



Free New York

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The Official Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of New York

February 2024

NOMINATING CONVENTION AND PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE TO BE HELD IN WATKINS GLEN

by Andrew Kolstee
LPNY Chair

On March 16-17, 2024, the Libertarian Party of New York's nominating convention will be held at the Harbor Hotel in Watkins Glen, New York. Here, we will nominate the LPNY's stand-in candidates for President and Vice President.

A debate will be held on Sunday, with Larry Sharpe as moderator. The following are confirmed to be participating in the debate: Charles Ballay, Joseph Collins, Jr., Jacob Hornberger, Lars Mapstead, Chase Oliver, Michael Rectenwald, and Mike ter Maat. Green Party candidate Jill Stein will also participate in the debate.

Since the Libertarian National Convention will be held in late May 2024, which is at the end of the 2024 petitioning period, and so a stand-in candidate is needed to get on the ballot in order for the Libertarian Party's Presidential nominee to be on the ballot in New York. After petitions are turned in, the stand-in candidate can withdraw, and the Committee on Vacancies can replace the stand-in candidate with the candidate nominated at the National Convention.

Petitioning begins April 16, 2024 and the filing dates are May 21-28, 2024. During that time, the Libertarian Party of New York needs over 45,000 signatures, likely in the range of 60,000 to 70,000, in order to get the stand-in candidates on the ballot and withstand any challenges to the petitions.

In leading up to this and to get a better idea of where members of the State Committee stand in regard to the stand-in candidate and in preparation for the upcoming convention, LPNY Secretary Mark Braiman had the idea to run a series of straw polls. 4 straw polls were held between March 2023 and February 2024. The results of these are as follows and there are charts on page 2 that show detailed results. The first straw poll had only a write-in line option and NOTA and everytime a candidate received at least 5 votes, their name would be on the ballot in each subsequent poll. LPNY 1st Vice-Chair Duane Whitmer and Larry Sharpe, the LPNY's 2018 and 2022 candidate for Governor of New York each recieved over 5 votes in the first and second polls. When we held the third poll, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. also recieved over 5 votes. In the fourth straw poll, LPNY 2nd Vice-Chair Rich Purtell recieved over 5

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votes.

The fifth straw poll was opened up as an approval voting poll to all members of the State Committee in additon to county leaders (County Affiliate officers and Acting County Chairs/County Liaisons). This was an approval voting poll, and 28 out of 125 people voted. The results were: Sharpe (12), Purtell (10), Whitmer (8), Kennedy (7), and NOTA (4). 4 indicated they do not plan on petitioning this year and there were several write-in votes. Chase Oliver received 2 and Mike ter Maat received 1 vote. Note that if either Oliver or ter Maat is chosen as the LPNY's stand-in candidate, they would be disqualified from running for the nomination at the National Convention. The four candidates that received at least 5 votes in the previous four straw

(continued on page 2)

PRESIDENTIAL STAND-IN STRAW POLLS						
Candidate	March 5, 2023	June 4, 2023	December 19—22, 2023	February 6—11, 2024	Average	Total
Duane Whitmer	10	9	10	8	9.25	37
Larry Sharpe	7	9	6	5	6.75	27
Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.	0	1	6	7	3.50	14
None of the Above	6	0	4	0	2.50	10
Rich Purtell	0	0	0	5	1.25	5
Mike ter Maat	4	1	0	0	1.25	5
Dave Smith	2	3	0	0	1.25	5
Grace Galactica Merrell	0	4	0	0	1.00	4
Justin Amash	2	1	0	0	0.75	3
Chase Oliver	1	1	0	1	0.75	3
Ron Paul	1	1	0	0	0.50	2
Spike Cohen	0	1	1	0	0.50	2
Charlie Brown	1	0	0	0	0.25	1
Rand Paul	0	1	0	0	0.25	1
Karyn Thompson	0	1	0	0	0.25	1
Gary Johnson	0	0	1	0	0.25	1
Michael Rechtenwald	0	0	1	0	0.25	1
Total	34	33	29	26		
Total Voters	60	59	58	57		
Turnout	57%	56%	50%	46%		

Presidential Stand-In Straw Poll #5		
February 19-25, 2024		
#	Name	Votes
1	Larry Sharpe	12
2	Rich Purtell	10
3	Duane Whitmer	8
4	Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.	7
5	NOTA	4
6	I do not plan on petitioning	4
7	Chase Oliver*	2
8	Mark Braiman	1
9	Christopher Olenski	1
10	Mike ter Maat	1
11	Lost Cause	1
Total Votes:		51
Total Voters:		28
Turnout:		22%
*denotes write-in		

(continued from page 1)

polls were included in that poll. Additional write-in votes were as follows: Christopher Olenski (1), Mark Braiman (1), and Lost Cause (1).

