


# Libertarian Penn

Pennsylvania State  
Newsletter



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF PENNSYLVANIA [WWW.LPPA.ORG](http://WWW.LPPA.ORG) SUMMER 2003

## ROAD TO BABEL

By DAVE HINES

“Civilization’s enemies attack civilization’s foundational idea, the proposition that human nature is not infinitely plastic, that people cannot be socialized to accept or do anything.”

This passage from George Will is particularly telling. It seems to brand Congress as “civilization’s enemies”. They think we are infinitely accepting of their corruption. They’re considering telling us what to eat. They send our jobs abroad, thinking they can indoctrinate us into happily paying higher taxes on what remains so we can send our money overseas as well, to the benefit of despots and ingrates.

Civilization entails getting along with others who have differing opinions and different ways of life for the common benefit. Only barbarians and politicians enforce their opinions at the point of a weapon, and plunder others likewise. Taxation and legal constraint of personal choice are double-edged swords, and should be used sparingly.

Intoxication is a human urge. Kids spin around until they drop from dizziness, then get up and do it again. Teenage boys get their adrenaline rush from imprudently stepping on gas pedals. Marathon runners get a high from running, as bungee jumpers and para-

chutists do from falling.

Why, then, does government think it can eliminate drug abuse? Abusers may be better off running or jumping, but draconian measures aren’t going to convince them of it -- only experience and maturity will. Officials say they need more than the billions they already spend annually, and if we can just get rid of the rest of that pesky Bill of Rights...

Government schools teach that politicians and bureaucrats are selfless and noble. The billions of dollars lost through corruption is just the cost of doing business. Human nature is somehow altered when a person gets a government paycheck. That makes them trustworthy in controlling our lives and wallets. Greed, megalomania, egotism, and miscalculation exist only in the private sector, and only government can solve problems. And before genetic engineering pigs flew.

Congress apparently believes that God did a bad job in designing us. They think their committees can do better. This is the ultimate in hubris. The Tower of Babel has risen to such a height that a guarantee of religious freedom is now a rationale to prevent the mention of God. How long can the structure stand?

Government’s job, according to the Constitution, is to protect us from force and fraud. They do it so poorly because they’re too busy thinking about how to indoctrinate, control, and tax. All of those things are prohibited by the Bill of Rights.

If these lawmakers feel so free to ignore the paramount law, how are they different in principle from the common criminal? Criminals usually think that they’re smarter than the cops. Politicians think they’re smarter than God. Criminals hurt their victims. Arrogant and irresponsible politicians hurt everybody.

Which is more egregious?

Originally published in the Phoenix, newsletter of Western Pennsylvania Area Mensa.

**THE STATE IS THE GREAT  
FICTION BY WHICH EVERY-  
BODY TRIES TO LIVE AT  
THE EXPENSE OF EVERY-  
BODY ELSE.**

**-- FREDERIC BASTIAT**

## FROM THE CHAIR

KEN KRAWCHUK LPP CHAIR

As we celebrate the 227th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, I can't help but wonder: How many Americans look beyond the fireworks, barbeques, and parades to see the nation we have become?

As they wave their flags proudly and proclaim this to be the Land of Liberty, are they even aware that there are American citizens who have been stripped of their constitutional rights and now languish in prison? Do they realize that the grubby fingers of federal agents are pawing through their E-mail? Do they think of the sick Americans who are denied their medicine by the insane War on Drugs, or of the healthy ones who have had all their worldly possessions stolen from them, without trial, in the name of that same war?

No, of course they don't. In a land where more than half the people routinely don't vote and most everyone is unfamiliar with their constitution, it's no surprise our rights are eroding away. It's no wonder people blindly submit to warrantless searches at airports, permitting their grandmothers to be groped by some stranger, all in the name of an illusory security.

Without a doubt, we are currently in the midst of a historic spiral downward, and the frightening trends are accelerating. The 18th century jurist Sir Alex Fraser Tyler noted that "the average age of the

world's greatest civilizations has been two hundred years. These nations have progressed through this sequence: From bondage to spiritual faith; from spiritual faith to great courage; from courage to liberty; from liberty to abundance; from abundance to selfishness; from selfishness to complacency; from complacency to apathy; from apathy to dependence; from dependency back again into bondage."

Where do you find America on that scale?

My fellow Libertarians, our time is running out. With every passing day, the statists are becoming stronger and increasingly bolder in their power grabs. And when they see that they're getting away with it, they grab for more, without apology.

On Friday, August 1st, another window of opportunity is going to close on those of us who cherish freedom. That's the final day that you can file your paperwork to become a Libertarian candidate in Pennsylvania for 2003.

This is a year of local elections, a year for school boards, town councils, constables, and auditors, races where we have the best chance of being elected. In fact, scores of

Libertarians have already won their own local elections and currently serve in public office here in Pennsylvania, with over five hundred serving nationwide.

