



**Judge Napolitano
praises Gov.
Gary Johnson at
Freedom Fest**

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LP News

The Party of Principle™

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Gov. Gary Johnson Wows Paul Festival Crowd

Governor Gary Johnson came out swinging against the Federal Reserve, the U.S. war in Afghanistan and the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) at the PAUL Festival held in Tampa August 24-26 just before the Republican National Convention. Over two thousand Ron Paul supporters came to hear a weekend line-up of speakers and bands. Attendance peaked when Johnson delivered his speech.

"It was his strongest speech ever," said a Johnson campaign worker, noting the governor's delivery was clear and compelling while his proposals were well-aligned with those of Dr. Paul.

The crowd roared their approval with every proposal Gov. Johnson offered, waving signs, hooting and hollering throughout his delivery.

For a full hour and a half after his speech, a throng of new supporters, bloggers and reporters swarmed Gov. Johnson while dozens of smart phones and professional camera gear captured the moment.

"How can I get a yard sign?" asked hundreds of visitors who passed through



Supporters were still waiting for a chance to meet Gov. Gary Johnson 1-1/2 hour after he spoke at the PAUL Festival in Tampa.

the Libertarian Party booth at the festival manned by Florida LP volunteers who handed out thousands of LP and Gov. Johnson bumper stickers, brochures and T-shirts.

"Do you want to sign a petition calling for inclusion of Gov. Johnson in the presidential debates?" asked the volunteers. More than 800 attendees responded "Sure!" and signed on the spot (see petition featured on page 4).

There were cheers all around as well for speeches delivered by Libertarian VP candidate Judge Jim Gray, Executive Direc-

tor Carla Howell and Chair Geoffrey Neale who also addressed the crowd.

"After Mitt Romney wins the Republican nomination, the only way you can make it clear that you will not back down is to vote for the Libertarian candidate, two-term Governor Gary Johnson. A vote for Gary Johnson is a vote for Ron Paul," said Howell.

Twenty volunteers recruited by LP Florida Chair Adrian Wyllie and supervised by him and national headquarters staff mem-

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CHAIR'S CORNER

Accepting nominations for LNC at-large

by Geoff Neale



With the resignation of Wayne Allyn Root from the Libertarian National Committee, we have an opening for an At-Large position.

The procedure specified by our Bylaws gives the full authority for the replacement to the LNC. Anyone who meets the Bylaws requirements for membership is eligible to place their name in nomination.

This replacement election may or may not take place through a mail ballot of the LNC members. If it does, it could be in the past by the time this issue of *LP News* arrives at mailboxes. If the election has not happened by early November, I expect that this position will be filled by a vote at the next LNC meeting, which is scheduled for November 17th and 18th in Arlington, Virginia.

For status of the election, check the LP website (<http://www.lp.org/blogs/replacement-election-for-lnc-vacancy-fall-2012>). In the event that a replacement has not already been elected, I ask that anyone interested in serving in this position submit a one to two page nomination to both chair@lp.org and secretary@lp.org. This will serve both to nominate your candidacy and to affirm your willingness to serve so that our staff does not have to investigate the latter.

There are no rules requiring any kind of format or content in this nomination, but I think it would be advisable for any candidate to provide:

- A statement that they are seeking the open position and will commit to attending the meetings;
- A summary of their libertarian credentials;
- A summary of their non-libertarian qualifications to sit on a board, and
- A short statement of what they feel they bring to the LNC.

I want every nominee to recognize that being a member of the LNC represents a significant investment in both time and money. Each LNC member pays his own travel and lodging to attend LNC meetings.

I would prefer that all nominations be submitted by Friday November 2nd, so that the LNC can review the nominations before our next LNC meeting. I intend to have this replacement election be one of the earliest items on the agenda. Once nominations are opened, all previously submitted nominations will be considered. At that time, other nominations may be made by any LNC member, but cannot be made by anyone outside the LNC. Once nominations are closed, I intend to give any candidate that is present one or two minutes to speak on their behalf. After the voting, the winner, if present, will be welcomed onto the LNC, and will immediately be able to participate in the meeting.

Next LNC Meeting:

November 17-18, 2012

Crystal City Gateway Marriott
Crystal City, Virginia

(Near the Reagan National Washington D.C. airport.)

The following individuals became Lifetime Members of the Libertarian Party between June 6, 2012 and September 7, 2012:

Demo Agoris (PA)
Mike Anzis (CA)
David Aschmann (GA)
Paul Castle (KY)
Peter Coggan (CO)
Michael Cook (VA)
Michael Cordes (MD)
Stella Covre (VA)
Joel Dixon (OK)
Kenneth Duck (AR)
William Greenway (CA)
Bryan Hurley (FL)
Kyle Jordan (TX)
Marc Karetny (CA)
Michael Kreshel (NE)
Ted Moss (OH)
Ronald Nielson (UT)
Henry Osher (TX)
Robert Perry (KY)
Myron Richardson (MA)
Tracy Ryan (HI)
James Schleck (NJ)
Roy Shelton (WI)
Sara Sjoberg (MI)
Michael Stoots (GA)
Steven Straley (CO)
Quinn Taylor (MO)
Paul Washburn (VT)

The Libertarian Party grants Lifetime Membership to individuals who contribute at least \$1,000 during any twelve-month period. Call 202-333-0008 to find out how much more you would need to donate to become a Lifetime Member today.

LPNews

The Purposes of the Libertarian Party:

The Party is organized to implement and give voice to the principles embodied in the Statement of Principles by: functioning as a libertarian political entity separate and distinct from all other political parties or movements; moving public policy in a libertarian direction by building a political party that elects Libertarians to public office; chartering affiliate parties throughout the United States and promoting their growth and activities; nominating candidates for President and VicePresident of the United States, and supporting Party and affiliate party candidates for political office; and, entering into public information activities.

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Maryland U.S. House Candidate Fights for Liberty on Several Fronts

He could be seen as a typical Washington insider as a managing partner of an inside-the-beltway 30-lawyer firm, which caters to telecommunications companies and international firms that do business with the federal government.

And yet Mark Grannis, the Libertarian candidate in Maryland's 8th congressional district, is running as a Libertarian for the U.S. House to make Washington D.C. far less powerful.

Earlier this year Grannis published his first book, *Less We Can: The Case for Less Government, More Liberty, More Prosperity, and More Security*. Mark Grannis is also featured in several Libertarian Solution videos which he helped to write or edit, posted to the LP.org web site. And if that wasn't enough to keep him busy, from April 2011 until March 2012, Attorney Grannis argued for the Libertarian Party of Maryland in their effort to force the State Board of Elections to give effect to thousands of signatures on the party's ballot-access petition.

Maryland's congressional districts are heavily gerrymandered, and Grannis's 8th district stretches from the Washington, D.C. suburbs all the way to the rural areas near the Pennsylvania border. The district is currently represented by Democrat Chris Van Hollen, a member of the party elite who has never seen a spending program he didn't like. But Mr. Grannis aims to use the growing concern among voters about the state of the economy and the nation's finances to loosen Van Hollen's hold on the district. Republican Ken Timmerman and Green Party candidate George Gluck are also running against Van Hollen.

According to Mark Grannis, the top policy priority for the next Congress should be to put the country's fiscal house in order by eliminating federal programs that are unnecessary or unaffordable, and in many cases, ineffective or even unconstitutional.

"That includes federal subsidies for agriculture, banking, carmakers, drug companies, energy companies, and so on through the alphabet," says the Libertarian candidate.

"It includes the mountain of special favors that Democrats and Republicans



Mark Grannis makes the case against stiffening the signature requirement for putting Libertarians on the ballot in Maryland's highest court.

alike have stuffed into the tax code for decades."

"It includes the bloated bureaucracies that have already made education and health care much more expensive than they would be in a free market. It includes much of our national security establishment, especially the parts that are operating outside the Constitution," he said.

Mark Grannis grew up in Ohio and earned a degree in government and economics from Georgetown University and a law degree from the University of Michigan. He says he has been fascinated with politics since his childhood.

But he got better insight into the inner workings of the Washington political machine in the 1990s and early 2000s when as a lawyer he handled regulatory and civil rights matters for his clients.

"Gradually I came to understand that our 'leaders' in Congress and the White House, Democrats and Republicans alike, were addicted to coercion: addicted to taxing and spending—or borrowing and spending, which is in many ways worse—addicted to war, and addicted to the illusory security of the police state in domestic matters," Mr. Grannis recalls.

His worries about the nation's future grew during the 2008 economic and financial crisis, when both Republican and Democratic politicians started dishing out bailout packages without even clearly understanding what was happening in the economy.

"I am running for Congress to make sure voters in Maryland have the chance to choose a better course: less government and more liberty, a combination that will make us and future generations safer and more prosperous," Mr. Grannis says.

His campaign website is www.grannisforcongress.org.

John Jay Myers Takes on War and Corporatism in Texas U.S. Senate Race

Very few Texans know what the word "corporatism" means. John Jay Myers, the Libertarian nominee for U.S. Senate, is dead set on changing that. "Corporatism is big government in bed with big business," said Myers.

Few epitomize corporatism more than Myers' Republican opponent Ted Cruz, who worked for President George W. Bush as a Domestic Policy Advisor. The Bush bailout included a \$12.9 billion payout to Goldman Sachs through AIG. Conveniently, Cruz's wife Heidi Cruz is a Vice-President at Goldman Sachs. She was also an advisor to Condoleezza Rice in the Bush Administration.

"Ted Cruz is literally in bed with big business and Big Government," Myers said. "He is a wolf in sheep's clothing. The media portrays him as a political outsider, but he has been working directly for corporate interests with ties to Big Government since his role in the Bush Administration."

Myers' Democratic opponent, Paul Sadler, is no different. Having served in the



John Jay Myers campaigns with volunteers outside of the Alamo in San Antonio during their tour of Texas with Gov. Gary Johnson

Texas House from 1991-2003, Sadler said in a recent debate, "I would support bank bailouts in certain circumstances."

A local small business owner, John Jay Myers' campaign slogan is simple but powerful: "End the wars, end corporatism, live your life as you see fit." He offers

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Florida House Candidate Peter Richter in 2-Way Race; Vows to Shrink Government

Libertarian Peter Richter has unusually good odds of a high vote total in his race for Florida State Representative in District 106. "Peter's race is the most winnable race — certainly in the state, and maybe nationwide — because voters are unhappy with the Republican incumbent and there's no Democrat opposition," says Richter's campaign manager, Jared Grifoni.

Richter is fully committed to Libertarian principles. "I wholeheartedly support actually shrinking government and decreasing the budget each year," says Richter, "and I will never vote for a budget that increases spending over the current year's budget."

"I believe that anything can and should be privatized and would vote for and sponsor legislation to do just that," promises Richter.



Peter Richter greets parade watchers while campaign volunteers drive a truck decorated with his campaign banners.