A Petitioning Committee was established on August 31, 2023 by the Executive Committee, for the purpose of exploring ideas and options for the statewide petitioning drive. One major idea was to recruit down ballot candidates, especially those in districts that cross counties, because their petitions would allow the Presidential and Vice-Presidential stand-in candidates on the ballot. If you are interested in being a down ballot candidate to help with this effort, please contact us.

SEARCH FOR NEW DIRECTORS: COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH

by Andrew Kolstee
LPNY Chair

Outreach Director since Steve Felano stopped down in early 2023.

Duane Whitmer has resigned as Communications Director, having been appointed in late 2022. He had also been serving as Acting

As a result, the LPNY is searching for new Communications and Outreach Directors. Applications are still open, and a Director Search

Vetting Committee, chaired by new State Committee member Michael Gately, has been established. Members of the vetting committee are Andrew Kolstee, Cody Anderson, Steve Becker, and Justin Pelletier.

NATIONAL CONVENTION: NEW YORK'S DELEGATION SELECTED

by **Andrew Kolstee**
LPNY Chair

The Libertarian Party of New York State Committee adopted a rubric and ratified a list of delegates to the Libertarian National Convention.

There are 41 delegate positions and all were filled.

The list is as follows. Since the adoption of the rubric, three Delegates withdrew and so three Alternates took their places. An addi-

tional three Alternates have since withdrawn, leaving 6 Alternates.

Anyone who wants to be a Delegate or Alternate can still apply, but please note that you will go to the end of the list.

DELEGATES

1. **Andrew Kolstee**
2. *Duane Whitmer**
3. **William Schmidt**
4. **Justin Carman**
5. *Keith Redhead**
6. **Michael Rebmann**
7. **Chance Haywood**
8. **Paul Grindle**
9. **Daniel Castello**
10. **Blay Tarnoff**
11. **Steven Becker**
12. **Leonard Morlock**
13. **Craig Colwell**
14. **Juan Ayala**
15. **Christopher Olenski**
16. **Adam Magoon**
17. **Justin Pelletier**
18. **Mark Axinn**
19. **Susan Overeem-Cummings**
20. **Catrina Rocco**
21. **Nicole Colwell**
22. **Irwin Mark Weinblatt**
23. **James Fitch**
24. **Daniel Donnelly**
25. **Randyn Tarnoff**
26. **Pietro Geraci**
27. **Wendi Szabo**
28. **Joanna Rocco-Bodach**
29. **Jack Terran**
30. **Richard Cooper**

31. **Thomas Quiter**
32. **Christian Padgett**
33. **Gary Triestman**
34. **Larry Sharpe**
35. *Craig Shute**
36. **Millie Dordal-Gale**
37. **Debra Altman**
38. **Charles Senrick**
39. **Roger Cooper**
40. **Caryn Tarnoff**
41. **Michael Houze**
42. **Anna Donnelly****
43. **Shaun Cahill****
44. **Joseph Terwilliger****

ALTERNATES

45. **James Melloan**
46. **Russell Nelson**
47. *Alexander Tollner**
48. *Sarah Shuster**
49. *Brandon Larsen**
50. **Paul Schaffenberger**
51. **Chuck Dorgan**
52. **Liam Callahan**
53. **Evan Lebrecht**

KEY


**Withdrew as a Delegate or Alternate*

***Delegate promoted from Alternate*

Libertarian Party of New York **NOMINATING CONVENTION AND PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE**


Watkins Glen, New York • March 16-17, 2024

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STATE COMMITTEE FILLS VACANCIES WITH TWO NEW MEMBERS

by **Andrew Kolstee**
LPNY Chair

Recently, two vacancies on the State Committee were filled. Michael Gately was elected to fill a vacancy in Judicial District 6 while Christian Padgett was elected to fill a vacancy in Judicial District 10.

MICHAEL GATELY

Michael T. Gately is a 25-year-old resident of the Town of Delhi, with a background in politics and community involvement. He began at a young age when he interned for his local County Legislator's office at 17 years old in 2016.

