



LP News

**Gov. Gary Johnson
vs. Hillary Clinton
vs. Donald Trump
on the issues**

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CPD cuts Johnson, Weld from first debates

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

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

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

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

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

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

by Carla Howell

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

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

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

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

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

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Growing list of endorsements for LP presidential ticket

by Sandra Kallander

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

Rigell told the *New York Times*, "I've always said I will not vote for Donald Trump and I will not vote for Hillary Clinton."

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

Rigell told the *Post* that "what really got

me off the sidelines" was Trump's disparaging remarks about Khizr and Ghazala Khan, the parents of a U.S. Army veteran



Congressman Scott Rigell (R-Va.)

who was killed in action in Iraq.

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

Rigell appeared on CNN on Aug. 17.

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

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

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"As a businessman, my number one concern is our country's fiscal trajectory. It threatens every one of us, wherever we live, and the only candidate among the top three that I've seen who has really confronted it in a wise and upfront way is Governor Johnson."

—U.S. Rep. Scott Rigell

CHAIR'S CORNER

596 Libertarian candidates on November ballots

by Nicholas Sarwark, Chair

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



Nicholas Sarwark

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

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

I want to personally welcome all of the new Libertarian Party members who are reading this in their

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

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

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

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

Yours in liberty,



DONOR

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Melodie Rufer
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John Stagliano



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The Libertarian Party grants lifetime membership to individuals who contribute at least \$1,500 during any 12-month period. Call 202-333-0008 to find out how much more you would need to donate to become a Lifetime Member today.

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The Libertarian Party (LP) and its state affiliates work to advance the right of individuals to be free, so long as they do not forcibly interfere with the equal rights of others. The party runs candidates for public office, elects Libertarians, supports and opposes ballot measures, lobbies, and takes positions on public policy aimed at removing, reducing, and nullifying government laws, regulations, prohibitions, taxes, spending, debt, and foreign interventions.

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Plaques are now on display at the Libertarian National Committee office space in Alexandria, Va., that recognize our top donors. To have your name appear on a plaque, or if you'd just like to help pay off the mortgage, mail in your donation or visit *LP.org*.

Contribute today: *LP.org/office-fund*

Johnson-Weld donations, PACs fund record advertising

The campaign of Gary Johnson for president and William Weld for vice president, as well as political action committees aiming to boost the ticket, are raising money and running ads at levels never before seen for a Libertarian.

In just the first two weeks of August, the Johnson-Weld campaign raised \$2.9 million in online donations, more than the \$2.3 million Johnson raised during his entire 2012 White House bid.

This take included \$1.5 million in a one-day fundraising drive on Aug. 15 to rally for Johnson's chances for participation in televised presidential debates.

Most of the August money came from small donors.

"The fact that we received more than 90,000 individual small contributions is overwhelming," Johnson said in a statement. "It is increasingly clear that a great many Americans, from across the political spectrum, are ready to join our effort."

"That's Bernie Sanders-type money. It's \$7 here, \$15 there, \$32 there," said Weld on CNN. "And I notice also ... instead of \$5,000, it's \$250,000 for the high-end donors and up. It is gelling for us."

Hollywood, long an exclusive preserve for Democratic fundraising, is now opening the doors to the Libertarians.

On Labor Day weekend, comedian Drew Carey hosted a fundraiser for the Johnson-Weld ticket in Los Angeles, an event that drew about 145 people and pulled in over \$100,000 for the Libertarians.

According to the *Los Angeles Times*, those in attendance included Krist Novoselić, the former bassist of Nirvana, who traveled to Los Angeles just for the event; "The Price Is Right" model Gwendolyn Osborne-Smith; and her husband, former NBA player and commentator Kenny Smith.

"The very best scenario is that people quit treating this country as a two-party country," Carey told the *Times*, which dedicated a significant spread to the event. "And they always include the Libertarian point of view in every single discussion."

Strong fundraising enabled the campaign to launch its first television advertising blitz. The ads are part of a \$3.8 million push from the Johnson campaign that included radio ads and that ran in 15 states and on nationally syndicated talk radio shows.

Two largest Texas newspapers endorse Mark Miller

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

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

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

The *Chronicle* editorial board wrote:

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

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

"If you're one of those voters who's unhappy with your choice of presidential candidates in 2016, an-

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

—*Houston Chronicle*



Libertarian Mark Miller for Railroad Commission of Texas

other good reason to split your ticket is Mark Miller, the Libertarian who's unquestionably this year's most qualified candidate for Railroad Commission of Texas commissioner."

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

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

Campaign website: *Miller4TX.com*

Super PACs

The Libertarian ticket is seeing record fundraising from several political action committees, or super PACs, which are allowed unlimited individual donations and which are typically funded by large donors.

Purple PAC, managed by Cato Institute cofounder Edward Crane, ran an ad presenting Johnson as a candidate who supports "tolerance, free enterprise, and a sane foreign policy" and who wants "government that stays out of your pocketbook, and out of your bedroom."

