



LP News

Appreciating
behind-the-scenes
Libertarians

Pages 8–9

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Libertarian Sen. Ebke elected to chair Nebraska Judicial Committee

On January 4, Nebraska State Senator Laura Ebke was chosen by the state unicameral legislature to head the Judiciary Committee. She also sits on the Education Committee.

Committee chairs are elected by a secret ballot of the legislature. Out of 19 legislators who were elected to chairmanships, Ebke was one of only two who is not a Republican. Democrat Justin Wayne was elected to chair the Urban Affairs Committee.

"In a legislative body dominated about two to one by Republicans, elected on a non-partisan ballot, I'm honored to have been elected to chair the Judiciary Committee by colleagues," Ebke said. "They know I'm both a libertarian

and a Libertarian, and elected me without opposition, from both of the old parties. I'm grateful for their support."

"In the Nebraska legislature, all bills are entitled to a hearing," she continued. "The Judiciary Committee is responsible for hearing bills that deal with criminal and civil procedures, corrections issues, issues that touch on assorted civil liberties and constitutional rights. The chair is responsible for scheduling hearings on all legislation coming to the committee, and once hearings have been held, for scheduling executive sessions which would either move a bill onto the floor, or hold it in committee."



Laura Ebke

continued on page 5...

"I'm honored to have been elected to chair the Judiciary Committee by colleagues. They know I'm both a libertarian and a Libertarian, and elected me without opposition, from both of the old parties."

—Sen. Laura Ebke (L–Neb.)

Federal court hearing in LPF v. FEC gives hope for more open debates

A glimmer of hope finally appeared in a lawsuit against the Federal Election Commission (FEC) aimed at requiring it to enforce the laws that the Commission on Presidential Debates (CPD) is violating.

On Jan. 5, Judge Tanya Chutkan heard oral argument in the case, in which the Libertarian National Committee is a co-plaintiff, in a federal court in Washington, D.C.

The lawsuit, filed by Level the Playing Field (LPF), arises from an administrative complaint the group filed with the FEC. The FEC dismissed the complaint with little acknowledgement of the bountiful evidence provided by LPF.

As a nonprofit organization, CPD is

required by law to be nonpartisan and to use objective criteria for determining who may participate in their debates.

Key points argued by LPF's lead attorney, Alexandra Shapiro, included:

- The chairs and most of the board members of the CPD are Democratic and Republican partisans, and many contributed to Democratic and Republican presidential candidates during the last cycle.
- The CPD uses subjective candidate-selection criteria designed to exclude third-party and independent candidates.

- Expert reports showed that, to meet the CPD's requirement for candidates to poll at or above 15 percent, a candidate must achieve 60–80 percent name recognition, at a cost of at least \$265 million.

Shapiro pointed out that the CPD's rules present a Catch-22 for independent and third-party candidates. They need to raise \$265 million to acquire the name recognition necessary to be included in the debates, but can't raise that money unless they possess a reasonable chance of being included in the debates.

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Judge Tanya Chutkan

CHAIR'S CORNER

All freedoms, all Americans, all the time

by Nicholas Sarwark, Chair

The election is over. One old-party president has left after eight years of increasing government spending and debt. Another old-party president has been inaugurated with promises of rolling back the free markets and open society that made America great.



Nicholas Sarwark

As Libertarians, we recognize that both old parties fight against the freedoms that Americans hold dear. They may differ in the small details, but both old parties want to take more of your money to fund more government control over the economy, the world, and your personal life. Only the Libertarian Party stands proudly for individual freedom over government control: all freedoms, all people, all the time.

As we enter the new president's term, the Libertarian Party will stand as a real opposition party. An opposition party with a distinct vision for America, a vision that is not left or right, a vision that is just free. While the two old parties are busy jockeying for position to determine which one can give your tax dollars to their corporate cronies, the Libertarian Party will be countering big-government proposals, whether they come from the left or the right, with small-government proposals, and upholding the best principles that America was founded on.

Libertarian Party candidates are already running in

special elections and gearing up for the 2017 elections in those states which hold odd-year elections. The Libertarian Party is fighting for ballot access in those 13 states where we didn't get or retain ballot access from the record-breaking 2016 presidential election showing. Our legal team is working to strike down bad laws about access to ballots, presidential debates, and any other place where the old parties have colluded to stop the Libertarian voice from being heard.

We couldn't do any of this without you. Membership in the Libertarian Party has risen to over 20,000—75 percent above where it was a year ago. To all of you who have found your new political home: thank you for joining. If each one of you reading this column would convince just one of your friends or family members to join the Libertarian Party this year, we would double our impact on American politics. We already punch far above our weight; will you help us take it to the next level?

It's hard to predict what a new president will do. What we can be sure of is that the Libertarian Party will support any moves to expand individual freedom and that the Libertarian Party will stand up against any moves to expand government control. Doing that—no matter the issue and whether or not there is any short-term political gain—is what distinguishes us from the old parties and makes us the true opposition party in America. Thank you for standing with us for all freedoms, of all Americans, all the time.

Yours in liberty,
Nicholas J. Sarwark



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The following individual became a Beacon of Liberty contributor:

John R. Kuhn



The following individuals became Lifetime Founder contributors:

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Contribute today: LP.org/office-fund

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LP News

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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NC Libertarian for governor blows past tight margin, retains ballot access

by Christopher Goins and
Carla Howell

For the third time in a row, the North Carolina LP (LPNC) preserved its ballot access status for the next four years, when Lon Cecil won more than 2 percent of the vote for governor in the November 2016 election. The Libertarians are the only party in North Carolina history to achieve this other than the Democrats and Republicans.

Cecil received 102,977 votes, more than ten times the margin of victory between the Democrat, Roy Cooper, and the incumbent, Republican Pat McCrory. Cooper won the election just 10,277 votes (0.2 percent) ahead of McCrory.

Cecil secured party status by squeezing by the 2 percent requirement with 2.19 percent of the vote, saving the LP over \$100,000 in petitioning costs that would have been needed to regain ballot status.

Cecil received 102,977 votes, more than ten times the margin of victory between the Democrat, Roy Cooper, and the incumbent, Republican Pat McCrory.



Lon Cecil

The party made another historic first when Gary Johnson earned 2.72 percent of the vote for president.

"It is indeed a great year to be a Libertarian," said Brian Irving, LPNC chair. "We're extremely proud of this double accomplishment. It's a fitting testament to the hard work of thousands of volunteers and all of our candidates."

While gubernatorial votes were being tabulated in the days following the election, Irving noted, "Regardless of which establishment-party candidate wins, it's clear the Libertarian Party made a significant impact on this race."

In another showing of the party's impact, Libertarian David Ulmer handily beat the margin in his race for State House District 49 in Wake County. Democrat Cynthia Ball unseated incumbent Republican Gary Pendleton by 852 votes in one of the most expensive general assembly races in the state. Ulmer pulled in 2,258 votes, well more than twice the margin of victory.

"We're sure the Republicans and Democrats will continue to spread the falsehood that we Libertarians are 'spoilers' or 'steal

"We're sure the Republicans and Democrats will continue to spread the falsehood that we Libertarians are 'spoilers' or 'steal' votes from them," Irving said. "But the truth is, we don't. People are just fed up with the two-party duopoly that has failed them in so many ways, at so many levels."

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them in so many ways, at so many levels."

Cecil says he received e-mail after the election from both sides "screaming" that he stole the election from their particular candidate.

"Next morning I got [e-mail] from them swearing that I should turn my votes over to their favorite candidate," Cecil said. "The reality of it is, as a Libertarian I was running so that people had an ability to express their opinion and desires beyond the two major parties, by retaining ballot access."

Cecil says that voters told him in the lead-up to the election that they couldn't vote for McCrory or Cooper and declared their intentions to vote for him.

"I definitely got votes from both sides," he said, but notes that "there's no doubt" his presence in the race caused Republican McCrory to lose.

Cecil met voters at gun shows, street fairs, and other public events. He worked with LP county affiliates and even high-schoolers, who passed out literature, to spread news of his campaign.

He says many of them planned to vote for Donald Trump for president and to leave blank the rest of the ballot. But he believes he persuaded them to at least vote for himself and Sean Haugh, the Libertarian U.S. Senate candidate.

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Networks black out third-party candidates

Of all the ways that the powers that be discriminate against alternative parties in American elections, perhaps none beats the mainstream news media's formidable power to black out ballot-qualified candidates.

Despite the fact that in 2016, Libertarian Gov. Gary Johnson received approximately 10 times more media coverage than any other presidential candidate in the party's history, he received just 0.01 percent of the airtime on ABC, CBS, and NBC national evening newscasts between Jan. 1 and Aug. 31 — the critical period during the election year when candidates need to build name recognition — according to

"Our Libertarian candidate's ability to pull in four and a half million votes while the networks black us out is a testament to the popularity of our ideas and voters' growing willingness to vote outside the box."
—Nicholas Sarwark, LNC Chair

an analysis by the Media Research Center.

Republican Donald Trump received nearly 10,000 times more airtime than Johnson, while Democrat Hillary Clinton received more than 5,000 times as much.

If the networks were not biased, such a massive discrepancy in news coverage would suggest that Libertarians were on track to win just one vote out of every thousand cast. But Johnson received 33 votes out of every thousand votes cast, and would have been included in the debates and received many times more votes had the news regularly covered his campaign.

Polls in 2016 repeatedly showed that a solid majority of Americans wanted more choices for president than just Clinton and Trump. They would have welcomed news of more choices.

"The networks' bias against alternative parties clearly demonstrates that they have a political agenda that is a higher priority than good ratings," said Carla Howell, political director for the Libertarian National Committee.

Johnson was mentioned once on "NBC Nightly News," for a total of 11 seconds. He was not mentioned on any

Time spent covering presidential candidates on ABC, CBS, and NBC evening newscasts from Jan. 1 – Aug. 31, 2016

	Trump	Clinton	Johnson
Total seconds	106,380	61,200	11
Percent of airtime	63.46%	36.51%	0.01%
Vote totals	45.95%	48.04%	3.28%

Source: NewsBusters.org

ABC or CBS evening news broadcasts during that period, although he appeared on ABC's "This Week" and was discussed on CBS's "Face the Nation" and "CBS This Morning."

