



# Colorado Liberty

August 2009 | Vol 38 Issue 8

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## Action Items:

- [Submit Your Activist Form](#)
- [Submit Your Contribution Form](#)
- [Subscribe To The Colorado Liberty](#)
- [Subscribe To Liberty Alerts](#)
- [Join Our Meetup Group](#)

<http://www.LPColorado.org>  
<http://meetup.LPColorado.org>

## From The Chair David K. Williams, Jr., Chair

### Not a Dime's Worth of Difference.

The Democrats and Republicans are already gearing up for the statewide elections in 2010. The Libertarian Party of Colorado is recruiting candidates to give people an actual choice.

We know the Democrats favor state action and control over your wages, the economy, and your life. The only thing that differentiates them from the Republicans is that the Democrats are honest about it.

The Republicans occasionally give lip service to free markets and smaller government. Of course, when in power, the government grows just as fast under Republicans as it does under Democrats.

It was Republican George W. Bush that started [the federal bailouts](#) of failed private businesses. Republican presidential candidate John McCain [supported the nationalization of failed banks](#). Closer to home, the last Republican governor, Bill Owens, appeared in [commercials asking voters to kill TABOR](#), thereby unleashing state government to spend more and more of your money.

When it comes to lifestyle choices and privacy, the Democrats pretend to be in favor of the individual. The record, of course, shows the Democrats' epic failure on these issues. Barack Obama has [refused to support gay rights](#), including abolition of the absurd "don't ask, don't tell" military policy.

Obama's "drug czar" [showed his massive ignorance on policy](#) when he declared, "marijuana is dangerous and has no medicinal benefit."

The Obama administration, despite his pledges on the campaign trail, has argued [in support of warrantless wiretapping and the PATRIOT Act](#).

As subscribers to this newsletter, you all know this. You understand that the only way to change the status quo is to reject the status quo. Unfortunately, too many others fail to make the connection between the massive growth of government at all levels and the accompanying loss of freedom we all suffer under the two-party duopoly.

It is important for us to point out these specific examples to those that cling to the status quo because the most important thing to them is voting for the "winner" in any election. What is the point of "winning" when it means selling your soul? What is the point of "winning" when it means the United States loses?

I think it is clear that the message of freedom has just as much attraction to disgruntled Democrats as it does to disgruntled Republicans. We need to give them a choice at the ballot box. We need to provide all freedom lovers with a political home.

If you want to help spread the message of freedom on the campaign trail, let us know. Contact our Director of Campaigns, Norm Olsen, at [campaigns@LPColorado.org](mailto:campaigns@LPColorado.org).

Let Freedom Ring,  
David K. Williams, Jr.  
Libertarian Party of Colorado State Chair



## Vice Chair Report

By Steve Gallant, Vice Chair

Medium-Term Goals:

Write letter to affiliates and nascent affiliate organizations including:

- Introduction and description of Vice Chair job
- Summary of state-level resources, including Meetup, available to affiliates
- Encouragement to provide updates, event schedules, etc. to (affiliate?) newsletter
- Affiliate handbook and related affiliate documents

During the next several months, I plan to attend affiliate or pre-affiliate group meetings. I'll bring physical copies of the affiliate handbook with me.

I plan to schedule a new Affiliate Representative Committee meeting or conference call in September.

Jack Woehr has stepped down as LPJC Chair. Mike Spalding and I will begin searching for a replacement.

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--- Call To Serve - [Click Here To Indicate Your Interest!](#) ---

## **WANTED: RECORDS DIRECTOR**

The LPCO Board is seeking a highly organized Libertarian to act as recording secretary for all legal purposes in the office of [Records Director](#).

The State Board invites those who are willing to devote the time and energy needed to perform these vital tasks, to present themselves to the Board at the [August 10th Board Meeting](#) at:

LPCO HQ  
6989 S Jordan Rd STE 5U  
Centennial CO 80112-4369

A Summary Of The Duties of Records Director:

- The Records Director shall be responsible for maintaining membership records.
- Coordinate membership data with [the National Libertarian Party](#).
- Provide information (such as precinct walking lists) as needed.
- Administer the Party's physical office space (including computer systems, telephone systems, and any paid positions).

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--- Call To Serve - [Click Here To Indicate Your Interest!](#) ---

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## **F.R. Outreach Report**

**By [Jeff Orrok](#), Outreach Director**

### **Outreach:**

We are confirmed for our Voter Registration Drive Booth at [Van's Warped Tour](#).