"We intend to spend at least \$10 million in support of the Johnson campaign," said Crane. "This is a unique opportunity in modern American political history, a campaign featuring two major-party candidates widely

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Balanced Rebellion's "Dead Abe Lincoln" TV ad promoting Johnson-Weld 2016

Johnson endorsements

...continued from page 1

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

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

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

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

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

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

—The *Richmond Times-Dispatch*

Johnson picked up his first newspaper endorsement on Sept. 3 from the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, Virginia's newspaper of record, headquartered in the hometown of Hillary Clinton's running mate, Tim Kaine. The endorsement was picked up by major news outlets, including ABC News, CNN, Fox, *Politico*, Newsmax, NBC, the *Los Angeles Times*, and Bloomberg.

The *Richmond* paper, which has a history of endorsing GOP presidential candidates, said of the Libertarian option, "Neither Donald Trump nor Hillary Clinton meets the fundamental moral and professional standards we have every right to expect of an American president. Fortunately, there is a reasonable—and formidable—alternative..."

"Our final decision to endorse the Johnson-Weld ticket, and to do so with great confidence and enthusiasm, came only after Johnson met with the editorial board... We found him to be...in all respects optimistically, realistically presidential."

"We have over the years interviewed hundreds of politicians—local, state, and national—and there's no doubt that Johnson belongs in the major leagues, and on the debate stage this fall. He is a skilled and experienced leader..."

On Sept. 11, the *Winston-Salem Journal* also endorsed the Johnson-Weld ticket.

"It would be wonderful for our democracy to have Johnson and Weld, two thoughtful statesmen, on the debate schedule, starting Sept. 26, to balance the mudslinging sure to emanate from the two major-party candidates. The inclusion of the Libertarians could set the stage for one of the most exciting races in our history, instead of one of our most depressing." •



Utah State Senator Mark Madsen

CPD decision

...continued from page 1

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

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

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

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

Libertarians remain determined to put up a fight.

"We will continue to go all-out and give voters a chance to rise up against the establishment parties," said Sarwark. "This election will be unlike any we have seen in our lifetimes." •

Partial list of endorsers of the Libertarian Johnson-Weld ticket

The Richmond Times-Dispatch

Winston-Salem Journal

Max Abramson, State Rep. (N.H.)
 Stan Adelstein, Fmr. State Senator (S.D.)
 Benjamin Allbright, CBS Sports, Mile High Sports Radio
 Neal Boortz, Author & Radio Host
 Tom Burditt, State Rep. (Vt.)
 Jonathan Bush, CEO, Athena Health
 Marvin P. Bush, Investment Manager
 Patrick Byrne, CEO, *Overstock.com*
 Tom Campbell, Fmr. U.S. Rep. (Calif.)
 Drew Carey, Host, "The Price is Right"
 Rudy Carpenter, Quarterback, Dallas Cowboys
 College Republicans at Cornell University
 Ed Crane, Cofounder, Cato Institute
 Kathleen Curry, Fmr. State Rep. & Speaker Pro Tem (Colo.)
 Gary Dake, President, Stewart's Shops
 Basil Dannebohm, Fmr. State Rep. (Kans.)
 Laura Ebke, State Senator (Nebr.)
 Hal Gill, National Hockey League
 James P. Gray, Fmr. Judge & 2012 V.P. candidate
 Alan Gura, Constitutional Scholar & Attorney
 Daniel Hannan, Member, European Parliament (U.K.)

Melissa Joan Hart, Actress
 Dawson Hodgson, State Senator (R.I.)
 Penn Jillette, Entertainer
 Danny Jones, Mayor, Charleston (W. Va.)
 Rob Kampia, Cofounder, Marijuana Policy Project
 Ben Kissel, Host, "The Ben Kissel Show"
 Jim Kolbe, Fmr. Rep. (Ariz.)
 Patti Komline, State Rep. (Vt.)
 Jeff Kraus, Fmr. Mayor, Bozeman (Mont.)
 Charles Kuck, Immigration Attorney
 Geoffrey Lawrence, Assistant State Controller (Nev.)
 John Layfield, WWE Champion
 David Leyonhjelm, Australian Senator (N.S.W.)
 Chris Long, Defensive End, New England Patriots
 John MacGovern, Fmr. State Rep. (Mass.)
 Mark B. Madsen, State Senator (Utah)
 Jeffrey Miron, Harvard Department of Economics
 Mike Munger, Economist
 Don Myers, Moses Lake City Council (Wash.)
 Jennifer Nassour, Chairwoman, GOP (Mass.)
 Krist Novoselić, Bassist for Nirvana
 Juan-Carlos "J.C." Planas, Fmr. State Rep. (Fla.)
 Aron Price, PGA

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

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

Media, politicians join call to include Libertarian in debates, IAVA forum

by Sandra Kallander

A number of large U.S. newspapers, which are usually happy to oblige directives of the Commission on Presidential Debates (CPD), are among the many who have urged the bipartisan group to include Libertarian Gary Johnson in presidential debates regardless of whether his poll numbers reach their required 15-percent polling threshold.

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

“Add the ‘Governator’ to the growing chorus of politicians calling for Libertarian presidential contender Gary Johnson to be included in the presidential debates,” wrote the *Los Angeles Times*.