All these victories have one thing in common: they began with one person making a commitment to run for public office. One person.

You willing to make that commitment?

If you can help out in any capacity, either as a candidate or a volunteer, please get in touch with your local municipal leader, your county contact, or the state party office at [info@LpPa.org](mailto:info@LpPa.org) or 1-800-R-Rights as soon as possible. August 1st is coming fast.

Don't let the statists win without putting up a fight. Run for local office! Because if you don't run in your town, it's likely that no Libertarian will.

And if none of us run, they will have won.

- Ken



# INCREASING THE STATE SHARE ISN'T SUCH A GOOD THING.

THOMAS GILLOOLY  
FOREST HILLS

I'm no fan of the property tax, but some of the ideas for replacing it sound even worse. People from both parties have proposed a larger share of state funding for the schools. I think this would lead to more spending and higher overall taxes, with no improvement in education.

The property tax is levied, collected and spent locally. Knowing that the people who pay this tax are the same people who can vote them out of office, school boards try at least not to look extravagant and irresponsible.

But if schools got most of their money from the state, round-heeled school directors would have no incentive to say "No" to the unions and other pressure groups that demand higher and higher spending. They could tell the voters that if they don't spend the state's money, some other district

will. This will drive up total taxes and spending, despite abundant evidence that more money doesn't lead to better education.

A better approach is for the voters of each district to decide by referendum what kind of local taxes -- property, sales, income, land value, whatever -- they want to pay, and then vote on any future tax increases. The people of each district should decide how, and how much, to pay for their public schools.

In an ideal, libertarian world, all children could go to private schools, which usually educate students better and at lower cost than government schools. Until then, we must hold public schools accountable for what they do with our money and our children.

## CALENDAR

### Upcoming Events

**THE YORK LP** meets on the third Monday of every month at 6 PM for dinner and 7 PM for the meeting at First Capital Dispensing company on the corner of Philadelphia St. & North Pershing Ave.  
57 North Pershing Ave.  
York, PA.  
Contact **KARL SPANGLER**, who can be reached via email [Karl@Eatatcentral.com](mailto:Karl@Eatatcentral.com) and via phone at (717) 292-6618.



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**Your Donations are Greatly Needed and Appreciated. THANK YOU!**

# THE FREE STATE PROJECT: AN INTRODUCTION

JASON P. SORENS, PRESIDENT, FREE STATE PROJECT

How much is liberty worth to you? Try to quantify it: what would you do in order to secure real liberty, the kind of society envisioned in the Declaration of Independence? Would you move to another part of the U.S. if it meant you could enjoy that kind of liberty, and participate in building it? If so, the Free State Project may well be for you.

The Free State Project (FSP) is a plan whereby 20,000 libertarians and advocates of strictly limited government will move to a single state of the U.S. to work toward a free society.

The FSP is collecting signatures from people willing to move anywhere within the state we'll choose. Once 5,000 participants have signed up, the whole membership will vote on the state to which we will move, following extensive research on the candidate states. Those candidates are Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont, Maine, New Hampshire, and Delaware. (For an analysis on how 20,000 activists could win majorities in small states, see the Free State Project FAQ on our website.) Don't want to move to one of these states? No problem: when you sign the Statement of Intent, you may indicate which states you reserve the right not to move to. (Right now we are close to 4,000 members, so you'll want to sign up soon in order

to have the right to take part in our vote.) After we reach 20,000 commitments, there is a five-year "grace period" in which to move, so that people can organize the move around their own life plans.

What makes the Free State Project necessary is that partisans of liberty have not achieved political success while dispersed around the country. At the rate we're going, it will take centuries to elect a President and Congress favorable to our ideals, if ever. In fact, it is likely that if we do not strike a strong blow for liberty now, the chance will indeed be lost for centuries. Right now the world's political systems are on the cusp of rapid change. So far much of this change has been for the worse. Globalization and the Internet have not caused gov-

ernments to roll back taxes and regulations, as we'd hoped.

We need to work peacefully within the system, but we don't have the clout to influence DC directly. The FSP is our best chance, but it isn't a silver bullet, the one strategy that will put us over the top. Think of it as a framework for strategies: imagine all the good that could come out of the synergy of a community of freedom lovers. I can't predict exactly what will happen, but I can't help but think that the results will be amazing.

To see if the FSP might be right for you, take a look at [www.freestateproject.org](http://www.freestateproject.org) – and let us know what you think!



## ADVANCES IN MEDICAL MARIJUANA

TOM MARTIN LP PENN EDITOR

U.S. Rep. Dennis Kucinich of Ohio became the first major party presidential contender to publicly call for an end to the war on medical marijuana patients. Congressman Kucinich said that as president, "I'd sign an executive order that would permit its use."