Paul Langford, [Outreach Director of Arapahoe County](#), is assisting in the documentation of outreach booth equipment, supplies, and processes. **If you would like to help** with this and other documentation efforts, please email me at [Outreach@LPColorado.org](mailto:Outreach@LPColorado.org).

I am **STILL** looking for program managers for:

Voter Registration Drives, Outreach Events, Speakers Bureau, High School Student Groups, and College Student Groups. If you would like to be a program manager, or assist one of the program managers, or be on one of the program activist teams, [please email me](#).

As always, our efforts depend on the number of activists and the amount of contributions. **Help us grow the party** so that we can field and support strong candidates and influence our local and state governments.

[We are in urgent need of funds](#) so that we can take advantage of the lowest rates for Voter Registration Drive Booths!

[RSVP for The Van's Warped Tour Voter Registration Drive!](#)

I will be organizing and taking inventory of the outreach materials and preparing for [Van's Warped Tour](#) concert at the Mile High Stadium. Please note, we paid lots of money to participate, which means that it is imperative that YOU help make the expenditure worthwhile; either with your generous monetary contribution, or with your time during the event.

To support the effort with your money, use PayPal and [click here](#).

To support the effort with your time, use [Meetup](#) and RSVP for this All Day Event.

**Sunday August 9th, 2009 Van's Warped Tour - Libertarian Voter Registration Drive:**

1. [9:00am - 7:00pm](#)

**ONLY One Voter Registration Drive In August!** [Sign Up Now!](#)  
YOUR Assistance would be most gratefully welcomed.

## Fundraising Report

By [Deni Cates](#), Fundraising Director

### August 15th Family Picnic/Barbecue:

Location:  
6360 S Gibraltar Circle,  
Centennial, CO 80016  
(4 miles east of LPCO office)  
Time: noon for families, 2:00pm for "older" folks

The event will include a bouncy castle for kids. The rental company provides set up/take down, and 6 hours of use of bouncer. Rental cost is \$150. We are still working on other kid-friendly events. I am trying to connect with Jessica in Colorado Springs for facepainting and other kid-friendly events.

[An Ovation Entertainment](#) will provide the music. Request your favorite songs by [clicking here](#). DJ Mykl only plays requests, so be sure to [submit yours](#) before the fundraiser begins.

Food and beverages will be managed by [Ken Wyble](#) and [me](#).

### **License Plate Frames:**

Clint Jones and I have both researched this and have come up with very similar prices.

Plastic license plate frames, with silk-screened lettering. 250 minimum order. With set up, taxes, and shipping the cost is about \$412 for 250. I'd like to sell them for \$8-\$10 each, and have some available for donation rewards.

My suggestion, for easiest reading, is to have a dark colored background with white lettering. Since people read from top to bottom Libertarian should be at the top, with what on the bottom? A couple options are: VOTER, PARTY, or COLORADO.

Affiliates wanting to have license plate frames at their events will need to purchase the frames from LPCO.

### **Concealed Carry Class:**

I have contacted an instructor and received some pricing information, class size limits, fundraising dollar potential, etc. I still have more work to do on this, and it's not something I'm an expert in. Right now it looks like for a 10-person class the cost per person would be \$150, and the LPCO could make \$250.

## Monthly Pledge Program

Monthly donations are the best way to help make a political difference. Although contributions are not tax-deductible, we have fixed expenses. Campaigns and events cost money. Choose an amount per month below, and PayPal will automatically send us your donation each month. Don't have a PayPal account? Click any button below and use your credit card or bank account instead. We've made it so easy, there really is no excuse for not contributing right now.

### **Join the "Nickel Club!"**

Donate \$5.00 each month easily using PayPal.

Receive a Libertarian bumper sticker and outreach handouts for friends.



### **Join the "Copper Club!"**

Donate \$10.00 each month easily using PayPal.

Receive a Libertarian bumper sticker, outreach handouts for friends, and a Libertarian cap.



### **Join the "1776 Club!"**

Donate \$17.76 each month easily using PayPal.

Receive a Libertarian bumper sticker, outreach handouts for friends, a Libertarian cap, and the book, ["To Save America: How to Prevent Our Coming Federal Bankruptcy"](#) by Martin L. Buchanan.