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

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

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

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

On Sept. 6, the *Boston Herald* wrote in an editorial, “Alas, ‘neither’ won’t get a podium. But Gary Johnson should.”

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

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

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



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

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

Judson Phillips, founder of Tea Party Nation and on staff at the *Washington Times*, said in an editorial on

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Johnson and Weld campaign hard through summer months

by Sandra Kallander

Libertarian Party presidential and vice-presidential candidates Gary Johnson and William Weld hit the campaign trail hard all summer. Between a constant stream of media interviews, they appeared at rallies, town halls, fundraisers, and forums across the country, building the campaign’s momentum at every stop.

In July, they made appearances at both the Republican and Democratic conventions to schmooze the delegates, many of whom expressed appreciation and support.

Though far short of the saturation coverage the media have been granting Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton, both Johnson and Weld have enjoyed media coverage unprecedented for Libertarians. Johnson did 75 media interviews in just one day at the Democratic convention.

The team appeared in three nationally televised town hall events in July and August: one on Fox Business Network and two on CNN. According to *The Hill*, the CNN events drew strong ratings, “particularly in the 25–54 age demographic advertisers covet most,” the paper said.

Moderated by Anderson Cooper, the second of the CNN Libertarian town halls aired on August 3 on several of their channels, including internationally and in Spanish. Cooper’s introduction for the show credited the repeat performance to “the growing interest in a third-party alternative.”

When asked how best to ensure a quality education,



Gary Johnson speaking at a rally in Boston on August 27

Johnson explained that while the federal government doles out eleven cents on the dollar to fund schools, it imposes fifteen cents in mandates and regulations—a bad deal for local communities. He said he would get rid of the Department of Education.

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

A voter clearly in favor of ending marijuana prohibition really just wanted to know, “How ya gonna do it?” In response, Johnson said, the “first day in office, we de-schedule marijuana as a Class 1 narcotic, which opens up a whole vast research and development . . . and also frees up banking in those states where it is legal.”

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

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

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

Libertarians held viewing parties nationwide for the New York rally.

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

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

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Fulfillment frenzy at LP headquarters

LP headquarters has been bustling since July, when Libertarian Party Executive Director Wes Benedict rolled out the new LP Store.

Staff, interns, temps, and volunteers packed and shipped more than 500,000 items around the country between July 14 and early September: yard signs, bumper stickers, door hangers, rack cards, buttons, a wide variety of brochures, hats, and several styles of shirts, to promote Gary Johnson for president and the Libertarian Party.

Florida Libertarians George MacArthur, Alex Snitker,

and Danielle Alexandre each made two trips to the northern Virginia headquarters to help pack and ship.

Others who were a big help included part-time workers Matt Thexton and Brittany Hunting; packing interns Daniel Tripp, Jonathan Walker, and Matthew Quick; and many D.C.-area volunteers, including Andy Bakker, Marty Howard, Phil Rizk, Mark Felipe, and Chuck Moulton.

“Two hundred door hangers are just 5 cents each,” Benedict said. “We priced them below cost to get them in the hands of as many activists as possible. And it’s working.” •



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



Boxes and outbound packages fill LP HQ daily in Alexandria.

Help build Johnson's name recognition.
Visit LPStore.org

Libertarian Simmons takes on Democratic stronghold

For nearly three decades, Democratic U.S. representative Richard Neal has enjoyed czar-like status in largely rural western Massachusetts, where he has scored one re-election victory after another, mostly unopposed.

But this year, he faces Libertarian Thomas Simmons, an economics and business professor at Greenfield Community College who's making a splash.

The *Huffington Post* published an extensive interview of Simmons that appeared in more than three dozen major news feeds. His campaign was the subject of front-page articles in the *Greenfield Recorder* and *Hampshire Gazette*, and his

joint appearance at a rally in New York with Steve Scheetz was covered by numerous LGBT publications.

The Republicans are not fielding a candidate to oppose Neal. An independent candidate is in the race, but according to Simmons, his underfunded and anemic campaign is barely visible. Simmons is Neal's only serious opponent.

“The Republican Party practically does not exist here,” Simmons tells *LP News*. “We have about 85 towns in our 1st congressional district, and the GOP has committees in only four or five of them.”

Local voters, and even the media, are fed up with Neal's one-party reign.

“About 30 percent of the voters turned in blank ballots when they voted in the last congressional elections,” the Libertarian recalls. “Of five local newspapers, two have openly criticized Neal in editorials, and one said there were problems with his candidacy.”

Voters clearly demonstrated their impatience with the status quo during the district's Democratic primary earlier this year, when self-proclaimed socialist Bernie Sanders swept the area at a ratio of 3:1. Neal, however, as a Democratic National Convention superdelegate, spent countless hours campaigning for Hillary Clinton and propping up her candidacy.

To counter the traditional Democratic tax-and-spend platform, Simmons is offering the innovative Libertarian brand of fiscal discipline and social tolerance.

If elected, he promises not to vote for any budget that is not balanced, in order to put the country back on a path to fiscal sanity.

