



Free New York

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The Official Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of New York

April 2023

LIBERTARIAN AND GREEN PARTIES PETITION TO SUPREME COURT IN BALLOT ACCESS CASE

by Andrew Kolstee
LPNY Chair

On March 13, 2023, the Libertarian Party of New York and Green Party of New York filed a petition to the U.S. Supreme Court in regard to the ongoing ballot access lawsuit. The following is the joint press release of the announcement.

“The Libertarian Party of New York and the Green Party of New York have filed a petition for an appeal in their ballot access lawsuit to the Supreme Court of the United States.

The petition challenges the increase of New York State’s ballot access thresholds instituted in 2020 as part of then Governor Andrew Cuomo’s emergency COVID budget. The threshold for a party to maintain recognized party status and ballot access was increased from 50,000 votes to 130,000 votes or 2% of the vote in the previous gubernatorial or presidential election, whichever is higher. In addition, the signature threshold for getting an independent candidate on the ballot was increased from 15,000 signatures to 45,000 sig-



natures.

In 2020, four parties lost ballot access: the Libertarian Party, whose candidate Jo Jorgensen received over 60,000 votes; the

Green Party, whose candidate Howie Hawkins received over 32,000 votes; the Independence Party, whose candidate Brock

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PETITION TO SUPREME COURT

IN THE
Supreme Court of the United States

LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF NEW YORK, GREEN PARTY OF
NEW YORK, ET AL.,

Petitioners,

v.

NEW YORK BOARD OF ELECTIONS, ET AL.,

Respondents.

**On Petition for Writ of Certiorari
to the United States Court of Appeals for the
Second Circuit**

PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI

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Pierce received over 22,000 votes; and the SAM Party, which did not run a candidate for President. In this election, only the Libertarian Party received over 50,000 votes, which was enough to maintain ballot access under the old thresholds.

However, as a result of the new thresholds, these four parties lost ballot access and only four political parties remained rec-

ognized: The Democrat and Republican Parties, along with their respective fusion parties which endorse the major party candidates, the Working Families Party and the Conservative Party. Due to the nature of fusion, essentially New York State became a 2-party state for the first time in decades.

The difficulty of getting on the ballot was proven in 2022, when there were only two can-

didates on the ballot for the office of Governor, the first time since 1946 and only the second time since 1872. Seven independent petitions were filed for the office of Governor in this election. Larry Sharpe, the Libertarian Party's candidate, filed over 42,000 signatures and was less than 3,000 votes shy of the threshold. Republican nominee Lee Zeldin—a sitting Congress-

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man—petitioned for the Independence Party line and did not have enough signatures, after subtracting 11,000 fraudulent signatures, and Harry Wilson, who lost the Republican primary, failed to reach even 30,000 petition signatures in his quest to appear on the ballot as an independent candidate, despite a personal fortune in the millions. As a result, Larry Sharpe’s gubernatorial candidate petition actually got more signatures than any other candidate, and yet he was denied a ballot spot due to the increased thresholds for ballot access.

“The lower courts have denied our case and our appeals while ignoring and disregarding several of our arguments,” said An-

drew Kolstee, Chair of the Libertarian Party of New York. “This includes the fact that the signature-per-day count is the highest in the nation, making New York the most difficult state for a third party to get on the ballot. The court also failed to address why using taxpayer money to fund campaigns required killing off third parties is a legitimate state interest and they also failed to understand that the Conservative and Working Families Party, while they retained ballot access, are not true third parties because they endorse major party candidates. The court basically told us we need to nominate the Democrat or Republican in order to get ballot access, which defeats the purpose of third parties altogether.”

“The right to choice of parties and candidates is as important to voting rights as being able to cast a ballot,” said Green Party of New York Co-Chair Gloria Mattera. “It is our hope that the Supreme Court will restore the ability of smaller parties to run candidates, so that New York voters will have true freedom to choose candidates that best represent their political ideals.”