~ ~ ~ Please Get Involved - [Click Here!](#) ~ ~ ~

## **BECOME A VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR**

**OPPORTUNITY to help liberty: Volunteer Coordinator for the Libertarian Party of Colorado.** This person will use their people skills to find, motivate, and guide the various volunteers that contact the LPCO, matching the volunteer interests to the needs of the organization. This is a volunteer position for a political party that showed 62% growth in the past year and has a Board of Directors that is committed, interesting, and active in the community. A one year commitment with an average of 4-6 hours per week is needed. Please

contact [membershipdirector@lpcolorado.org](mailto:membershipdirector@lpcolorado.org) with interest and questions

Clint Jones  
Libertarian Party of Colorado  
6989 S. Jordan Road  
Second Floor, Suite 5U  
Centennial, Colorado 80112  
(303) 936-3874

~ ~ ~ Please Get Involved - [Click Here!](#) ~ ~ ~

## Legislative Report

By [Justin Longo](#), Legislative Director

### Help Stop Cap and Tax:

House Resolution 2454, commonly known as Cap and Tax, excuse me, Cap and Trade, [passed the House by a very slight margin](#), and was received in the Senate. The Senate has read it a second time and has put cap and tax on their legislative calendar. Here is the [link to the bill](#) and the [summary of actions thus far](#).

I found this YouTube video of President Obama admitting that under his plan of cap and trade, "[electricity rates would necessarily skyrocket](#)." Which by my calculations, is about the only time he's been economically honest with us. Taxes indeed raise prices for all.

When this awful bill makes its way onto the Senate floor for a vote, we must be sure that both of our Senators - Udall and Bennet - receive word from their Colorado constituents that we want them to vote NO and will hold them accountable otherwise!

Here is the contact information for these guys:

#### Senator Mark Udall:

Washington DC office:  
Senate Hart Office Building  
SH-317  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
**National phone #: 877-768-3255**  
**Local phone #: 202-224-5941**  
**Fax #: 202-224-6471**

To contact Senator Udall via the Internet,  
[click here](#).

#### Senator Michael Bennet::

Washington DC office:  
702 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
**Local phone #: 202) 224-5852**  
**Fax #: (202) 228-5036**

To contact Senator Bennet via the Internet,  
[click here](#).

I will be sending updates to our [Liberty Alert Subscribers](#) about the ongoing status of cap and trade. Please take the time to let our Senators know where you stand on this economy killing bill.

### Help Stop Obama Care:

By now I'm sure you've been to, or at least read about, all the anti-Obama Care rallies that have taken shape all around Colorado. Reports indicate that both Denver and Fort Collins had good turnouts with around 400 to 600 people. Colorado Springs however, is reporting attendance between 1,000 and 1,200. Pretty great turnouts considering they've been on workdays and we all have jobs.

Make no mistake, [House Resolution 3200](#) - aka Obama Care - aka politically controlled health care, is coming down the pike. Right now the bill sits at over 1,000 pages, and [according to the National Taxpayers Union](#), despite the left's rhetoric, the language indicates a ton more coercion than any "choice" whatsoever. (Are you even surprised that the words "require" and "must" outnumber the words "choice" and "option" 9 to 1)? This bill is so ridiculous, even Jimmy Fallon made fun of its size and price tag [on his TV show](#).

The bottom line is this: the reason we are even in this health care dilemma is because our current health care system is entirely too regulated and politicized. As of 2007, Colorado already had [46 mandates codified in our state statutes](#). Do we really need over 1,000 pages of more restrictions, mandates, and regulations?

If you don't like the idea of Obama taking over our health care like he's done with banks and our car industry, take a minute and contact your congressman. [This page](#) has the phone and fax numbers, in addition to links for electronic correspondence.

**Don't wait until it's too late!** Tell our representatives that you prefer REAL consumer choice and freedom, NOT the federal mandates currently on the table.

Please forward this information to friends and family who are concerned about defending our freedoms!

