



Free New York

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The Official Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of New York

February 2023

LPNY RESPONDS TO STATE OF THE STATE

by Andrew Kolstee
LPNY Chair

Last month, Governor Kathy Hochul issued her State of the State address. The Senate Republicans also issued their own proposals.

Hochul believes that centralized power in Albany and rule by decree and legislation by pen is the future and Senate Republicans believe more government jobs for those who support Republicans is the answer.

LPNY Outreach Director Steve Felano and Communications Director 1st Vice-Chair Duane Whitmer issue the Libertarian Party of New York’s official response to the State of the State address and break down the proposals that politicians in Albany are working to implement in the coming year in order to control your life and take more of your tax dollars.

Go to the LPNY’s YouTube Channel to watch the full response.



Duane Whitmer (left), LPNY 1st Vice-Chair and Steven Felano (right), LPNY Outreach Director, issue the Libertarian Party of New York’s official response to Gov. Kathy Hochul’s 2023 State of the State address.

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QUITER ANNOUNCES CANDIDACY FOR GUILFORD TOWN SUPERVISOR

by Tom for Guilford Campaign

Thomas Quiter has announced his candidacy for Town Supervisor of Guilford, New York.

Quiter, a lifelong resident of the area, is seeking this office for the first time, but ran for US Senate in 2022 and State Senate in 2020. He believes that it is essential for the town supervisor to ensure that the community is heard and represented in the decisions that are made for the town. He plans to do this by increasing opportunities for civic engagement and encouraging dialogue.

“Guilford residents deserve a Town Supervisor who will listen to the needs of the residents, who

will be fiscally responsible and accountable, and who will represent the interests of all Guilford residents. As a Libertarian, I believe that community involvement is essential for the progress and survival of Guilford,” said Quiter. “I am committed to creating a more transparent and accessible government that will serve the needs of the residents of Guilford.”

Quiter’s platform is one that embraces consensus, the free market, and encourages personal responsibility. He will work to mitigate spending while creating an environment that is friendly to small businesses and residents alike. “I am excited to run for Town Supervisor. I look forward to serving the people of



Tom Quiter (photo credit: Avens O'Brien)

Guilford and engaging the community in meaningful dialogue that will lead to positive change,” said Quiter.

Residents of Guilford are encouraged to write their concerns to tom@thomasquiter.us or PO Box 166 Mount Upton NY 13809. For more information on Thomas Quiter and his candidacy, please visit ThomasQuiter.US.

STATE COMMITTEE MEETING TO BE HELD MARCH 5, 2023

by Andrew Kolstee
LPNY Chair

The next meeting of the LPNY State Committee will be held on Sunday, March 5, 2023 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The agenda includes the filling of vacancies on the State Committee. There is one vacancy in JD6, one vacancy in JD7, one vacancy in JD8, two vacancies in JD11,

and one vacancy in JD12.

There will also be a discussion of proposed rules amendments. The Rules Committee has distributed a report with several proposed amendments to the party rules. It is important that all State Committee members read these proposed amendments prior to the meeting.

Another item on the agenda is a resolution presented regarding the 2024 statewide candidates.

See the party resources page at lpny.org/party-resources for more information on these meeting documents (Password: “libertyinny”).

The agenda is subject to change as the meeting approaches.

ASSEMBLY BILL INTRODUCED TO RESTORE OLD BALLOT ACCESS THRESHOLDS

by Andrew Kolstee
LPNY Chair

Assemblyman Ken Blankenship (R-117) introduced Assembly bill A3312 on February 2, 2023. This is the same as Assembly bill A8683 from the last session introduced by former Assemblyman John Salka.

The co-sponsors of this bill are Joe Angelino (R-121), Joe DeStefano (R-3), Brian D. Miller (R-112), and Chris Tague (R-102). The bill has been referred to the Election Law Committee.

This bill would reduce ballot access thresholds back to pre-COVID numbers. Currently, a new party needs 45,000 signatures to get a statewide candidate on the ballot, up from the old requirement of 15,000. Additionally, if such an independent body puts a candidate on the ballot, they need 130,000 votes or 2%, whichever is higher, in the general election to obtain recognized party status.