Voters are responding to Richter's hard-hitting proposals as demonstrated by the "Politics in the Park" straw poll in June where he finished second to Republican incumbent Kathleen Passidomo with approximately 30% of the vote.

Peter Richter plans to repeal the green energy subsidy previously supported by Passidomo. According to Richter, "It's a taxpayer-funded, crony capitalist program

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Johnson Big Hit With Paul Fans

...continued from page 1

ber Nick Dunbar were kept busy with nonstop traffic at the Libertarian Party booth where a video showcased the party's 40-year history of opposing the Federal Reserve, a favorite topic of Paul supporters.

Carla Howell said, "They did a bang-up job. It was one of the most effective volunteer efforts I've ever seen."

On Sunday August 26, organizers suspended the Paul Festival while delegates amassed at the nearby Sun Dome for a rally put on by Ron Paul. LP volunteers were there asking attendees to sign the petition. Again, the reception was overwhelmingly positive.

By then, the majority of Ron Paul supporters realized that he would not win his party's nomination due to manipulation of convention rules by GOP operatives.

"Gov. Gary Johnson's timing couldn't have been better," said Geoffrey Neale. "Ron Paul supporters worked so hard for so long to win delegates and keep open the possibility of his being nominated – only to be thrown under the bus by their party leadership."

After a year-long battle in which GOP operatives used underhanded tactics to overturn Ron Paul victories in several states, they changed the rules again just two days before the convention opened. The new rules permanently strip Republican delegates of much of their say in who the party nominates, angering not just Ron Paul supporters but a sizable portion of rank-and-file Republican delegates.

"More than a few Ron Paul delegates told me that the Libertarian Party is amazingly bottom-up, giving delegates a real say in choosing party leadership – the exact opposite of the GOP's top-down management that corners delegates into voting for a predetermined candidate," said Neale.

Huffington Post writer Robin Koerner reported on September 9 that in a survey of over 13,000 Republicans who joined the GOP specifically to nominate Ron Paul, 66% of them have already decided to vote for Gov. Gary Johnson in November.



Governor Johnson and NC Libertarian gubernatorial candidate Barbara Howe (front right) campaign while participating in 5K race.

The below petition is posted at LP.org and was offered to Paul Festival attendees in Tampa.

Petition to Include Libertarian Two-Term Governor Gary Johnson in Presidential Debates with Mitt Romney and Barack Obama

Why Governor Gary Johnson is qualified for the office of President:

- Successful entrepreneur, business executive and leader who created 1,000 private sector jobs.
- Two-term governor. Re-elected by voters of New Mexico. Neither Mitt Romney nor Barack Obama has been re-elected.
- Has 8 years chief executive experience in government -- as much as Mitt Romney and Barack Obama combined.
- As governor, he vetoed over 750 unnecessary bills – more than all other governors combined. Only two vetoes were overridden. This saved taxpayers billions of dollars.
- Like the Democratic and Republican nominees, is expected to be on the ballot in all 50 states plus D.C.

If Governor Gary Johnson is excluded from the debates, these important issues - and more - will be minimized or ignored:

Federal Spending:

Both Obama and Romney will add \$1.2 Trillion more to the federal debt in their first year alone. **President Gary Johnson will cut spending in Year One by 43% to balance the budget.**

Bailouts:

Obama and Romney supported bailouts for banks, corporations, foreign governments and state governments. **President Gary Johnson will veto all bailouts.**

Medical Insurance:

Obama will preserve, protect and expand Obamacare. Romney will replace it with Romney-care. **President Gary Johnson will repeal Obamacare completely and return medical choices to families and doctors.**

Foreign Intervention:

Romney and Obama will keep 550,000 U.S. troops stationed in foreign countries and drag on the war in Afghanistan. **President Gary Johnson will radically draw down U.S. troops in foreign countries and immediately bring our troops home from Afghanistan.**

Therefore, Governor Gary Johnson should be included in all Presidential Debates with Barack Obama and Mitt Romney.

Former LP Executive Director Supports Candidates Through PAC

Former National LP Executive Director Wes Benedict started the Libertarian Booster PAC in Texas that works directly with non-federal candidates. Funded by a \$150,000 initial contribution, the PAC had a booth at the LP Texas convention and according to a blog entry, "The Libertarian Booster PAC delivered *Libertarian Booster PAC* packages to 25 candidates at the LP Texas convention. The boxes contained 20 yard signs, 100 bumper stickers, 40 business cards, and 20 color campaign flyers. These materials were provided without charge to 25 of the candidates supported by this PAC."

According to Benedict "I've always been in favor of running lots of candidates for office, but have been frustrated that our party hasn't been able to give them more help. Now I'm giving some of them more help than they want. I think this will help us recruit more and better candidates in the future."

Benedict continues, "PACs are a great way for donors and doers with common visions to organize and make things happen quickly and efficiently."

Find out more about the Libertarian BoosterPAC at <http://www.libertarianboosterpac.org>.

Andy Horning for US Senate Will Appear in Two Televised Debates

Andy Horning relishes his role as the Libertarian for U.S. Senator of Indiana. "By constitutional design and authority, Senators are supposed to be the states' defenders against an overreaching federal government," Horning says. "Those libertarian ideals are obviously needed in the senate today."

Horning will have the chance to make his case for a much smaller, constitutional government in two televised debates this fall. The Indiana Debate Commission has invited him to face off against his Democrat and Republican opponents on October 15th and October 23rd.

"[It's] extraordinarily good news," Horning says about his acceptance into the televised debates. "That's where I expect to make the biggest impact."

Horning calls for sweeping reductions in the federal government: "Most of what we call federal agencies, powers, laws and actions (including taxes and wars) are unconstitutional, and therefore legally null and void."

One of the first areas of the federal government that Horning wants to eliminate is the Federal Reserve. "Our government-issued money is to be (at least backed by) gold or silver. No private central bank is allowed to make monopoly money," he says.

Andy Horning also proposes his "spring cleaning law" or 10-year sunset provision on all laws, agencies and powers of government. He notes, "If a law is important and working, legislators can vote it back into law. Whatever fails such a vote, however, would cease to burden us."

Having spent the bulk of his career

developing and implementing healthcare products such as imaging systems and electronic medical records, he has seen the negative effects of government interference firsthand. "No industry is so taxed and litigated, and I'm not the sort to just quietly take it," Horning says. "I want to put a leash on this monster." Andy Horning calls for repeal of Obamacare as well as every other federal health care law on the books.

The Indianapolis Star called Horning "Indiana's most prominent Libertarian" having run for office seven times. He has been in so many televised debates over the years, Horning says the debate organizers are almost happy to have him again. "I make the debates a whole lot more interesting," he chuckles. "People tell me they are Libertarian because of what I told them in the debates."

In 2004 Horning took a shot at running as a Republican for U.S. Congress. "I still have twitches," Horning recalls about his stint with the GOP. "I saw the belly of the beast."

Horning now favors running on the Libertarian Party ticket where he has run for governor twice, U.S. Congress twice, Indi-

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Andy Horning,

David Staples Running in Two-Way Race for Georgia Public Service Commission

David Staples of Georgia decided to run for Public Service Commission (PSC) in District 5 when he realized there would be no Democrats in the race, leaving him in a two-way race with incumbent Republican Stan Wise.

Whereas the PSC has historically restricted competition in the industries it oversees –telecommunications, transportation, electricity and natural gas – David Staples is running to remove government barriers to competition. He is a firm believer in a free-market energy sector, arguing that the current hold of utility monopolies on the market must be broken in order to provide consumers with the best services at the lowest price.

He wants to allow energy companies to sell products and services directly to Georgia property owners. Currently, the state requires them to go through state-sanctioned utility monopolies.

"I cannot hire an out-of-state company to install their solar panels on my property and to sell me the electricity the panels produce. I want to change that," explained Staples. "Allowing third-party competitors is the first and easiest step to take."

David Staples also wants to reduce state government spending to keep taxes down. If elected, he will immediately ask for a 10-percent reduction in his salary as



Libertarian candidate David Staples (right) participates in the Marietta, Georgia Independence Day Parade along side LP Georgia Executive Director Brett Bittner (left).

Public Service Commissioner. He will also work to cut other PSC expenditures such as reducing the \$150,000 in the 2011 budget for new vehicles.

Mr. Staples is a strong advocate for transparency. "Most people are unable to attend the daytime meetings of the PSC. But with the technology available in today's world, why are we not able to go back and see what really happened in these public meetings?" he asks.

A Georgia native, Staples lives in Powder Springs, Cobb County with his wife, Ashley and their one-year-old daughter, Tori. By day, David Staples works as a web technologies architect for an international company that makes heavy duty mining equipment. By night, he and his wife own and operate Pony Tail Acres – a 38-acre horse farm they purchased as a foreclosure in 2010.

You can find his campaign website at votestaples.com, and his Facebook page is "Vote Staples."

D.C. Libertarian Takes on 11-term Democratic Incumbent



Bruce Majors

Bruce Majors aims to seize an opportunity for the LP in his run for Congress in the District of Columbia. He's running against entrenched Democratic Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton. If he wins more than 7,500 votes this election, the Libertarian Party will be granted permanent ballot status in D.C., saving the party tens of thousands of dollars in future elections.

Because there is no Republican in the race, his chances are good. Michael Monroe, the Republican who challenged Norton during the 2004 presidential election, won over 18,000 votes. Majors stands a

good chance of grabbing enough of those votes to secure party status.

Bruce Majors is addressing issues that Eleanor Holmes Norton won't touch and that appeal to fiscal conservatives as well as to civil libertarians. He calls for both slashing federal government spending and repealing the Defense of Marriage Act.

"DOMA is a discriminatory piece of legislation that implies that marriage is only between a man and a woman. It denies same-sex couples over 1,000 legal rights and privileges that straight couples receive," he said.

On D.C.'s regulatory burden, Majors

says that it drives up the cost of D.C. housing and makes it impossible for working class people to start a business - from hair braiding, to delivering mail, to providing day care. "Less regulatory burden means more opportunity for the people of D.C.," he said.

Bruce Majors calls for ending the Drug Prohibition, noting, "The current 'War on Drugs' takes the wrong approach. Not only is it costing us more in taxes but it deters people from seeking out treatment for fear of punishment."

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Top 10 Ballot Issues for Libertarians

by Paul Jacob

In addition to nearly 600 Libertarian Party candidates on the ballot across the country this November, Libertarians in 34 states can also win by either passing or defeating the 157 constitutional or statutory measures placed on their ballots by legislatures or through citizen initiative.

Here are the Top Ten ballot issues I think Libertarians need to be engaged in:

10. Sales Tax Hikes. Arkansas's Issue 2 is a "temporary" half-cent increase in the sales and use tax. In 2002, the **Arkansas** Libertarian Party was instrumental in petitioning an initiative onto the ballot that would have abolished sales taxes on food and medicine. Though that measure was soundly defeated, it began a political dialogue resulting in the state's so-called "grocery tax" being cut from 6 to 1.5 cents on the dollar. Issue 2 would reverse part of this progress.