**Urge others to sign up to receive free liberty alerts at:**

<http://lpcolorado.org/lpcolibertyalerts.aspx>

**You can read past "LPCO Liberty Alerts" at:**

<http://lpcolorado.org/lpcolibalertarchive.aspx>

**Sign-up to receive free e-mails from the National Libertarian Party at:**

<https://www.lp.org/signup>

**Support the Libertarian Party of Colorado by joining the 1776 Club:**

<http://www.lpcolorado.org/monthlypledges.aspx>

## HELP WANTED: PETITION DRIVE

The following groups are looking for individuals to collect signatures for three new statewide petitions. This effort is a joint petition drive with a joint flyer. Visit these websites to read the proposals and get other information:

- [www.cotaxreform.com](http://www.cotaxreform.com)
- [www.limitpropertytax.com](http://www.limitpropertytax.com)
- [www.limitcodebt.com](http://www.limitcodebt.com)

For more information: [info@cotaxreform.com](mailto:info@cotaxreform.com)

There is also the possibility of compensation for signature gathering.  
If you are interested in gathering signatures, please contact:  
[Jim Frye](#) or [Debbie Schum](#).

Among other reforms, these petitions will:

1. Undo the new exorbitant fees on vehicles.
2. Undo the illegal property tax increase.
3. Ban future state debt and limit local debt to voter-approved bonds.  
Local debt limited by total amount and 10 year-term.

Colorado voters would appreciate the opportunity to vote on these matters.

### Media Report

By [Kate Melvin](#), Media Director

The summer political lull is a refreshing break from the majority party bickering to which we are so accustomed during session. Now is an important time to focus on our media strategy heading into the 2009 local elections and 2010 generals. The media strategy for the Libertarian Party involves a balanced combination of old and new media techniques, many of which only involve staying engaged. Here are some tips and tricks for staying tuned in to the key issues and holding your local leaders accountable for their actions.

★ **Look for Liberty Alerts.** Sign up for our legislative updates about bills on the state and federal levels. Subscribe here: <http://lpcolorado.org/lpcolibertyalerts.aspx>

★ **Read and Respond.** Check your local paper daily for letters to the editor or newspaper editorials that warrant a response. Take the time to write a 150 word letter to the editor, or if you're feeling wordy, a 600 word opinion piece.

★ **Believe in the Blogs.** Blogs are a great source for grassroots, niche information in any subject you find interesting. Check out our blog here: <http://lpcolorado.blogs.com/> and for tips on starting your own, feel free to [contact me](#). There are several user-friendly, free platforms available.

### Membership Report

By [Clint Jones](#), Membership Director

1. I am still calling registered Libertarians in Denver County using just 4 quick questions on:
  - a. [Subscribing to the monthly Colorado Liberty Newsletter](#),
  - b. Supporting Libertarian candidates with signs,
  - c. Supporting Libertarian candidates with contributions,
  - d. Supporting the LPCO with activist time and/or contributions.
2. I am on "active" voter number 701 (by alphabet in the S's).
3. I have added 117 people to The Colorado Liberty Newsletter.
4. I have emailed/mailed Contribution and/or Activist forms to 125 active voters.
  - a. Almost all of these 125 are willing to place a yard sign/bumper sticker for a Libertarian candidate.
  - b. A few did not know the Libertarians were even organized to this extent or that the Libertarian Party had a State Board of Directors.
  - c. I plan on following up with these 125 once we have another premium gift to entice them.
5. **If anyone is thinking about running/managing a serious campaign for political office as a Libertarian**, NOW is the time to start laying the groundwork to find out which of your Libertarian constituents will support you with a contribution or with signs/bumper stickers (see #1 above). Make your list using our calling script and the SOS list of registered Libertarians. Call/email me to get signed up with Google docs and get the script and list.
6. I am still looking for five to ten more volunteers to help in calling Colorado Libertarians using a short 3 minute script and putting the results in Google Docs. Email me if you want to volunteer calling as few as 100 people this summer. [membershipdirector@lpcolorado.org](mailto:membershipdirector@lpcolorado.org).
7. [LPCO Fund Raising Director](#), [Deni Cates](#), and I have options to further get the Libertarian name in front of voters - caps/visors/license plate holders. Be at the [next Board meeting for further info](#).

## Publications Report

By [Jaime Brown](#), Publications Director

The LPCO Publications Director is responsible for communicating to the membership. The publications consist of the [Colorado Liberty](#), [the state website](#), and [event announcements](#).

If you would like to be informed about the activities of the Libertarian Party of Colorado, [subscribe](#) to the Colorado Liberty Newsletter.

Subscribers need to make sure that our newsletter is whitelisted, and check their "Junk" & "Spam" boxes. (This will also help the Campaigns Director and candidates in the coming elections.) Some email programs need to be told what to do with certain mail, or it will be blocked.