“Competitive elections are a cornerstone of democracy,” said Green Co-Chair Peter LaVenia, “and ballot access laws are a crucial component in electoral competitiveness. New York State went from having moderately restrictive laws to one of the strictest ballot access requirements in the nation. We want the Supreme Court to reverse that.”

HELP US PASS A3312

This bill will lower the ballot access thresholds back to the previous standards: the number of votes needed to get ballot access to 50,000 (from 130,000 or 2%), and lower the petition signature requirement for a statewide office to 15,000 (from 45,000). Contact your representatives in the New York State Legislature and ask them to support this bill!

DUTCHESS COUNTY LIBERTARIAN PARTY HOLDS GALA AND AWARDS CEREMONY

by **Catrina Rocco**
Dutchess County Chair

On March 30th, the Dutchess County Libertarian Party held its first annual fundraising gala and awards banquet at Revel 32 in the city of Poughkeepsie. Libertarians and friends of libertarians attended this event in support of the regional council's awards winners, the affiliate, and candidates.

The regional council, consisting of libertarian chairs, vice chairs or county contacts from counties such as Dutchess, Orange, Rensselaer, Ulster, Columbia, Westchester, and Litchfield, CT honored libertarians with the following awards.

Influencer/Political Impact

Larry Sharpe Former NYS Libertarian Candidate and Host of the Larry Sharpe Podcast,

Leadership: Dr. Aaron Lewis, 2022 Gubernatorial Candidate Connecticut.

Thorns in the Side of the State awards:

Downstate Thorn: Anthony Dilullo, former Vice Chair and current Member-At-Large of the Dutchess County Libertarian

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Party.

Upstate Thorn: Duane Whitmer, LPNY 1st Vice Chair

Affiliate Support. Daniel Donnelly, former Dutchess County Libertarian Party Chair, current County Committee member

Libertarian of the Year

Pietro Geraci, Orange County Libertarian Party Vice Chair

Speakers at this years gala also included Mike ter Maat, Libertarian Presidential candidate hopeful, Pat Ford, Region 8 Representative to the Libertarian National Committee, Charles Taya, Chair of the NYS Libertarian Youth Caucus, and Andrew Gauzza, a genuine “small L” libertarian who is the Dutchess County Libertarian Party’s cross-endorsed candidate for County Legislator District 8.



COUNTY AFFILIATE NEWS

ALBANY

CONVENTION:

TBD
at the Warehouse Grill & BBQ
(219 Wolf Road, Albany, NY)

CONTACT:

Jay Carr, Chair
carrsgarage@protonmail.com
Justin Carman, Vice-Chair
jcarman@lpny.org

ALLEGANY

CONTACT:

Jame VanDewalker,
County Contact
jvandewalker@lpny.org

LEARN MORE:

fb.com/AlleganyCountyLP

CHAUTAUQUA

The May 2023 meeting will be the 100th meeting of the Chautauqua County Libertarian Party. It will be held in person, location TBD. Follow us on Facebook and/or join the email list for the latest.

NEXT MEETING:

Thurs., May 4, 2023 @ 6:30 PM
Location TBD
and Zoom
(first Thursdays)

CONTACT:

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

CHAUTAUQUA. cont.

LEARN MORE:

www.chautauquaLP.org
fb.com/chautauquaLP

CHEMUNG

NEXT MEETING:

Tues., May 9, 2023 at 6 PM
at Ill Eagle Taproom
(2nd Tuesdays)

CONTACT:

Craig Colwell, Chair
ccolwell78@gmail.com

LEARN MORE:

lpchemung.org

CHENANGO

Chenango LP Chair Tom Quitter is running for Guilford Town Supervisor. Contact him to get involved.