In spite of this crushing bias, Johnson received 4,488,919 votes, or 3.28 percent, of the total vote.

In an article about the analysis published by NewsBusters, author Rich Noyes wrote, "Not since Ross Perot in 1996 has

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Is it time to start or expand a local Libertarian affiliate in your area?

by Laura Ann Valle

Local affiliate groups are the backbone of the Libertarian Party. They play a critical role in recruiting and supporting candidates, growing the party, and garnering media attention. In a handful of states, such as Virginia and Texas, state law also requires local affiliates to nominate candidates in their districts.

Do you live in an area with no local LP affiliate? Try starting one!

Undoubtedly there are other liberty-minded members of your community. Wouldn't you like to meet them and see whether they are interested in creating a Libertarian Party affiliate with you? They may be thrilled to get your call.

Bob Johnston, who is the affiliate and candidate support specialist for the national LP and has been the successful Maryland LP state chair for 12 years, suggests, "Decide on a project to focus on. It could be recruiting candidates, regular outreach events, or lobbying, for example." This gives the group an immediate sense of purpose, against which to measure results.

"Decide on a project to focus on."

—Bob Johnston, chair of LP Maryland

When Libertarian Alex Appleby of Stockton, Calif., found there was no local chapter in his area, he got one started. He ran for congress in 2016 in U.S. House District 9, so growing the local party was a natural way to build support for his campaign. As an army veteran and professional financial planner, he already had the leadership experience to step up to the challenge.

His state leadership initially mailed out postcards to everyone in his area that they had on their contact list. Then Alex went to work, generating excitement for the first kick-off meeting.

"I created a flyer to advertise our first meeting, and for weeks I just talked to everyone I could," said Appleby. "I targeted everyone."

At his first meeting, he had about 15 attendees, with more than half coming from his new contacts. More recently, he has seen as many as 25–30 come out for events.

In the Texas LP, Kerry Douglas McKennon of Petersburg and Anastasia Wilford of Jacksonville head up the county coordination team for new affiliates.



Anastasia Wilford

They have created a county affiliate starter kit, with step-by-step instructions. It includes specific advice for what a new county leader should do within the first few months of forming an affiliate.

"The biggest complaint we have heard over the years from new county af-

filiates is that they wanted more materials and support from the state party," said Wilford. Now she and McKennon get to know the new leaders, and provide them with resources and constant support.

Before the 2016 convention, the total number of county affiliates had dropped from a high of about 80 down to 50.

Since then, they have launched 12 more, and have 10 more starting up.

"Our goal is half of the 254 [counties], by 2018," said McKennon.

Texas Libertarians are willing to share their county starter kit with Libertarians in other states. To get a copy, send an e-mail message to the county support team at Counties@LPTexas.org and ask for a copy.

The national LP also offers resources for affiliates at its LPStore.org and LPAction.org websites. They provide information and branded LP materials such as literature, signs, stickers, pop-up banners, business cards, and shirts.

Former LP Washington state chair C. Michael Pickens suggests creating local round-table events or discussion panels, and inviting local community leaders, authors, business owners, and elected officials. This gets conversation going about issues from a Libertarian perspective. "Talk to your local Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club, Toastmasters, or other community groups. Network and get to know people in your area, and find out what issues matter most to them," he said.

"You only need three things in order to grow your local party affiliate: your community has to know you, like you, and trust you," advises Pickens. "Be proud of your party affiliation. Be proud to be a Libertarian."

Some local affiliates have become inactive, which can happen as leaders move away or lose interest. By spreading out the work among many members, groups can continue to thrive, even when key players move on.

After the Libertarian National Convention in Florida in 2016, Derek Ryan found that his Orlando affiliate needed a new infusion of members, with many of the local leaders having held the same positions for years. Meeting attendance had dropped off and they needed help supporting Libertarian candidates in the run-up to the November elections.

"When the older members and I sat down and talked about where we had areas of mutual agreement, we found our goals were essentially the same: to grow the Libertarian Party," said Ryan. "Since then, we have seen tremendous excitement and growth." •



Kerry McKennon

Tips for forming a local LP affiliate

1. Consider attending meetings of other local affiliates. This can give you ideas. Some may agree to come to your first few meetings to help get things started.
2. Ask your state leadership for access to a list of members and prospects in your area. Find your state's contact information here: LP.org/state-affiliates
3. Consider getting a list of registered Libertarians voters in your area, if available.
4. Find a local business, restaurant, or other suitable location that will allow you to host regular meetings.
5. Plan your kick-off meeting several weeks in advance.
6. Use any combination of social media, print flyers, postcards, phone calls, and ads in local print media to promote your event. A Meetup subscription costs \$3–5 per month.
7. Visit LPStore.org or contact your state party to get materials you may want to hand out.
8. At your meetings, always have sign-up sheets laid out to gather contact information of everyone who attends, especially newcomers.
9. Recruit volunteers to fill functions you need, such as social media, recruiting or vetting candidates, managing your list, and fundraising.
10. Keep in touch with attendees before and after meetings.
11. Hold meetings at the same place, day, and time every month.
12. Be patient, and know that it may take several meetings for the number of attendees to grow.
13. Be sure to follow state and local law regarding election paperwork filings, fundraising, business meetings, and election of local officers.
14. Feel free to contact national LP staff members Bob Johnston, candidate and affiliate support specialist (Bob.Johnston@LP.org) and Andy Burns, state affiliate development specialist (Andy.Burns@LP.org) for suggestions and assistance.

Libertarian earns key endorsements in special election

by Sandra Kallander

With barely a month to campaign for a special election in Virginia's 9th Senate District seat, Libertarian candidate Corey Fauconier earned two key endorsements, created two websites, wrote a campaign song, and knocked on the doors of voters.

For his Libertarian position on the Second Amendment and the right to bear arms, Fauconier secured the endorsement of Virginia Citizens Defense League PAC, whose chair, Bob Sadtler, said, "Corey Fauconier has gone on record with a very pro-gun survey.... Corey Fauconier is the only option for the preservation of individual liberties."

"Corey Fauconier is the only option for the preservation of individual liberties."

—Bob Sadtler, chair of Virginia Citizens Defense League PAC

State Senator Tom Garrett, a self-described constitutional conservative who had just won a second term in November, also endorsed Fauconier. On his Facebook page, Garrett said, "Everyone in Virginia's 9th Senatorial District, please vote for my good friend Corey Fauconier for State Senate on January 10th. Corey would be a tremendous advocate for the people of Virginia's 9th District and as such, I strongly encourage you to support him to be your next Senator!"

Fauconier ran on criminal justice re-

"Corey would be a tremendous advocate for the people of Virginia's 9th District and as such, I strongly encourage you to support him to be your next Senator!"

—State Sen. Tom Garrett

form, government transparency, and "opening the market" in education to include home schooling, charter schools, public schools, online schools, and vocational schools. He pledged to work tirelessly to "protect the rights of gun owners and ensure that every Virginian can defend themselves and their property."

Fauconier jumped at the chance to run for state office when the incumbent, a 20-year veteran of the Virginia General Assembly, won a seat in the U.S. House in November, triggering a special election.

Once the special election was scheduled, he had to move fast. Helped by about 20 volunteers, he had just five days to collect 250 valid signatures. His team turned in 400 signatures at 4:57 P.M. on December 5, 2016, with three minutes to spare.

Another, perennial candidate was reported to have caught a cold and failed to file, making it a two-way race.

Fauconier used his Facebook page to rally support and get out the vote, posting photos of his door-to-door canvass-

ing efforts in the snow. On January 10, he received 691 votes against McClellan, who won in the heavily Democratic district.

Fauconier has had experience with Libertarian campaigns, having been the communications director for J.J. Summerell's 2016 campaign for U.S. House District 1 in North Carolina and campaign manager for Carl Loser for Virginia State Senate in 2015. In both, he used hip-hop music to express why liberty is important to him, writing songs for each candidate.

Fauconier currently serves as the communications chair of the Libertarian Party of Virginia. •
Campaign website: FriendsForFauconier.us



Corey Fauconier

More 2016 endorsements

After publishing a list of candidate endorsements in the December issue, *LP News* learned that Bob Wilson, who ran for a seat in Delaware's House of Representatives District 7, had received the endorsement of Planned Parenthood, and that he had also received the maximum allowed donation from Law PAC of Delaware. •

Lon Cecil

...continued from page 3

Haug received 165,163 votes, or 3.57 percent, the highest vote total among the Libertarian candidates on the North Carolina ballot.

Libertarian Jacki Cole, who ran for lieutenant governor, received 130,252 votes, or 2.85 percent.

Lon Cecil also credits his success to his willingness to talk about issues that North Carolina voters cared about, such as medical marijuana, school choice, and coal-ash pollution. His opponents mainly focused on H.B. 2, the infamous "bathroom bill" which requires individuals to use the bathroom according to the sex listed on their birth certificate.

Neither the Democrat nor Republican would talk about marijuana, which the state taxes even though it's illegal. If a person is caught with marijuana that does not include a state-issued stamp, the State Tax Commission sends the offender a tax bill of \$3.50 per gram, or \$3,500 per kilo, that he must pay on top of criminal penalties.

Coal ash was another hot issue for voters. For years, crony-capitalist power companies have been dumping coal ash in ponds, which has polluted the water tables, forcing many residents to use bottled water. After testing the water, the state's Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) declared it to be unsafe. Republican politicians, including McCrory, subsequently ordered the DEQ to retract its statement.

Lon Cecil helped to fuel voters' distrust of politicians about this issue, contributing to McCrory's loss.

Cecil also credits his inclusion in gubernatorial debates with helping his vote total. The final debate, rebroadcasted on PBS, exposed him to at least 125,000 viewers, he says. •

Sen. Ebke in Nebraska

...continued from page 1

LNC Chair Nicholas Sarwark said, "I'm glad to see that her colleagues recognize Sen. Ebke's qualifications to be a thoughtful, pro-liberty chair of the Judiciary Committee in the Nebraska legislature. Her perspective and leadership in that position will be a benefit to Nebraskans from across the political spectrum."

Ebke has sponsored several bills for the current session.