Members are encouraged to make sure that they have added "Libertarian Party of Colorado" [lpcoliberty@lpcolorado.org] to their "Safe Sender's List" so that Newsletters, like this one don't end up in their spam folder.

Also, if your email address ever changes, please remember to [update your email address](#) for your subscription to The Colorado Liberty Newsletter to avoid any interruption in service.

All Colorado Liberty Newsletters are archived at <http://lpcolorado.org/coloradoliberty.aspx>

## Records Report

By [Transitional Staff](#), Records Director

Interim Records Director, Steven Gallant, compiled and filed the minutes and reports from the previous Board meeting.

## Treasurer Report

By [Leah Kelley](#), Treasurer

## Thank you to our 1776 Club members.

These are the people that keep the doors open and the lights on at the State party. Please consider joining them!

 Bette Rose Ryan	 Grace Reed	 Michele Poague
 Clint Jones	 Jaime Brown	 Monte Poague
 Curtis Harris	 James J. Frye	 Mike Spalding
 Daniel Underkofler	 Jeff Lucius	 Norman Olsen
 David K. Williams, Jr.	 Jeff Orrok	 Rand Fanshier
 Debbie Schum	 Jennifer Amerkanov	 Richard Randall
 Deni Cates	 Joe Klauser	 Shannon Murphy
 Doug Anderson	 Kathryn Chappell	 Steve Adams
 Eva Kosinski	 Leah Kelley	 Steve Gallant
 Frank Atwood	 Martin Buchanan	 Stu McFarland

We have increased our Membership to nearly 12,000 members. Still, there are only Thirty [1776 Club Members](#).

Please join these 30 dedicated individuals who help us build the voice of liberty, support local Libertarian Candidates, and increase outreach/education to Colorado Voters.

**[\\$5 or \\$5/mo. Please donate.](#)**

Libertarian Party of Colorado July 2009 Income	
Income	%
Donations	100%
<b>Total % of Income</b>	<b>100%</b>

Libertarian Party of Colorado July 2009 Expenses	
Expenses	%
Bank Charges	0.37%
Credit Card Fees	5.59%
Membership Expenses	5.32%
Office	0.21%
Publications	12.38%
Rent	30.95%
Utilities (Total)	45.18%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>100%</b>

## W.S. Outreach Report

By [Debbie Schum](#), W.S. Outreach Director

On July 23, I was one of several speakers at a Delta County ConFab hosted by Ron Bain of the Western Slope Watchdog Newspaper, where I am also a regular political columnist. The ConFab was well attended by concerned citizens from

several different counties. My speech centered on how we as citizens are trying to play baseball on a football field...we don't know the basic principles, let alone the rules. I asked how many people there had read the US Constitution and the Bill of Rights. I then asked how many there believed these documents applied to them (almost all raised their hands). I then explained to them how they were wrong: that these documents are the rules of and restrictions on our government, not us.

The speech was well received, and I even signed autographs—much to the chagrin of the keynote speaker, Rick Wagner, a Republican cheerleader columnist for the Grand Junction Daily Sentinel Newspaper. Our message is finally ringing some bells with the citizenry.

I have been networking with other groups on issues where their political views overlap with ours. One I am particularly excited about and would like to share is [www.icaucus.org](http://www.icaucus.org) I urge you to look at their website.

I am also the western slope repository for 3 important state wide petitions. Please look at these websites as well:

<http://www.cotaxreform.com/>

<http://www.limitcodebt.com/>

<http://www.limitpropertytax.com/>

Remember—if someone hadn't conceived of these ideas, and others hadn't helped circulate them, you wouldn't be able to sign them. Please consider committing to collecting 100 signatures on each of these petitions. We make a difference by acting, not just talking.

## Letters To The Editor:

### The Libertarian Opportunity - By Curtis Harris:

Freedom Fest '09 was time well spent for me. As the name implies, the conference was focused on economic freedom, free markets and libertarian ideas. Given that focus, and America's political and economic climate, the general tone of the conference sessions was negative for the short-term and guarded for the long-term. Essentially, America is suffering because of an overgrown federal government and its economic errors over the past 10 years. To make matters worse, the current administration is continuing those errors while dramatically increasing deficit spending and federal power over the economy. I found the contributions by Steve Forbes (Forbes magazine), Peter Schiff (Euro-Pacific Capital), David Boaz (Cato Institute), John Fund (Wall Street Journal), Keith Fitz-Gerald (Fitz-Gerald Research) and Tom Woods (Author) most valuable among the many speakers on a wide range of topics.