In **South Dakota**, **Initiated Measure 15** would mean a 25 percent increase in the state's sales tax, hiking it from 4 to 5 cents on the dollar.

9. Fleecing the Minority. One of the most oppressed minorities in America today are smokers, and if the "**Healthy Missouri Initiative**" passes, they'll be taxed \$1 more for every pack of cigarettes they buy in the state. Taxation is theft, but picking on a minority of Show Me State citizens in an attempt to punish personal behavior that is none of the government's business is even worse.

8. More Equal than Others. State **Question 759** would ban racial and gender preferences — so-called "affirmative action" programs — preventing official government discrimination in **Oklahoma**.

7. Don't Steal My Home. On principle, Libertarians oppose eminent domain, the power of government to force an individual to sell his property at the demand of government for a price the government decides is "just." **Virginia's Question 1**, a constitutional amendment, can't end the practice altogether, but does seek to outlaw the worst abuses. If passed, the amendment would specifically prohibit eminent domain use for job creation, tax revenue generation or so-called "economic development."

6. Taxpayer Bill of Rights. Amend-

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Judge Napolitano praises Gov. Johnson at Freedom Fest

To a full room of attendees who came to the Libertarian Party's presentation held at the July Freedom Fest in Las Vegas, Chair Geoffrey Neale explained how, if votes for Governor Gary Johnson result in Obama's reelection, we'll have gridlock.

"A Republican house and senate fighting Obama means fewer bills will pass," he said, "putting more of a brake on Big Government than if Romney were president."

Neale added, "If anyone tells you they don't want to 'spoil' the race for Obama or Romney and they live in a non-swing state, point out to them that if their vote won't affect the outcome anyway, they may as well vote for Governor Gary Johnson."

Calling on her experience in Massachusetts running against Mitt Romney for governor in 2002 and watching his four years as governor with hawk eyes, Executive Director Carla Howell exposed the Republican nominee's track record. "He championed massive tax increases, cham-

pioned \$5 billion in higher government spending, and when he championed Romneycare, there wasn't a peep of resistance from a single Republican in the state."

"I never knew that about Romney," said several of the attendees. Over 40 of them subsequently signed up for a dinner held the following evening by the Johnson campaign's Nevada Finance Director, Joe Hassen, where over 100 attended and donated over \$25,000 to the Governor Johnson campaign.

Governor Gary Johnson and Judge Jim Gray were introduced as special guests at the Libertarian Party presentation to a standing ovation. Many returned to join an even bigger crowd when the two gave their own presentation two days later.

Judge Andrew Napolitano, popular former host of the Fox Business News show *Freedom Watch*, praised Governor Johnson during his main floor speech.

"There is a person in this room, who I must invite to the attention of everyone, because he has the courage to stand in front of the establishment and say, enough

is enough!" said Napolitano.

"Whether he wins or loses in his latest quest to set you free, he is a figure of historical significance and profound contemporary interest. He was once called, 'Governor No!' when he said to the legislature of his state, you are not going to interfere with commercial transactions that are voluntarily entered into.

"Maybe . . . who knows . . . after this campaign, or the next one, he might be in 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. Former New Mexico Governor, whose sandal straps I am unworthy to fasten, who will speak here tomorrow at 10:30, Governor Gary Johnson."

When asked if he would run for president, Napolitano deferred, "You have the luxury of choices. You have the most dangerous president since Abraham Lincoln who wants to be re-elected. You have a guy who, when he ran for the senate, ran to the left of Ted Kennedy..."

"Then you have a lover of liberty by the name of Governor Gary Johnson," said Judge Napolitano.

Libertarian Solution: Abolish the FDA and Save Lives

The Federal Drug Administration claims it is needed for our safety. But try telling that to the surviving family of Arizona resident Richard Johnson.

He died of melanoma on New Year's Day of 2010, just four months after he was diagnosed.

This tragedy occurred as biotechnology company Mela Sciences battled the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA), seeking approval for its device, MelaFind, that could have diagnosed Mr. Johnson's cancer much earlier.

Seven long years had passed before the FDA finally gave MelaFind its stamp of approval. Nearly two years too late for Mr. Johnson, who could have used the device. It detected early-stage melanoma with a 98% success rate in clinical trials.

Johnson isn't the only one who would likely be with his family today had MelaFind been introduced to the market earlier. In the seven years that Mela Sciences had to spend awaiting FDA approval, 61,000 Americans died of melanoma.

MelaFind is just one of the thousands of drugs and devices that the FDA has withheld from people stricken with disease. How many millions of Americans die avoidable deaths every year because of the FDA?



Even when drugs are FDA-approved, they're often unaffordable because of FDA regulations. Pharmaceutical companies must spend between \$500 million and \$2 billion to get FDA approval of just one drug. This drives drug prices through the roof.

People suffering from a rare, or orphan, disease are at especially high risk. If a relatively small number of people suffer from a disease, drug companies must charge an exorbitant—if not prohibitive—price to recoup the cost of FDA approval. Potentially life-saving cures never get developed as soon as researchers realize that the market is too small. Many of the approximately 22 million Americans who suffer from an orphan disease are deprived of cures because of the FDA -- some of

whom will die and most of whom will suffer needlessly.

Before the FDA grew to the powerful regulator that it is today, the private sector did a much better job of regulating drug safety at a fraction of the cost. Abolishing the FDA will:

- Reduce the cost of drugs dramatically, saving consumers and insurance companies billions of dollars every year;
- Cut federal government spending by \$2.3 billion every year;
- Allow new drugs to get to market seven to 10 years faster;
- Enable the discovery of thousands of hope-inspiring cures and treatments;
- Remove the threat of the FDA expanding its regulatory control, especially over vitamins, herbs and other dietary supplements;
- Free patients to take experimental drugs if they choose. No FDA playing God and taking away their right to exploit every chance they may have to save or improve their own lives.

When we dismantle the FDA and allow free market, voluntary solutions to regulate drug safety, millions of Americans will live longer, healthier lives.

Crowell for U.S. Senate Calls for Swift Downsizing of Federal Government

Dr. Shaun Crowell is passionately committed to the Libertarian Party goals of shrinking government and paying off debt. "I'm not 100% Libertarian," says Crowell, "but I joined the party because it is so strong on economics and monetary policy."

The Tennessee LP endorsed independent Crowell for U.S. Senate at its state convention in January because the signature requirement to run as a Libertarian is one of the toughest in the nation. 44,000 signatures are required to run for statewide office whereas an independent needs only 275 signatures.

Crowell's only serious opponent is Republican incumbent Bob Corker because the Tennessee Democratic Party recently disavowed their nominee Mark Clayton based on his association with an anti-gay hate group.

As a result, Crowell has out-fundraised the Democrat and every other independent candidate in his race. But his budget of close to \$30,000 is still swamped by Corker's, the most well-funded Republican senate campaign in the country with access to over \$10 million.

"I'm not interested in being congratulated for my fundraising achievements," says Crowell. "I still have a long way to



Dr. Shaun Crowell talks with members of the Maury County Tea Party.

go, and I'm playing to win."

If elected, Crowell's platform is simple: smaller government and constitutional conservatism. His top priority is to repeal Obamacare – in full, with no attempt to revise or replace it. In contrast, Republican Corker is following Mitt Romney's lead and wants to "reform" Obamacare.

Whereas Republican Corker voted

to give banks \$700 billion in taxpayer funds, Crowell's plan is to immediately reduce federal spending by \$1 trillion. He aims to eliminate the Departments of Energy, Education, Interior, Commerce, and Housing and Urban Development. He supports elimination of the Environmental Protection Agency and eliminating

continued on page 11...

Libertarian in High-Visibility U.S. Senate Race Polls at 8%

Dan Cox Scheduled to be in 3 Televised Debates

"Here's a name... worth keeping an eye on in Montana: Dan Cox...the Libertarian Party candidate," reports Politico, one of the nation's top political web sites with 5,000,000 unique visitors monthly.



Dan Cox

The Montana U.S. Senate race is one with the highest political stakes of the season, drawing national media coverage. Its outcome could decide control of the senate.

According to Politico, the Montana U.S. Senate race is a margin-of-error race which is "making the GOP sweat." An August internal Democrat poll put Libertarian Dan Cox at 6% of the vote, with Democratic incumbent Jon Tester at 43% and Republican Congressman Denny Rehberg at 47%.

Another poll conducted on September 10-11 by Public Policy Polling has Cox at 8%, with Tester at 45% and Rehberg at 43%.

Adding to the worries of Republican Rehberg is a gaff he made that was filmed and that the Democrats are circulating on the Internet. While addressing an audience of lobbyists, he revealed his insider status on Capital Hill by saying of one of his staff members, "Kristen is a former staffer on the Hill and went to lobbying, and I brought her back. So clearly the revolving door does not make me nervous."

Dan Cox is expected to be in three televised debates in October, and the Montana PBS affiliate is featuring his campaign in a 30-minute show.

In response to accusations that he might be the "spoiler," Cox said of his Democratic and Republican opponents, "I hope I spoil both of them."

"Freedom is the issue," Dan Cox

continued on page 11...

IF FEDERAL TAX ON CIGARETTES DETERS SMOKING,

DOES FEDERAL TAX ON EARNINGS DETER WORKING?

LIVE FREE

Join the Libertarian Party!
www.LP.org

"You say pot makes people hungry, stupid and lazy? So you are saying we have had a 40 year war against hungry, stupid, lazy people and we still can't win it?"

I think it's time to throw in the towel."

~John Jay Myers
Candidate for U.S. Senate TX
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FASCISM,

PRO-WAR
PRO-SOPA
PRO-NDAA
PRO-BAILOUTS
PRO-STIMULUS
PRO-DRUG WAR
PRO-PATRIOT ACT

MORE FASCISM,

PRO-WAR
PRO-SOPA
PRO-NDAA
PRO-BAILOUTS
PRO-STIMULUS
PRO-DRUG WAR
PRO-PATRIOT ACT

OR FREEDOM?

ANTI-WAR
ANTI-SOPA
ANTI-NDAA
ANTI-BAILOUTS
ANTI-STIMULUS
ANTI-DRUG WAR
ANTI-PATRIOT ACT

DON'T SCREW THIS UP AGAIN, AMERICA.
ADAMVSTHEMAN.COM

LP Facebook page memes use popular Internet humor, such as the popular "Philosoraptor" (pictured far left), to attract new party members.

Memes Catch on at LP Facebook Page

Libertarian National Committee members Arvin Vohra and John Jay Myers are attracting new members to the LP through their project of posting memes—content that can be quickly and easily spread—on the Libertarian Party's Facebook page.

Their goal of driving traffic to the LP.org web site has met with fantastic success. Prior to the start of the project on July 15, an average of six new members joined

the LP online every day. Since then, an average of 17 new members sign up online every day, almost a three fold increase.