“Right now, we spend five times more on servicing the national debt than on building bridges and roads, and that is not acceptable,” argues the Libertarian.

He wants to get rid of the Departments of Education and Commerce, and eliminate the Export-Import Bank, which he

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

So often we run to the government as our savior. Pull back a little bit.

With DOMA (Defense of Marriage Act), who was the adversary to us exercising our right to marry? It was Congress. It was the government.

Right now, there's the whole transgender bathroom issue. McSorley's Old Ale House in New York City has figured out how to have people in a bathroom without a problem for decades. Target has figured it out. Individual businesses have figured it out. Who is the problem? It's the State of North Carolina, saying, “You can't do this! You have to do this instead.”

Look back to when blacks and whites couldn't marry. Who was the problem? The government.

We run to the government for the answer, when many times they are the problem. They are always, sadly, behind the times . . .

Think back to those incidents that sparked the Stonewall riots. It was a reaction against the agents of the State who were sent there to harass gay people.

The State is almost always the problem because they have power and authority. They can jail, fine, confront, or arrest you. They have been the problem, not the savior.



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

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Jon Bombach for comptroller aims to fix Baltimore's financial mess

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

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

But he saw politically connected corporations thriving,



Libertarian candidate Jon Bombach meeting constituents

getting preferential tax deals and other corporate welfare.

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

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

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

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

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

"As unbelievable as it may sound, our city runs nearly a \$2.6 billion budget with no system of checks and balances," he says.

His Libertarian solution is to post financial reporting online for public scrutiny, and modernize the process by updat-

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Compare and contrast the presidential candidates

The issues	Libertarian Gov. Gary Johnson	Democrat Sec. Hillary Clinton	Republican Donald Trump
Honesty	Seen as a straight shooter	Distrusted by most Americans	Distrusted by most Americans
Balance Budget	NOW	Continue deficit spending	Continue deficit spending
Federal Spending	Reduce 20%	Raise spending	Raise spending
Government Debt	Stop growth and start to pay down	Increase by trillions	Increase by trillions
Marijuana	Legalize as wine & beer	Raid, prosecute, imprison	Raid, prosecute, imprison
Patriot Act & NDAA	Repeal	Continue mass surveillance	Continue mass surveillance
Trade policy	Enable free trade	Crony-capitalist trade deals	Higher tariffs More trade barriers
Immigration	Grant visas for work or legitimate family ties No deportation	Waffles	Deport 11,000,000 immigrants
Same-Sex Marriage	Long-time supporter	Recent supporter	Waffles
Medical Insurance Mandates	Repeal Obamacare Enable free-market, competitive health care As governor, cut Medicaid spending	Enshrine Obamacare	Waffles on repeal Wants taxpayers to fund medical insurance for all
Self-defense	Pro-gun rights	Anti-gun	Previously supported longer waiting period, and ban on so-called assault weapons
ISIS	Acknowledges that ISIS is a result of U.S. military involvement in the Middle East	Continue to provoke ISIS with bombs, drone strikes, and sanctions	Continue to provoke ISIS with bombs, drone strikes, and sanctions
Middle East	Bring troops and all U.S. personnel home NOW	Endless intervention	More boots on ground. Kill families of suspected terrorists
Torture	Opposes	Now opposes. Previously made exceptions.	Favors water-boarding and other forms of torture
War in Afghanistan	Bring troops and all U.S. personnel home NOW	Stay the drift	Has a "secret plan for victory"
500,000 US troops stationed abroad	Bring home 250,000 troops	No clear plans to bring them home	No clear plans to bring them home
Military Spending	Reduce 20%	Increase spending	Increase spending and "get tough"
Campaign Donors	Individuals	Need NASCAR jacket to list her crony pals	\$500 million/month in free media

The 10 most important ballot initiatives for Libertarians this November

By Paul Jacob

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

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

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

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

In the 1990s, voters began seeing medical marijuana measures on their state ballots and passing them with ample margins—well before there was any serious action in state legislatures. Today, 25 states have at least partially legalized marijuana, and in four states—Alaska, Colorado, Oregon, Washington—and the District of Columbia, pot is legal for recreational use.

Marijuana again kicks off the Top 10 List of this November's ballot measures important to Libertarians.

1. Legalization of Marijuana (nine states)

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

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

to “crony capitalism.”

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

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

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

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

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

“California turnout declined more than that in any other state between November 2010 and November 2014,” reports ballot-access expert Richard Winger. Los Angeles-based journalist Joe Mathews called Top Two a “disaster.”

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

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

3. Ranked Choice Voting: Question 5 (Maine)

Maine's governor has been in the news recently for a profanity-laced tirade he left on

California Libertarian Honor Robson challenges state senator in two-way race

by Elizabeth C. Brierly

When asked by California LP state chair Ted Brown to mount a write-in campaign in the primary against unchallenged incumbent state senator, Ricardo Lara (D), Honor “Mimi” Robson seized the opportunity. She's now in a two-way race in the state's 33rd district, having survived the state's top-two primary.