CONTACT:

Tom Quitter, Chair
tquiter@lpny.org

COLUMBIA

NEXT MEETING:

Wed., Apr. 19, 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

NEXT MEETING:

Held 3rd Saturdays
Time/Location Varies

CONTACT:

Catrina Rocco, Chair
DCLPChair@outlook.com

ERIE

NEXT MEETING:

Wed., Apr. 12, 2023
Held Monthly via Zoom

CONTACT:

Duane Whitmer, Chair
chairman@eriecountylp.org

FULTON

NEXT MEETING:

Sat., Apr. 15, 2023 at 3 PM
via Google Meet

CONTACT:

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

KINGS (BROOKLYN)

NEXT MEETING:

Tues., Apr. 18, 2023 at 3 PM
@ Fourth Avenue Pub
76 4th Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11217
(third Tuesdays)

CONTACT:

Matthew Morgan, Chair
matthewisaiahmorgan@gmail.com

LEWIS

CONTACT:

**Christopher Lyndaker,
County Contact**
lyndaker2020@gmail.com

MADISON

CONTACT:

Mark Braiman, Chair
mbraiman@lpny.org

MONROE

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

NEXT MEETING:

Thurs., May 4, 2023 @ 7 PM
(first Thursdays)

CONTACT:

Steve Becker, Chair
drsbecker@aol.com

LEARN MORE:

monroecountylp.org

MONTGOMERY

CONTACT:

Barbara Neznok, Chair
belle51062@msn.com

NASSAU

NEXT MEETING:

Tues., Apr. 11, 2023 at 7 PM
@ Landmark Diner
(2nd Tuesdays)

CONTACT:

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

NEW YORK (MANHATTAN)

NEXT SOCIAL EVENT:

Held 4th Tuesdays

CONTACT:

Rebecca Lau, Chair
laurebeccas@gmail.com

ONEIDA

CONTACT:

**Keith Redhead,
County Contact**
kredhead@lpny.org

ONONDAGA

NEXT MEETING:

Wed., Apr. 19, 2023 at 6 PM
@ Rail Line
530 S. Clinton St., Syracuse

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:

Wilson Wells, Chair
wilsonwells11@gmail.com
Dylan Harris, Secretary
oldschoolaccord@hotmail.com

PUTNAM

NEXT MEETING:

Thurs., Apr. 13, 2023 at 7 PM
at McCarthy's
374 Route 52, Carmel, NY 10512
(2nd Thursdays)

CONTACT:

Bill O'Donnell, Chair
billod10704@gmail.com

QUEENS

CONTACT:

John Clifton, Chair
mrjclifton@yahoo.com

NEXT MEETING:

Sat., May 13, 2023
OBA Grill
104-02 Metropolitan Ave.,
Forest Hills, Queens, NY
(2nd Saturdays)

RENSSELAER

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

NEXT MEETING:

Wed., May 3, 2023 at 6:30 PM
Alexis Diner, North Greenbush
(first Wednesdays)

CONTACT:

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

RICHMOND (STATEN ISLAND)

CONTACT:

Susan Overeem Cummings,
Chair
susanovereem@gmail.com

SARATOGA

CONTACT:

Naz Garabedian, Chair
nazareth.garabedian
@lawsonproducts.com

SCHOHARIE

CONVENTION:

Sat., Apr. 8, 2023 @ 1:30 PM
@ Tagua Nut Cafe in Cobleskill

CONTACT:

Lora Newell, Chair
lnewell@lpony.org

SUFFOLK

CONTACT:

George Ostrowski, Chair
gtostrowskijr@msn.com

TIOGA

CONTACT:

Sara Price, Chair
sprice@lpony.org
Rich Purtell, Vice-Chair
rpurtell@lpony.org

ULSTER

NEXT MEETING:

Mon., May 8, 2023 at 6:30 PM
Hickory BBQ, Kingston, NY
(second Mondays)

CONTACT:

Cipriana Costello, Chair
ciprianacostello@gmail.com

LEARN MORE:

www.UlsterLP.org

WARREN

CONTACT:

Steve Greene,
County Contact
sgreene@lpony.org

WASHINGTON

CONTACT:

Brian Wells,
County Contact
blwells45@gmail.com

WAYNE

NEXT MEETING:

Sat., Apr. 22, 2023 at 11 AM
at Yellow Mills Diner
in Palmyra, NY
(fourth Saturdays)

CONTACT:

Jim Dayton, Chair
jdayton@lpony.org

LEARN MORE:

lpwaynecounty.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@lpony.org

YATES

CONTACT:

Jeff Bradley, Chair
jbradley@lpony.org

SARATOGA, ONONDAGA, TIOGA, AND YATES COUNTIES HOLD CONVENTIONS

by Andrew Kolstee
LPNY Chair

Four County Affiliates have held their conventions in the past two months.

