

The Libertarian Penn

The Official Newsletter of the
Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania

October 5, 2023



DON'T TREAD ON ME



The LPPA Rallies for the Salvation Army

Photo by: Michael Mastrocola

Don't forget to check out the
new LPPA merchandise at

shop.LPPA.org

The Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania donated perishable items to the Salvation Army during the in-person meeting of the Board of Directors held at the Best Western Premier, Harrisburg, the site of the 2024 LPPA Convention!

Meet Our Candidates!

Election Day is
November 7th

Butler County, PA
www.lpbutler.com/candidates

Don't forget you have the RIGHT
to exercise a Write-In vote!



Gregory Woll

County: Schuylkill

Office: Schuylkill County Commissioner

Gregory Woll is a Schuylkill County native whose journey led him to enlisting in the military in 2003, immediately after graduating from Schuylkill Haven High School. Choosing to honor his family's legacy, he embarked on his military journey, ultimately serving with the 365th Engineering Battalion, in Schuylkill Haven, and later transitioned to active duty with the 4th Infantry Division stationed in Fort Hood, Texas. Gregory's commitment took him to Iraq for two deployments in 2005 and 2007, during which he pursued his educational aspirations, earning an associate degree in Information Technology.

Post his military tenure, Gregory assumed a role in his family's renewable energy business within Schuylkill County. He continued his pursuit of higher education with determination, acquiring bachelor's and master's degree in Information Science and Cyber Security from Pennsylvania State University where he was active in the Blue and White Society. Gregory was also involved with the Student Veterans of America and The Young Americans for Liberty during his time at University.

His professional path continued with roles at the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, The PA Gaming Control Board, and his current role as Principal Cyber Security Engineer at Trimble. Beyond his career, Gregory remained dedicated to community service, contributing to the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life and providing leadership within a local Cub Scout Pack. Greg is a member of the VFW and the American Legion, Post 38 Robert E. Baker, Schuylkill Haven. With almost two decades of marriage and four children, Gregory contemplated a commissioner role as early as 2015, fueled by his belief in fiscal responsibility, preservation of personal liberties, and steadfast commitment to elevating individual rights within all decision-making processes.

Website: www.woll4commissioner.com



Pete Schwarze

Jefferson Twp

Supervisor

The ONLY Jefferson Twp supervisor in history to motion to end the per capita tax, with a vote coming in October.
The only Jefferson twp supervisor in history to put forth the motion to end the twp property tax, with a vote coming in October

To find a local libertarian affiliate in your area visit: www.lppa.org/about/affiliates

Important information from our Elections Committee!

Election Day is rapidly approaching, and our candidates are working on their campaign leading into November 7th. Boro Council, Township Supervisor, and School Board races are being contested in counties like Adams, Armstrong, Berks, Butler, Delaware, Erie, Lancaster, Lycoming, Washington and York. Gregory Woll is running for County Commissioner in Schuylkill County. Shannon Wheeler is running for Magisterial District Judge in Dauphin County. If you are looking to help these candidates on election day, please email elections@lppa.org and we will get you in touch with our candidates.

As you head out to the polls, here's a few commonly asked questions about our rights as voters:

1. Precinct election officials, clerks, inspectors, watchers, no more than 10 people in the process of voting, and police officers who have been called to preserve the peace are allowed inside or within 10 feet of the entrance to the polling place. All others, including campaign volunteers handing out campaign material must stay at least 10 feet away from the entrance.
2. Campaign material can be taken into the polling station but cannot be left behind.
3. Campaign gear may be worn while voting as long as you are not an election official or poll watcher.
4. If your name is not on the voter list, ask the election official to check the list again or look at the supplemental list, which contains all recent changes to the voting rolls. Verify your polling station ahead of time at VOTESPA.COM and if you believe you are in the right place but not on the list, ask for a provisional ballot.
5. Court cases have found a First Amendment right to take pictures of oneself voting. One must take care not to disclose the selections of other voters.