"Our memes consist of a picture with accompanying text that serves as a punch line and that gets people thinking," said Myers. "Visitors who like it can instantly click 'share' and spread it around to their friends."

Visitors who learn of the LP through Facebook memes get plugged into the LP web site, LP News, local affiliates, cam-

paigns and party activities.

Myers and Vohra's fun and edgy memes are tapping into a young audience hungry for something different. "Our messages are irreverent and provocative, and they can at times get under the skin of the hardcore right, or the hardcore left. But the results are undeniable, and they incur no cost to the party," said Myers.

New memes are posted daily at <http://www.facebook.com/libertarians>.

Libertarian Ballot Access Heroes

As of September 10, donors contributed \$218,086 to the national LP specifically for 2012 Libertarian ballot access. These donations were made by supporters who were not just funding ballot access in their own state but in other states nationwide. All Libertarians benefit from the party's presence on every state ballot.

In addition, several affiliates raised tens of thousands of dollars on their own to fund their state's ballot access drive, notably the New York LP. Special thanks are due to each and every donor who contributed to state and national party ballot access drives.

Equally important are the volunteers who get Libertarians on the ballot. Petition drives can be grinding, nerve-racking, and utterly exhausting. Yet hundreds of dedicated Libertarian supporters answered the call this year and gave of their precious time and skills to achieve ballot access nationwide.

There are many more stories to tell than can fit in the pages of LP News. Here are some this year's top contributors to Libertarian ballot access.

Bill Redpath

Indispensable. That's the only way to describe the dedicated volunteer work of Bill Redpath, who has been the Libertarian Party's champion of ballot access nationwide for years.

Bill Redpath has overseen every aspect of petitioning: Helping states get organized, making the case for funds to the Libertarian National Committee, and flying to states to help when drives are in trouble. On top of all that, he still found time to personally collect 2,000 petition signatures in Virginia, West Virginia, Illinois, and Maryland.



Bill Redpath

Richard Winger

One would hope that election law would be clear-cut, simple, sensible, predictable and unchanging. But that's rarely the case. Each of the 50 states and D.C. has different ballot access laws. Many are byzantine and designed to make ballot access difficult, especially for third parties. Rules often change with new legislation and court decisions.

Richard Winger, publisher of *Ballot Access News*, is the nation's most sought-after ballot access authority. He keeps a pulse on ever-changing state laws and procedures and is always ready and willing to share his sage advice with Libertarians. He has long been a key contributor to Libertarian Party ballot access success.



Richard Winger

Pennsylvania heroes: Roy Minet, Tom Stevens, and many others

When Libertarian John Karr alerted members of the Pennsylvania LP that there was a validity problem with some of the signatures being collected, LP State Chair Tom Stevens went into overdrive. He stepped up signature collecting to make up for ones that may be lost due to poor validity, collecting over 49,000 signatures, well over the 20,601 required. When the inevitable Republican challenge came, Stevens played a key role in overseeing the LP's defense.

As it became clear that many volunteers would be needed to survive the challenge, Roy Minet immersed himself in a major effort to recruit and supervise more than 80 volunteers who came from across Pennsylvania and seven other states – even as far as Colorado – to stave off the GOP's challenge.

The 2012 challenge in Pennsylvania proved to be a marathon. A court order required 20 volunteers to be present all day, every day for weeks on end. The task was daunting, but did not stop a flood of support. "Every one of these 80 volunteers made sacrifices. They gave their money and their time, often taking vacation days or personal time from work to come help," said a grateful Roy Minet.

After five long weeks of courtroom drama, the challenge was still not resolved, although looking favorable for Libertarians. A lot is at stake. Pennsylvania has the fifth most electoral votes in the nation.

Mark Axinn, New York

New York is one of the tougher states for ballot access, requiring 15,000 signatures that must be collected by registered NY voters within a tight window. Petitions must also be notarized.

LPNY Chairman Mark Axinn headed the ballot access effort that brought in 25,531 signatures in just five weeks – enough to fend off a challenge. In addition, he oversaw the state party's effort to raise \$18,000 to pay for ballot access.

"Congratulations to all our hardworking Libertarian candidates and to everyone who helped and who donated," said Axinn.

Mike Wilson, West Virginia

After the Secretary of State told the West Virginia LP that their petitions weren't sufficient, Mike Wilson refused



Tom Stevens



Roy Minet



Mark Axinn

to back down. He demanded to see the signatures. When the Secretary balked, he filed a Freedom of Information Act request to get access.

With the help of Libertarian Karl Swisher, he then checked thousands of signatures against the voter registration database and discovered that the state's petition checkers were using faulty assumptions to calculate the validity rate.

Wilson was able to persuade the Secretary to declare enough signatures as valid to win a place on the ballot for Libertarians.

Ed Wright, Iowa

After the state threw out the 1,900-plus signatures that the Iowa Party originally submitted based on a technicality, Libertarians had four days to re-organize and re-file. At that point the option of holding a nominating convention was infeasible, so they called a caucus instead.

Libertarian Ed Wright and other volunteers got the word out. On the day before the deadline, they held an all-day caucus at the grounds of the Iowa state fair, collecting 300 delegate signatures representing 30 different counties.

Twice the GOP challenged the Libertarian signatures, requiring Wright to appear in court. Each time he won a favorable ruling, putting Libertarian Governor Gary Johnson on the ballot in Iowa.

David Blau, Massachusetts

In addition to having a high 10,000 signature requirement, Massachusetts also has the nation's most difficult turn-in process. Petitions must be collected on separate sheets for each of the state's 351 different towns and cities, creating a mountain of paperwork. Then they must be turned into each town to be certified. Then they must be picked up from each town. Then the whole batch must be delivered to the Secretary of State.

As signatures came in, David Blau supervised a team of volunteers who sorted them into piles for each of the cities and towns. He then had to arrange for drivers and a mass mailing to turn in the petitions and to pick them up from each town. He kept meticulous records for every town to ensure petitions were turned in on time and didn't get lost along the way.



Mike Wilson



Ed Wright



David Blau

continued on page 9...

Ballot Access Heroes Continued...

...continued from page 8

In addition to months of hard work, David Blau put in \$5,000 of his own money to help fund the collection of over 14,000 raw signatures by professional petitioners. Because of his dedication and skill, Libertarians are on the ballot in Massachusetts.

Jorge Maderal, Maine

Maine LP state chair Jorge Maderal reflected on his first experience of petitioning. "It made me angry that to get ballot access, we would have to jump through so many hoops, but I knew that this was the only way we could get Governor Johnson on the ballot." The state required 4,000 valid signatures. According to Maderal, they turned in about 5,400 quality signatures – enough to prevail in a challenge.

A retired Navy veteran, Maderal brought his organizational skills to the fight, volunteering his time and money to personally drive to almost all of the state's municipalities and checking to make sure that signatures were submitted on time.

"This was an all-out effort by our volunteers," said Maderal. Maine Libertarians made the ballot without a challenge.

Lex Green, Illinois

Even though "Illinois experienced its lowest number of volunteers in years," said the state party's Political Director, Lex Green, that didn't stop a small group of dedicated members and paid petitioners from collecting and submitting nearly double the 25,000 signatures required by the state.

"In Illinois, any citizen can challenge the validity of a signature. We had to come in with a formidable number of signatures to deter the major parties from keeping us off the ballot," said Green. They collected nearly 47,700 raw signatures, enough to keep them safe.

"It takes a lot of money and a lot of volunteer hours, which were hard to come by this year," explained Mr. Green. "The



Jorge Maderal

state requires that individuals petition for only one party a year, and because some had already petitioned for Ron Paul, we were forced to turn some away."

After months of difficult petitioning, Lex Green, his wife Karen and dedicated volunteers got Libertarians on the ballot in Illinois.

Jim Lark, Virginia

Virginia requires 10,000 valid signatures with at least 400 in each congressional district to be on the ballot. Plus, due to problems caused by congressional redistricting this year, the petitioning period was cut in half.

Former national LP Chair Jim Lark, who teaches at the University of Virginia, headed the state party's petition drive to collect over 16,000 signatures, enough to protect against a challenge. Dr. Lark coordinated the petitioning efforts and conducted the submissions to the State Board of Elections. In addition, he personally collected nearly 700 signatures. Despite the state's difficult requirements and attempts by Republicans to challenge the petitions, Dr. Lark's effort resulted in placing the LP presidential ticket on the ballot in Virginia with no financial assistance from the national party.

Alicia Dearn

While living in Missouri and running her own law firm in San Diego, Alicia Dearn provided pro bono legal services for Libertarian ballot access efforts in Iowa, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. She now serves as general counsel for the Gov. Gary Johnson campaign.

Dearn spent hours preparing legal paperwork, studying the laws of states in which she does not normally practice, and defending the Libertarian Party's efforts to get on the ballot.

Attorneys Bill Hall of Michigan, Mark Grannis of Maryland, Mark Brown of Ohio and James Linger of Oklahoma also played key roles in defending LPs ballot access.



Jim Lark



Alicia Dearn

GOP Attacks LP Ballot Access in 6 States

Only once before, in 2008, did Republicans attempt to knock the Libertarian presidential nominee off a state ballot. But this year, Republican operatives pulled out all the stops, launching challenges against Libertarian Governor Gary Johnson in six states.

In Pennsylvania, Libertarians had turned in 49,164 raw signatures, more than twice the 20,601 signatures required. Yet Republicans challenged them anyway, forcing 80 LP volunteers to spend days on end in the Philadelphia Board of Elections and in a Harrisburg court proving the signatures were valid. After five long weeks of courtroom drama, a Pennsylvania court made a ruling that favored Libertarians, putting the LP within reach of ballot access. As of September 14, a Republican appeal was expected and approximately 9,000 signatures had yet to be reviewed.

In Michigan, Republican Secretary of State Ruth Johnson ruled against placing Governor Gary Johnson's name on the ballot, citing Michigan's sore loser law which prohibits a candidate who ran in the primary on a party ticket from subsequently running in the general election for the same office. But precedent had been set to allow it. The state had placed several past presidential candidates on the ballot in Michigan including John Anderson in 1980 when he ran on the Anderson Coalition Party ticket after he lost the Republican primary.

As a precaution against the court arbitrarily enforcing the sore loser law, the Libertarian Party of Michigan had nominated Texas Libertarian Gary E. Johnson, who happens to have the same name, to be their presidential candidate so they could put his name on the ballot. But Secretary Ruth Johnson refused to allow any Libertarian presidential candidate on the ballot, despite the fact that the LP is entitled under the law to list all of its candidates.

Ruth Johnson did not inform the LP of her decision until September 7. In her brief issued September 12, she claimed that it would be too difficult to add any Libertarian presidential candidate to the ballot. But the LP had been urging her to issue a ruling since June, long before ballots go to print. She let three months slip by. The case remained in court as of September 14.