In Saratoga County, they held their convention on February 25, 2023. They elected the following officers: Naz Garabedian as the new Chair, Craig Berndt as the new Vice-Chair, John Janes was reelected as Secretary, Karyn Thompson was reelected as Treasurer, and Amanda Ellithorpe, George DeMers, Fraser

Thompson, Amy Bergman, and Chris Bergnam were elected as Members-At-Large.

The Onondaga County Libertarian Party held its convention on March 12, 2023 and elected the following officers: Shawn Hannon was reelected as Chair, Rachel Becker was reelected as Vice-Chair, John McLaughlin was reelected as Secretary, and Jamie Fitch was elected as their new Treasurer.

Tioga County held their con-

vention on March 15, 2023. The following officers were elected: Sara Price was elected as the new Chair, Rich Purtell was elected as the new Vice Chair, Joe Breitwieser was reelected Secretary, and Derek Gilbert was reelected as Treasurer.

The Yates County Libertarian Party held its convention on March 26, 2023. All officers were reelected: Jeff Bradley as Chair, Phillip Rahr as Vice-Chair, Janice Enos as Secretary, and Keith Ward as Treasurer.

LIBERTARIANS PARTICIPATE IN TRIVIA NIGHT IN CHEMUNG COUNTY

by Grace Galactica
Chemung County Member-At-Large

Chemung county partook in a trivia challenge hosted by the ILL-EAGLE Taphouse in Elmira, where the Libertarian Party of Chemung county meet for their monthly business meetings the second Tuesday of every month.

Their trivia event had libertarians show up from upstate New York to Tioga Pennsylvania. Our Chemung county Libertarians won the first round of trivia and placed in 2nd for the second round. Both times the party won prize money that will be going to pizza for the county meeting.

It was a fun time for all the Libertarians involved and everyone got a chance to flex their knowledge in different categories helping the teams win with our diverse personalities and in-



terest. In a crowd of 60+ other people (non-libertarian) the Libertarians gave the crowd a show that us libertarians can not only compete politically, but we also know how to have fun. Getting Libertarians involved in as many community events as possible not only gets our name more recognition (not too mention when we win), it encourages people to get involved, it makes our party a more welcoming environment

and it strengthens the bonds we have already made in the party to grow together to be more of a team fighting for liberty.

This was such a success we will be making this a monthly Wednesday meet up at the ILL-EAGLE Taphouse. Follow Chemung county Libertarian Party on Facebook to keep up with our trivia nights and come out to the next one!

LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF QUEENS COUNTY AND QUEENS LIBERTARIANS UNITE

by Libertarian Party of Queens County

After years of having two parties identifying themselves as the Libertarian Party of Queens, NY, both entities decided to become one.

“We formed LPQC after the LP got ballot access in NYS and we had an organizational meeting at [Former LPQC Chair] Mike Arcati’s house in early 2019,” said Mark Weinblatt.” It has been a challenge since then to gain strength by reaching out to those in Queens who had registered as Libertarians. Without reaching out, we struggle to raise money, and without money, we can’t afford to reach out. It’s a Catch-22. The pandemic restrictions made things even more difficult. Now that we have a regular meeting time and place and will take on more ‘official’ party business, my hope is that we can find ways of both reaching out to like-minded Queens residents and also raising money to help extend that outreach to the ‘libertarian-curious’ who would be open to our ideas and values. We wel-

come any help that we can get from anywhere else in the state or National.”