The Libertarian Party of New York achieved recognized party status after the 2018 election when Larry Sharpe received over 95,000 votes. However, when the ballot access thresholds were increased, The Libertarian Party Presidential candidate Jo Jor-

STATE OF NEW YORK

3312
2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

February 2, 2023

Introduced by M. of A. BLANKENBUSH, ANGELINO, DeSTEFANO, MILLER, TAGUE
-- read once and referred to the Committee on Election Law

AN ACT to amend the election law, in relation to the number of signatures for independent nominating petitions

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Subdivision 1 of section 6-142 of the election law, as
2 amended by section 9 of part ZZZ of chapter 58 of the laws of 2020, is
3 amended to read as follows:
4 1. An independent nominating petition for candidates to be voted for
5 by all the voters of the state must be signed by at least [~~forty-five~~
6 **fifteen**] thousand voters, or one percent of the total number of votes,
7 excluding blank and void ballots, cast for the office of governor at the
8 last gubernatorial election, whichever is less, of whom at least [~~five~~
9 **one**] hundred[7] or one percent of enrolled voters, whichever is less,
10 shall reside in each of one-half of the congressional districts of the
11 State.
12 § 2. Subdivision 3 of section 1-104 of the election law, as amended by
13 section 10 of part ZZZ of chapter 58 of the laws of 2020, is amended to
14 read as follows:
15 3. The term "party" means any political organization which, excluding
16 blank and void ballots, at the last preceding election for governor
17 received, at least two percent of the total votes cast for its candidate
18 for governor, or [~~one hundred thirty~~] **fifty** thousand votes, whichever
19 [~~is greater~~] **lesser**, in the year in which a governor is elected and at
20 least two percent of the total votes cast for its candidate for presi-
21 dent, or [~~one hundred thirty~~] **fifty** thousand votes, whichever is [~~great-~~
22 **er**] **lesser**, in a year when a president is elected.
23 § 3. Subdivision 4 of section 6-138 of the election law, as amended by
24 chapter 88 of the laws of 1995, is amended to read as follows:

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

LBD06999-01-3

gensen received over 60,000 votes in New York. This was enough over for old thresholds, but it was not enough, and so the Libertarian Party, along with every other third party, lost ballot access. Only the Republican Party and Democratic Party remained recognized parties along with their pawn parties (Conservative and Working Families).

This new bill has the same

co-sponsors as the bill from the last term, with the exception of former Assemblyman John Salka, who is no longer in office. I urge everyone to reach out to their representatives in the New York State Legislature and urge they support this bill for voter choice.

You can view more details about the bill here: www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2023/A3312



ANTI-WAR RALLY TO BE HELD IN D.C.

by **Justin Carman**
LPNY Member-At-Large

On February 19, 2023 at 12:30 p.m, there will be a big Anti-War Rally at the Lincoln Monument in Washington D.C., being put on by the Libertarian Party and

the People's Party. There will be busses run from New York City. Everyone that's interested can reach out to Sara Isenhour at RAWMtransport@gmail.com or goto RageAgainstWar.com/transportation and fill out the form.

The guest speakers include: Ron Paul, Scott Horton, Andrew Napolitano, Jimmy Dore, Tulsi Gabbard, Daniel McAdams, Supreme, Diane Sare, and Jill Stein. For more details see rageagainstwar.com.

2022 WRITE-IN RESULTS STILL UNKNOWN FROM 10 COUNTIES

by **Andrew Kolstee**
LPNY Chair

Last month, I presented a table of the election results that have been received so far. Election Day was three months ago, and we still don't have the total number of write-in votes received by our candidates, including Larry Sharpe.

While 52 counties have provided results, we are still missing data from 10 counties (Broome, Columbia, Dutchess, Erie, Nassau, Orange, Rensselaer, Schenecta-

dy, Suffolk, and Wyoming Counties). I will continue to follow-up with these Board of Elections in order to get the complete results for our candidates.

A couple of the counties have told me that I can inspect the ballots in person, which presents a problem for distance to these Boards of Elections. Three counties have outright denied providing the information, although two of the counties have since assured me that the information can be obtained. Many of the other counties have not

even provided the information, as I have continued to play email and phone tag with them, as they continue to say they will get back to me.

This is just another example of government bureaucrats not doing their job. At the very least, several counties have provided the information I have requested, some going above and beyond what is required of them. However, there should be a consistent response among Boards of Elections as they follow the same rules.

PAUL GRINDLE APPOINTED POLITICAL DIRECTOR

by Andrew Kolstee
LPNY Chair

At the Executive Committee meeting of Sunday, January 15, 2023, Paul Grindle was appointed Political Director of the Libertarian Party of New York.

Grindle served as Chair of the Candidate Support Committee since early 2022, in which he coordinated maximum donations to two county legislature candidates and several text volunteers

across the state for each.