Born, raised and residing on Long Island, he assisted in establishing the Town of Babylon Young Republican Club. In June 2020, Michael relocated to Delaware County and settled in Grand Gorge. He contested for a position on the Roxbury Board of Education but faced defeat. Trying again, he initiated a write-in campaign with the Town of Roxbury's Republican endorsement. Additionally, Michael held signifi-

cant roles in the Young Republicans of Delaware County, serving as both Secretary and Chairman.

However, disappointed by the divisive rhetoric within the Republican Party, particularly attributed to Donald Trump, Michael switched his party. He disassociated himself from the GOP and aligned with the Libertarian Party of New York, after years of labeling himself as a Libertarian Republican. Recognizing the absence of a Libertarian presence in Delaware County, Michael volunteered to establish the party's affiliate there, aiming to offer voters an alternative to the traditional ways of Republican versus Democrat. At the Libertarian Party of New York's State Committee meeting, he was nominated and approved as Acting Chair and County Liaison for Delaware County.

Additionally, he represents Delaware County and the 6th Judicial District on the State Committee. Siding with the label of a paleolibertarian, Michael aligns himself with the Libertarian Party's Mises Caucus, combining conservative ideals with libertarian principles.



Michael Gately

Beyond politics, Michael is deeply involved in community service. He volunteers at the Friends Of Recovery of Delaware and Otsego Counties, a local addiction recovery center, and works as a Direct Support Professional, and advocating for mental health awareness as a certified Peer Specialist. His diverse interests also extend to music, as he learns to play the guitar, and spiritual pursuits, serving as an ordained Minister from Universal Life Church Ministries. In his leisure time, he enjoys walks through downtown Delhi, appreciating the charm of his local community.

HELP US GET A3312 PASSED

This bill, if passed would lower the ballot access thresholds back to the previous standards: the number of votes needed to get ballot access to 50,000 (from 130,000 or 2%), and lower the petition signature requirement for a statewide office to 15,000 (from 45,000). Contact your representatives in the New York State Legislature and ask them to this bill! Contact Legislative Affairs Director Rich Purtell at rpurtell@lpny.org to get involved with pushing this bill.

RANKED CHOICE VOTING

by Vincent O'Neill

Former LPNY Vice-Chair (1998-1999)

There are a number of interesting people who are proposing a "Ranked Choice Voting" system to replace the current election system. Cato's Walter Olson is one. He has recently been writing on the value of a Ranked Choice Voting System (RCV):

www.cato.org/commentary/why-conservatives-shouldnt-fear-ranked-choice-voting.

Former Democratic Party Presidential candidate Andrew Yang is also a big supporter.

The argument in favor of Ranked Choice Voting was largely summarized by Cato's Josh Ferencik: "Personally, I back this idea over other reforms because in rewriting the rules on how we count votes, we will allow new and exciting political coalitions to form and re-empower the independent voter."

I like and respect Walter Olson and Josh Ferencik, and I loved Walter Olson's book "Schools for Misrule: Legal Academia and an Overlawyered America."

I also have no problem with Andrew Yang.

However, I am not a fan of "Ranked Choice Voting."

As far as I am concerned, it moves in wrong direction completely. I will start with my own voting pattern.

I almost always vote.

When I do vote, if 10 offices are being voted on, I usually only vote for 1 or 2 candidates, and leave the others blank. Most candidates, particularly Republicans and Democrats, are not worth voting for.

"NONE OF THE ABOVE"

The only way Ranked Choice Voting would be an improvement if one of the choices was "NONE OF THE ABOVE", and that will not happen.

Most people do not vote FOR a candidate, they vote AGAINST one. "Ranked Choice Voting" should be opposed primarily since it is an attempt to hide this fact. Refusing to vote in a rigged political system is the real ranked choice vote. Challenging the rigged system is necessary.

Ranked Choice Voting will not empower the independent voter. Widening public debate and having public debate occur on an intelligent adult level will be required to do this.

I will give a few examples, starting with the 2020 presidential election.

A. Kamala Harris got a steady 0% in the Democrat Presidential Primaries. If Ranked Choice Voting was in effect, they could have pretended somebody voted for her.

B. Nobody voted for Joe Biden. At least 99% of the votes cast 'for' him were people voting AGAINST TRUMP.

The Democrats could have run a lizard, a donkey or a washing machine for president and it would have gotten the same vote total.

It is unlikely that more than 15 or 20 people, all of them most likely to be immediate family, actually voted for Biden. On the other hand, all 76 million of the people who voted for Trump were actually voting for him.

C. The Democrats will not hold presidential primary debates in 2024, despite the fact, or because, RFK, Jr. was challenging Biden for the nomination. (He has since become an Independent Candidate for President.)