As an indication of the consensus opinion on the economy, the most positive view came from Larry Kudlow of CNBC. After admitting he was wrong about a recovery starting in the last half of '09, he predicted 2-3% growth in 2010. None of the other speakers I heard predicted that much economic growth. They pointed to the continuing fiscal and monetary irresponsibility of the Federal government and the Democrat plans for Cap and Trade taxes and the nationalization of healthcare as reasons for pessimism. Their predictions ranged from mild recovery coupled with double-digit inflation to depression and deflation. Their primary concern was the value of the U.S. dollar. With the Federal Reserve continuing to maintain artificially low interest rates and the Congress and the President running up ever higher budget deficits, the dollar will continue to lose value. The only point of disagreement was on the severity of the decline and its timing. Peter Schiff made a convincing case that, in the near future, the countries now buying US Treasury debt will stop doing so. They will, if they have not already, recognize the unsustainable nature of our fiscal and monetary policies, and act to protect themselves from the US dollar's decline. When they stop buying our debt, the Federal Reserve will print money to buy it and set off high, if not hyper, inflation. His message, largely confirmed by the other speakers, was to diversify assets into foreign stocks, precious metals and foreign currencies. Peter Schiff's 2007 book, *Crash Proof*, predicted today's economic crisis. He has a new book coming out in October, *Crash Proof 2.0*. He is also considering a run for the Senate from Connecticut. See [www.SchiffforSenate.com](http://www.SchiffforSenate.com) for more information.

The political message from the conference was less clear. There was, no surprise, widespread condemnation of the Democrats and their plans to turn America into a socialist state. There was also much criticism of George Bush and the Republicans for their blunders over the past eight years. Essentially, they abandoned free market principles and participated in the Federal spending binge. The political tone of the conference was decidedly libertarian - emphasizing our Constitution as well as economic and personal freedom. The speakers I heard danced around the issue of the Republican Party's future. They acknowledged a severe credibility issue, but could not admit the party's survival is in doubt. David Boaz did the best job of explaining the problem. American society, especially the younger generations, has become socially tolerant but remains politically center-right. The Republican Party is branded as socially intolerant and therefore cannot hope to attract the support necessary to regain power. So we are left with a big issue - What political force will arise to successfully counteract the rise of socialism in America?

The Campaign for Liberty (C4L) held one of their regional training conferences that somewhat overlapped Freedom Fest. This was by design so that the attendees of one could also participate in the other. C4L grew from Ron Paul's campaign for the Republican presidential nomination in 2008. C4L's focus seems to be on creating a grassroots network of liberty-minded people that can make a difference in future elections. C4L supports the US Constitution, the primacy of local government and personal and economic freedom. I see no difference between C4L's core principles and those of the Libertarian Party.

The hopeful note that ran through Freedom Fest and the C4L sessions was the recognition that there is a widespread, although not yet well organized, movement in support of liberty in America. The best example is the Tea parties held around the country on April 15th and July 4th. Many of these events have attracted large crowds concerned about the future of freedom in America. There are also several emerging efforts on the web that oppose the actions of the Federal government and target the Congress as the problem. Two examples are [www.downsizedc.org](http://www.downsizedc.org) and [www.kickthemallout.com](http://www.kickthemallout.com). I hope we see a melding of these groups into a political movement.

My personal view is that the Republican Party is broken beyond repair. The party's broken brand will never be able to attract support from significant numbers of young people and unaffiliated voters. America is likely to

have a three party system for the next few years - the dedicated socialists of the Democrat party, aging Republicans and the religious right, and a diverse group of liberty-minded people coalescing into a new political force. This third 'party' will be seeking an identity and organizing principles. The Libertarian Party, although not a significant factor in national politics today, can be the organizational structure that gives this movement an ideological home and a logistical base from which to grow. I believe the Libertarian Party has an opportunity and an obligation to be proactive in marketing to young people and unaffiliated voters in order to build itself into a third party capable of winning congressional elections and, at least, influencing the outcome of presidential elections.

Everything I heard at Freedom Fest was consistent with the ideas and strategy in my book, *"It's the Congress, Stupid!"*, available at [www.defeatcongress.org](http://www.defeatcongress.org).

### Board Of Health Vote - By David K. Williams, Jr.:

The recent state Board of Health vote against restricting the rights of medical marijuana patients and caregivers was certainly a victory for the citizens of Colorado and for freedom. However, board president Glenn Schlabs' quote in the article is a cause for concern.