He previously served as Campaign Coordinator for the Libertarian Party of Suffolk County in 2019, where they strategically ran candidates across the county to strengthen the Libertarian Party line, which helped push several candidates to victory at the town level, blocking one-party rule in several towns across Long Island.

Grindle was a Deputy Field Di-

rector and Senior Advisor to Larry Sharpe in 2018 also managed campaigns for Ken Armstrong (President and Vice President, 2020), Duane Whitmer for Congress (2020), and Stacey Prussman for Mayor of New York City (2021).

Grindle also previously served as an At-Large member of the LPNY Executive Committee (2020-2022) and a member of the FLP State Committee (2019-2020).

LPNY SEEKS FINANCE DIRECTOR

by Andrew Kolstee
LPNY Chair

The Libertarian Party of New York is still seeking applications for the position of Finance Director. Please see the descriptions here and apply on the LPNY website. All candidates are invited to attend the February 19, 2023 Executive Committee meeting where the candidates will pres-

ent their plans and the Executive Committee will vote on them.

The **Finance Director** is responsible for overseeing the Finance Division. The Division shall be responsible for obtaining and managing finances, including donor relationships, sponsorships, vendor relationships, merchandising, and finan-

cial management. The Division shall consist of two committees: Fundraising Committee and Treasury Committee. The Treasury Committee shall be chaired by the Treasurer, who shall appoint members to the committee as needed to assist the Treasurer in carrying out the duties of the office.



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[LPNYSTORE.COM](https://lpnystore.com)



COUNTY AFFILIATE NEWS

ALBANY

The Albany County Libertarian Party will hold its county convention on Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at 6 p.m. at the Warehouse Grill & BBQ (219 Wolf Road, Albany NY). Contact jcarman@lpny.org with any questions.

CONTACT:

Jay Carr, Chair

carrsgarage@protonmail.com

Justin Carman, Vice-Chair

jcarman@lpny.org

ALLEGANY

The next meeting is set for February 26, 2023. Visit the Facebook page at fb.com/Allegany-CountyLP for more information.

NEXT MEETING:

Sun., Feb. 26, 2023 @ 7 PM

CONTACT:

Jame VanDewalker,

County Contact

jvandewalker@lpny.org

CHAUTAUQUA

The Chautauqua County Libertarian Party held its first meetings of 2023 on Thursday, January 12, 2023 and February 2, 2023 via Zoom. The plan is to resume in-person meetings in April as soon as we can find a venue. Learn more about the CCLP at www.ChautauquaLP.org or follow us on Facebook.

CHAUTAUQUA (cont.)

NEXT MEETING:

Thurs., Mar. 2, 2023 @ 6:30 PM
on Zoom
(first Thursdays)

CONTACT:

Len Morlock, Chair

lmorlock@lpny.org

Andrew Kolstee, Secretary

akolstee@lpny.org

CHEMUNG

NEXT MEETING:

Tues., Feb. 14, 2023 at 6 PM
at Ill Eagle Taproom

CONTACT:

Craig Colwell, Chair

ccolwell78@gmail.com

CHENANGO

Chenango LP Chair Tom Quiter has announced his candidacy for Guilford Town Supervisor.

CONTACT:

Tom Quiter, Chair

tquiter@lpny.org

COLUMBIA

The Columbia County Libertarian Party holds meetings open to the public at 7 p.m. on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at the Claverack Free Library and virtually via Google Meet. All are welcome to attend.

COLUMBIA (cont.)

NEXT MEETING:

Wed., Feb. 15, 2023 @ 7 PM
Claverack Free Library
and Google Meet
(third Wednesdays)

CONTACT:

Scott Hoskins, Chair

scottdhoskins@gmail.com

CLINTON

CONTACT:

Zachary Remian,

County Contact

zremian@lpny.org

(518) 310-6664

DUTCHESS

On March 30, 2023 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. the DCLP, with support of neighboring affiliates is hosting our first annual awards banquet and fundraising gala at Revel 32 in Poughkeepsie. Please join us as we honor Larry Sharpe (influencer/political impact), Dr. Aaron Lewis, Gubernatorial Candidate in Connecticut (Leadership), and award recipients for Affiliate Support, The Larry Sharpe Award, Also known as the “thorn in the side of the state award,” and Libertarian of the Year.

Mike ter Maat, libertarian presidential candidate, will discuss his campaign, the “Gold New Deal” and present the influencer/political impact ward.”

DUTCHESS (cont.)