October 23rd is the last day to register to vote in the November election and October 31 is the last day to request a mail in ballot. If you have any questions about anything voter related, please email elections@lppa.org and thank you for supporting our great candidates!

LPPA Elections Committee



Joseph (Joey) R Winter
County: Northampton
Office: Washington Township Auditor

Joey Winter here. 30 year old avid gardener and soil specialist. Food Hub volunteer at Mission of Love. Started a community victory garden in 2023 at Pennico Park in Bangor. On the lookout for neighbors in need, particularly the elderly. I enjoy endeavoring on hiking and camping trips all year round, solo or with friends, exploring forests, building campfires, and practicing mindful meditation. I believe in freedom, peace, and justice.

Facebook: Joseph Winter
X (Twitter): AgoristsAxioms



Tom E. Williams
County: Luzerne
Office: Hazle Township Auditor

A proud husband & father that strives to be a better man every day that I am gifted life by God. I believe in Family-Faith-Freedom and focus as such. I aim to help limit government while learning all that I can as a rookie in politics.

Get to know your 2023 LPPA Candidates for Public Office!
lppa.org/candidates/



"Controversy is only dreaded by the advocates of error" Benjamin Rush

Bridging the Gap on

Written by: Michael Mastrocola

It's been 103 days since the LPPA convention and the Board of Directors were together once again with an in person meeting in Harrisburg, PA. Even though there was some uncertainty on how the meeting would operate due to our new Bylaws, the BoD eased into conducting business with an old familiarity adding a new twist.

I have to admit, I was more than curious how the in-person meeting would turn out. I wasn't sure of the improvised procedure or how the Affiliate Council and Executive Board would work together. 103 days of back-and-forth phone calls, texts and emails with regular business meetings, emergency meetings, Committee meetings and office hours trying to find a way to sort it all out. Seemingly to no avail. In the days leading up to the meeting, I was asking myself if this was even worth it and even contemplated stepping away from Committee work.

Once business started, I realized how similar this was to the former BoD meetings and felt more at ease with when I can speak. I really

enjoyed having Council Representatives right there with me to ask them questions on the fly during some of the debates. I also benefitted from meeting fellow Committee Chairs and heard some really great initiatives going on. Everyone adapted so quickly that it seems natural to stick with meeting together.

Business itself was a little wonky but those minor kinks are easily worked out, for instance, at one point I tried to bring a motion from the floor during the wrong time and was ruled out of order. Infuriating and embarrassing. However, some quick thinking with Council Representatives, our Affiliate Chair was able to bring the motion forward. I don't recall what that motion was, ... (cont. p.4)

... I remember thinking having all of us together again was a major improvement over meeting separately and how easy it was to find a solution to the issue at hand.

Overall, I believe combining the meetings will be a success and confident the Affiliate Council and Executive Board will have an easier time proceeding forward with business. I hope all the positive energy in the room propelled us into looking at things with a fresh perspective and gives us the courage to keep moving forward.



Renew your the LPPA today!
lppa.org/contribute/join/



Why Voters Elect Presidents They Oppose

By Roy Minet (Rev. – 2023/05/12)

Polling data strongly indicate that our most recent two presidents were opposed by a majority of the voters who elected them. All signs point toward electing a president in 2024 that will again be opposed by a majority of voters. Impossible? Well, no, it's not; and it has nothing to do with the much-maligned Electoral College.

Just prior to the 2016 election, polling by Pew Research indicated that only 32% of registered voters said they were either "very warm" or "somewhat warm" for candidate Trump, while 55% indicated they were "very cold" or "somewhat cold" toward him. On the other hand, only 36% said they were either "very warm" or "somewhat warm" for candidate Clinton, while 53% said they were "very cold" or "somewhat cold" toward Hillary.

Another Pew poll revealed that only 33% were happy with the choice of candidates while a whopping 63% were not happy with their choices. Other polls (e.g. Gallup) confirmed this bleak scenario as well.