LB34 changes a provision in election law to allow parties which have already established themselves in the state through the petition process to remain recognized if they have at least 10,000 registered voters. To do so currently, a party must receive at least 5 percent of the vote in a statewide race. This bill would allow voters to regis-

ter with parties that qualify, and would remove the cost of verifying signatures when a party that has lost party status petitions to regain ballot status.

LB167 would include cannabidiol (CBD) as a Schedule V controlled substance in Nebraska if it is rescheduled by the FDA as Schedule V.

LB299 would lessen the state's authority in regulating some professions which currently require a state license. If passed, it would open up jobs and stop the state from imposing itself in the labor market in most cases.

Sen. Ebke was elected to the legislature in 2014 and switched to the Libertarian Party in 2016. Her term lasts until 2018. •

Sen. Ebke's website: LauraEbke.com

Considering a run for office? Plan your race for 2017 or 2018 now.

Visit LP.org/run-for-office

and send us your inquiry. From your state LP affiliate or national LP headquarters, you'll receive information you need to get started, file your campaign, comply with your state's election laws, and get on the ballot.

Washington SOS breaks precedent to deny LP ballot status

by Bob Johnston and Carla Howell

Libertarian Parties in 37 states plus D.C. have ballot status, the highest ever for the LP after an election. But should it be 38?

The Libertarian Party of Washington is considering a lawsuit to challenge a ruling by Secretary of State Kim Wyman, who denied the LP party status by counting write-in votes among the total votes cast for president when figuring the vote percentage achieved by the LP's presidential candidate, Gov. Gary Johnson.

Typically, a candidate's vote percentage is based on the total votes cast for candidates whose names appear on the ballot or who are running a registered write-in campaign.

Wyman ignored 24 years of precedent in deciding to include write-in votes in the total, which lowered Johnson's vote result to 4.85 percent.... "The state has admitted that the presidential write-ins are not valid, because if they were valid, the state had a duty to list them on its certificate," said Richard Winger, publisher of *Ballot Access News*.

By this measure, Johnson won 5.1 percent of the vote, exceeding the 5 percent threshold required to achieve ballot status.

Wyman ignored 24 years of precedent in deciding to include write-in votes in the total, which served to suppress Johnson's vote result to 4.85 percent.

Despite precedent and a nearly 100-page document detailing what constitutes a vote in the state, the secretary will

not evaluate write-in ballots for their validity. This means that the votes for non-persons such as Harambe and Mickey Mouse are counted against the LP's ballot status.

Hypocritically, the secretary did not include write-ins either in the election-returns page on its website or in the certificate showing votes received by each candidate for presidential elector that it is required to file with the national archives. Washington state, which has a write-in filing procedure, does not require write-in presidential candidates to submit a list of presidential elector candidates, which means that presidential write-ins in the state are not valid.

"The state has admitted that the presidential write-ins are not valid, because if they were valid, the state had a duty to list them on its certificate," said Richard Winger, publisher of *Ballot Access News*. "Other states include write-in votes for president in their certificates."

Here's the status of some of the state affiliates who are not recognized parties or who are working to improve ballot-access requirements in their state.

Alabama

LP Alabama does not have party status, and it remains one of the most difficult states in which to run candidates. Libertarians have been lobbying legislators to improve ballot access. Sen. Cam Ward (R) has said he will re-introduce a bill to reduce signature requirements to 1.5 percent, down from the current requirement of 3 percent for governor in the most recent general election. Representatives of the Huntsville LP have said that Rep Mike Ball (R) will introduce the bill in the House.

Arkansas

The Arkansas LP plans to begin petitioning in March 2017 to get on the 2018 ballot. Subject to final approval, the LNC has allocated \$30,000 to help fund the drive.

The party is currently in court in the eighth circuit, opposing the law that forces newly qualifying parties to

choose all their nonpresidential nominees an entire year before the election. The LP won this lawsuit in U.S. District Court, but the state is appealing. It is likely that the LP will win in the eighth circuit as well. If so, the legislature will need to revise several ballot-access laws. It is hoped that the same bill will also relax the vote test, which is 3 percent for president or governor. In November 2016, Gary Johnson just missed with 2.64 percent.

California

Richard Winger of *Ballot Access News* reports signs of hope for overturning the state's draconian top-two open primary system that makes it nearly impossible for Libertarians to appear on general election ballots, except in races with only one Democrat or one Republican.

Democratic lawmakers, who make up more than two thirds in each chamber of the legislature, might put a measure on the 2018 ballot to repeal "top two." They oppose it because they don't like Democrats bashing each other in important races, including in general elections where sometimes both contenders are Democrats. It keeps the party disunited and soaks up millions in additional campaign expenditures.

Led by the *Los Angeles Times*, the big media in California advocated "top two" when it was on the ballot in June 2010, but have now turned against it. The *Times* has run

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Washington Secretary of State Kim Wyman changed the rules to exclude Libertarians.

Two more Republican officeholders join LP

Kankakee County Board Representative Jim Byrne of Illinois, and Ed Zielinski, an elected councilman of Elsmere, Delaware, have joined the Libertarian Party.

Byrne announced in December that he has officially joined the Illinois LP, and now serves as vice chairman of the new Kankakee County Libertarian Party central committee that was formed last fall.

Byrne has served on the Kankakee County Board since

"I joined the Libertarian Party because, as I said on my first day on the board, I am a Ron Paul Republican, a Libertarian who believes in small government that is accountable and transparent to the people," said Byrne.

March 2011. He won re-election in November and will serve a four-year term. He will remain as an elected Republican official.

"I have joined the Libertarian Party of Illinois, not because POTUS-Elect Trump was just elected or what Gov. Rauner is doing in Springfield, said Byrne. "I joined the Libertarian Party because, as I said to the *Daily Journal* on my first day on the board back in 2011, I am a Ron Paul Republican, a Libertarian who believes in small government that is accountable and transparent to the people."

Byrne's future plans on the board include consolidating and eliminating redundant taxing bodies, and downsizing the county board. He also wants to work toward offering Kankakee County citizens greater government transparency by video-streaming meetings online and putting the meetings on public-access television.

Zielinski was elected to the nonpartisan Elsmere town council seat in April 2015. He switched his party registra-

"I had received no support for liberty legislation," said Zielinski about switching parties. "The council has continually pushed for spending and tax increases."

tion to the Libertarian Party in September. His seat will be up for election in April 2017.

"I had received no support for liberty legislation," said Zielinski about switching parties. "The council has continually pushed for spending and tax increases."

"We're proud to have Ed join the Libertarian Party of Delaware," said Scott Gesty, chair of LP Delaware. "Ed has always been a strong advocate of liberty and we're honored to have him representing the people of Elsmere as a Libertarian." •

LP ballot access

...continued from page 6

three recent commentaries critical of top two, and none in support of the law.

Georgia

Georgia retained ballot status because three statewide candidates in 2016 received over 1 percent of the vote. However, LP Georgia (LPGA) does not qualify for automatic ballot access for local candidates.

Georgia's ballot-access laws for president were struck down in 2016 in a case filed by the Green and Constitution Parties. The state is appealing, and at the time of this writing the oral argument was scheduled for late January. Assuming the lawsuit wins again in the eleventh circuit, the state will be forced to improve its ballot-access laws.

It is hoped that in doing so, the state will also correct a draconian ballot-access law which effectively prohibits alternative parties from running candidates for U.S. House or state legislature. The state requires an astonishing 20,000 signatures to get a Libertarian on the ballot for U.S. House — a requirement that no alternative-party candidate has met in the law's 74-year existence.

However, LPGA has a rare opportunity to run a candidate in a special election for the U.S. House 6th District, because no signatures are required. The election will take place this spring if Tom Price is confirmed for the position of Secretary of Health and Human Services and therefore vacates his seat. LPGA is looking for a candidate for this race.

Illinois

At the time of this writing, LP Illinois (LPIL) is readying a proposal, due January 31, to reduce the number of signatures needed to

get on the ballot, and has identified several representatives who may sponsor it. However, the speaker of the house is expected to sideline the bill in the rules committee.

To get a candidate onto the ballot for state legislature or U.S. House, the state requires signatures equal to 5 percent of the votes cast for that office in that district. Under this rule, between 9,000 and 17,000 signatures are needed to get a candidate for U.S. House onto the ballot.

The party can get all its statewide candidates on the ballot by filing 25,000 valid signatures in the election year. The party typically turns in about 45,000 to overcome inevitable challenges to their petitions.

LPIL is also preparing to defend a ruling it won in federal court last year that declared Illinois's full-slate requirement to be unconstitutional. The full-slate requirement means that to be on the statewide ballot or on any countywide ballot, the party would need to field candidates for every statewide office or for every countywide office. This effectively barred Libertarians running for sheriff or county clerk without running for all of the open offices. That ruling has been appealed by Attorney General Lisa Madigan, the daughter of the speaker of the house.

Iowa

The December issue of *LP News* reported that, despite the fact that Iowa achieved ballot access for the first time ever due to Gov. Gary Johnson's receiving more than 2 percent of the vote for president, "the LP will need to gather approximately twice as many signatures to put a governor or U.S. Senate candidate on the ballot." This is incorrect. The number of signatures needed to put Libertarian gubernatorial and U.S. House candidates on the

ballot drops significantly, from 1,500 signatures to 296. The signatures needed for statewide office went down from 1,500 to 1,000.

Retention of major-party status is difficult, requiring a gubernatorial or presidential candidate to receive more than 300,000 votes, or about 20 percent of the vote. No Libertarian candidate for governor or president has ever received more than approximately 59,000 votes in Iowa.

Maine

As part of a settlement to satisfy the federal district court in a lawsuit that ruled in favor of the LP, the Maine Secretary of State has forwarded to the legislature two bills that will make ballot access easier for alternative parties.

One of the bills would require a party to have 10,000 registered voters, and require that at least 10,000 of those voters show up to vote. Alternatively, it could achieve party status if its candidate for president or governor receives 5 percent of the vote.

The second bill would create a system with two tiers, one for major parties and one for minor parties (those with 5,000 to 50,000 registered voters), the latter being allowed to nominate by convention, avoiding the requirement to petition or participate in a primary.

If either bill passes, the LP will remain an official party. If neither of them passes, the LP will have a strong case to pursue another remedy.