CONTACT:

Catrina Rocco, Chair
DCLPChair@outlook.com

ERIE

The ECLP is holding its 3rd Annual Gala/fundraiser from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. on February 18, 2023. Tickets are live for our 3rd Annual Gala this February! Prices include dinner, open bar, DJ, photo booth, and more! Please contact Maura Botsford at secretary@eriecountyp.org if you are interested in becoming a sponsor. Buy your tickets here: <https://secure.anedot.com/erie-county.../gala2023>

CONTACT:

Duane Whitmer, Chair
chairman@eriecountyp.org

FULTON

The Fulton County Libertarian Party will hold a virtual meet and greet on Google Meet on February 18, 2023 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Contact Acting Chair/Secretary Michael Long for details.

NEXT MEETING:

Sat., Feb. 18, 2023 at 11 AM
via Google Meet

CONTACT:

Michael Long,
Acting Chair/Secretary
mlong@lpny.org

KINGS (BROOKLYN)

CONTACT:

Matthew Morgan, Chair
matthewisaiahmorgan@gmail.com

LEWIS

CONTACT:

Christopher Lyndaker,
County Contact
lyndaker2020@gmail.com

MADISON

NEXT MEETING:

Sat., March 11, 2023 @ 12 PM
Hamilton Library, Hamilton, NY

CONTACT:

Mark Braiman, Chair
mbraiman@lpny.org

MONROE

Contact the Monroe County Libertarian Party for meeting link. We also have a Google Group for announcements. We also have monthly social meetings that you don't want to miss. Those are announced on the Google Group. Visited our website at monroecountyp.org

NEXT MEETING:

Thurs., March 2, 2023 @ 7 PM
(first Thursdays)

CONTACT:

Steve Becker, Chair
drsbecker@aol.com

MONTGOMERY

CONTACT:

Barbara Neznek, Chair
belle51062@msn.com

NASSAU

CONTACT:

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

NEW YORK (MANHATTAN)

CONTACT:

Rebecca Lau, Chair
laurebeccas@gmail.com

ONEIDA

The Oneida County Libertarian Party is not yet organized. Keith Redhead, County Contact, is planning to start up regular meetings in February.

CONTACT:

Keith Redhead,
County Contact
kredhead@lpny.org

ONONDAGA

The next meeting of the Onondaga County Libertarian Party is Sunday, February 5, 2023 at 6 p.m. online. Contact Shawn Hannon for details. The convention is set for March 12, 2023 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Rail Line located at 530 S. Clinton Street in Syracuse.

NEXT MEETING:

Sun., Feb. 5, 2023 at 6 PM
via Online

CONTACT:

Shawn Hannon, Chair
hannon.shawn@gmail.com

ORANGE

CONTACT:

Juan Ayala, Chair
livefree@juanrayala.com

ORLEANS

CONTACT:

Ajay Butcher, Chair
ajaybutcher76@gmail.com

OTSEGO

CONTACT:

Tim O'Connor, Chair
tmoconstructionllc@gmail.com

PUTNAM

NEXT MEETING:

Thurs., Feb. 9, 2023 at 7 PM
at McCarthy's
374 Route 52, Carmel, NY 10512

CONTACT:

Bill O'Donnell, Chair
billod10704@gmail.com

QUEENS

CONTACT:

Mark Weinblatt,
Acting Chair/Treasurer
mark.weinblattfsa@gmail.com

RENSSELAER

The Rensselaer County Libertarian Party meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at Alexis Diner in North Greenbush. Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 8, 2023.

RENSSELAER (cont.)

Starting this past October, we've been working to gather food items and monetary donations monthly for 'StreetSoldiers Rensselaer'. This group sets up on the third Saturday of each month in Rensselaer and provides basic necessities to those who stop by, no questions asked.

NEXT MEETING:

Wed., Feb. 8, 2023 at 6:30 PM
Alexis Diner, North Greenbush
(first Wednesdays)

CONTACT:

Jennifer O'Connor,
County Contact
joconnor@lpny.org

RICHMOND (STATEN ISLAND)

The Staten Island Libertarian Party is currently working on scheduling its 2023 convention.

CONTACT:

Susan Overeem Cummings,
Chair
susanovereem@gmail.com

SARATOGA

CONTACT:

Karyn Thompson,
Acting Chair/Treasurer
kthompson@lpny.org

SCHOHARIE

CONTACT:

Lora Newell, Chair
lnewell@lpny.org

SUFFOLK

In January 2023, the Suffolk County Libertarian Party held its convention and elected the following: George Ostrowski as Chair, Bob Schuon as 1st Vice-Chair, Mark Bain as 2nd Vice-Chair, Pam Tangredi as Secretary/Treasurer, Patrick William Deegan as At-Large and Michael Houze as At-Large.