The refusal to debate challengers to the status quo is the typical response of the Democrats and Republicans. The most likely reason for this behavior is the fact that neither party has anything worthwhile to offer on any important issue.

D. Another particularly grievous example comes from New York. A political party was required to have its gubernatorial candidate receive 50,000 votes in order to have guaranteed ballot status for the next 4 years.

This is what happened in the 2018 New York gubernatorial election, and its aftermath. It refers to Libertarian candidate Larry Sharpe.

"On Election Day, Sharpe received 95,033 votes (1.6%) and came in fourth place behind Cuomo, Republican challenger Marc Molinaro, and Green Party candidate Howie Hawkins. Sharpe's vote to-

tal achieved automatic ballot access for the Libertarian Party of New York for the first time in the party's history." (Wikipedia)

The 95,333 votes for Governor 2018 Libertarian Party Candidate Larry Sharpe received was MORE THAN 6 TIMES MORE THAN THE PARTY'S VOTE TOTAL OF 15,594 IN 2014.

The Republican Party percentage of the vote declined from 40.6% (to Democrat Andrew Cuomo's 54%) in 2014 to 36.2% (to Democrat Cuomo's 59.6%) in 2018, a decline of more than 4 percentage points.

The response of the New York Democrats and Republicans was to retroactively change the requirement on April 4, 2020 to 130,000 votes every two years, thereby cheating the Libertarian Party of New York of its Ballot Access.

To repeat, this was after the Libertarian Party vote total was MORE THAN 6 TIMES MORE THAN ITS TOTAL 4 YEARS BEFORE WHILE THE REPUBLICAN PARTY TOTAL DECLINED BY MORE THAN 4 PERCENTAGE POINTS.

This atrocity is a typical example of Republican and Democrat behavior.

The Supreme Court refused to hear the case brought to address this matter, and the only legislative solutions proposed have attracted little to no support and also fall short of addressing this atrocity. The only acceptable solution is to admit that the Libertarian Party satisfied all requirements for permanent ballot status and to restore

Automatic Ballot Status for the next four years, plus any additional time the party has been cheated of Automatic Ballot Access.

Starting with April 4, 2020, that number is 3 years and counting, bringing the current total to 7+ years and counting.

Anything else is simply a stalling tactic designed to perpetually deny the Automatic Ballot Status the Libertarian Party of New York earned while paying lip service to the issue and shedding a few crocodile tears.

If New York Republicans and Democrats continue with this behavior, the response should be to call for a Boycott of All Republican and Democrat candidates in New York State unless or until this situation is rectified.

Conclusion

Ranked Choice Voting, Taxpayer-funded primaries, Publicly Funded Elections, and the Commission on Presidential Debates which has managed to exclude everyone except the Republican and Democrat Presidential candidates are all part of the same proposal.

All must be refuted, and alternatives proposed.

Offering intelligent alternatives will be a victory as long as they are introduced. The Republicans and Democrats will have to respond. If they fail to support them, but cannot refute them, there will be repercussions.

Keep in mind that the major political reform to come out of Watergate was to create Campaign Finance

Restrictions in order to make sure that a Eugene McCarthy would never again be allowed to challenge the establishment candidate.

The Commission on Presidential Debates is an extension of this idea. Every presidential election since 1988, when they excluded Ron Paul, has been an ELECTION ABOUT NOTHING, which follows a long period of noise about nothing while avoiding real issues, which is one reason the National Debt is \$31 trillion and rising.

This is why an alternative to the current system designed to protect the Republican/Democrat must be proposed.

See Also

"Biden's Inexplicable Victory" by Patrick Basham, pp. 10-14, "Chronicles" Magazine, October 2021 "Election Oddities" by Edward Welsch, pp. 15-17, "Chronicles" Magazine, October 2021 and "The Most Expensive Judicial Race in US History Is Raising Questions" By Steven Kovac Oct 21, 2023 Updated: Oct 25, 2023, Epoch Times. <newsletter@epochtimes.com>

"Under the microscope are multiple small donations from voters who say they didn't make such donations to Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Janet Protasiewicz."