At the same time, John Clifton’s QL has been very active getting people together whether voters, party partisans or simply persons who share libertarian ideas or a good story from a guest speaker.

As with most good stories, everything happened by chance. John Clifton, who had been running QL for several years, approached Mark Weinblatt (LPQC) with the idea of merging the Queens entities after Mark attended a meeting of the QL and let him know that LPQC did not have a chair at the moment. A short time later, after years of having two parties that broke resources in almost half and getting nowhere, the two groups finally merged in early March 2023 with John Clifton from QL as Chair, Francisco Olvera from LPQC as Vice Chair and Mark Weinblatt from LPQC as Treasurer.

Now it is time for LPQC to focus on promoting the party, its phi-



losophy and its brand. As with other county affiliates, educating voters and anyone who can influence other voters is the biggest challenge.

Clifton has brought many ideas on how to teach young adults at a college level, but we still need to promote the party at high school level. Needless to say, this is an up-hill battle given the GOP/DNC duopoly in the United States.

We would merge the data sources into a common database that can be used by LPQC and possibly the LPNY if we can get all the proper datasets.

JAMES ZIOBRO JOINS STATE COMMITTEE

by Andrew Kolstee
LPNY Chair

At its March 19, 2023 meeting, the State Committee of the Libertarian Party of New York elected James Ziobro to fill a vacancy in Judicial District 7.

He said “I do not consider myself particularly political. I first volunteered with the Libertarian Party when Steve Healey ran

for Congress. As of September 2022, I am the Secretary of the Monroe County LP Committee. I had been registered as Democrat previously. I have a keen interest in Information Technology.”

Jim is retired now. Some professional info is online at resume.ziob.ro. He bring experience from leadership roles in several non-profits. As of September 2022 he is the Secretary for the



Monroe County Libertarian Party.

LPNY TO EXPAND VOLUNTEER ORIENTATIONS

by Andrew Kolstee
LPNY Chair

For the past couple of months, I have been working on putting LPNY guides together into an activist handbook. While the guide will be updated every once in a while going forward, this version is in a good state to be used for volunteer training. This all began back in 2015 when I was first involved in the Libertarian Party of New York. Myself, Ed Garrett, and Kim Ruff were all working toward organizing affiliates in western New York. I worked on Chautauqua County, Ed worked on Erie County, and Kim worked on Niagara County. Kim began work on a guide that Ed and I contributed to, focused on giving potential new county affiliates (then called chapters) an idea of how to build their lo-

cal affiliate and keep it going. I tweaked the guide over the next couple of years, having a version in 2016 and 2017.

In 2021, when the Local Affiliate Development Committee worked on helping to form new County Affiliates, we worked on putting together several guides on different subjects, in which the work was primarily done by myself and Paul Sechrist, in addition to input from others. We had several guides and planned on making several more. I had already written previous material and intended to build those additional guides.

In 2022, I decided it would be easier to create one major guide, separated by parts and chapters, so any Libertarian activist in the

state can go directly to the relevant section for which they are seeking help. The result is the LPNY Activist Handbook, which will be available to Libertarian Party activists.

The next step is that I plan to hold monthly activist meetings, where County Affiliate leaders can give a report on the activities of their county, County Contacts can give a report on their county's organizing efforts, and we can provide news and updates directly to any new volunteer that joins us and wants to get involved.

The first such meeting will take place likely in May, after the Field Development Division develops an agenda and plan for these orientations.

MAURA BOTSFORD APPOINTED EVENTS COORDINATOR

by Andrew Kolstee
LPNY Chair

On Sunday, March 19, 2023, Maura Botsford was appointed Events Coordinator for the LPNY. She is the current Secretary of the Erie County Libertarian Party (since 2020) and is a Member-At-Large of the LPNY Executive Committee.