CONTACT:

George Ostrowski, Chair
gstrowskijr@msn.com

TIOGA

The Tioga County Libertarian Party will hold its 2023 convention on Thursday, March 2, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at the Candor Free Library (Main Level) at 2 Bank Street, Candor, NY.

CONTACT:

Mel Foster, Chair
candorite@gmail.com

ULSTER

The next general business meeting is set for February 13, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at Hickory BBQ in Kingston, New York. The topic is "Calling all Candidates! We want to hear from you." The County Affiliate is planning to participate in the upcoming Regional Council of Libertarian Chairs Gala. Contact the Dutchess County Chair for more details.

NEXT MEETING:

Feb. 13, 2023 at 6:30 PM
Hickory BBQ, Kingston, NY

ULSTER (cont.)

CONTACT:
Cipriana Costello, Chair
ciprianacostello@gmail.com

WARREN

CONTACT:
Steve Greene,
County Contact
sgreene@lpny.org

WASHINGTON

Brian Wells is working on setting up the meeting schedule for 2023.

CONTACT:
Brian Wells,
County Contact
blwells45@gmail.com

WAYNE

The Wayne County Libertarian Party's next social meeting is Saturday, February 25, 2023 at 11 a.m. Yellow Mills Diner in Palmyra. The Wayne LP is looking for independent candidates interested in running at local levels and working on compiling a list of open races this year in Wayne County.

NEXT MEETING:
Sat., Feb. 25, 2023 at 11 AM
at Yellow Mills Diner
in Palmyra, NY
(fourth Saturdays)

CONTACT:
Jim Dayton, Chair
jdayton@lpny.org

WESTCHESTER

Rajib Maitra is working on planning a meeting in the future on behalf of Chair Bill Schmidt. He can be contacted at rajib.maitra1@gmail.com

CONTACT:
Bill Schmidt, Chair
wschmidt@lpny.org

YATES

CONTACT:
Jeff Bradley, Chair
jbradley@lpny.org

Erie County Libertarian Party Annual Gala

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH, 2023
ILIO DIPAOLLO'S BANQUET FACILITY
3785 SOUTH PARK AVENUE
BLASDELL, NY 14219



LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF CHEMUNG COUNTY COMMENTS ON INSTALLATION OF FLOCK SAFETY CAMERAS IN CITY OF ELMIRA

by Craig Colwell
Chemung County Chair

Elmira, New York, January 24, 2022 - The Libertarian Party of Chemung County (LPCC) comments on the installation of Flock Safety Cameras in the City of Elmira.

You may have noticed Flock Safety Cameras being installed around our fair city. 50 of them are going in at an installation cost of at least \$17,500 with a subscription plan of \$125,000 per year. The cost is reportedly being covered by federal funding through the American Rescue Plan Act, which was passed in 2021. We are to assume that when that money runs out, the city will just add this expense to the budget at which point, the cost is paid through taxes. With an elected city council of only 6 members plus Mayor Dan Mandell as Chairman, it would stand to reason that the seven of them could come up with a plan to spend Elmira's over \$28 million share. There was a separate committee convened that included the Mayor, Deputy Mayor Joe Duffy, former Councilman Brett Stermer, and 3 unelected city officials (City Manager Mike Collins, Chamberlain Charmain Cattan, and Community Development Director Emma Moran). The process of spending that money should have been more

transparent, giving the public a say in the individual line items for expenditures; especially ones that impact people's privacy.

Flock promotes their products as a way to reduce crime. The cameras have the ability to collect data from license plates and other distinguishing vehicle characteristics. This information is sent to law enforcement in seconds. There is little empirical evidence that they accomplish what they set out to. "While we agree violent crime is awful, putting citizens under constant surveillance goes against what our country was founded on," LPCC Chairman Craig Colwell says. "We are the Land of the Free and Home of the Brave, not the land of the safe and home of the scared."

Cities and private neighborhoods around the country are adopting this technology, and the cameras aren't only connected to the city's network. Through Flock's Talon Program, they are linked all over the country, creating a mass surveillance state. If implemented honestly and administered responsibly, this technology may aid police in apprehending people involved in crimes. However, it could also result in more negative interactions with law enforcement due to only using vehicle data, not necessarily targeting who was driving the car. The cameras have already led to

many mistaken identity cases in other communities around the country as well as harassment and detainment of many innocent people, including the black and brown population.