Massachusetts

LP Massachusetts (LPMA) won ballot status because a statewide candidate, Gov. Johnson for president, received over 3 percent of the vote in 2016. However, nonpresidential can-

didates of all parties, including Democrats and Republicans, must petition for inclusion on their own party's primary election ballot. LPMA is considering filing legislation to ease ballot requirements, but does not believe the legislature is likely to change the law.

A nonprofit group named Citizens for Voter Choice, which advocates Ranked Voter Choice (RCV), has formed in Massachusetts.

Its members may form a ballot committee to put RCV on the statewide ballot in 2018. Whether they follow through will be determined by polls they plan to conduct to see how likely the measure would be to pass.

Minnesota

Minnesota does not have ballot access because the requirement is prohibitive. Current law grants party status if (1) at least 5 percent of the registered voters in the state (approximately 145,821) are registered with the party, or (2) a statewide candidate of the party receives 5 percent of the vote in a general election (Gary Johnson received 3.8 percent in 2016), or (3) the party fields a slate of candidates for all of the statewide offices and half of the legislative and U.S. House races in a general election.

The LP is considering a lawsuit to ease the ballot-access requirements.

New Jersey

To obtain and retain party status, Libertarian candidates for General Assembly must garner 10 percent of all the votes cast for the General Assembly in all races. Although this is very difficult to achieve, getting a Libertarian candidate on the ballot is relatively easy for any particular race.

...continued on page 15

Hope for open debates

...continued from page 1

She argued that as a result, only self-funded billionaires have a chance of reaching the CPD's self-serving 15-percent threshold.

In contrast, she noted, relatively unknown Democrats and Republicans can become nationally known through participation in their parties' primaries.

Judge Chutkan asked the FEC's defense attorney, Robert Bonham, why the commission failed to mention, and apparently ignored, "a substantial and highly developed record" of evidence in the explanation of their dismissal.

"Aren't you required to acknowledge the evidence?" she asked, noting that the FEC can refute the evidence, but that "you can't ignore it, can you?"

The FEC replied that they considered themselves to be experts in election regulations and that their action was justified because they have previously rejected complaints about the CPD.

Judge Chutkan paraphrased the FEC's rebuttal as, "The commission just seems to be saying, 'we get to do what we get to do because we've always gotten to do it.'"

LPF is headed by Peter Ackerman, who also headed Americans Elect (AE). In 2012, AE sought to obtain ballot access for an independent candidate for president to be selected by the group's supporters.

But after spending over \$30 million building support and petitioning to get AE on the ballot, he aborted the campaign. He was unable to attract sufficiently high-profile candidates because they rightly perceived they would be excluded from the presidential debates.

This led him to form LPF, one of two groups that aim to change the criteria for presidential debate inclusion.

Our America Initiative, which was founded by 2012 and 2016 Libertarian presidential candidate Gary Johnson, is a sponsor of Fair Debates, which filed a separate lawsuit last year. A federal judge dismissed it in Aug. 2016. Fair Debates says it plans to appeal.

The Libertarian and Green Parties are plaintiffs in

"Had the FEC responded in a timely and fair manner before the CPD shut us out of the 2016 debates, we might have been celebrating the first Libertarian president today. But this ... gives us hope that Libertarians will be included in future debates."

—Carla Howell, LNC Political Director

both lawsuits. The Independent Voter Project and Fair-Vote filed amicus briefs in support of the LPF lawsuit.

"Had the FEC responded in a timely and fair manner before the CPD shut us out of the 2016 debates, we might have been celebrating the first Libertarian president today," said Carla Howell, the LNC's political director, who attended the hearing. "But this is a step forward and gives us hope that Libertarians will be included in future debates." •

Appreciating behind-the-scenes Libertarians



Stacey Davis

Stacey Davis, Kansas

As volunteer Kansas field director for the Gary Johnson campaign, Stacey Davis worked tirelessly recruiting volunteers, organizing sign waves and other events, and distributing campaign materials statewide. Gary and other LP candidates did well in Kansas, and that would not have happened without Stacey's efforts. Stacey is also very involved with the IT/web/social media aspects of the LPKS and has been for many years. He is a talented and knowledgeable leader, and we are lucky to have him on our team.

—Rob Hodgkinson, chair of LP Kansas



Brian Braegelmann

Brian Braegelmann, Minnesota

Brian Braegelmann was a dedicated volunteer for my campaign. He knocked on the most doors of any volunteer, to collect signatures, which got me onto the ballot. He helped out at all of our campaign events.

His passion and intelligence helped me think through issues I was running on and got me grounded in my libertarianism. My vote total as the highest ever for a Libertarian legislative candidate in the state would not have happened without Brian's help.

—Brian McCormick, 2016 LP candidate for Minnesota State House of Representatives, District 37A

David Aitken, Colorado

David has been serving the Libertarian Party of Colorado in various capacities, including as a member of the board of directors and as a candidate. He is always ready with helpful advice and a helping hand. He presently has been lovingly scanning decades' worth of party records and newsletters so that all of our members can enjoy this historic content for years to come. The Libertarian Party of Colorado appreciates David as one of our state treasures.

—Caryn Ann Harlos, communications director for LP Colorado



Todd Griffith

Todd Griffith, West Virginia

Todd Griffith participated in our LP contingent in the Marmet Labor Day parade and fair, leafleted a jam-packed Garth Brooks concert at the Charleston Civic Center, and steadfastly recruited friends to register Libertarian.

He personally put up several hundred of our LPWV Vote "Libertarian" and "Johnson for President" signs throughout the metropolitan area (he did the same for my race in 2014 for U.S. Senate). I was with him one evening when we posted nearly 100 signs at key intersections. He's got the routine down superbly: where to place a sign for maximum impact, when to avoid the road crews during mowing season, etc. He's a pro at posting signs and his enthusiasm was infectious!

—John Buckley, 2016 LP candidate for Secretary of State

Laura Ann Valle, Texas

Laura Valle was the Johnson-Weld volunteer coordinator for San Antonio. She made contact with hundreds of local campaign supporters and identified new volunteers. She organized several watch parties which were remarkable for bringing new people to our local party. Additionally, she led block walking efforts for Johnson and Weld, and for local candidates, throughout September and October.

Laura also volunteers for the National LP. She maintains its database of media contacts, writes articles, and provided invaluable assistance responding to hundreds of reporters who descended upon the LNC Convention in May 2016.

—Gil Robinson, chair of Bexar LP



Laura Ann Valle



John Paff

John Paff, New Jersey

John is a tireless advocate for government transparency and accountability. John Paff is chairman of the New Jersey LP Open Government Advocacy Project (NJOpenGovt.blogspot.com). He fights for the rights of the individual against the unlimited power of government secrecy and corruption. His efforts inspire all of us to work harder for liberty.

—Patrick McKnight, chair of LP New Jersey

Bill Gelineau, Michigan

Bill Gelineau's tireless efforts resulted in the Detroit Economic Club inviting presidential candidate Gary Johnson to deliver a major policy address. Gary Johnson's speech before the club in no small way contributed to the unprecedented decision of the *Detroit News* to endorse

Gary Johnson's campaign for president of the United States, and to the Michigan LP's gaining "major party" ballot status in Michigan when Gary Johnson received 172,136 votes.

—Bill Hall, 2016 LP candidate for Michigan Board of Education, and LP attorney



Bill Gelineau



David Malakar

David Malakar, Washington

The "D" in David should stand for "dependable." David was my go-to guy, and when we had a problem, especially with I.T., he was always there to help. He invested hundreds of hours, and epitomizes "be the change," pushing my social media out to tens of thousands of views.

—Michelle Darnell,
2016 LP candidate for Washington State House of Representatives, District 48

Appreciating behind-the-scenes Libertarians



Brian Waddell

Brian Waddell, New York

Without Brian Waddell as my campaign manager, my campaign would have been a shadow of what it was. Brian balanced being my campaign manager with being vice chair of the NYLP, political director of the Manhattan LP, and being a father-to-be.

Now Brian has my support as he becomes a candidate for Manhattan borough president in the 2017 NYC elections, and I encourage everyone to get behind this dedicated LP star.

—Alex Merced,

2016 LP candidate for governor of New York

John Windschauer of New Hampshire for his selfless campaign volunteering for N.H. Libertarians — putting in miles and hours of free time with enthusiasm and a smile.

Justin O'Donnel of Massachusetts (led a team to get 5,000 signatures in eight days), **Heather Mullins** of New Hampshire, **Christina Blau** of Massachusetts, and **Lou Jasikoff** of Pennsylvania, who all came up to help petition to get Libertarians on the ballot. Sitting at supermarkets, getting kicked out of Walmarts, and petitioning around the state to help us succeed in reaching our goal!

George Carpenter and **Linda Keane** for doing an amazing job working on the Johnson–Weld campaign — devoting endless hours of their time to it. They organized events, and distributed materials so the state of New Hampshire was littered with Johnson–Weld signs everywhere you went; and also teamed up with Heather Mullins to organize and start a Libertarian chapter.

Brian McQuade for starting a local Libertarian chapter on the seacoast and for gaining an additional 20 members to the LPNH in only three months! His hard work and efforts volunteering and talking up the LPNH paid off in these great new memberships.

Jeffrey Kimelman for obtaining more petition signatures than any other individual, and pushing us over the edge in obtaining ballot access!

Max Abramson for being the reason that Libertarians are on the ballot in New Hampshire for the first time in 20 years!

—From various members of LP New Hampshire

Know a key
Libertarian activist
who should be
recognized in
LP News?

Send your
recommendation
and a high-
resolution photo of
him or her to:
LPNews@LP.org

Steve Dutner has been an active member in the LP Illinois for over 17 years, working with our famed three-time comptroller candidate, Julie Fox. In the last two years, he has stepped up and taken a more active role, becoming activism director for the state party, and working on the campaigns. Steve is the individual who did more campaign events than anyone, aside from our two candidates and myself, the campaign manager. He worked every gun show, marched in more than a dozen parades, and traveled all over the state of Illinois (some trips being over five hours away) to work booths at festivals with the candidates, and even sat on the couch for hours at a time at those oh-so-boring campaign meetings, giving his opinion on everything from marketing to answering questionnaires. He even fought with me (intensely) over every issue that he felt was important, and many times, I made changes based on his input. After the campaign, he was inspired himself to announce his intention to run for statewide office in 2018, recalling that while the campaign trail is intense, hard work, it can be done, and it shows results.