Republican-controlled Oklahoma is always the toughest state for third parties, requiring that 51,739 valid signatures be submitted by March 1. After Libertarians came up short, the Oklahoma LP filed suit

to invalidate the early deadline. But the judge refused to give the LP injunctive relief. The party is likely to win this case in 2013 because in each of 52 similar cases, courts have ruled against early petition deadlines. But that won't get Governor Johnson on the ballot in 2012.

There was another option. The newly-formed Americans Elect Party, which had collected enough signatures to put a candidate on the ballot, had decided not to field one. So the Johnson campaign asked them to nominate Johnson as their candidate in Oklahoma. The national AE party declined, but the state AE affiliate agreed to nominate Governor Johnson, thus getting his name on the ballot.

Oklahoma courts took a month after his nomination to issue an official ruling that denied Johnson a place on the ballot, which the Oklahoma Supreme Court upheld on September 13. However, the Court accepted jurisdiction in the case. Libertarian ballot access in Oklahoma for 2012 remained unresolved as of September 14.

In Iowa, an attorney representing two local Republican voters, with a Mitt Romney staffer as a witness, filed a suit challenging the legitimacy of the Iowa LP nominating caucuses. But on September 4, the Polk County District Court Judge ruled that the Libertarians met all of the necessary caucus requirements, defeating the challenge by local Republicans.

On August 31, the Virginia LP was notified that the Republican Party was frivolously challenging the validity of the 16,000 Libertarian petition signatures. After further review, the state Board of Elections ruled that Governor Gary Johnson had qualified for the ballot, rejecting arguments by the state Republican Party to exclude him.

Republican operatives in Ohio filed a complaint in an effort to remove Governor Gary Johnson from the November ballot, citing the state's sore loser law. But the Ohio law only applies to independent candidates. Plus, Johnson had never filed paperwork to be on the Republican primary ballot in Ohio. Lacking any basis, the GOP withdrew its complaint.

Insiders say that the Republicans' intent was not just to remove competition for their nominee, Mitt Romney, but to deplete Libertarian resources. Their efforts may prove to deplete Republican resources – and to diminish Republican goodwill – far more.

For updates on Libertarian ballot access, visit LP.org.

AFFILIATE NEWS AND EVENTS

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

Georgia

Libertarians help defeat historic tax increase

On July 31, the Libertarian Party of Georgia added their third elected Libertarian as Brett Bittner, the state party's Executive Director, won a special election to the Marietta City Schools' board. Brett joins Bluffton City Councilman Douglas "Freddie" Odom and Johns Creek City Councilwoman Karen Richardson.

During the same election, there were 12, 10-year regional transportation sales taxes proposed across the state. Working together with like-minded Georgia groups, Georgia Libertarians defeated the tax in 9 of the 12 regions, including the priciest \$7.2 billion for the Metro Atlanta region. The tax increase would have been the largest increase in the state's history if passed in all 12 regions. The defeat of this tax increase came despite an \$8 million campaign by proponents in Metro Atlanta alone.

The following day, both Brad Ploeger and David Staples qualified to run statewide for the Public Service Commission in districts 3 and 5, respectively. The Staples campaign will only face a Republican incumbent, a situation similar to the 2008 Public Service Commission campaign where John Monds achieved his all-time highest Libertarian vote total status. Sixteen Presidential electors also qualified to cast their Electoral College votes for the Governor Gary Johnson and Judge Jim Gray Presidential ticket.

In Southwest Georgia, ballot access restrictions did not prevent Libertarian Tim Nelson from qualifying as an "Independent" for Lee County Commission in a two-way race against the Republican incumbent. The opportunity for this race came about after qualifying for the older parties ended without a Democratic challenger, which prevented the LP from nominating him. His race has, however, been endorsed by the Georgia affiliate.

On September 16, Georgia hosted Vice Presidential candidate Judge Jim Gray for "An Evening with Judge Jim Gray and Friends" event at the home of lifetime

members Kevin and Rhonda Martini. The event included an intimate opportunity to visit with Judge Gray, David Staples, and Brett Bittner in the "Judge's Chambers."

November 6 is rapidly approaching and the activities in Georgia are ramping up to meet the fever pitch of campaign season.

Indiana

Resounding success at State Fair

For the first time in LPIN history, the party held a booth at the Indiana State Fair. How did it go? Here are some statistics:

The State Fair lasted 17 days. From August 3 to 19, the booth was staffed by at least two volunteers from 10AM to 9PM. The average staffing level in the booth was five volunteers and/or candidates. More than 40 volunteers helped to make the booth a success, and most did more than just one four-hour shift.

Seven volunteers and candidates were at the booth for more than seven days of the fair. Volunteers registered 132 people to vote. Many were young people ready to vote for the first time. Some registered because they felt our candidates were the only ones who could make a difference. Including these figures, Rupert Boneham's gubernatorial campaign alone now has registered between 400 and 500 new voters.

The World's Smallest Political Quiz was front and center in the booth. At least 400 stayed to take the quiz with our volunteers. More than 1,000 of the LP door hangers were given-out so voters could give the quiz at home to others. Fair attendees walked up and took over 2,000 Libertarian bumper stickers, and nearly 750 Gary Johnson bumper stickers. A dozen yard signs for Gary Johnson were also taken, and hundreds of pieces of literature for our Presidential candidate were distributed.

Many pieces of literature were handed out for Andy Horning, Rex Bell, Chard Reid, Jeremiah Morrell, James Nease, and other Libertarian Party of Indiana candidates. Vice Presidential Candidate Judge Jim Gray visited the booth on August 6 to meet with voters. Additionally, a local newspaper group covered the booth and Boneham's campaign. This article was published in a dozen newspapers around

Indiana.

For the first time ever, a Libertarian Lt. Governor's candidate participated in a debate against the Republican and Democrats. Brad Klopfenstein shined in the debate! The state party and Boneham's campaign had 310 volunteer sign-ups at the booth. Boneham's campaign saw 100 new volunteer sign-ups during the State Fair through their website from across Indiana. Boneham took over 2,500 pictures with supporters that went on to Facebook to help promote his campaign, and signed over 7,000 autographs. Boneham's campaign also handed out over 10,000 pieces of literature.

For a complete photo recap, please visit our Facebook album. The booth was made possible by 14 donors who saw it as a great opportunity and helped the party purchase the space at the 2012 State Fair. We owe this success to their generosity.

Kentucky

LPKY scores campaign finance victory

Gary Johnson made the Kentucky ballot officially on Friday, September 7. The state requires 5,000 signatures. LPKY turned in over 10,000 signatures to ensure that we'd survive any challenges.

LPKY had a campaign finance victory. In Kentucky, the executive committees of the Old Parties could donate \$10,000, or 50 percent, whichever is greater, of all candidate funds to their candidates. The law does not speak to New Parties, and thus the Kentucky Registry of Election Finance (KREF) treated LPKY as a 'Contributing Organization' with a limit of \$1,000. LPKY donated \$4900 to the Ken Moellman for Kentucky State Treasurer campaign last year, to help cover petitioning costs. KREF flagged it a potential violation. Briefs were filed, and a hearing was held in front of the State Board of Elections. The SBOE, the General Counsel for KREF, LPKY, and the Campaign all agreed unanimously with the resolution. LPKY is now treated equitably with the Old Parties in regard to campaign finance.

LPKY has a new candidate in a special election in Campbell County for Sheriff. The website will be online soon, at www.votecrum.com.

We are looking for volunteers on a variety of projects. If you're interested in helping the party, please contact Ken Moellman at (859) 652-3575 and he'll help you get involved.

Louisiana

LPL showing spectacular growth as others slow, shrink

Louisiana is happy to report we are witnessing a 22.5 percent growth in registered Libertarian voters since January, and that we are by far, the fastest growing party in Louisiana. Democrats are shrinking, and Republicans and "no party" grew at about 2.5 percent over the same eight months. For comparison, all party registration is up about 1.2 percent statewide. We continue to grow at a nearly 4 percent clip per month. That is picking up speed as well, as we were growing at 2 percent in February.

We've recently hired an Executive Director for the first time on a trial basis, and we are looking to start offering quarterly contracts beginning in October.

There are now two elected Libertarians in Louisiana. Randall T. Hayes filed for Alderman in the Village of Atlanta as one of only three candidates. Michael Riffe filed for Alderman in the Village of Sikes as one of only two candidates. Since in each race three candidates are chosen, both LP members were declared "elected" by the Registrar of Voters and will take office January 1, 2013. These "wins" are considered elections in a partisan race, since both would have had their name appear on the ballot, their party affiliate would have appeared with them. Hayes is a long-time activist in the LP, and was our Senate candidate in 2010, winning our first LP primary for federal office. Riffe is an incumbent Alderman who switched his voter registration to Libertarian before filing for re-election. Both offices are in Winn Parish -- the birthplace of Governors Huey and Earl Long, and Senator Russell Long.

For the November 2012 elections, we are happy to report that Governor Gary Johnson and Judge Jim Gray's electors will appear on Louisiana's ballot, and we have active candidates in five of our six Congressional districts. Since the Democrats failed to field as many candidates, and are experiencing a hemorrhage of voters, and they did not seriously contest our statewide races last year, there is building speculation among pundits in the local and state media that the LP is on a course to establish itself as the primary opposition party to the GOP in Louisiana.

The LPL has also organized its first three Parish sub-affiliates in Caddo, East

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Libertarian Dan Cox Heats Up Senate Race

...continued from page 7

explains. "Somebody has to stand up for the Constitution of the U.S. and the Constitution of Montana. If you want somebody who will advocate on behalf of your individual rights, I am the guy."

If elected, Mr. Cox promises to work to abolish the Federal Reserve. Then, he argues, the country should go back to the gold-and-silver standard, which he calls "constitutional money."

Cox also supports a constitutional amendment that would remove the federal government's authority to borrow money. Forcing the federal government to spend within its means, he argues, will stabilize prices and enable Americans to see their savings grow in value rather than decline in

value. His web site illustrates the dramatic growth of federal debt under both Democrats and Republicans since 1980.

Dan Cox also advocates for the abolition of the TSA (Transportation Security Authority). "Are you tired of being exposed to harmful radiation, naked body scanners and groping?" asks the Libertarian candidate. "The things that TSA is doing to us are unspeakable."

According to Cox, if the TSA is eliminated, "we'll give back more than \$8 billion a year to taxpayers, cut airport wait times in half and restore the constitutional rights and dignity of 1.7 million people who fly every day."

For more information, visit the Dan Cox for US Senate web site: <http://dancox-4senate.com>.

Myers Vows to End Gov Corporatism

...continued from page 3

voters a choice for bringing the troops home, ending the failed war on drugs, ending corporate welfare, and letting Americans live as they see fit as long as they are not infringing on the rights of anyone else.

According to Myers, both Cruz and Sadler will keep military spending at current levels, will continue to escalate the war on drugs, and will continue to feed into the system of corporatism that is plaguing the country.