Since this is now a reality in Elmira, NY, we ask, who is overseeing this program? Who is making sure it's not abused? Councilman Nicholas Grasso said, "I'm a firm believer in and supporter of law enforcement. I believe in providing them with the tools they need to efficiently and effectively do their jobs; especially the ones that enable them to safely go home to their families at the end of their shifts while making our communities safe places to live, work, and play. As the saying goes, With great power comes great responsibility. We need to ensure the proper constraints and oversight are in place so this power is not used inappropriately."

The people of Elmira and Chemung County deserve the assurance that this is being implemented with transparency and accountability. This will be discussed at the City Council Workshop this Thursday at 10:30 am at the City Hall's third-floor Law Library and is open to the public. The Libertarian Party of Chemung County encourages all to attend.

VOTE
Charles
Roggen
For Village Trustee

Committed to driving the community forward

*Charles Roggen, as a
life-long resident of
Akron, understands what
makes Akron special and
he wants to keep it that
way for you, with your
help.*

*Having a new set of eyes
looking after our village
helps to ensure your
needs and wants are being
met.*



Election Day Tuesday, March 21
Village of Akron, 21 Main Street

HISTORY PROJECT UPDATE

HISTORIC LIST OF TREASURERS COMPLETED

by Andrew Kolstee
LPNY Chair

In 2016, I began editing at LPe-
dia—the repository for the histo-
ry of the Libertarian Party. It is
operated by the National Liber-
tarian Party’s Historic Preserva-
tion Committee, in which I have
been a member since July 18,
2018. While the project is a na-
tional project, my focus has been
on the history of the Libertarian
Party of New York. I will start in-
cluding history project updates
in the newsletter each month.
Last month, I outlined the histo-
ry of the newsletters of the party
as the relaunch of this newsletter
began.

One of the latest developments
of this project includes a com-
plete list of all those who served
as Treasurer of the Libertarian
Party of New York. There was a
piece of information missing—
the term for 1991-1992, and I did
not know who was Treasurer at
that time. William Stocker was
Treasurer from 1983 to 1991, and
then Steve LaBianca was Treas-
urer from 1992-1993, as there
are available newsletters from
1992 with in-depth information.
It was here that I discovered that
LaBianca was the new Treasurer,
with his predecessor being Wil-
liam Stocker, thereby finishing
the complete list of LPNY Treas-
urers—a total of 21 individuals
from Jerome Klasman in 1973 to

#	Name	Tenure began	Tenure ended
1	Jerome J. Klasman	April 1, 1973	March 31, 1974
2	Dolores Grande	March 31, 1974	March 28, 1976
3	Peter Wilson	March 28, 1976	April 9, 1978
4	Wilbur Wong	April 9, 1978	March 30, 1980
5	Ira J. Gottlieb	March 30, 1980	April 10, 1983
6	William M. Stocker, III	April 10, 1983	May 3, 1992
7	Steven LaBianca	May 3, 1992	May 22, 1993
8	Pamela Haberkorn	May 22, 1993	April 23, 1994
9	Audrey Capozzi	April 23, 1994	April 27, 1996
10	James Harris	April 27, 1996	March 15, 1998
11	John Ayling	March 15, 1998	April 25, 1999
12	John Clifton	April 25, 1999	April 14, 2002
13	William P. McMillen	April 14, 2002	April 2003
14	Werner Hetzner	April 2003	April 29, 2006
15	Gary S. Popkin	April 29, 2006	April 25, 2009
16	Sean Sherman	April 25, 2009	April 24, 2010
17	Gary Triestman	April 24, 2010	April 30, 2016
18	Michael Dowden	April 30, 2016	May 4, 2019
19	Cruger Gallaudet	May 4, 2019	June 9, 2019
20	Lora L. Newell	June 9, 2019	September 18, 2022
21	William Cody Anderson	September 18, 2022	Incumbent

Cody Anderson today. The only
piece of information I am miss-
ing is the date of the 2003 con-
vention to complete the tenures
of Treasurers.

These lists of officeholders are
important when trying to under-
stand the timeline of the party’s

history—in which it is helpful to
know who was involved in the
party at a given time period.

I do have a complete list of
Chairs as well—but my list of
LPNY Vice-Chairs and Secretar-
ies is not yet complete.

NATURAL GAS PROHIBITION: CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS SHOULD SPEAK OUT

by Rich Purtell

LPNY 2nd Vice-Chair

LPNY Legislative Affairs Director

By now many readers of this publication have heard the buzz in Albany about possible new legislation which would prohibit the use of natural gas in new home construction throughout New York state. This policy change could cause a lot of problems in upstate New York:

- If gas furnaces cannot be used for new housing developments, there may be a need to use oil or propane (unless those appliances are banned also) for space heating due to lack of adequate local power capacity to operate heat pumps with electric heat backup. Natural gas is the cleanest burning, most efficient fossil fuel for space heating.