—Brian Lambrecht, field operations division director for LP Illinois



Lauren Daugherty

Lauren Daugherty, Texas

Lauren Daugherty was the campaign manager for my run for Texas Railroad Commissioner. Despite having many other duties, as well as small children to attend to, Lauren was tireless in directing the campaign and raising important campaign funds. Without her, it's doubtful we could have reached the 5 percent ballot-access threshold we achieved this year.

—Mark Miller, 2016 LP candidate for
Texas Railroad Commission

Jeremiah Morrell, Indiana

Jeremiah Morrell joined my campaign for governor of Indiana early, as the treasurer, and when asked, also became my campaign manager. He traveled all over the state with me, filled in for Ken Bone when needed, and when I had a stroke the week before the election, and was still hospitalized on election day, he stepped up and handled the press, my campaign correspondence, election day, and the election night party. I can't imagine the campaign without him.

—Rex Bell, 2016 LP candidate for governor of Indiana



Jeremiah Morrell

Carl Bleisner, Washington

Carl was my campaign director who jumped in with both feet and made quite a splash! He personally door-belled thousands of doors, worked over 40 hours a week, attended nearly every public appearance with me, filled in when I was preoccupied, calmed me down when I was upset, cheered me up when I was discouraged, and prodded me along when I felt like giving up. He managed nearly every aspect of the campaign on a shoestring budget, helping me get 29 percent in a very Democratic district, and over 16,000 new Libertarian voters in Washington. Not bad, for his first rodeo!

—Michelle Darnell, 2016 LP candidate for
Washington State House of Representatives, District 48



Carl Bleisner

Steve Dutner, Illinois



Steve Dutner

Libertarian New Year's Resolutions

by Harry Browne

Harry Browne (June 17, 1933 – March 1, 2006), the Libertarian Party's presidential candidate in 1996 and 2000, wrote the following New Year's Resolutions in 1998. They're great tips for Libertarians who want to maximize their success in attracting voters, supporters, and new members.

I resolve to sell liberty by appealing to the self-interest of each prospect, rather than preaching to people and expecting them to suddenly adopt my ideas of right and wrong.

I resolve to keep from being drawn into arguments or debates. My purpose is to inspire people to want liberty, not to prove that they're wrong.

I resolve to listen when people tell me of their wants and needs, so I can help them see how a free society will satisfy those needs.

I resolve to identify myself, when appropriate, with the social goals someone may seek — a cleaner environment, more help for the poor, a less divisive soci-

ety — and try to show him that those goals can never be achieved by government, but will be well served in a free society.

I resolve to be compassionate and respectful of the beliefs and needs that lead people to seek government help. I don't have to approve of their subsidies or policies; but if I don't acknowledge their needs, I have no hope of helping them find a better way to solve their problems. No matter what the issue, I resolve to keep returning to the central point: how much better off the individual will be in a free society.

I resolve to acknowledge my good fortune in having been born an American. Any plan for improvement must begin

I resolve to focus on the ways America could be so much better with a very small government, not to dwell on all the wrongs that exist today.

with a recognition of the good things we have. To speak only of America's defects will make me a tiresome crank.

I resolve to focus on the ways America could be so much better with a very small government, not to dwell on all the wrongs that exist today.

I resolve to cleanse myself of hate, resentment, and bitterness. Such things steal time and attention from the work that must be done.

I resolve to speak, dress, and act in a respectable manner. I may be the first Libertarian someone has encountered, and it's important that he get a good first impression. No one will hear the message if the messenger is unattractive.

I resolve to remind myself that someone's "stupid" opinion may be an opinion I once held. If I can grow, why can't I help him grow?

I resolve not to raise my voice in any discussion. In a shouting match, no one wins, no one changes his mind, and no one will be inspired to join our quest for a free society.

I resolve not to adopt the tactics of Re-



Harry Browne

publicans and Democrats. They use character assassination, evasions, and intimidation because they have no real benefits to offer Americans. We, on the other hand, are offering to set people free, and so we can win simply by focusing on the better life our proposals will bring.

I resolve to be civil to my opponents, and treat them with respect. However anyone chooses to treat me, it's important that I be a better person than my enemies. •

Libertarians: The men and women in the arena

by Carla Howell

How often have you heard critics of the Libertarian Party say, "You guys never win."

Such accusations are usually launched by Democratic or Republican voters, who vote for the "winners."

Or by people who are not active in politics. They're critics in the bleachers who do not dare step onto the playing field.

Or they're on the playing field, but on the wrong side: the side that grows today's big government.

If your goal as a Libertarian is to shrink the size and scope of government so as to advance human freedom, what is "winning?"

In the political arena, most Americans equate "winning" with being the warm body who gets the most votes, thereby assuming the authorities of a particular office.

But little attention is placed on whether those warm bodies are exercising those authorities to shrink government, keep it the same size, or expand it. Whether they are working for, or against, liberty.

About 99 percent of them — almost all Democrats and Republicans — expand government. They vote for bigger budgets. They vote for new bonds, more government debt, and countless government programs. They fund new wars. They vote for higher taxes, and more regulations and prohibitions that restrict our freedom.

They never even talk about shrinking government, except in superficial ways.

The few who run as Democrats or Republicans and who advocate for liberty often sell out by endorsing big-govern-

ment politicians in their own party. Their small-government bills are quickly shot down. They fail to stop the growth of government, and often contribute to its expansion.

Libertarians know that Democrats and Republicans who "win" are only winning for themselves and their special interest pals. Their "win" is a big loss for liberty. A setback.

Because the Libertarian Party is not yet big enough to get lots of electoral victories, we measure our progress in other ways as well, such as party growth, outreach, and expanded ballot access.

We look for victories in government *policy*. When an elected Libertarian repeals a tax, or a candidate forces his opponent to take a more Libertarian position, we call it a win.

Libertarians know that Democrats and Republicans who "win" are only winning for themselves and their special interest pals. Their "win" is a big loss for liberty. A setback.

We know that with every election, more voters hear our Libertarian solutions. With every election, more come to see that a small, libertarian government is what they want.

We give voters a choice, a way to demand less government — rather than settle for condoning one or another option for more government.

With every campaign, we lay the groundwork for more acceptance — and more votes — for future Libertarian candidates.

Libertarian activism is a long game. It takes courage and determination to play it in the absence of widespread electoral success.

But unlike many who sit on the sidelines, Libertarians are in the game. We may be small, but we're impact players in American politics, and becoming more influential with every election.

And we're scoring points for the right side: Shrinking government.

This quote by Teddy Roosevelt, which was part of his "Man in the Arena" speech of 1910, illustrates the important work of Libertarians who work to advance liberty through elections:

It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.

We get our road map for freedom by combining Roosevelt's insight with Libertarians' commitment to play *only* for the cause of liberty and small government. •

In Oxnard, Starr keeps fighting

by Sandra Kallander

A post-Election Day drama has been playing out in Aaron Starr's twin battles: one for a seat on the Oxnard City Council, which he lost by less than 1 percent of the vote, and the other to implement Measure M, a ballot initiative Starr championed and won, but which now finds itself back in court.

Measure M, seeking to overturn and renegotiate the council's 87-percent wastewater rate hike, won decisively with 72 percent of the vote. But it would take the Ventura County elections department four weeks for all of the provisional ballots to be counted, to determine which of the 11 candidates vying for two open seats on the council would prevail.

Starr remained in second place after 21 days. Shocked incumbent council members, who had filed suit to invalidate Measure M before the election, talked of working with a presumed councilman Starr — the defendant in their lawsuit. His third-place opponent, the eventual winner, and the press (including *LP News*) also expected Starr to win.

Given Measure M's overwhelming passage, the council appeared to abandon its lawsuit... [but] the city ended the post-election honeymoon with Starr and the voters, canceling the next scheduled negotiation with three hours' notice.

One week after Election Day, city staff admitted that it was possible to meet the city's operating and bond covenant requirements with less than an 87 percent increase in rates. They also finally accepted an offer to work out a rate schedule compromise with Starr and his group, Moving Oxnard Forward.

Given Measure M's overwhelming passage, the council appeared to abandon its lawsuit. A four-hour meeting on Nov. 21 ended with progress made on rate models that could meet the city's bond covenants.

On Nov. 22, however, Standard & Poor's, the bond ratings agency, citing near-term uncertainty about decisions to be made by the city council and others, set the city of Oxnard's wastewater revenue bonds rating



Aaron Starr presenting testimony to Oxnard City Council, 3/29/16

to "CreditWatch with negative implications."

Six days later, the city ended the post-election honeymoon with Starr and the voters, canceling the next scheduled negotiation with three hours' notice.

The following day, Starr reported to supporters that the city's action likely increases the uncertainty and the odds of a bond rating downgrade.

Starr suggested that the city would be better served not to overturn the will of the voters, but should follow Measure M's requirement that they negotiate the rate increases with rate-payers, and thereby salvage their credit rating without all the legal expenses.

One day later, Nov. 30, an update to the county's provisional ballot count showed Starr's lead was eroding. Starr had refused to declare victory until the last vote was counted; he now projected he would not win the seat. On Dec. 5, the count was final.

Then the council struck again.

On Dec. 7, Starr and his supporters were informed that the city would be going to court the following morning to file for a temporary restraining order (TRO) to prevent implementation of the rate-hike repeal measure. The order contained 700 pages of documents. With only hours to prepare, Starr sent out a request for supporters to show up.

On Dec. 8, before a crowd reported by the *Ventura Star* to number about 50, consisting of "mostly" Measure M supporters, the judge delayed ruling.

On Dec. 13, the judge granted the city's requested TRO, keeping the rate hike in place for now. Starr quoted the judge as saying his decision was based on the relative ease of refunding any overcharges if the passage of Measure M is upheld, not because he thought that the city is likely to prevail.

On Jan. 4, the parties were back in court to schedule a trial date, now set for June 20. •

Kamal Jain showed how to campaign on government transparency

Kamal Jain (1969–2015) was a state chair for the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts, a Libertarian state senate candidate, and a two-time candidate for state auditor (once on the Republican ticket, once as a Libertarian). His campaigns provide a blueprint for running on government transparency. They also demonstrate how "losing" candidates can raise public awareness and have a significant impact on government policy.