Robson, a structural engineer, told the *Long Beach Post*, which featured her campaign in June, that her first priority is to reduce or eliminate many of California's 200-plus regulatory agencies and commissions that are “strangling local businesses and hurting our local economy.”

Robson cites the case of a client's restaurant damaged by a fire. While its insurance policy covered the cost of rebuilding, upgrading to comply with stringent building codes and other standards was *not* covered, causing great hardship.

In striking contrast to Lara, who has proposed bills to extend Obamacare and MediCal, the state's version of Medicaid, to cover noncitizens, Robson pledges to expand health freedom. She proposes to deregulate care clinics within pharmacies, which are available to anyone, “regardless of legal status, and it's not costing the state anything,” she told *LP News*.

Robson vows to “never expand big government.” She aims to shift infrastructure spending away from projects such as “green” summits and high-speed rail (HSR) in favor of repairing aging water pipelines that, if they failed, would cause disastrous loss of much-needed water.

“The HSR is ... never going to be built;

a legislator's answering machine. Gov. Paul LePage has been controversial, but he has also been elected to two terms by garnering a plurality, but not a majority, of the state vote.

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

If Mainers back Question 5, the “No more wasted votes” initiative, the state would be the first to use a voting system wherein voters rank their choices. The idea behind ranked-choice voting is that no candidate should be elected until receiving a majority. When a last-place candidate is



Honor “Mimi” Robson for state Senate

no one's ever going to ride on it; and it hasn't even had one piece of track laid—but it has already cost a billion dollars,” she said.

Robson opposes adding to the state's burgeoning debt and vows to never raise taxes.

“We're told we have a ‘balanced budget’ thanks to [Gov.] Jerry Brown and all the tax increases of 2012,” she said. “Except: we're \$400 billion in debt because of the bond issues and unfunded pensions. Look at all the bonds and sales taxes on our November ballots—we need to *not* do that.”

Lara has a large war chest, with \$1.5 million raised as of the end of July. But the more Robson meets constituents, the more she finds he's “well-liked by politicians, but not by his constituents.”

“Lara voted for every one of those gun bills—even the ones that Jerry Brown vetoed—the really ridiculous ones,” she said. “At one meeting I attended, I found there's a large contingent of Pink Pistols, for whom Lara's openly gay status is no advantage.”

In 2012, Lara's alternative-party opponent did no campaigning, yet won 20 percent of the vote.

This year, Robson is turning up the heat. • Campaign website: www.HonorRobson.com

eliminated, the second-choice votes from those who had picked that eliminated candidate as their first choice are reallocated to the remaining candidates. This process continues until one candidate has gained a majority of the votes.

The big advantage for Libertarians and other alternative-party or independent candidates is that ranked-choice voting wipes out the argument that by voting for a candidate one believes in, but who is unlikely to win, one's vote is wasted. Under the ranked-choice system, that vote is tallied and counted for the candidate one

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Kim Tavendale: “Root out crony capitalism”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Kim Tavendale for State Rep (District 33)

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

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

—Kim Tavendale

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

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

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

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

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

She vows that if elected in November, her office will be made accessible to the people who elected her.

“I will always be willing to listen,” the Libertarian tells her constituents. •

Campaign website:
www.KimForColorado.com

Exemplifying Libertarian generosity

by Carla Howell

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

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

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

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

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

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

“It worked out wonderfully,” he said.

After their operations on Aug. 4, both men recovered quickly and successfully. Dave was back at his job by Sept. 1, and Leo’s life was saved.

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

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

A lawyer of 25 years, Leo Dymowski

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

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

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

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

Campaign website: LeoForJudge2016.com



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

Ballot initiatives

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

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

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

State Question 780 also relates to the drug war. The initiated statute would take numerous crimes now classified as felonies—most notably, regarding drug possession—and demote those offenses to mere misdemean-

ors. The measure would save the state considerable funds, in addition to saving real people from being labeled felons and losing many rights, for life. Currently, one of every 12 Oklahomans is a felon.

5. Minimum Wage (five states)

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

Ballot measures upping the minimum wage have been a perennial device to boost Democratic Party turnout, and the initia-

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Libertarian Scott Ford stands for principle

Scott Ford, an educator of 16 years and the Libertarian for state rep running in a northern suburb of Houston, Texas, has always put principle before profit.

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

But he turned it down.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

He will also reform property taxes that

If elected, Ford said he will advocate cutting the budget of every government agency by 50 percent. He will also reform property taxes that he finds prohibitively high. He favors a sunset provision in the tax law that would end collection of property taxes after a set number of years.

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

"In Texas, you never actually own your home," the Libertarian explains. "So long as the state can tax you on your home without end, you never really own it. Additionally, with property taxes going up each year, we are pricing fixed-income seniors out of their homes and making it harder for new home-buyers to achieve a piece of the American dream."

Ford's position on education is pro-school choice.

"Parents should have the right to choose the best education for their children," he says. "I 100 percent support and will vote for school choice. My opponent and [the] incumbent, Dan Huberty, is against school choice."