- Many regions upstate are “winter peaking” already, meaning that transmission lines, substations, and local street wiring already hit their peak load in winter. Fossil fuel prohibition policies would demand many upgrades to this infrastructure. This high cost would either need to be covered in future electric rate increases, covered by general taxes, or else an “impact fee” system may be developed in New York state. The impact fee approach front loads more expenses into new housing construction. This approach is used in



California and has caused major problems with housing shortages and high housing prices.

- New York utilities have been successfully latching on to “Right of First Refusal” rules regarding transmission development. These regulated monopolies then would have power to object to national (or international) electrical infrastructure contractors from coming into NY to help construct needed electrical infrastructure. Regardless of what else happens, keep an eye on this corporate welfare scheme. The utilities have too much conflict of interest and should not have this veto power.

To help advocate against natural gas appliance prohibition, code enforcement officials in upstate

New York should make public statements that they will NOT act as henchman for state government in the approach to ban natural gas appliances. Declare that they will issue permits for new housing regardless of appliance type. Declare that they will impose no fines upon homeowners who replace their existing appliances with new appliances which use the same form of energy.

I have a 10 Kw solar panel array on the roof of my own home and an air-source heat pump with propane backup. New York residents could and should take personal action to shift our energy use profile towards “cleaner” energy sources. But jumping into natural gas prohibition is a poor approach.

NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE AND INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION VIOLATE NEW YORK'S CONSTITUTION SPLITTING SMALL COUNTIES TO FORM GERRYMANDERED ASSEMBLY DISTRICTS

by **Mark Braiman**
LPNY Secretary
Madison County Chair

The current proposed map from NY's Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC) violates NY's constitution in splitting my county, Madison with a mere 68,000 residents, between 2 Assembly districts—even if this is better than the 5-way split in effect for the 2022 election. Before last year, Madison County was never split between Assembly districts—not since the county's founding in 1806.

The plain language of New York's Constitution requires a minimum of 1 undivided Assembly district per county. But the Constitution makes clear that combining small counties, without splitting them, is a reasonable approach to equalizing Assembly district populations. Since 1846 the NY Constitution has specifically mandated such a combination for the Assembly District that contains Hamilton and Herkimer Counties.

The Assembly redistricting map for Upstate that I submitted to the IRC in December 2021 (<https://districtr.org/plan/87313/89905>) follows this

approach. My map meshes perfectly, and still does, with the IRC's plans for Assembly districts in the seven large counties from Bronx southward, which I fully support. But to the north, there are 40 much smaller counties with populations under the average Assembly district, i.e. under 1/150 of the state total. My map divides none of these 40. The IRC's current map divides 22 out of the 40.

Furthermore, in my map all but one of the 15 larger upstate counties have as many districts contained entirely within them, as they have whole-number multiples of the average district size. The exception is Dutchess County, which has a population a bit more than double the average. Constraints from neighboring counties meant I could give it only one unshared Assembly District of its own in my plan. That's better than the current IRC plan, which gives it none.