Jain lost his Libertarian run for auditor in the general election, and lost to an establishment favorite in the Republican primary. But because of his hard-fought campaigns, \$24 billion that the state had been hiding in "off-budget spending," and which the media refused to report or even acknowledge existed, saw the light of day.

Jain's 2010 campaign appeared to impress Steve Grossman, a Democrat who was running for treasurer that year.

Several months after Jain had been crisscrossing the state on his slogan "Every Dollar and Every Dime of government spending ONLINE," Grossman made transparency the focus of his campaign and ran on the slogan, "the government's checkbook online." Grossman won his race, and he subsequently disclosed the state's total government spending — including "off-budget" — on the official Massachusetts treasurer's website.

Here's what Kamal Jain wrote in an online forum during the 2010 election, which can serve as a platform for any candidate running on transparency:

For the record, I am the ONLY candidate for state auditor from any party who has a vision and a plan for enhancing democracy and improving civic engagement through To-



Kamal Jain on the campaign trail in 2010

tal Transparency. Every other candidate for auditor who speaks of "transparency" says that they will tell the people what is going on, and yet offers no way in which the people can check the veracity of those statements.

Financial Transparency

Every Dollar and Every Dime of government spending, down to the transaction level, must be available to all of the people, in an easy-to-understand format and at no charge: every RFP [request for proposal], every response, every contract, and every invoice. The total of the details presented must add up to the amount of total spending as indicated in each year's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

Within six months of my taking office, the auditor's office will launch a free-to-use, easy-to-navigate, and easy-to-understand online transparency portal that will be open to the public. The underlying data will also be made available to anyone who wants it. Newspapers, think-tanks, bloggers, and other interested parties will no longer have to pay for this information as they do today.

Legislative Transparency

Readily available technology must be implemented to allow every vote by every legislator to be reported in near real time, and it must correspond to the reported results on each bill acted upon by the legislature.

I will recommend legislation requiring all proposed legislation be made publicly available online for a minimum period of time before a vote is taken, giving the people time to read and understand what is being voted on and to contact their legislators prior to the vote.

The people must have access to the bill and the voting record before the governor has an opportunity to sign or veto legisla-

"Every other candidate for auditor who speaks of 'transparency' says that they will tell the people what is going on, and yet offers no way in which the people can check the veracity of those statements."

—Kamal Jain

continued on page 12...

Featured Lifetime Member John Shuey

The Libertarian Party has grown to today's level because of devoted members such as John Shuey, who has been generous with his time, talents, and financial resources.

Shuey has been an LP activist and leader since 2005 and a Liberty Pledger (monthly donor) since 2006. He became a Lifetime Member in 2011.

He says that he was first attracted to the LP because he wanted this country to be freer for his children.

"There's more than just voting Libertarian," he said.

Shuey has served on the Texas State Libertarian Executive Committee, attended legislative sessions, lobbied against bills that would increase the power of government, and served as the state finance director for the Gary Johnson 2016 presidential campaign. In his free time, Shuey and his wife enjoy traveling and their two rescue greyhounds, Marilyn and Miss Kitty.

John Shuey is a strong supporter of the Libertarian Party because he stands firmly for liberty. Thank you, John! •



John Shuey

If you'd like to join Mr. Shuey as a Lifetime Member of the Libertarian Party, visit LP.org/membership and select "One Time Payment"; then select "Lifetime Founder: \$1,500."

If you would prefer to stretch your membership dues out over the course of a year, write to development coordinator Jess Mears at Jess.Mears@LP.org. She'll get you set up.

As a Lifetime Member, your name will be listed at LP.org/libertarian-party-lifetime-members. Your membership will never expire, and you will receive a lifelong subscription to *LP News*.

If you'd like to become a Liberty Pledger, visit LP.org/membership and select "Monthly Pledge" to make a recurring donation of \$15 or more each month. As a Liberty Pledger, you will receive a special monthly newsletter to update you on the latest party news. You will also receive a yearly subscription to *LP News*.

If you are not already a Lifetime Member or Monthly Pledger, please consider joining one of these groups of esteemed Libertarians. Both are critical to the continued growth of the party.

Highlights of December LNC meeting

by Alicia Mattson,
LNC Secretary

The Libertarian National Committee (LNC) met on Dec. 10–11, 2016, near our headquarters in Alexandria, Va.

Upon recommendation by our legal counsel, the LNC authorized our counsel to prepare an *amicus* brief to be filed with the Supreme Court of the United States in *Wilson v. Holder*. This case is about the intersection of Second Amendment rights and rights to medical marijuana.

Four LNC members were elected to serve on the Convention Oversight Committee, those being Whitney Bilyeu, Sam Goldstein, Daniel Hayes, and Alicia Mattson. Three additional non-LNC positions will likely be filled in January, before distribution of this report. This committee takes the lead in convention site selection and is responsible for convention event planning.

It is anticipated that LNC appointments to the 2018 Bylaws and Rules Committee

and also the Platform Committee will be made during the April LNC meeting. Applications will be solicited in advance of that meeting, likely with an e-mail blast from headquarters and also with an application form on the website.

With the newly redesigned website now in place at LP.org, the LNC voted to create a website to house additional content from the prior website (Archive.LP.org).

The record-setting interest in our 2016 presidential ticket gave a significant boost to party finances and left us with a surplus at the end of the year. The LNC adopted a 2017 budget, and in the process, had to decide the best uses of the remaining 2016 funds. The LNC agreed to make an additional \$100,000 principal payment on the office mortgage, to allocate \$100,000 for a ballot-access drive in Ohio, and \$30,000 for a ballot-access drive in Arkansas, and to budget for an operating deficit in 2017.

The next LNC meeting will be held on April 14–15, 2017. •

Kamal Jain

...continued from page 11

tion. It is wrong for the legislature to sell voting data to anyone; it is and should be a matter of written public record. Every vote by every legislator, every time.

Procedural Transparency

All contract award decisions; all hiring, termination, and promotion decisions; all outsourcing and privatization decisions must be made public except in the case where legal or security constraints would be compromised.

Other candidates for auditor promise to go behind the curtain and tell the people what is going on back there. I pledge to tear down the curtain and invite the people to come in and see for themselves.

If we could find billions of dollars that [were] being wasted or spent inappropriately... would you want that? If we could end cronyism that lines the pockets of those with connections, would you want that?

As a society, we cannot have an honest discussion about appropriate levels of funding for programs until we can have an honest discussion about actual spending. Every dollar, every dime.

Kamal Jain was well respected by those who saw him campaign, and beloved by many for his generous nature. A hard-working activist, he died suddenly of a heart attack at age 46. His passing was a loss to liberty, but his legacy of transparency and true public service — in the libertarian sense of the word — lives on.

Verifiable government financial transparency is a popular issue with Libertarians. One hundred fifty-one Libertarian candidates ran for office in 2016 who made the following pledge:

Government should be at least as transparent as anyone it regulates, including citizens subject to an IRS audit, businesses harassed by government regulators, and political campaigns subject to FEC regulations. Therefore, if elected, I will sponsor and work diligently to pass legislation to put the government's checkbook online. Each government transaction must cite as much detail as the IRS demands of citizens. Government agencies that refuse to fully and promptly disclose their finances will lose their funding, and taxes will be cut by the amount saved. •

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Restrictions apply.

Networks

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a third-party presidential candidate polled as strongly as Libertarian nominee Gary Johnson.... In spite of this, the broadcast network evening newscasts are essentially blacking out the existence of alternatives to Clinton and Trump — a potentially fatal blow to can-

didates who are required to average 15 percent support to qualify for the...presidential debates."

"Our Libertarian candidate's ability to pull in four and a half million votes while the networks black us out is a testament to the popularity of our ideas and voters' growing willingness to vote outside the box," said Nicholas Sarwark, chair of the LNC. •

AFFILIATE

UPDATES

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

California

Events on February 25 and April 28

The Libertarian Party of California annual convention will be held on April 28 to 30 at the Santa Clara Marriott Hotel, 2700 Mission College Blvd., Santa Clara, near the San Jose International Airport. This will be the first convention in the San Francisco Bay area since 2009. Package prices for the speakers and meal events will be posted soon. To be a delegate and vote on party business, you need to be a California LP member within 90 days of the convention or during any past 90-day period.

The Southern California Regional Conference is coming up on Saturday, February 25, at Geezer's Restaurant, 12120 Telegraph Road, in Santa Fe Springs (in Los Angeles County). This annual event will feature lunch and a lot of great libertarian speakers.

Our new state office is up and running, and is located at 825 S. Myrtle Avenue, in Monrovia (in Los Angeles County). This is not a walk-in office, but volunteers are most welcome. Contact Boomer Shannon (e-mail: Boomer.Shannon@GMail.com) to find out what you can do to promote liberty in California.

Colorado

Planning issue coalitions, recruiting candidates

The state convention for the Libertarian Party of Colorado, "Liberty City," is planned for March 24–26, 2017 in Westminster, the hometown of LP cofounder David Nolan and birthplace of the Libertarian Party.

Now that the presidential election season is over, the LPCO is gearing up to focus on a couple of key issues over the next few years that are potentially winnable, and with which we may be able to forge common ground with groups outside of our own circle. Potential subjects include the death penalty and alternative voting methods, and are being considered by an advisory committee appointed for this purpose.

Several qualified candidates including former presidential candidate Steve Ker-

bel have indicated potential interest for the 2018 gubernatorial race, so it looks like a good start to continue to push for the advancement of liberty in Colorado.

Multiple outreach events are planned for the coming year, including our annual participation in PrideFest and People's Fair, spearheaded by Outreach Director Marie Cochran.



Matthew DiGiallonardo and Bennett Rutledge at the Colorado LP Festivus fundraiser.