I have met Comrade Kucinich several times on the campaign trail when he unseated Cleveland's west side Republican Congressman Martin Hoke. I watched Kucinich performed essentially the exact same actions at both the Arab American and a very similar Indian American voters forum. He came in late, read their pamphlet, was ushered to a spot in front of all of the other candidates (except for Dennis, speaker order was first come first serve) then he promised more of whatever

they wanted and less for their opponents – more aid and trade for our Indian friends – less for Pakistan, More aid and trade for our Arab friends and less for Israel.

On his way out of the Indian one he stopped to pet the Natural Law candidate's seeing Eye dog. The dog was part of a pitch for more programs – the dog snapped at Dennis – "He (the dog) never did that before!" said the amazed handler. I responded, "Good dog, he's an excellent judge of character." What Kucinich has mastered is seeing what way the political wind is blowing, setting his sights, and moving in that direction. For the most part I see him as a slimy political weasel – but it is good news for the Medical Marijuana front, for it has officially gone main stream. Now might the Fed. Gov. stop torturing the sick.

**IF YOU HAVE AN EVENT TO ADD TO THE LIBERTARIAN CALENDAR, LETTERS & LIBERTARIAN ESSAYS, ARTICLES OR PHOTOS SEND IT TO THE LP PENN EDITOR TOM MARTIN AT MARTINFRE@HOTMAIL.COM**

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# LIBERTARIANS COMMEND JURORS, JUDGE FOR ONE-DAY SENTENCE IN MEDICAL MARIJUANA CASE

WASHINGTON DC

Federal judge Charles R. Breyer handed down a one-day sentence to medical marijuana advocate Ed Rosenthal in California. The Judge should be commended along with the jurors who pressured him to do so.

The U.S. District judge ignored federal prosecutors' recommendation and set Rosenthal free immediately, saying he had already served his time.

During trial Breyer had refused to allow jurors to hear evidence that Rosenthal was raising the plants with the explicit approval of local health officials. Upon learning that after the trial, jurors publicly repudiated their guilty verdict and demanded that the judge spare Rosenthal from prison.

"Fortunately, Breyer eventually did the right thing," said Ron Crickenberger, political director of the Libertarian Party, "But unfortunately, not every medical marijuana patient is as lucky as Ed Rosenthal.

In repeated and brilliant displays of compassionate conservatism in eight states with medical marijuana laws Federal agents have raided and ransacked clinics and dragged terminally ill people off to jail.

Federal judges routinely prohibit jurors from hearing evidence about marijuana's medical benefits, or is legal under state laws. Apparently the law is no defense.

One of the most poignant examples is the case of Peter McWilliams, a best-selling author and Libertarian Party member who died in California on June 14, 2000 after being denied his medicine, Crickenberger pointed out.

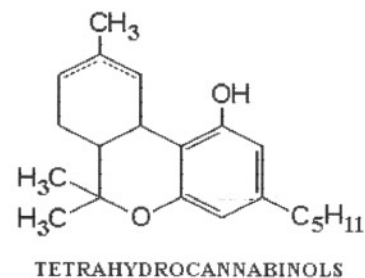
"Peter had suffered from AIDS and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and had used medical marijuana to suppress the nausea caused by his other medications," he said. "While out on bail awaiting sentencing for his 'crime,' he was prohibited from using medical marijuana -- a decision that almost certainly led to his death. How is what the government did to Peter any different from premeditated, cold-blooded murder?"

Another example: Steve Kubby, former Libertarian candidate for California governor and a prime mover behind Prop 215, who uses medical marijuana to treat a rare form of adrenal cancer. "Steve was arrested when police raided his Olympic Valley, California home in 1999, and was convicted in December 2000 of two minor drug possession charges. To avoid a jail term, he moved to Canada with his wife and two young daughters," Crickenberger said.

With help from more jurors who demand the truth and more judges who are willing to respect the constitution and buck the modern politicians we can head back towards what the founders fought for. A

government constrained to respecting the rights of the people.

"The long-term solution is to elect enough Libertarians to Congress to repeal ludicrous laws that turn Americans into criminals for trying to save their own lives," Crickenberger said. "But until that happens, let's encourage judges to give every medical marijuana patient in America the 'Ed Rosenthal' treatment."



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3863 Union Deposit Road, # 223  
Harrisburg, Pa. 17109

**E-mail:** Secretary@lppa.org  
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**MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS:** (All members receive the *Libertarian Penn* newsletter free via E-mail)

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\$ \_\_\_\_\_  The state party newsletter, *The Libertarian Penn*, via US Mail: **\$12/year**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_  <YourName>@lppa.org E-mail address (forwarding only, no POP service)

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# WILL ANOTHER PAGE BE ADDED TO PENNSYLVANIA'S ANTI-TAX HISTORY BOOK?

