

Chautauqua County Libertarian Party Chair's Report – January 6, 2022 – Page 1

STATE COMMITTEE REPORT

1. **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS.** Executive Committee meetings were held on November 15, 2021 and November 24, 2021, mostly in regards to the location of the Statewide Candidates Nominating Convention to be held in February 2022. The original location was to be in Erie County, but this changed to Albany County. The September 2022 Organization meeting will be held in Erie County. Another meeting was held on Monday, December 20, 2021, consisting of County Contact renewals and appointments, reports, and expenditures. The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 10, 2022 in order to finalize the venue for the nominating convention in February 2022.

2. **STATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS.** A State Committee meeting was held on Sunday, November 7, 2021, during the Empire State Freedom Summit. Vacancies were filled, including one in JD8 (Michael Rebmann). We elected our National Platform Committee representatives (Mark Braiman and Paul Grindle) and our National Credentials Committee representatives (Justin Carman and Mark Glogowski). Rules amendments were approved to establish a process for electing a State Committee when we are unable to hold a primary. This will require the election of an Elections Oversight Committee. Petitioning for State Committee will likely begin on March 1, 2022. A State Committee meeting was held on December 5, 2021, mostly consisting of committee reports. The next State Committee meeting is set for Sunday, January 9, 2022.

3. **EMPIRE STATE FREEDOM SUMMIT.** The event was a huge success, and there was a profit of over \$8,000 for the party.

4. **2022 STATEWIDE CANDIDATES NOMIANTING CONVENTION.** Set for the weekend of February 19-20, 2022 in Albany County.

5. **2022 STATE CONVENTION.** Set for September 2022 in Erie County, New York.

6. **BALLOT ACCESS LAWSUIT.** A hearing for a summary judgement was held on December 21, 2021. Within 24 hours after the hearing, the judge issued a ruling in favor of the summary judgment, ruling in favor of the new ballot access thresholds. Essentially, the lawsuit has been dismissed. Our next option is to appeal the case. No updates on our next actions.

BUSINESS

1. **ELECTION DISTRICT DELEGATES.** We currently have 7 election district delegates. We have a total of 198 positions to be filled and we need at least 50 members by 2022 to form a constituted county committee under Election Law.

2. **ENROLLMENTS.** As of January 3, 2022, we have 275 active enrolled Libertarians. This is an increase from 269 on August 5, 2021 and the same as our total on February 25, 2021.

3. **FACEBOOK.** Meetings through March 3, 2022 are set up on Facebook.

4. **WEBSITE.** Meetings are up on the website through June 2, 2022. The candidate questionnaire still needs to be fixed on the mobile version.

Chautauqua County Libertarian Party Chair's Report – January 6, 2022 – Page 2

BUSINESS (continued)

5. **2022 ANNUAL LETTER.** We will need to work on our 2022 annual letter, in which we can also advertise our spring fundraiser, if we can get that organized in time.

ELECTIONS/CAMPAIGNS

1. **STATE COMMITTEE ELECTIONS.** Our Judicial District will have several positions for the 2022-2024 State Committee. Petitioning for this will likely begin on March 1, 2022 and will run for a total of 6 weeks. We will probably need a minimum of about 140 signatures to get on the ballot for Judicial District 8. Elections will be held internally, with the LPNY Elections Oversight Committee to be elected on Sunday, January 9, 2022. As soon as the latest statewide list of enrolled Libertarians is available, we will know the allocation for JD8 and how many signatures we will need.

2. **2022 STATEWIDE CANDIDATES.** For Governor, Larry Sharpe is the only candidate exploring a run. For Comptroller, Bill Schmidt has shown interest if no one else is interested. For U.S. Senate, Diane Sare is a declared independent candidate, who may seek the Libertarian Party nomination, although there has been pushback against her candidacy. A 2022 Statewide Candidates Exploratory Committee has been created to find candidates for these other positions. At the present time, based on the status of our lawsuit, we will need to collect 45,000 signatures in April and May 2022 to get our candidates on the ballot.

MISCELLANEOUS

1. **LEGISLATIVE AGENDA.** This document will continue to be refined as new issues surface and more information is available.

2. **GENERAL ACTIVISM.** Ideas we have discussed: creek cleanup, working with other organizations, working with NY Volunteers, etc.

3. **WNYLC.** We held one meeting but have not followed up on this since then.

4. **2022 PLANS.** We need to build our plan for 2022. One of the ideas discussed was regarding ballot initiatives that voters will be able to vote for or against the sale of cannabis if their local government officials chose to opt out.

5. **LEGISLATIVE SURVEY.** This was successfully done in Suffolk County, and something we may want to explore doing. We would need the list of questions, first.

UPCOMING EVENTS

1. **LARRY SHARPE IN WESTERN NEW YORK.** Our Larry Sharpe event on November 21, 2021, was a success with 19 people present and two media sources.

2. **FUNDRAISER.** We have postponed the idea of doing a chicken BBQ fundraiser to spring 2022.

Andrew Martin Kolstee
Chair, Chautauqua County Libertarian Party