Seen by his supporters as charismatic, telegenic and passionate, John Jay Myers is enlivening the U.S. Senate Race

in Texas. He's running a serious campaign focused on bringing in new, enthusiastic supporters to the Texas LP. Myers has held over 20 campaign events throughout the state, including joint events with Libertarian presidential candidate Gov. Gary Johnson. His campaign has raised over \$11,000, all small donations from hard working Americans.

John Jay Myers has qualified to be included in two upcoming televised debates, one hosted by the League of Women Voters and the other by the Houston PBS political show Red, White and Blue.

His campaign website is www.JohnJayMyers.com.

A Lack of Democratic Opposition, and Voter Discontent with GOP, Helps Libertarian House Candidate Surge in Florida Race

...continued from page 3

that will fail, just like the Solyndra hand-out failed."

Richter also wants to decentralize education. "This will put control of education in the hands of parents and county governments, not state or federal government," he says. He wants to repeal Senate Bill 2120, which established a single committee charged with sole discretion for choosing textbooks for all Florida public schools.

Richter vows to vote to nullify Obamacare in Florida and cut taxes. "I support a complete elimination of corporate income taxes, reduced sales taxes, and limiting increased property taxes," Richter vows. He also promises to encourage tax credits for parents with kids in private schools.

Richter's proposals also appeal to civil libertarians. He's been fighting to protect privacy with his widely publicized op-

position to the state's "smart meters" which are being forced on utility consumers by the state's Public Service Commission and which invade household privacy by tracking data about electricity usage in the home.

Richter is working with a budget of approximately \$10,000, \$3000 of which is his own money.

Richter's campaign is running radio ads on a libertarian station in Tampa Bay (AM 1340) and during the Dave Elliot show on 98.9 FM. The latest ad challenges Passidomo to a debate; in that vein, Richter recently accepted an invitation to participate in a discussion of key issues hosted by the League of Women Voters. Passidomo has not yet replied.

Peter Richter owns his own business, where he manages IT services for local businesses in Naples, Florida.

His campaign website is www.electrichter.com.

D.C. Libertarian Challenges Career Incumbent

...continued from page 5

Because D.C. is a territory of the United States similar to Puerto Rico and Guam and not a recognized state, the Delegate for D.C. is a non-voting member of the House of Representatives who can influence government policy only if assigned to a congressional committee. D.C. has no representation in the U.S. Senate.

Yet D.C. it is the only territory required to pay federal income tax. Majors objects to this taxation without representation and says, "I will work to end federal taxation in D.C."

Bruce Majors has been a well-known and well-liked political activist in D.C. since 1990. He has helped with six local campaigns and attends community events on a regular basis. His campaign has raised over \$12,000 so far and collected over 5,000 signatures to secure a spot on the November ballot.

The Majors campaign plans to send mailings to registered Republicans and likely voters in precincts that are sympathetic to his views as well as to advertise in hyperlocal newspapers and blogs.

His campaign website can be found at www.BruceMajorsDC.com.

Senate Candidate in Tennessee Sets Sights on Obamacare

...continued from page 7

cabinet-level departments that regulate small business.

Crowell also promises to push for an audit of the Federal Reserve Bank and to vote to repeal the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act and the Sarbanes-Oxley Act.

Shaun Crowell supports amending the 16th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution to eliminate income taxes and to limit Congress' taxing authority to items bought and consumed.

While he's not averse to moving some of the savings from these cost-cut-

ting measures to Medicare and Medicaid in the near term, he notes that, "in the long run, I want to see those services integrated into the private market."

Crowell says he would vote to repeal the NDAA and the Patriot Act but is much more focused on balancing the budget.

Crowell holds a Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine and a B.S. in Agriculture from the University of Tennessee. He is currently the owner and founder of Agape Pet Hospital, LLC, in Spring Hill, Tennessee. To learn more about Dr. Shaun Crowell's campaign, go to: www.shauncrowell.com.



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AFFILIATE News And Events

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Baton Rouge, and Lafayette, with many more in the works (state laws require each Parish has an Executive Committee for all recognized political parties).

We've also begun campaigns to build campus organizations across the state, targeted member recruitment, and to target elected officials to switch party to the LP.

Michigan

LOOK UP! Libertarians on the rise!

Thank you to all who have donated to the Michigan Libertarian Party over the last couple of years. With your contributions, and many people frustrated with the economy, we thought that it was time to mark our spot on the Map. Starting Sept 10th through Oct 7th, you will see billboards rise up across Michigan! Locations will be: I-75 South of Coldwater Rd, facing south (Flint/Lansing); US-31 South of Sherman Rd, facing north (Muskegon); I-96 West of Greenfield Rd, Facing West (Detroit).

Contest: The first individual that can email me all three billboards from an email address, lunch is on US! I will mail you a \$10.00 gift card of your choice! Let's get those camera phones out! (not while driving please). Email us at chair@michiganlp.org.

Montana

Fairs and parades provide new exposure

The summer was busy for the Montana Libertarian Party. We had booths at several fairs and entries at several parades. House District 26 candidate Tim Martin and US Senate candidate Dan Cox were endorsed by Gary Johnson. Dan Cox has had several radio interviews, including statewide radio on Voices of Montana, and recently Missoula's KGVO Talkback.

Governor candidate Ron Vanevender reports: "I have an interview on September 19 with PBS in Bozeman. Last week, we distributed around 2,000 pieces of campaign material in Deer Lodge for my campaign and for Scotts HD 84 race. Also

spent last Friday in person at the Ravalli County Fair, promoting the campaigns for myself and the other candidates as well." Also, thanks to Lt. Governor Marc Mulcahy, for his help with the Montana fair in Billings.

U.S. House candidate Dave Kaiser had a letter to the editor in August. Dave continues to do on-line media, which you can find at www.vote4you.us.

Our Clerk of the Montana Supreme Court candidate Mike Fellows has been busy with parades and helping with fairs, including the Western Montana Fair in Missoula. Labor day weekend saw Fellows traveling to the Sanders County Fair, then off to the Dillon labor day parade. His next is the Missoula Hempfest on September 8. Fellows continues to do a twice-monthly show on the Missoula Community Access TV called "Other People's Pockets." On his September 5 show, Fellows talked about Jury Rights Day. Jury rights material will also be available at the Missoula Hempfest.

Thanks to our legislative candidate Rob McCoy in Senate District 45, House District 87 Candidate Karen Fisher, and others who helped out with the Ravalli Fair Parade and booth. The voters in Ravalli County deserve a choice. We have the Republicans on the run. Vice Presidential candidate Judge Jim Gray was up to the Bitterroot on Aug 20, and on Talk Back the next day. We got all the paperwork in to place Gary Johnson and Judge Gray on the Montana ballot. Thanks for everyone who signed the paperwork.

Secretary of State candidate Roger Roots helped out at the Gallatin County fair and at an event at Montana State University called Catapoolza. We had a booth, promoting the MTLP. Thanks to Dave, for the Gary Johnson material. We met a lot of incoming and returning students. The Montana State University Homecoming is September 22 and we should have an entry.

Next up is various debates between our statewide candidates and the competition across Montana. Some will be broadcast by Montana PBS, while others may be broadcast locally. Also, the Missoula group is getting ready for the University of Montana Homecoming Parade. In good weather, between 10,000 and 20,000 people line the parade route, and 25,000 folks attend the football games.

And, last but not least, congrats to the

University of Montana College Libertarians who collected their required number of signatures at the UM Welcome Fest. That group is off and running. Check out more news on our Facebook page.

New Hampshire

Media coverage a good sign of things to come for the LPNH

The LPNH has had a very busy summer. We had success at the national convention promoting all the liberty activism happening in the Granite State, and all came home ready to promote the Gary Johnson campaign and finish our petition drive.

We had an early setback when the legislature changed the law on May 31st, moving our deadline to nominate candidates from September 11 to June 15. We held our state nominating convention in early June and submitted a list of 20 candidates to the Secretary of State, more than we've had in years. There was a lot of interest in our gubernatorial and congressional nominations. Our final slate is John Babairz for governor, Brendan Kelly and Hardy Macia for congress and several state senate, state rep, and county candidates. In some districts voters will see as many as 6 Libertarians down the ballot.

We were at PorcFest in late June, promoting Gary Johnson and our other candidates to the 1000+ attendees from around the country.

In July, several libertarians, occupiers, and others helped restore the NH Pride Day event. It was a huge success, with more than 500 people attending. Libertarians spoke and we had an outreach table for our candidates. The organizers said they had trouble finding any Democrats to speak at the event, meanwhile 3 LP candidates were ready to go as soon as the event was announced. Several libertarians helped provide security for the event. The LPNH got mentioned in the press coverage.

July was also the final push for our petition drive. It was looking too close for comfort when one town had somehow lost hundreds of our petitions, but they were found again and we all breathed a sigh of relief. A huge push at the end of July, thanks to some last minute help from the LNC, got us over the top with plenty to spare.

On September 4th, we submitted our certified petitions to the Secretary of State. We needed 13,700 and submitted 15,100. This was historic. The LPNH is the only

political organization in the history of NH to have completed this process.

WMUR, the ABC affiliate in Manchester, did an on-camera interview at the statehouse with party chair Rich Tomasso. The NH Patch news service interviewed Rich, gubernatorial candidate John Babiarz and congressional candidate Hardy Macia. We talked about the challenges facing third parties, big issues like the economy, the national debt, and ending military interventionism. In particular we were asked about the anti-war vote. Easy to answer, the LP is the only choice for those voters. Later that morning John Babiarz was on statewide talk radio. The Union Leader and other newspapers called for comments on the story, and further radio and news interviews were scheduled for the rest of the week.

We've never had media coverage for our petition turn-in, much less from television, so we hope this is a good sign of things to come. The coverage is also a nice lead-up for visits by Jim Gray and Gary Johnson later in the month.

The campaign in NH is picking up steam. Early polling shows Gary Johnson and Brenden Kelly at 9%. We have a campaign office in Concord that hosts weekly meetups, signs are going up, candidates are making appearances and earning media, volunteers are coming forward to help. It took a while but the in-state Ron Paul movement is coming to our banner, and we expect to leverage their experience from the presidential primary to make waves in the general election. The grassroots activists are rallying to us, pledges of real help come in every week. We have been told to expect some big endorsements for Libertarian candidates after the state primary on September 11th.

New York

Hard work pays off for 2012 ballot access

Once again, the Libertarian Party will again be on the ballot in New York State offering a different point of view than statism, war and government handouts. After five long, hard weeks, the LPNY submitted 26 volumes containing 4641 pages and 25,531 signatures for Gary Johnson (Pres.), Jim Gray (VP) and Chris Edes (US Senate) as Libertarians.

Congratulations to all our hardworking Libertarian candidates, who in addition

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AFFILIATE NEWS AND EVENTS

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to Gary, Jim and Chris are Rick Witt, Dan Riina, Mike McDermott, Autumn Wark, Dan Halloran and Dave Schnittker for Congress, and John Wilson, David Casavis, James Campbell, Robert Porter and Mark Glogowski for State Assembly.