Ty McCauslin

Governor Rendell's proposal to increase the Beer Tax by 213 percent presents an excellent opportunity to review a Pennsylvania history lesson. In addition to being the birthplace of the Declaration of Independence—you know, that document that declared war, in part, because the government was "imposing Taxes on us without our Consent"—Pennsylvania is also famous for the first major tax revolt in United States history.

In 1792, newly appointed Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton imposed a "luxury" tariff on whiskey to raise government revenue. However, citizens on Pennsylvania's rugged western frontier viewed making whiskey as anything but a recreational activity. It was quite literally a source of "liquid income" to be either sold or used as barter for food, clothing and many other necessities.

As a result in the summer of 1794, calls for statewide secession and full-scale civil disorder broke out throughout southwestern Pennsylvania when tax agents tried to serve summonses upon independent whiskey producers in Washington County. Subsequently, all revenue agents were branded as outlaws and an oath was taken among the rebels known as the "Whiskey Boys" that no comfort or aid be given to the tax men.

In fact, local sheriffs who made the mistake of escorting the federal tax men were often seized, stripped naked, shaved bald and tarred and feathered. In addition, the whiskey stills of farmers who paid the tax were shot full of holes by a mysterious Robin Hood-like figure known as "Tom the Tinker."

By August 1794, President George Washington—largely at the urging of Hamilton—ordered Pennsylvania Governor Thomas Mifflin to raise the state militia to round up the

Whiskey Boys. This request was initially refused, but when Mifflin finally agreed, the majority of his available troops refused to report for duty.

Not to be denied, Hamilton persuaded Congress to allow Washington to raise a militia from four other states to break up the rebellion by force. By early and mid-November, the federal army began rounding up alleged whiskey tax evaders on their march westward from Bedford to Parkinson's Ferry along the Monongahela River. In the end, all twenty men brought to trial were eventually pardoned when President Thomas Jefferson repealed the Whiskey Tax soon after his inauguration in 1801.

Today, Governor Rendell's proposal to increase Pennsylvania's beer tax by 213 percent—from 8 cents per gallon to 25 cents per gallon—could spur the formation of the "Beer Boys." Of course, he's telling the beer industry that they don't know how lucky they've been with regard to taxes. After all, if this tax had increased at the rate of inflation over the past 55 years, "it would be 66 cents a gallon today."

So while the governor tries to cheer up beer-drinking taxpayers, everyone from staple Pennsylvania beer producers such as Yuengling and Rolling Rock to the tiniest brewpubs, taverns, and restaurants will be forced to ante up and pay for his administration's multi-billion dollar budgetary tab.

Just like other excise taxes, the beer tax will impose another financial burden on specific producers and consumers. Last year, it was the tobacco industry and cigarette smokers that were targeted in Harrisburg's tax-and-spend cross hairs. But it was ultimately local grocery and convenience stores and other retail outlets that were hit hardest by the 223 percent cigarette tax increase.

Historically, revenues from these types of excise taxes shrink after the first year, as cost-conscious consumers logically seek out other forms of lower-priced alternatives or sources. Again, the cigarette tax increase of 2002 is a case in point. From July through October—the first four months after the tax hike—cigarette tax revenues were 7.6 percent ahead of estimate. But from November through March, the fortunes of cigarette taxers significantly reversed, as tax collections lagged 3.6 percent below estimate—a swing of more than 11 percentage points and a shortfall of millions of dollars in projected tax revenue.

While the beer tax increase may initially generate more revenue for the government from consumers, the tax will eventually come down hardest on independent breweries, small "mom and pop" beer distributors, taverns, restaurants, and their respective employees as consumers seek alternative sources outside Pennsylvania.

But as the "Beer Boys" of 2003 rally to protest this latest money grab by government to quench its thirst for more taxes, businesses across Pennsylvania should ask themselves one simple question: "When will our products or services be targeted?" Given state government's insatiable appetite for more tax dollars, a junk food excise tax on the likes of Herr's potato chips, Hershey's chocolate or Philadelphia-produced TastyKakes is probably not that far behind.

*Ty McCauslin is communications manager at The Commonwealth Foundation, a Pennsylvania free-market public policy research and educational institute based in Harrisburg. For more information visit [www.CommonwealthFoundation.org](http://www.CommonwealthFoundation.org) and [www.PleaseNoMoreTaxes.org](http://www.PleaseNoMoreTaxes.org), or call Ty McCauslin at The Commonwealth Foundation, 717-671-1901.*



## **We Need You to gather petitions this summer**

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[www.LPPA.org](http://www.LPPA.org)



*Masonic Temple, Wilkes Barre, PA*

**Please check your membership expiration date on the LP Penn label. Don't forget to renew. A membership form will be included in every issue of the news. If you don't use it, pass it on to another Advocate of Liberty.**

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