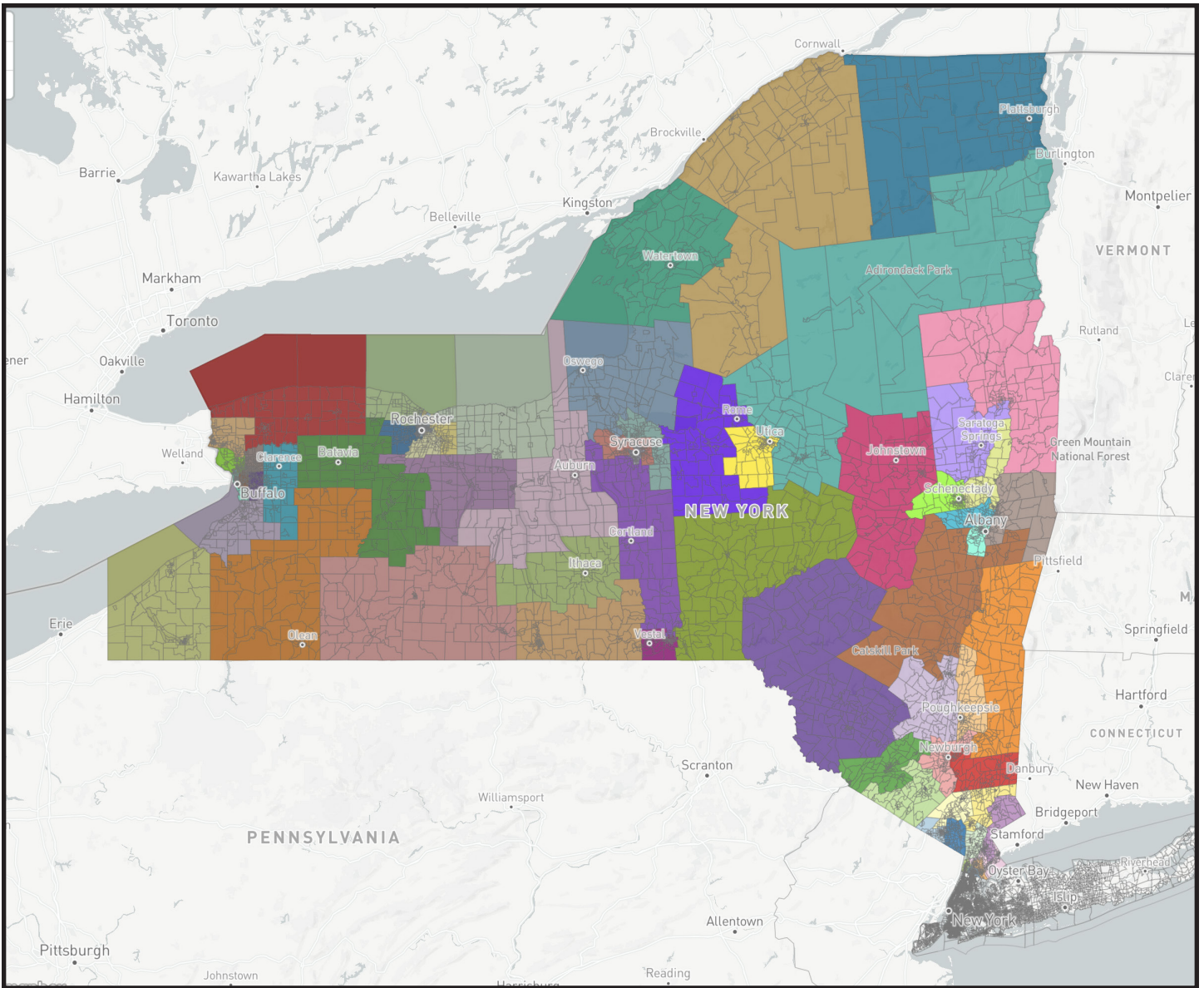
My map has a maximum population deviation from the average district of 13.3%. This clearly satisfies the 1983 US Supreme Court decision of *Brown v. Thomson*. That dealt with Wyoming's state constitution which,

like New York's, required at least 1 representative in its lower house from each county of the state. Justice Powell's opinion in that case upheld that giving 1 representative to Wyoming's smallest county, with a population only 40% of the average district, was NOT a violation of the equal-protection clause of the 14th Amendment, because it met a longstanding continuously observed state constitutional requirement, with no evidence of discriminatory intent.

My proposed Assembly map, in which the smallest district has 87% of the average district population, is well within Justice Powell's limits. My map proves mathematically that anyone who claims it is Constitutionally impossible to keep all 40 of New York's smallest counties intact within Assembly districts is engaging in a bit of self-serving--albeit bipartisan--deception.

Representation by county is not the only rational way to choose legislators in a democratic republic, but it is still the only Constitutional way in NY State. This has been true since the adoption

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Mark Braiman's proposed Assembly District map.

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of the first state Constitution in 1777; and it has a history in England that stretches back to the year 1295, when King Edward I began to call commoners to represent counties in the “Model Parliament,” even before its splitting into two separate houses.

Nevertheless, as a member of the Libertarian Party’s Nation-

al Platform Committee in 2022, I helped promulgate, and fully support, our plank to explore proportional Party representation in legislatures, as an alternative to representation by geographic district. With proportional representation, members of a particular identity group could form their own statewide political party (e.g. the Black Lives Matter Party), and get representatives into the New York Assembly in proportion to

votes that they receive not only within a few black-majority districts, but spread geographically throughout the state. The same goes for Libertarians, of course.

However, the proper route to achieve this kind of alternative representation is by state Constitutional amendment, not by ad hoc unconstitutional gerrymandering by the IRC to create as many weirdly-shaped black-majority districts as possible.

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