Schlabs said, "I don't believe we need to model our rule-making on comments of the people who came forward to speak today. I don't feel compelled to fashion regulation that appeals to you. That's why we're the board of health."

Nearly 15,000 Colorado residents are expected to use medical marijuana by 2010. These patients, plus hundreds of others who came to the Auraria campus Monday, deserve to have their voices heard. Schlabs implied that Monday's testimony against the proposal was meaningless to him and as a board member, he has the privilege of making decisions for Coloradans without fairly considering every perspective. Why have a public hearing if the public is irrelevant?

**This letter to the editor appeared in the [Denver Post](#) on July 23, 2009.**

### There Is Only Fraud - By David K. Williams, Jr.:

This is in response to Ryan Neece's letter to the editor where he sings the praises of government over private enterprise.

Of course, Neece is right that fraud in the private sector should not be tolerated, which is why fraud is illegal and contract law exists.

However, he fails to recognize that the Ponzi scheme for which Bernie Madoff received 150 years in prison is imposed upon every one of us by the government.

It's called "Social Security".

The government promised to take money from workers, keep it in a trust fund and return it upon retirement. Just like Madoff, however, the government takes the money from today's "investors" and gives it directly to yesterday's "investors".

There is no "trust fund". There is no "investment".

There is only fraud.

**This letter to the editor appeared in the [Craig Daily Press](#) on July 28, 2009.**

### Aurora Activists Consider Opposing Tax Increase - By Jim Frye:

On July 13, 2009 the Aurora City Council, on a 9-0 vote, approved placing a property tax increase initiative/referral on the 2009 ballot.

Local residents collected over 700 petition signatures to present to city council for consideration.

The initiative/referral, for a General Improvement District, would be dedicated to funding the city's library system. Since this is not a Special District, there will be no separate board to oversee the library operations. The library will continue to be run as a city department.

Currently the Library system is funded from the city's general fund and is provided over \$7 million dollars per year. If this initiative/referral is approved, the \$7 million currently going to the libraries will be redirected to the city's general fund.

The city's "facts" sheet notes that "The initial GID tax levy is anticipated to be 4.29 mills which equates to about \$5.69 per month for a home with a market value of \$200,000. The Library General Improvement District would have the authority to set an annual property tax mill levy to generate up to \$12,514,000, adjusted for inflation, to fully fund library services."

In addition to the property tax increase, the measure would allow for yearly property tax increases to match the inflation rate.

With this effort the city general fund will be receiving an additional \$7 million each year (what used to go to the libraries) and the residents will have an additional \$12 million dollar property tax burden.

Of all the measures the city has looked at to reduce expenses, there has never been any discussion about reducing city employee pay or benefits. This initiative/referral has a built in "de-brucing", with the automatic adjustment each year for inflation. In essence the city gets a property tax increase for libraries, increases the funds going to their general operations and place the initiative/referral on the ballot under the guise of helping the libraries.

Given the hard economic times that the city residents are facing, the city council has no shame about placing

this tax increase on the ballot this fall.

If you are interested in opposing this measure, please contact [Jim Frye](#).

### Ignore All Of The "Sky Is Falling" Pronouncements - By Terry W. Donze:

Interesting that Michael Bowman thinks we can't "ignore the science" that warming is happening. What science is he willing to ignore? That which shows that natural forces account for 99.81 percent or greater of all climate change? Or ignore the fact that new additions of CO<sub>2</sub> to the atmosphere will have negligible effect on temperature? Or perhaps the fact that major CO<sub>2</sub> increases have occurred on average 800 years after temperatures increase, since oceans give off CO<sub>2</sub> as they warm?

Perhaps we should ignore the unreliable temperature data in the U.S. and elsewhere due to their corrupted locations and databases. Or should we ignore the past decade of global cooling and the total lack of sunspots that help warm the Earth? Or the satellite temperature data showing no warming? What science should we ignore, Mr. Bowman?

Maybe we should also ignore the economics of the Waxman/Markey bill as presented by the Congressional Budget Office, showing the cost approaching another \$1 trillion.

Better yet, perhaps we should ignore all of the "sky is falling" pronouncements of the people who think they can control the weather.

*This letter to the editor appeared in the Denver Post on June 28, 2009.*

### [The Fed Under Fire](#)

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