Suppose that a simple "for-or-against" referendum had been held on whether or not voters wanted Trump to be president. The data say that he would have lost decisively. If a similar "for-or-against" referendum had been held for Clinton, it appears she too would have lost.

So, if a solid majority of voters disliked Trump and also disliked Clinton, why did they elect one of them? It is because they had no way to vote against any candidate. Voters can only vote for one candidate. Therefore, they voted for a candidate they didn't like because they feared the election of a candidate they liked even less! It's called "voting for the lesser evil."

The main cause of these woes is hiding in plain sight: it is continued use of the Plurality voting method. For 250 years, it has been known that Plurality is truly horrible. Not only can it foster polarization, but it frequently does not choose the correct winner – the one with which voters would be most satisfied. Plurality is killing us and needs to be replaced with a very much better voting method.

Why are divisive presidential candidates nominated so often? It's largely because Plurality is employed for primary elections and is nearly worthless at identifying the correct winner when there are three or more candidates. Feckless Plurality enabled Trump defeat many competitors to become the 2020 Republican nominee and promises to do so again in 2024.

A strongly polarizing candidate also turns out to be the best strategy to win elections. Here is how that works.

Most presidential elections in key swing states are decided by less than 5 or 6 percentage points, frequently less than 2. Since voter turnout is only in the 60% range at best, political parties believe (correctly) that increasing the turnout of their "base" voters is the path to gaining that few additional percentage points needed to secure a win. With intense polarization, there is no hope of attracting voters from the opposite camp.

(cont. p.8)

Thus, parties are motivated to nominate more "extreme" candidates that will draw their base voters to the polls. Voters also are strongly motivated because they mortally fear a win by the candidate at the opposite extreme. It would be hard to create a more divisive situation if that were the goal. Obviously, Plurality's pernicious aspects adversely affect elections at all levels.

The political landscape has degenerated to Blue versus Red gangs; both ruthlessly fighting to gain and retain power at virtually any cost. "Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely!" Witness the disintegration of fundamental institutions and order in our society. Political polarization is so intense that it is even causing people to relocate, thereby building geographic polarization.

Many citizens seem to sense that "something" is wrong. The Gallup organization's tracking of nationwide party affiliation reveals long-term steady declines in adherents for both the Republican Party and the Democrat Party. The most recent sample (March 1, 2023) shows only 25% each for Blue and Red. Those rejecting both gangs have grown to 49%, very nearly the majority. However, the 49% are not an effectively organized force, which makes it easy for the two gangs to neutralize and ignore them.

Apparently, no alternative candidate, however wonderful, can gain media coverage and voter consideration in the face of the intense vote-for-the-lesser-evil pressures engendered by Plurality. They are further impeded by the barriers to competition erected by the gangs (e.g. gerrymandering, exclusion from debates and high hurdles to ballot access).

To move things in a more harmonious direction – not to mention elect better leaders – elections need to function more like referenda. That is, voters must be empowered to vote both for candidates they like and also against candidates they do not like.

A voting method called AADV (Approve/Approve/Disapprove Voting), proposed in 2020, gives voters the options to approve of either one or two candidates and also to disapprove of one. Each candidate's disapprovals subtract from its approvals; the candidate with the highest (positive) net total of approvals is elected.

Thus, it is harder for divisive candidates to win. Widely acceptable candidates with few negatives become the more likely winners. Polarization is reduced rather than exacerbated. With the option of two approvals, you can always vote for your true favorite and still weigh in on the lesser evil. This levels the field and enables all candidates to obtain a fairer hearing and meaningful voter consideration.

Even with many candidates, AADV continues to far more reliably choose the candidate that maximizes voter satisfaction. The best strategy to win elections will no longer be to nominate the most polarizing and highly divisive candidate!

For more information:

Course: <https://home4liberty.org/courses/>

More details: <http://royminet.org/voting-elections/>