The LPCO was given an opportunity to reach other audiences with the message of freedom in an invitation to participate with "Warm Cookies of the Revolution," a community organization that bills itself as a place to exercise your "civic health" by featuring mock trials on various civics and social issues. The last event was titled, "The People versus Capitalism," in which LPCO Communications Director and LNC Region 1 Representative Caryn Ann Harlos presented a defense of free markets, using toilet paper as an example of an ordinary miracle of the market. The year ended with a fun Festivus event, including a fundraiser in which members could pay for an airing of grievances topped off with feats of (mental) strength organized by Fundraiser Director Matthew DiGiallonardo.

Delaware

Convention on March 25

The Libertarian Party of Delaware will hold its 2017 convention on Saturday, March 25, beginning at noon. The location will be the Kent County Theater Guild, at 140 Roosevelt Ave., Dover, 19901.

Hawaii

Building alliances to pass legislation

With the election behind us and ballot access achieved, the Libertarian

Party of Hawaii (LPHI) has turned its attention to passing several bills. The Hawaii legislative session begins on January 18 and runs through the first week of May.

Hawaii is effectively a one-party state, with no Republican holding office above the lower house of the legislature (where they are outnumbered 45 to 6). So LPHI efforts to pass bills will be contingent on finding things that Democrats could support. Initial reform proposals will be in the areas of campaign finance, marijuana, and sex work. We will support or oppose other bills, as they come up.

Recent candidate Michelle Tippens will lead our efforts for reform of cannabis policy, an area in which she is a longtime advocate. Two bills are in the works. One is a broad-based repeal of existing criminal laws, without replacing them with a complicated bureaucracy, special licensing, or taxes. The other will address the five new felonies that were sneaked into the dispensary bill in 2015. The first is a long shot, but the second should pass with plenty of support from Democratic legislators.

Tracy Ryan will be taking the lead on sex-worker rights, where we have three bills. Our allies from the LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party have been very helpful in gathering support for this effort. As with the cannabis bills, one of them is likely to pass. It would make it easier for former sex workers to clear a criminal conviction from their record.

LPHI's efforts on campaign finance will be to replace a tax-funded program with a voluntarily funded one. This would allow qualified candidates to receive neutral money, without its being collected by force.

Illinois

Gearing up for April 7–8 convention

LP Illinois continues to work on its party infrastructure to become more effective in future elections. The upcoming annual convention, to be held on April 7–8, is a major focus. The keynote speaker will be Larry Sharpe.

Membership is still growing, although not nearly so much as in 2016. This leads to new volunteers signing up at the local and state levels. Previously unfilled positions on the board of directors are being staffed with new people, giving the party unprecedented capabilities. The new legislative director is leading a lobbying effort to lower signature requirements in Illinois law.

Illinois municipal and local elections are seeing more Libertarians running for office. As a result, local press has given the

party more focus. McLean County alone has three candidates for Township Trustee and one for Community College Board that have been covered.

Kankakee County Board Representative Jim Byrne, elected as a Republican, announced late in 2016 that he has officially joined the Libertarian Party of Illinois. Byrne now serves as the vice-chairman of the Kankakee County Libertarian Party central committee. Byrne intends to fight for Libertarian causes while in office. His future plans on the board include consolidating and eliminating redundant taxing bodies, and downsizing the board, itself.

Kansas

New county affiliate forming

Robert Mulheran has organized a new county LP group in Butler County, northeast of Wichita. The first meeting was held on January 28. The agenda included goal-setting, recruitment of candidates for upcoming elections, and identification of issues for the governor's race. Butler County is home to Butler Community College, and Robert plans to work at establishing a Libertarian student group on campus.

The state executive committee held their quarterly in-person meeting on Sunday, January 22, in Kansas City.

The LPKS state convention will be held on April 22 and 23. The location for the convention has not been determined yet.

State Chair Rob Hodgkinson is meeting with state legislators to lobby for Libertarian issues, including asset forfeiture reform, eminent domain reform, medical marijuana, industrial hemp legalization, death penalty repeal, and election reform. Rob has asked LPKS members to suggest other topics.

Michigan

Major party status for the first time

Michigan LP chair Bill Gelineau spent the day after the November election fielding interviews from virtually every major news outlet in the state. Here are just some of the success stories.

Gary Johnson and the presidential ticket received 172,136 votes for president. This represents several important milestones. First, while easily exceeding the requirement to maintain our ballot status, this number smashed by almost 20,000 the number needed to make the Libertarian Party of Michigan a major party for the 2018 election. Now, there is something to

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AFFILIATE

UPDATES

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shout from the rooftops.

Many thanks go to Gary Johnson and his team for helping us and our candidates achieve what many believed impossible. Our vision and coordinated efforts combined to create the unprecedented opportunity now unfolding for liberty in Michigan.

In May, LP Michigan chair Bill Gelineau appointed a Special Commission on Bylaws to begin the process of analysis and organization needed to comply with Michigan's statutes related to major political parties. This group, chaired by Greg Stempfle, is charged with helping amend our bylaws at our special bylaws convention on Feb. 4. If successful, this will create the transitional rules to effectively become a major political party in our state.

In congressional races, Ken Proctor got 16,470 votes in the 7th District, the most ever for a congressional candidate. Ken is a long-time activist and former candidate for governor (2010). His quiet but informed campaign style made him one of our best advocates for freedom.

Lorence Wenke broke a record, receiving an astounding 16,279 votes for the 6th Congressional District. This was a competitive race in which millions of dollars were spent by the Ds and Rs. Despite this, Lorence provided the Libertarian Party with an amazing vote of support.

In the race for Michigan's first congressional district, Diane Bostow, a cousin of Gov. Gary Johnson, turned in a very impressive total of 13,385 votes. This is noteworthy, as there was also a Green Party candidate who received under 5,000 votes in that race.

Last, it is important to note our candidate for Supreme Court of Michigan. Kerry Morgan provided the party with a *record* number of votes for a Libertarian candidate in Michigan. Kerry's total is one of the highest for a non-Republican/non-Democrat, ever. His vote total of 447,166 is simply without precedent.

Many of our 13 candidates for Congress also did exceptionally well. Several of our younger candidates for State House received record numbers. Our slate of over 70 candidates for statewide, regional, or local office was incredibly successful. Elizabeth Corder was re-elected to the Ypsi-

lanti Township Park Commission.

As Gelineau told the *Detroit News* (which endorsed Gary Johnson) on November 9: "This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity given to us by the hard work of the Johnson-Weld team together with our slate of 70 candidates and field workers. Together, Michigan voters have said they're ready for a new voice in public policy."

The leadership in Michigan looks to be the breakthrough force that makes liberty the first thought, and not an afterthought, in public policy. The hard work for 2018 has already begun!

Website: MichiganLP.org

Minnesota

Libertarian elected to City Council

The Libertarian Party of Minnesota (LPMN) looks back on 2016 as a year of tremendous progress, incredible effort by its members and volunteers, and an unprecedented level of interest in the party and platform, as people continue to search for a sane alternative to the outdated two-party system.

Cara Schulz, a longtime leader within the LPMN and the chairperson of the annual LPMN convention, was elected to Burnsville City Council! This was Cara's second time running for Burnsville City Council, and her victory is a testament to perseverance and hard work.

All five LPMN candidates for Minnesota House and Senate received more than 5 percent of the vote, and all of the nonpartisan candidates received at least 25 percent of the vote in their races. While the Johnson-Weld ticket fell short of the 5 percent needed for the LPMN to achieve major party status in Minnesota, the 3.8 percent they received represents a significant milestone, more than triple what the party received in the 2012 presidential election.

The LPMN now has a tremendous opportunity to leverage the progress of 2016 into further growth and success in 2017. The annual state convention will be held on April 29 at the Cambria Suites in Maple Grove, and the LPMN will have a presence at outreach events such as May Day, Twin Cities Pride, Grand Old Day, and the Minnesota State Fair, in addition to various county fairs and local town celebrations.

The LPMN is in the process of recruiting

candidates for local races in 2017, as well as for state and federal races in 2018, and the party is looking forward to setting new records for membership growth and outreach success in 2017.

Montana

Rebuilding and recruiting

Since September 2016, the Montana LPL has been under reorganization efforts. Since that time there has been much progress made. Under an interim board, all paperwork has been filed with the state COPP, SOS office, and the feds for an EIN and tax-exempt status. The board of directors at this time consists of nine people: five officers and four at-large members from across the state.

A candidate search committee has been formulated to assist in locating Libertarians to run for office. There is a new and modern website and at present, this new committee is tasked with filling the spot for a candidate in a special election, because of the appointment of a Montana congressman to a position with the Trump administration.

A committee has also been formulated for affiliate development around the state. Membership in the Montana LP has grown significantly over the last couple of months, with more people joining each week. With the new organization, people in Montana are eager to become a part of the Libertarian Party and take a more active role in the party and the political process. As these new steps have been put in place, there is new vigor in Montana, with a candidate search for the 2018 election cycle already in motion, along with fundraising efforts being organized.

The Montana LP has also been getting favorable press — as well as the two big parties have been reaching out — wanting to hear the Libertarian view.

Nebraska

Plans underway for "UnConvention" in October

Nebraska and neighboring states are targeting 500+ attendees at the super-regional "2017 Omaha Libertarian Strategy UnConvention" on Oct. 20–22, with an exciting agenda of speakers, seminars, workshops, Q&A panel discussions, banquet, party, entertainment, and informal meet-and-greets.

New York gubernatorial candidate Larry Sharpe will honor us with an electrifying keynote speech. Libertarian state senator Laura Ebke will explore the practical side of



building the farm team. Candidate recruitment and campaign guru Michael Pickens will enlighten us with his acclaimed Libertarian Leadership training program. The youngest LNC member, Trent Somes, will set the tone as we leverage 2017 to make 2018 another year beyond all expectations. Other motivational high-profile "celebrarians" and inspiring, value-adding presenters will be announced soon.

The Omaha UnConvention theme will focus on having fun networking with fellow Libertarians from across the nation, while we develop strategies to get more Libertarian stuff done:

- Perform deep-dive, root-cause analysis to get beyond disagreements over Libertarian principles
- Ground principles in the science of human behavior, decision-making, and incentives
- Elevate Libertarian messaging techniques
- Refocus diversity of Libertarian goals
- Leverage different but mutually beneficial roles of Libertarian institutions and individual activists
- Expand Libertarian fundraising options

Join LP Nebraska at the UnConvention to have your intellectual voices heard in enhancing Libertarians' ability to accomplish Libertarian goals. Bring your innovative ideas and open minds to Omaha; prepare to think outside the box; and hang on for a wild exciting ride. Stay tuned and see you in Omaha on Oct. 20–22!