His message to his community can be summarized in three words: frugality, accountability, and discipline.

ing veteran's issues, such as homelessness.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Campaign website:

ScottFordYourTexasRep.com



Scott Ford for Texas state rep

"We must never give in to hate, whether that hate is directed against the gay community, immigrants, or the Muslim community," Simmons said in a statement issued in June, in the wake of the mass shooting at a gay nightclub in Orlando. "The politics of hate and division has been all too prevalent in recent political campaigns, and Americans from all walks of life must stand together in refusing to allow our diverse, liberty-loving nation to be torn apart by those who would seek to divide and conquer."

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

50 states' ballots

...continued from page 1

In August, the Ohio Secretary of State briefly threatened to prohibit Libertarians from substituting Johnson's name for stand-in candidate Charlie Earl, but backed off. Use of stand-in, or placeholder, candidate names on petitions is a common practice in most of the states where petitioning must begin before the party's nominee is known. It was used in Ohio in 1980, 1996, 2000, and 2004.

In Pennsylvania, Libertarian National Committee legal counsel Oliver Hall spent months lobbying legislators and working to convince a judge to lower the state's high signature requirement for alternative parties and independents. He finally secured a court order to reduce it from 21,775 to 5,000 signatures, but not until three weeks before the party was due to call in signatures. By that time, the LP had been forced to collect more than 25,000 signatures, not having had certainty that the requirement would be reduced.

The party also filed lawsuits in Connecticut and New York against bans on out-of-state circulators; in Maine to enable a successful voter-registration drive; and in Kentucky in an attempt to avoid the need to petition.

In 2012, the Libertarian nominees were on the ballot in 48 states. This was due, in part, to the "sore loser" law, which says that a candidate who runs in the primary of one party cannot run again for the same office under another party's banner. Republicans in Ohio and Michigan tried to use this law to knock Johnson off the ballot, after he had run in the 2012 Republican primary. Only in Michigan did they succeed.

Johnson also did not make the ballot in Oklahoma in 2012 because the party did not submit enough voter signatures. Since then, the Oklahoma legislature lowered the state's highest-in-the-nation signature requirement.

The Green Party presidential ticket is on the ballot in 44 states. •

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

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

Campaign website:

www.Simmons4Congress.com

Thom Simmons

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sees as an instrument of "corporate welfare."

The Pentagon budget would see a cut of 20 percent.

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

Simmons, an active member of the all-volunteer U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, wishes to redirect military spending away from armaments and toward overhauling the Veterans Administration and address-



Heath Patterson petitioning in a Chicago subway



LP candidates Martin Mounton & Matt Klokel, Political Director Carla Howell, & Johnson media coordinator John LaBeaume prepare D.C. petitions at Klokel's shop, Fantom Comics.



Scenes from 2016 Libertarian Party ballot-access petitioning



Petitioners Paul Frankel, T.E. Finnegan, and Robert Johnson meet with Daniel Dean at Alabama Secretary of State office to turn in petitions



Jeff Kimelman, Robert Sochon, Michelle Kimelman sorting New Hampshire petitions by town



Lex Green preparing Illinois petitions

Ballot initiatives to watch

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

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

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

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

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

to hold support down to 54.9 percent or less of the vote. One opponent dubbed it “the Rich Guy Protection Act.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

increasing access to voluntary early learning opportunities for low-income and at-risk children.”

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

9. Tax the Rich (Maine and Oregon)

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

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

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Highlights of July LNC meeting

by Alicia Mattson,
LNC Secretary

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



In August, Larry Sharpe of New York, a 2016 candidate for the Libertarian vice-presidential nomination, was elected to the LNC as alternate regional rep for Region 8.

Campaigning hard

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

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

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

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

Media and debates

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

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

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

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

As of Sept. 12, 826,888 people had signed a petition at the Johnson–Weld campaign website (*JohnsonWeld.com*) calling for inclusion of Gary Johnson in debates. •

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Ballot initiatives

...continued from page 11

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

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

It’s noteworthy that the Golden State’s Republican and Democratic Parties have joined LP California in opposing the proposition. Also against the initiative are the Adult Film Advocacy Committee and many civil-rights

Fundraising by PACs

...continued from page 3

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

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

A third PAC, Free the People, led by former FreedomWorks president Matt Kibbe, created an ad called “Dead Abe Lincoln”

and public-health organizations, who charge that the measure is designed not to protect performers but to enable a “bonanza” of lawsuits against the adult-film industry.

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

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

which *Adweek* called “the most viral ad of the 2016 election.”

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

Impact of 2016 presidential vote on Libertarian Party ballot access

By Bob Johnston and Carla Howell

The votes that Libertarians Gary Johnson and William Weld receive for president and vice president in the November election will have a significant impact on the party's ballot access in the future.

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

The following table shows the impact that various Lib-

ertarian presidential vote results will have on particular states. States not listed are not affected by the presidential vote. •

Richard Winger of Ballot Access News contributed to this article.