She said, "I am so excited to be stepping into the role of Events Coordinator for the LPNY. Since 2018 I've spent hundreds of hours planning events with Libertarian candidates across the state and fundraising for my county committee, while serving on the state committee as well. I believe that over the next few years we have a lot of potential

to make a significant impact on legislation and current events—which stems from the engagement of not only Libertarians, but voters all across New York. I'd love to work with all of you to get involved locally and bring libertarian events to your area, please do not hesitate to reach out with events, ideas, or if you'd like to join the committee."

LEAVE THE CANNABIS SHOPKEEPERS ALONE

by **Pietro Geraci**
Orange County Vice-Chair

Queen Kathy recently announced her intention to crack down on unlicensed cannabis shops, proposing legislation to shut them down and impose heavy fines. It seems she relishes her tyranny as much as her predecessor, trying to ruin the livelihoods of small business owners who are just trying to make a living.

Perhaps if Albany didn't drag its heels on issuing licenses, more people would be able to obtain them and set up shops that are to Her Majesty's liking. However, New York State has been grossly incompetent with distributing licenses, forcing those who wish to enter the industry to forego licensure.

Personally, I don't understand why licensure is even required to begin with. I understand concerns about safety - certainly nobody wants a tainted product, and there is a real risk that can-

nabis products may be contaminated with fentanyl, which could lead to fatalities. However, we need to be realistic: buying from an unlicensed shop is not the same as buying from some random stranger on the street. Shop owners are more easily held liable if their product isn't safe, whether they are selling cannabis, tomatoes, or teapots. Selling rotten tomatoes or teapots that explode upon use would definitely land a shopkeeper in hot water; the same applies to cannabis vendors. They will ensure their product does not harm consumers so they can stay in business and out of prison. As we see with the opioid epidemic and recalls on produce, licensure or government approval provides no guarantee that a drug won't cause serious problems or any assurance that a product isn't tainted. Larry Sharpe, the Libertarian Party candidate for Governor of New York in 2018 and 2022, is right: cannabis should be regulated like onions. The Office of Cannabis Management should be

abolished, and anyone should be able to open a cannabis shop and have the ability to apply for an optional government certificate if they wish to provide assurance to customers that their product is genuine.

Queen Kathy should be ashamed, wasting time on nonsense when there are real issues facing this state: lack of jobs outside the NYC metro area, insufficient Metro-North service on the Port Jervis Line, astronomically high taxes, the unaffordable cost of living in this state that is driving record numbers of residents away, increased urban crime, a myriad of regulations which make starting a business nearly impossible, poorly maintained roads, and the decline of small farms.

The cannabis shopkeepers should be left alone, and Albany should focus on reducing the double burden of taxes and regulations that are killing this state.

DONATE TO THE LPNY
LPNY.ORG/DONATE

DO PROGRESSIVE TAXATION ADVOCATES REALLY WANT WHAT THEY ASK FOR?

by Rich Purtell
LPNY 2nd Vice-Chair

Articles are played about on mainstream media which decry how “blue states bail out red states.” Data shows that Connecticut, New Jersey, Massachusetts, and New York have balance of payment ratios less than one. That is, these four states each send more dollars to the federal government than the states receive back in federal funds for financial support. Conversely, Kentucky, New Mexico, Mississippi, Alabama, and West Virginia receive in federal funds well above what is contributed.

To be more precise, it is mostly RESIDENTS within the states which are sending funds into the federal government and/or receiving financial benefits from the federal government. What causes this ratio to change most? Progressive taxation policies.

The four states with the highest personal income per capita – Connecticut, New Jersey, Massachusetts, and New York, should be expected to contribute the most to the federal government compared to what they receive- and they do. The five states with the lowest personal

income per capita, you guessed it, the same states which receive the highest balance of payment ratios – Kentucky, New Mexico, Mississippi, Alabama, and West Virginia.

Champions of progressive taxation are being disingenuous and hypocritical to complain about wealth transfer from richer people/states to poorer people/states. This result is precisely what progressive taxation is intended to do!