For more info, check out the Facebook group, here: www.facebook.com/groups/679545408893055

New Hampshire

Activity level picking up

The LP of New Hampshire (LPNH) has a new logo and literature, as well as T-shirts coming soon!

LPNH will be attending the New Hampshire Liberty Forum as a vendor, and LPNH chair Darryl Perry will be giving a speech there.

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End the war on pain management

Having suffered from radiculopathic sciatica for weeks now with unbearable pain, I want the War on Drugs to end, with drugs on the victory platform. Too many people have endured too much unnecessary pain because the same mindset that created the 18th Amendment forced them to “bite the bullet” (hey, didn’t they know that lead is more toxic than heroin?) focused on a handful of vacuous celebs who died from their own sybaritic excesses.

My access to Norco may have ended, but the pain hangs on like a Gila monster.



How could inveteration possibly be worse than this? I would rather have a monkey on my back than a clawing leopard down the length of my right thigh.

I never “asked” for my condition, never invited it. End this needless war on substances that palliate pain, a war declared by pseudo-moralists more movie director than lawmaker.

End the War on Drugs now!

—Kenneth E. Fraser, LP Member

AFFILIATE

UPDATES

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The annual convention will be held on March 18, 2017, featuring Carla Howell as keynote speaker.

Candidate recruiting for the 2018 election cycle has started, with about 18 candidates declared so far!

LPNH has published its position on eminent domain and the Northern Pass transmission line project.

New Hampshire citizens can now register to vote as Libertarians for the first time in 20 years!

New Jersey

Growth in members and voters

The LP of New Jersey (NJLP) celebrates doubling both paid members and registered voters in the past 12 months.

The NJLP will hold its 2017 convention on March 11 at Rutgers University in New Brunswick. Featured speakers include Larry Sharpe, Julie Borowski, and Bob Bowdon.

Ohio

Pursuing ballot access litigation

A group of five Ohio Libertarian Party (LPO) activists filed suit in December in the Ohio Supreme Court to require the Ohio Secretary of State to recognize them as a political party with full ballot access. The five, all of whom are long-time Libertarian Party of Ohio activists, make up the nominating committee whose petitioning resulted in the Libertarian ticket of Gary

Johnson and William Weld appearing on the Ohio ballot in November. Because the ticket drew more than 3 percent of the vote in the presidential election, the committee claims that they are entitled to party status under a nearly century-old law.

The committee filed documents with the office of Secretary of State Jon Husted, claiming the status and requesting an early decision so that the party may recruit candidates for partisan local elections in 2017. In December, they received a letter from Husted’s office denying the claim.

“Once again, the Republicans who control state government are risking taxpayers’ dollars to limit their voting choice,” said Scott Pettigrew, a member of the nominating committee and chair of the LPO executive committee. “We’re asking the court to compel Secretary Husted to do his job, no more and no less.”

Meanwhile, an earlier suit filed by the LPO challenging the state’s 2013 ballot-access law was to be considered by the U.S. Supreme Court for inclusion on the court’s upcoming calendar. The determination was not available at the time of this writing. As a fallback, should both legal efforts fail, the LPO is pursuing a petition drive to place the party back on the ballot, under the rules of the same law the party is challenging.

“We will get this party back on the ballot, one way or another,” said Pettigrew. “We deserve it; we believe the law requires it; and most importantly, the voters of Ohio are entitled to a free choice.”

LP ballot access

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New York

Although the LP of New York has much to gain by obtaining ballot access, they are not attempting to lobby the legislature at this time because it is believed to have little chance for success. This is because the state already has eight qualified parties — even though many of them are, in essence, fake parties set up by Democrats and Republicans to gain votes under the state’s fusion law, which allows a candidate to run on more than one party’s ticket.

North Dakota

Current state law requires a party’s legislative candidate to receive votes in the state’s primary equal to at least 1 percent of the residents in a district or 300 votes, whichever is less. Because this is so difficult to achieve, no minor party has had a legislative candidate on the general election ballot since 1976.

State Rep. Corey Mock has submitted a bill to remove the primary-vote requirement.

To retain ballot status, current law requires either 1) that the candidate for president or the candidate for governor receive at least 5 percent of the vote in a presidential year, or 2) that the candidate for auditor or the candidate for secretary of state receive at least 5 percent in midterm elections.

Rep. Mock amended his bill to lower the threshold from 5 percent to 2 percent.

Because Gov. Johnson got 6 percent of the vote in 2016, the LP is currently recognized.

Ohio

The LP is working on a party petition for 2018, to begin in February. The goal is to collect 54,965 valid signatures by December 20, 2017, with an option to continue into mid-2018. The LNC and LPO plan to jointly fund the effort.

Thirty-eight volunteers have pledged to collect a total of 5,110 raw signatures. Bill Redpath — Virginia Libertarian, LNC member, and ballot-access champion — has already collected 525 signatures towards his pledge to collect 750.

The LP has filed a lawsuit, *Libertarian Party of Ohio v. Husted*. It charges that a 2013 law violates the state constitution, which appears to require that all qualified parties nominate by primary.

On Jan. 20, the Ohio Supreme Court ruled against the LP in *Fockler v. Husted*. The lawsuit aimed to secure recognition of the LPO as a party. The LP did not have party status in 2016, so a group of Libertarians put LP presidential nominee Gary Johnson on the ballot as an independent.

“The Libertarians are entitled to recognition as a party. [LP Ohio chair] Pettigrew is right: The law says ‘any group.’ ...Fair is fair.”

—The Toledo Blade

LPO contends that it should be recognized because Governor Johnson received more than 3 percent of the vote, and he clearly represented the LP.

An editorial in the *Toledo Blade* came out in favor of putting the LP on the ballot.

“The Libertarians are entitled to recognition as a party. [LP Ohio Chair] Mr. Pettigrew is right: The law says ‘any group.’ ...Fair is fair.”

Pennsylvania

Republican State Senator Mike Folmer, who is well aligned with Libertarians in the state, is resubmitting a bill to lower the registration threshold for a party from 15 percent to 0.1 percent. This will be the fourth time he has submitted the bill.

Rhode Island

At this time there are no plans to petition for ballot access in Rhode Island, which would require 22,586 valid signatures. However, petitioning requirements for candidates are not prohibitive. One thousand signatures are needed to run a candidate for governor.

South Dakota

The LP is currently in U.S. District Court opposing the March petition deadline for newly qualifying party petitions. The party is on the ballot automatically for 2018, having gained party status in 2016.

Tennessee

LP Tennessee (LPTN) is seeking party representatives in each of the state’s 95 counties, to comply with state law governing parties.

LPTN is also seeking a sponsor for a bill to relax the number of signatures needed for a new party, which is now 2.5 percent of the last gubernatorial vote, a requirement so strict that no group has met it since 1968.

Virginia

In odd-numbered years, the Virginia legislature has a short session ending in February. No lobbying is currently planned.

LP Virginia is seeking a candidate for governor. If one is available, a petition drive is planned to get the candidate onto the ballot for 2017, which will require 10,000 signatures, due in June. •

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2017 Libertarian Party conventions

Keep the momentum going!
 Be a delegate at your state LP convention.



- January 21: Arizona, Nevada
- February 4: Michigan: special bylaws convention
- February 25: Alabama
- March 11: New Jersey
- March 18: New Hampshire
- March 24–25: Iowa
- March 24–26: Colorado
- March 25: Delaware
- March 31–April 2: Pennsylvania
- April (days TBD): Mississippi
- April 7–8: Illinois
- April 8: New Mexico
- April 21–23: Kansas, Washington
- April 28–30: California
- April 29: New York
- May 5–7: Ohio
- May 6: West Virginia
- August 11–13: North Carolina

For updates and newly scheduled conventions, visit: LP.org/2017-state-conventions

**Libertarians wave signs and distribute literature
 at President Trump’s inauguration**



L–R: Matthew Geiger, Sam Tornabene, Trent Somes III, Josiah Watson
 (Washington, D.C., Jan. 20, 2017)

What have you missed recently on LP.org?

- U.S. spy chief presents third-party debates as proof RT is anti-U.S.
- LP warns: Cut Sessions short
- LP congratulates Perry for opportunity to abolish Department of Energy
- *Washington Times*: Libertarian renaissance now underway
- *Arizona Capitol Times* interviews LNC Chair Nicholas Sarwark
- *The National Interest*: What the Libertarian Party wants on foreign policy
- Bloomberg News: Libertarian challenge to contribution limits advances
- *Reason* magazine: Thank you, Gary Johnson, for being the best thing in 2016!
- LNC Chair Nicholas Sarwark interviewed on Lions of Liberty podcast

Republicans and Democrats may be a little worse for wear following the 2016 election, but the Libertarian Party has never been better. The nation’s third party is basking in respectable showings at the polls, intense new media interest and greater credibility.

—*Washington Times*, 11/22/16

The Libertarian Party represents a movement that is bigger and longer lasting than any one candidate. Nearly 500,000 Americans are registered as Libertarians, a new high. Nearly 1.7 million votes were cast for Libertarian candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives, also a new high.

—*Bacon’s Rebellion*, 12/14/16

The nation’s third largest political party notched by far its most successful election cycle in races to the nation’s upper legislative chamber

—*Smart Politics*, 11/20/16

The [Libertarian Party] has come a long way since its founding in 1971.

—*Reason*, Feb. 2017

The Federal Election Commission apparently ignored evidence that the 2016 presidential debates violated campaign finance law, because the debates were unfairly rigged to include only the major party nominees, a federal judge suggested.

—*Bloomberg BNA*, 1/6/17

Libertarian ideas are woven into the very fabric of American life. The Libertarian Party of San Francisco, for example, showed its influence in the defeat of Proposition K and homelessness program funds.... Since its founding, the Libertarian Party has held firm to its principles and has made clear that the ideas constitute a kind of revolution. It would have been fascinating — and messy — if [Libertarian for president Gov. Gary] Johnson had been elected.

—*San Francisco Chronicle*, 12/27/16

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