AR	3% in the presidential race gets full-ballot access for two years. Would be the first time the party has ever retained ballot access. Removes need to petition to get on the ballot.	KY	2% in the presidential race gets ballot access for four years. It would be the first time ever in the state. Would not have to collect 5,000 signatures for 2020 presidential nominee or other statewide candidates.	OK	2.5% in the race for president retains ballot access for two years. Would be the first time in history for any party other than Democrats and Republicans. If LP gets 2.5% for governor in 2018, presidential candidate gets on the 2020 ballot without petitioning.
CT	1% in the presidential race allows the state party to avoid having to collect 7,500 signatures to get the 2020 presidential candidate on the ballot.	MA	3% in the presidential race gets party status for two years. Signature requirement would be unchanged. "Libertarian" would be added as a choice on voter registration forms.	RI	5% in the presidential race gets ballot access for four years. Would be the first time in party history. Signature requirements would remain the same.
DC	Candidate for president, city council, or delegate to U.S. House must get 7,500 votes. Would be the second time party has achieved ballot access (last time in 2012). Signature requirements to get candidates on the ballot would be significantly less in 2018.	MN	5% in the presidential race gets ballot access for four years. Would remove the need to petition.	TX	5% in any statewide race gets ballot access for two years. Would avoid requirement to collect approximately 80,000 signatures in 75 days. Party has been able to retain ballot access for many years, but always had at least one two-way statewide race to get the 5% vote threshold required to retain access. There are no two-way statewide races this election. However, Mark Miller for Railroad Commission has received endorsements from the <i>Houston Chronicle</i> and the <i>Dallas Morning News</i> .
GA	Approximately 1.5% of votes cast (1% of registered voters) for any statewide candidate allows the party to run statewide candidates in 2018 without petitioning.	NH	4% in the race for governor or U.S. Senate (presidential vote has no effect) gets ballot access for two years. Would be the first time since November 1996. Would remove a significant petitioning requirement.	WA	5% in the presidential race allows the state party to get the 2020 presidential candidate on the ballot without petitioning.
IL	5% in race for president, U.S. Senate, or comptroller gets ballot access in 2018 for statewide candidates. Statewide candidates would still need to petition, but much less (5,000 signatures instead of 25,000). Signatures needed for state Senate and House candidates would be cut in half (to 1,000 and 500 signatures, respectively).	NC	2% in the race for president or governor retains ballot access for four years. LPNC has retained ballot access through last two presidential cycles. If party loses ballot access, will have to collect signatures equal to 2% of votes cast in 2016 for governor (approximately 90,000 signatures).	WV	1% in the race for governor (presidential vote has no effect) gives the party ballot access for four years. Otherwise, party will have to petition for president and all other candidates to get on the ballot in 2018 & 2020.
IA	2% in the presidential race gets ballot access for two years. Would be the first time ever in the state. Signature requirement would be significantly less.	ND	5% in the race for president or governor retains ballot access for 2 years. Would be the second time in party history that party retained ballot access. Would remove the need to petition.		

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Leading the list of candidates is Kimberly Arianoff, running in the state Senate's 1st District, which includes

her hometown of Hilo.

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

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

"What imminent danger is there in getting hair cut or toenails painted?" she asks. "Our government should help success, not hinder it. In a state with the highest cost of living and the highest homelessness per capita... in the nation, occupational licensing hurts the most vulnerable citizens."

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

Fogel is a staunch opponent of government welfare. "The government cannot give to anybody anything that the government does not first take from somebody else," he points out.

Lawyer Arnold T. Phillips is aiming for the Senate seat



Kimberly Arianoff for state Senate

in Hawaii's 10th district.

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

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

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

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

Rounding out the list of LP Hawaii candidates are Joseph Kent (District 11) and Roman Kalinowski (District 15). •



A meeting of members of the Libertarian Party of Hawaii

AFFILIATE

UPDATES

Affiliate news and events are provided to *LP News* by Libertarian Party state affiliates.

Arizona

Meetings every second Monday of month

The activism of LP Arizona happens through its county affiliates. The largest and most active county affiliate, the Maricopa County Libertarian Party (Phoenix), will be holding its monthly meeting on Oct. 10.

Join us for a lively discussion, and business as needed. Newcomers and guests are always welcome. Our meetings are open to all, regardless of voter registration. This will be our last meeting before election day!

Where: China Village
2710 E. Indian School Rd.
Phoenix, Arizona 85016

When: Monday, October 10, 2016
6:30 P.M.: Dinner & socializing
7:00 P.M.: Call to order

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

Colorado

Sign holders draw support

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

Recently, a group of more than 50



Colorado Libertarians promoting Johnson-Weld 2016 to motorists on game day

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

Senatorial candidate Lily Tang Williams continues to inspire crowds with her passion for liberty and her testimony of life in communist China, and LPCO expects a strong showing in her race, along with those of other strong, principled local candidates. Distribution of Gary Johnson 2016 yard signs obtained via the bulk purchases pro-



Libertarian activists Austin Faux and his children promoting Johnson-Weld 2016 to Denver motorists on the Broncos' game day

gram through *LP.org* has begun and is off to a fantastic start. Additionally, grassroots activists have started door-hanging programs.