We in New York are deeply grateful to Bill Redpath, Geoff Neale, Lee Wrights and the entire LNC for their support of our efforts, and to Carla Howell, Robert Kraus, Casey Hansen and Bob Johnston in LPHQ.

We had dozens of volunteer petitioners and a crackerjack team in Albany who processed, sorted and compiled the literally thousands of pages of signatures which we amassed in just five weeks.

We could not have done it without everyone's help and contributions.

North Carolina

Registered Libertarians surge in NC

These are exciting times for the LPNC. We'll keep you updated as we approach the elections. Here are some of the highlights of what's happening in the LPNC:

As of 8/31 we have 15,749 registered Libertarians in NC, a 14.1% increase in a single month.

Gary Johnson visited in late July, is in Charlotte this week for the Democratic convention and is returning September 20 for an appearance at Duke. Also, Judge Jim Gray was in NC last week with multiple media interviews and 2 campus appearances.

Our newly refurbished website seems to be driving traffic to the 'volunteer' and 'profile update' pages. We need to develop a more effective strategy to get them to the 'donate' page.

At the direction of Alex Vuchnich, a professional team of political and media consultants has been retained to advise us on maximizing our probabilities of receiving more than 2% in the Governor race.

The Executive Committee decided to focus on smaller fairs that are shorter and require less volunteer time. We recently participated in two fairs in Charlotte and have plans to attend Spot Festival in Hampstead, River Fest in Wilmington. See the website for others and please come join us.

Our Director of University Relations, Jason Melehani, is doing a terrific job of developing a network of students to help with the Johnson campaign. These students will be welcome assets to us after the election and in planning for 2014 and 2016.

Finally, Barbara Howe is almost finished 'running for Governor.' She has now completed 73 counties and anticipates her final run in Wake County, which will end at the Governor's Mansion, will be Sunday, November 4. Check website for time.

Please feel free to contact JJ Summerell at jj.summerell@lpnc.org anytime with concerns, ideas, etc.

Ohio

GOP attempts to keep Johnson off ballot

The Ohio LP and Gary Johnson team stood its ground against the Ohio GOP attempt to have Governor Johnson removed from the November ballot in Ohio. Using frivolous reasons in a complaint brought by two GOP operatives, there was an attempt to remove the Governor from the November ballot. They cited the "Sore Loser Laws" of Ohio. But, Gary Johnson was NOT on the GOP Primary ballot in Ohio. LPO attorney, Mark Brown, had a direct conversation with officials from Ohio AG and SOS. Within 24 hours the complaint was dropped. Why the Ohio SOS (GOP) even considered such a hearing is up for discussion.

The LPO and the county affiliates have been busy all Summer with local events. This includes parades, festivals, and county fairs. There is an increased buzz when the LPO attends these outreach events.

The Ohio LP has service-marked its state logo with the Ohio Secretary of State. We monitor the use of the state LPO logo and have established some guidelines in our state bylaws. This Summer, the LPO purchased new banners and signage. The older logo signage is being given to county affiliates.

We are pleased that Governor Gary Johnson and Judge Jim Gray have been visiting Ohio. Being such an active affiliate offers more opportunities to network with the GJ2012 team. On October 5, we are planning to welcome Governor Johnson back to Ohio. He will be visiting the Cincinnati and

Columbus, Ohio areas.

For more details on the Ohio Libertarian Party, go to www.lpo.org

Pennsylvania

Ballot challenges continue for LPPA

The Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania has been defending its petitions against a challenge brought by individuals acting on behalf of the Republican Party. We filed 49,164 signatures and needed only 20,601 to get Gary Johnson, Judge Gray and our statewide candidates on the ballot. The GOP challenged 38,801 of our signatures requiring the party to have 20+ volunteers at the Philadelphia Board of Elections for 9 days and 8+ volunteers for two days in Harrisburg.

Thanks to the efforts of a number of LP State Chairs, Carla Howell, Bill Redpath and Charlie Frohman and the many volunteers who stepped forward to help, we were able to comply with the Judge's Order. In Pennsylvania, which is a challenge state, any party losing a challenge is open to possibly having to pay the costs and attorney's fees of the challenging party and any side not fully complying with a Judge's Order might be sanctioned. The LPPA's attorney is Paul Rossi, Esq. and he is being assisted by Marakay Rogers, William Sloane and Dennis Bartholomew, who have been acting as co-counsel.

There are a number of legal issues that still must be litigated such as whether a signer leaving off "12" or "2012" from a date invalidates the signature on a petition form revised by the Board of Elections in January, 2012; whether a voter who signed a petition with one county noted on the petition but who lives out of that county counts or doesn't count as a valid signature; and whether an individual who moved since signing the petition to another address within the jurisdiction should count as seems to be indicated by federal law. Despite all we still have to go through including defending each contested petition signature, we are still cautiously optimistic we will survive the challenge.

The Pennsylvania Libertarian Party requests any information you may have with respect to the original formation of the LPPA and who may have served in the position of LPPA State Chair, especially in the 1970s. If you have any knowledge about the dates of service of LPPA Chairs, please contact Dr. Tom Stevens directly by cell at 718-357-7075 or by e-mail at DrTomStevens@aol.com.

Utah

LPU growing faster than all other parties

The Libertarian Party of Utah is now officially the fastest growing political party in Utah. In addition, our state chair, Jake Shannon, has just released his latest book, 'ENDonomics: Default, Deflation, Derivatives & the End of the United States As We Know It' (available at <http://ENDonomics.com>) and our treasurer and state candidate for Attorney General, Andrew McCullough, was just featured in the Wall Street Journal (<http://on.wsj.com/NMBTSS>).

We are excited for all our candidates (listed here <http://utahlp.org/candidates>) and it has been exciting to have the Johnson/Gray campaign headquartered in Salt Lake City, too. As ever, we are looking for volunteers and financial support so if you know of any liberty-minded folks in Utah please send them to our new website, <http://UtahLP.org>.

Washington

Johnson campaigns across the state

July started out with petitioning events to put the Johnson/Gray ticket on the ballot, and with a visit by Judge Jim Gray, who was put to work to help gather signatures and meet the public in Seattle and Kingston.

By July 16, we were able to hand-deliver to the Secretary of State (SOS) elections department 1,750 signatures for the 1,000 required, plus all the documentation etc. for the complicated process.

August 1, we received a call from the SOS elections that we had met sufficiency, and the Johnson/Gray ticket was on the ballot. This was just an hour before we picked up Governor Johnson from the airport for a three-day campaign swing, and we were happy to personally give Johnson the news.

Johnson started out with a radio interview with Dori Monson on KIRO 97.3 FM, and Monson endorsed Gov. Johnson at the end of the show. The next stop was the *Seattle Times* for an interview with the editorial board. We held a rally at Seattle's famous Pike Place Market where supporters and the general public met with Gov. Johnson. We finished the first day with a Johnson campaign fund raiser at the Tacoma Rainier's minor league baseball game.

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Affiliate Updates

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Gov. Johnson also spoke at a Microsoft PAC luncheon, and filmed a segment with Dan Springer for Fox Business' Neil Cavuto show. He finished the day with a BBQ in Bellevue for supporters and party members.

August 15, the Libertarian Party of Washington State filed for injunctive relief to prevent the Republican party of Washington from putting presidential candidates on the general election ballot. The Republican party failed to qualify as a major party as defined by statute in Washington state. This is the result of their decision to not nominate a candidate for US Senate in 2010, instead they decided to let the Top-2 Primary "Nominate" their candidate. Since they are not a major party, they would have to follow the minor party rules for their presidential candidate like the LPWA, but failed to do that either.

The result was that the judge decided to widely interpret "Nomination" to include an after the Top-2 Primary endorsement that the Republican executive committee voted for. This wide interpretation of nomination and other results may help

us in our Top-2 case, in which we are requesting the US Supreme Court to hear again (the Democratic Party is a partner in this new petition to hear the case). Our actions were not an action against a particular candidate, or related to other actions that might have occurred in other states. Our goal was to help the Top-2 case and increase the public awareness of the ridiculous situation created by Washington's Top-2 system.

August 18 and 19, Judge Gray was on a campaign swing in Seattle. Judge Gray participated in the Seattle Hempfest on some panels, and delivered a speech on the main stage. Judge Gray also was at our LPWA booth to meet attendees. We also held a evening dinner in Bellevue and BBQ meet-N-greet.

We continue to hold mixers in Seattle, Tacoma, Bellingham, Spokane and just held one in Vancouver. Our membership and volunteers are growing with an influx of "upset" Ron Paul supporters who were treated less than courteously at the state and national conventions.

Our LPWA.org website has undergone a restructuring, and details continue to be worked out.

Top Ten Libertarian Candidates for 2012

A note from LP News Editor Carla Howell:

In the last issue of LP News, we promised to post the top ten Libertarian candidates in three categories: most funds raised, most voter outreach, and best Libertarian Solutions.

This proved too hard to measure as we were not able to get up-to-date and reliable information on all our candidates, their fund-raising and their campaign proposals.

What's clear is that there are plenty of great Libertarian candidates running this year. Some of the best are covered in this issue and last, and we will continue to cover them at LP.org, our Facebook pages and post-election. So please continue to send updates about campaign news and successes to lpnews@lp.org

Please support our hard-working local candidates posted at LP.org under Elections.

Horning Calls for Sweeping Changes

...continued from page 5

ana's House of Representatives once and a county office.

This year Andy Horning will be on the ballot with another high-profile LP candidate, Rupert Boneham, who is running for governor of Indiana and who's famous

for his appearance on the TV show Survivor. "He's working harder than any other gubernatorial candidate," Horning said of Boneham, referring to when the two recently campaigned together at the Indiana State Fair.

Andy Horning's web site is www.horningforsenate.com.

Mark Your Calendar for the 2014 & 2016 Libertarian Party Conventions!

June 26 - June 29, 2014

Hyatt Regency

Columbus, Ohio

May 27 - May 30, 2016

Rosen Center Hotel

Orlando, Florida

Ballot Initiatives to Keep Your Eye On

...continued from page 6

ment 3 in **Florida** was referred by the legislature as a more stringent limit on state spending growth. The measure is similar to Colorado's Taxpayer Bill of Rights, which limits state spending growth to the yearly increase of population plus inflation.

While Colorado's measure can only be overridden by voters, Florida's legislature can undo **Amendment 3** with a supermajority vote. Still, it is a step in the right direction for reining in out-of-control government spending.

5. Two-Thirds Vote to Raise Taxes. **Michigan's Prop 5** would require state legislators to muster a two-thirds vote to raise taxes or to send any tax hike to the voters for their express approval. Though the proposition won't reduce taxation, it will make it much tougher to increase taxes.

A similar two-thirds measure, **Initiative 1185**, has been placed on the Washington state ballot by tax-fighting initiative guru Tim Eyman.