COUNTY AFFILIATE NEWS

ALBANY

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jcarman@lpny.org

ALLEGANY

CONTACT:

Jame VanDewalker,
Acting County Chair/
County Liasion
jvandewalker@lpny.org

LEARN MORE:

fb.com/AlleganyCountyLP

CHAUTAUQUA

NEXT MEETING:

Thurs., Mar. 7, 2024 @ 7:00 PM
Lakeview Hotel & Resturant
Mayville, NY and Zoom
(1st Thursdays)

CONTACT:

Len Morlock, Chair
lmorlock@lpny.org
Andrew Kolstee, Secretary
akolstee@lpny.org

LEARN MORE:

www.chautauquaLP.org
fb.com/chautauquaLP

CHEMUNG

NEXT MEETING:

Thurs., Mar. 7, 2024 at 6 PM
at Ill Eagle Taphouse

CONTACT:

Craig Colwell, Chair
ccolwell78@gmail.com

LEARN MORE:

lpchemung.org

CHENANGO

CONTACT:

Tom Quiter, County Liasion
tquiter@lpny.org

COLUMBIA

NEXT MEETING:

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

CONTACT:

Scott Hoskins, Chair
scottdhoskins@gmail.com

CLINTON

CONTACT:

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

DUTCHESS

NEXT MEETING:

Sat., Mar. 16, 2024 @ 6 PM
Time/Location Varies
(3rd Saturdays)

CONTACT:

Catrina Rocco, Chair
DCLPChair@outlook.com

LEARN MORE:

dutchesscountylp.org

ERIE

NEXT MEETING:

Held Monthly via Zoom

CONTACT:

Duane Whitmer, Chair
chairman@eriecountylp.org

KINGS (BROOKLYN)

NEXT MEETING:

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

CONTACT:

Matthew Morgan, Chair
matthewisaiahmorgan@gmail.com

MADISON

NEXT MEETING:

Sat., Mar. 30, 2024 at 11 AM
Hamilton Public Library

CONTACT:

Mark Braiman, Chair
mbraiman@lpny.org

MONROE

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

NEXT MEETING:

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

CONTACT:

Steve Becker, Chair
drsbecker@aol.com

LEARN MORE:

monroecountylp.org

NASSAU

NEXT MEETING:

Tues., Mar. 14, 2024 at 7 PM
@ Landmark Diner
(2nd Thursdays)

CONTACT:

Jon Gunther,
Executive Committee Chair
jonguntherlibertarian@gmail.com
Blay Tarnoff,
County Committee Chair
LPNY@eblay.com

NEW YORK (MANHATTAN)

CONTACT:

Chance Haywood, Chair
chaywood@lpny.org

ONEIDA

NEXT MEETING:

Mon., Mar. 18, 2024 @ 6 PM
via Video Conference
(3rd Mondays)
Contact Keith for link

CONTACT:

Keith Redhead, Chair
kredhead@lpny.org

ONONDAGA

NEXT MEETING:

TBD March 2024

CONTACT:

Rachel Becker, Chair
reb4128@rit.edu

ORANGE

CONTACT:

Juan Ayala, Chair
livefree@juanrayala.com

PUTNAM

NEXT MEETING:

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

CONTACT:

Bill O'Donnell, Chair
billod10704@gmail.com

QUEENS

CONTACT:

John Clifton, Chair
mrjclifton@yahoo.com

RENSSELAER

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

NEXT MEETING:

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

CONTACT:

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

RICHMOND (STATEN ISLAND)

NEXT MEETING:

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

CONTACT:

Susan Overeem Cummings,
Chair
susanovereem@gmail.com

SARATOGA

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TIOGA

CONTACT:

Sara Price, Chair

sprice@lpny.org

Rich Purtell, Vice-Chair

rpurtell@lpny.org

ULSTER

NEXT MEETING:

Mon., Mar. 11, 2024 at 6:30 PM

Hickory BBQ, Kingston, NY

(second Mondays)

CONTACT:

Sam Kniffen, Acting Chair

samkniffen01@gmail.com

LEARN MORE:

www.UlsterLP.org

WAYNE

NEXT MEETING:

Sat., Mar, 24, 2024 at 10 AM

Yellow Mills Diner

2534 NY-31

Palmyra, NY 14522

(last Saturdays)

CONTACT:

Jim Dayton, Chair

jdayton@lpny.org

LEARN MORE:

lpwaynecounty.org

WASHINGTON

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County Liaison

blwells45@gmail.com

WESTCHESTER

CONTACT:

Rajib Maitra

Acting County Chair/

County Liaison

rajib.maitra1@gmail.com

YATES

CONTACT:

Jeff Bradley, Chair

jbradley@lpny.org

Don't see your county listed?

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

Contact us for more details!

affiliates@lpny.org



The 2024

LIBERTARIAN NATIONAL CONVENTION

May 23 – May 27, 2024

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