This wealth transfer occurs region-to-region of course as well as state-to-state. Urbanites are quick to point out the economic advantages and benefits of New York City vs more rural regions of New York State, and how the former “subsidizes” the latter. Again, this wealth transfer is to be expected under progressive taxation policies.

Residents should be able to choose to live in less “economically efficient” regions if they wish. Choosing where to live is an important personal liberty. But no one else should be financially supporting these choices. Many of us upstate NY residents are NOT asking for any subsi-

dies.

Additionally, progressive taxation and its results should not be used as an excuse to politically marginalize rural region residents. Yet this happens in the minds of many progressives. The logic process to get here is absurd: Argue for progressive taxation policy, get what you want, get the expected results (except some of the poor being helped live in rural vs urban settings), then complain how people who receive government help (whether asked for or not) are not entitled to a political voice. Quite a subterfuge, whether deliberate or not.

Champions of progressive taxation are of course not often those with higher incomes. But many in this group sure do love to flip-flop with a “tax the rich” message one minute then a “help the poor, but not THESE poor who don’t politically/culturally align with me” the next.

Stop the madness. End progressive taxation and wealth transfer. Better yet, end all federal, state and local income taxes entirely. We can hope and advocate for this ideal.



JUNE 10 & 11 2023
FREEDOM WEEKEND
A CELEBRATION OF ALL THINGS AMERICAN

A tradition 9 years strong, join us at
THE FIRING PIN
for a weekend of freedom, friendship, & fun!

FIREWORKS - LIVE MUSIC - MACHINE GUN SHOOT
VENDORS - BONFIRE WITH MUSIC - PRIZES & RAFFLES
DUNK TANK - BOUNCE HOUSE - CHICK'N OUT FUNDRAISER FOR FPC
MANUFACTURERS REPS - GIVEAWAYS - HIGH FIVES - AND MUCH MORE!

8240 BUFFALO RD - BERGEN, NY

585-494-0333



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Unisex Zip Hoodie

\$34.99



LPNY Logo Store
Mug

\$12.99



LPNY Logo Store
Classic Pullover Hoodie

\$34.99



LPNY Logo Store
Classic Long Sleeve Tee

\$22.99

SHOP LPNY MERCHANDISE
LPNYSTORE.COM

CHARLES ROGGEN CAMPAIGN WRAP-UP

by Michael Rebmann
Erie County Treasurer

My name is Michael Rebmann and I am Charles Roggen's campaign manager. This is my first time being involved with the nuts and bolts of running a campaign. The experience was very illuminating. The race was for a Village Trustee spot on the Akron, New York Village Board. There were 2 Republicans and 1 Libertarian running for 2 openings on the Board. The last time the Republicans had any opposition was in 2017. Let's jump right to the results and take it from there.

Charles Roggen (LBT)
61 votes (14.8%)

Michael Middaugh (REP-Inc.)
170 votes (41.3%)
Daren Schultz (REP)
181 votes (43.9%)

229 total ballots were cast. Since this was a vote for 2 out of 3 for Village Trustee, approximately 46 people chose only 1 candidate. 2021 had 37 ballots cast with 2 candidates running unopposed.

While we didn't win, we got people thinking about change. This is a beginning, not an end. From what I've been told by long-time residents, the Republicans did much more campaigning this year compared to the past. They went door-to-door, used lawn signs, and did a mailing to all village residents. We went door-to-door, handed out flyers, used door hangers, lawn signs, and business cards.

I learned quite a bit managing my first campaign and am looking forward to working on 2 more

campaigns in Niagara County for November, a city council seat and a town board seat. My 2 biggest takeaways were:

1. Keep the communications flowing between the campaign manager and the candidate. You won't agree on everything and that's OK.
2. Run the campaign as aggressively as possible.

It is not too late to run a campaign for November, independent petitioning runs from April 18 until May 30. Look for races with low voter turnouts and/or unopposed candidates. Building a foundation from the bottom up is the key to our success!

Charles Roggen
for Akron Village Trustee

Your eyes, your ears, and
your voice in Village
Government

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