4. Same-Sex Marriage. Four blue states — **Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, Washington** — have ballot measures on gay marriage. Mainers will decide the fate of an initiative to legalize same-sex marriage, which would reverse a 2009 initiative banning it. Maryland voters face a referendum to overturn gay marriage. Minnesota's Republican-controlled legislature placed a constitutional amendment on the ballot aiming to ban same-sex marriage. And

Washington's ballot contains a referendum to overturn legislation allowing gay marriage.

Same-sex marriage has lost every ballot proposition voters have decided, 0-32. Meanwhile, national polls and polls in three of these four states show majority support for gay marriage. This issue is likely to be decided judicially, not legislatively, but it is far past time for voters to endorse this basic and equal human right. It's just freedom of contract applied to a "new area," after all.

3. Tax Increases. In **California**, it seems nearly everyone has his or her own tax increase on the ballot. Governor Jerry Brown organized his own, **Proposition 30**, an initiative effort to raise taxes by \$9 billion. So did Molly Munger, who has contributed nearly \$19 million to **Proposition 38**, an income tax increase to support public education with an additional \$10 billion in yearly revenue. Thomas Steyer has invested \$22 million in **Proposition 39**, which would tax multi-state businesses based on the percentage of their sales coming from California. If deep blue Californians decide against ever bigger government and higher taxes, it sends a strong message nationwide.

2. Legalize Marijuana. The War on Drugs has been a financial, judicial, political and human disaster. Thankfully, the initiative process has begun to roll back the war. In 1996, California voters passed Proposition 215, allowing for the medical use of marijuana. Today, **17 states** and the **District of Columbia** have medical marijuana laws. In 2008, Massachusetts decriminalized small amounts of pot

for personal use by citizen initiative.

This November, **Colorado** voters will decide on **Amendment 64**, which legalizes the recreational use of marijuana, and **Oregon** voters can pass **Measure 80**, a measure legalizing cannabis, as well as taxing and regulating it. **Arkansas** and **Massachusetts** voters can enact medical marijuana laws, and **Montanans** can reject their legislature's gutting of a previous medical marijuana initiative.

1. Top Two. **Arizona's Proposition 121** would create a system whereby every candidate for an office would vie on the same primary ballot, when voter turnout is very low, with only the top two vote-getters reaching the general election, when most people come to vote. The result of laws already on the books in California and Washington has been to block every Libertarian candidate from the fall ballot.

Former LNC Chair Bill Redpath called the impact of Top Two laws "devastating." Jack Pitney, a professor of political science at California's Claremont McKenna College, concurred in that analysis, stating, "This system largely puts [third parties] out of business."

A 2011 poll showed the measure up 58 to 33 percent, but certainly close enough that a major effort by Libertarians could make a difference. Creating a freer society requires changing the laws. Ballot initiatives are the most direct and immediate way to make those changes. For more information about what's on your ballot, consult Ballotpedia.org.

Paul Jacob is president of Liberty Initiative Fund and writes a daily commentary at ThisIsCommonSense.com.

LIBERTARIAN PARTY SPEAKS OUT

ObamaCare Decision Highlights Why President Romney Would be More Dangerous than President Obama

Romney would not undo ObamaCare. He'd make it permanent.

From a June 28, 2012
Press Release

The National Libertarian Party issued the following statement following the Supreme Court's historic ruling on ObamaCare:

The Supreme Court Ruling on ObamaCare does not matter. It will make little difference to America in the short run, and no difference in the long run.

Why? Because almost all elected Republicans and Democrats are Big Government politicians – in all things – including health care. After this Supreme Court decision, they will get back to work expanding government involvement in all things – especially health care.

One thing could make things worse. Electing Republican Mitt Romney President.

Why?

Republicans fiercely oppose, and often defeat Democratic Party attempts to massively expand government involvement in Health Care – such as HillaryCare.

But Democrats usually vote for Republican Party legislation to massively expand government's role in Health Care.

Republican President George Bush's

\$1.1 Trillion Government Prescription Drug Program was voted into law by Republicans and Democrats.

Republican Governor Mitt Romney's Massachusetts state government expansion into Massachusetts health care – RomneyCare – was voted into law by both Republicans and Democrats. With virtually no resistance.

A Republican-controlled House of Representatives and US Senate would oppose Democratic President Barack Obama's health care proposals.

But a Republican majority House of Representatives and US Senate would support and vote for a Republican President Mitt Romney's Big Government health care proposals. And most Democrats in the House and Senate would, too.

What Republican Governor Romney did to Massachusetts' health care, a Republican President Romney would do to America's health care.

A President Mitt Romney would not undo ObamaCare. He'll make it permanent.

A first-term President Mitt Romney would be far more dangerous to small business, the private sector, and taxpayers than a lame-duck, **gridlocked** President Obama – no matter what the Supreme Court decided.

Governor Gary Johnson Could Cost Romney 5 Battleground States, 74 Electoral Votes Needed to Win in 2012

Two-Term Governor Gary Johnson's Votes in North Carolina, Virginia, Florida, Nevada, and Colorado Could Determine the Winner of the 2012 Presidential Election

From an August 13, 2012
Press Release

Libertarian Presidential candidate Gov. Gary Johnson is polling at 5.3% nationwide. (JZ Analytics/Washington Times).

But look at the numbers when he's included in statewide polls against Obama and Romney. 13% in New Mexico. 9% in Arizona. 7% in Colorado. 7% in New Hampshire. 8% in Montana. (PPP and others)

Governor Johnson's poll numbers – and his votes this November – may be the critical factor in "Tipping Point" or battleground states like North Carolina, Virginia, Florida, Nevada, and Colorado – where Obama and Romney are 1% to 6% apart. Mitt Romney needs these 5 states, these 74 Electoral votes to win the White House.

North Carolina and Virginia voted Republican 7 out the last 8 Presidential races. Florida and Colorado voted Republican in 6 out of the last 8. Nevada voted Republican in 5 out of the last 8. All 5 of these battleground states voted for Barack

Obama in 2008.

Zogby, Rasmussen, Gallup, CNN/Opinion Research, New York Times, Washington Post, LATimes, ABC, and CBS Polling Organizations all KNOW that 3% or 6% or 9% of the vote for Libertarian Presidential candidate Gov. Gary Johnson in these states could easily cost Romney 74 Electoral Votes – and the 2012 Presidential election.

Starting now, these organizations need to include 2-Term Governor Gary Johnson in all state Presidential polls – especially in these 5 "Romney Must Win" battleground states.

Gary Johnson was a 2-Term Republican Governor of New Mexico (1995-2003). During his 8 years in office, he vetoed over 750 bills – more than all other governors combined. He was repeatedly recognized and honored as the "most fiscally conservative Governor in America."

Zogby, Rasmussen, Gallup, CNN/Opinion Research, New York Times, Washington Post, LATimes, ABC, and CBS Polling: Include Libertarian Presidential candidate Gov. Gary Johnson in all national and state Presidential polls. Show us the full picture.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

No Longer a Political Orphan

For many years I've considered myself to be among a minority in America. Not a racial or ethnic minority but a political minority. I am fiscally conservative and socially liberal, which results in my feeling orphaned by the two-party political establishment.

Republicans appear increasingly adamant about insisting that government should dictate our society's mores and behaviors. On the other hand, the Democrats appear to have fiscal irresponsibil-

ity hardwired into their Keynesian genetic code ("Got a problem? Don't worry; Big Government can solve your problems – Let's just spend our way to prosperity!). The result of these seemingly entrenched and equally repulsive ideologies is to leave me without a viable political party I can, in good conscience, vote for come election day.

For many years I believed I was an odd duck, lonely in my political vacuum. However there are now signs of a secular shift in the Teutonic plates that undergird our political world. Voters identifying

themselves as "independent" now appear to be a large and growing percentage of the voting population.

These independent voters are increasingly concerned about our government's propensity to spend more than we make. While at the same time, most voters believe women should have the right to make their own reproductive choices free from government interference. And I believe most citizens have come to realize that discriminating against gays will eventually be seen as on a par with the racial discrimination of the past.

So, am I no longer lonely in my political isolation? Is it time for a political party that combines fiscal conservatism with a basic respect for citizens to live their lives? The answer appears to be that such

a party already exists. Its name is the Libertarian Party.

Independent minded citizens should take note – there is now a viable alternative to remaining a political orphan. Check out the Libertarian Party's platform (www.LP.org). You might find there's a political alternative out there waiting to welcome you to a better future.

Michael S. Cordes
Baltimore, MD

Got something to say?

Send your Letter to the Editor to lpnews@lp.org. Submissions should be 250 words or less, and may be edited for length or content.

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ABOVE: Libertarian VP Candidate Judge Jim Gray (center) poses with volunteers who manned the LP booth at PAUL Festival in Tampa. "It is truly exciting and a genuine privilege to be a part of this campaign for the Libertarian Party and our great country!" he said. Judge Gray will have campaigned in 34 states by the end of September. He often makes five appearances per day plus does two-three radio interviews. "People are starting to realize that Governor Gary Johnson and I are the only national candidates who will reclaim their liberties and freedoms from the federal government," says Gray.

LEFT: Governor Gary Johnson participates in a Reddit.com "AMA" (Ask Me Anything) discussion thread where he took questions from users of this popular web forum. In this hour-long Sept. 11 interview, Johnson answered 54 questions from users (by comparison, President Barack Obama only answered 10). When asked about the prospect of being a spoiler, Johnson replied, "A wasted vote, is voting for someone that you don't believe in. If Obama or Romney are spoiled, they have themselves to blame."

BOTTOM: On September 10, the Michigan Libertarian Party started running billboard ads in three locations across the state: Flint/Lansing, Muskegon and Detroit.



What have you missed recently on LP.org?

- Video: Gov. Gary Johnson's powerful speech at PAUL Festival
- Video: For 40 years, the LP has advocated for abolishing the Federal Reserve
- Video: Judge Jim Gray on repealing the Patriot Act
- Gov. Gary Johnson polls 4.3% against Obama and Romney
- We're fighting for our lives to keep Johnson/Gray on the ballot in Pennsylvania
- Fox News on LP and Gov. Gary Johnson's impact in battleground states
- Another Poll Showing Libertarian Gubernatorial Candidate Howe With 7%
- Governor Gary Johnson: Bring U.S Troops Home NOW
- Have You Seen These Articles About the LP News Release?
- Libertarian Candidates Oppose Supreme Court Decision to Uphold Obamacare
- The Quiet War On Ballot Access
- Two Marijuana Decrim Measures Signed Into Law This Month

WHAT'S GOING ON IN YOUR STATE?

A complete list of Libertarian events can be found online at LP.org/event. You can get more information by visiting the website of your state affiliate. (See a list at LP.org/states.) If there is an event you would like to see listed here or on the website, please send details to:

EVENTS@LP.ORG

OR CALL THE LP HEADQUARTERS AT
(202) 333-0008