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

Illinois

75 new members every month

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

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

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

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

Iowa

Running a record number of candidates

Iowa will have a record 24 Libertarians running for office, exceeding the slate of 18 who ran in 2002. The record number of

candidates is attributed to two factors:

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

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

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

Kansas

Featured in Topeka Capital-Journal

Excitement is running high in Kansas this election cycle.

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

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

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

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

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

Al Terwelp has been named chair of the

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AFFILIATE

UPDATES

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Libertarians of NE Kansas (Topeka area).

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

Massachusetts

Three candidates on ballot

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

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

Montana

Outreach at county fairs and parades

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

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



LP Montana activists ready to march in the Independence Day parade in Kalispell

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

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

Website: www.MTLP.org

New Jersey

Record-breaking slate of 20 candidates

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

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

Sidamon-Eristoff, a former city councilman for New York City in Manhattan, represented some of the most reliably Democratic voters in the country, but he won and persevered for three terms, before joining the Giuliani administration. As finance commissioner from 1999 to 2002, he earned

a reputation as someone who could control costs with innovative use of technology.

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

North Carolina

State LP names multipartisan slate of presidential electors

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

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

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

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

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

Another elector, Democrat Richard Karp of Fayetteville, said he's glad "to do my small part in helping to free the Republic from the shackles [of] tyranny."

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

"I voted for Gary Johnson at the Liber-

tarian convention; I'll get to vote for him again on Nov. 8," he said proudly. "If I'm very lucky, I will get to vote for him a third time in December."

Ohio

Submits 12,000 signatures for ballot access

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

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

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

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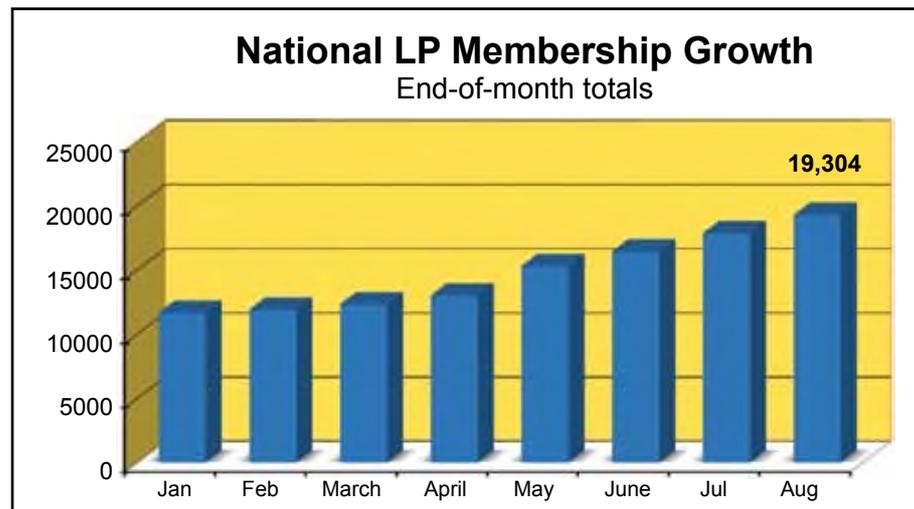
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 www.LP.org/inc-leadership

LP membership continues to grow



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

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

Bombach in Baltimore

...continued from page 7

ing, digitizing, and automating the city’s financial management system.

Baltimore’s third-ranked official, the comptroller serves as the city’s fiscal watchdog, conducting audits, managing city real estate, and operating the municipal telephone and mail delivery systems. He also sits on two important panels: the Board of Estimates, which oversees all spending above \$25,000, and the Board of Finance, which supervises city debt.

Bombach is highly critical of the Board of Estimates, which he says awards contracts to politically connected individuals and entities. He cites the case, One Harbor East Development, valued at \$155 million, which has received from the board a sweetheart deal allowing it to pay \$1 per year in lieu of property taxes, for 25 years.

“As your public servant, I promise the Board of Estimates will stop accepting any

more deals that sell out our communities,” promises Bombach.

The race is anything but easy for the iconoclastic Libertarian. His opponent, well connected and entrenched Democrat Joan Pratt, has been Baltimore’s comptroller since 1995. With a war chest exceeding \$200,000, she is a strong favorite to win the race.

Republicans are sitting out the race, leaving Bombach in a two-way race. He is not intimidated by Pratt’s dominance and he believes his rejection of the city’s “business as usual” will ultimately win him votes in November.

“Jon Bombach is not here to join the party,” he asserts. “He’s here to fix the financial mess Baltimore faces.”

On Aug. 31, What Weekly, a grassroots news portal that promotes the Baltimore Renaissance, ran an in-depth feature story on Bombach and his campaign. •

Campaign website: BombachForBaltimore.com

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

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

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

—**Quinnipiac Poll; 8/25**

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

—**CBS News; 6/15**

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

—**Winston-Salem Journal; 9/11**

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

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

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

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

—**Washington Post; 9/13**

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

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

—**John Stossel on Fox News; 8/24**

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

—**The Hill, quoting Arnold Schwarzenegger; 9/9**

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

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

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