



### Local Libertarian Meetings Near You — *Get involved today*

- ALLEGHENY CO.— 3rd Wednesday of Month, 7pm — Ritters Diner
- LANCASTER CO.— 3rd Tuesday of Month, 6pm — Symposium
- DAUPHIN CO.— September 7th, 6pm — Doc Holidays, New Cumberland
- YORK CO.— 4th Monday of Month, 7pm — First Capital Dispensing Company
- CLARION CO.— XXXXX, 6pm — BJ's Eatery, High Point Road
- MONTGOMERY CO.— 1st Wed. of Month, 7:30pm — Phila. Inquire Building
- CUMBERLAND CO. — 2nd Monday of Month, 7pm — Market Cross Pub

For More Libertarian County Meetings, Visit the forum at [www.lppa.org](http://www.lppa.org)

*Recycle the LibPENN, share with a friend or neighbor*



# The LibPENN

The Official Newsletter of the  
Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania

The Libertarian Penn

September 2010

### Upcoming

#### Events:

LPPA Board Meeting  
Sept. 21st, 12 pm  
Cumberland County

LP County Meetings,  
Pg. 8

Election Day -  
November 2nd, 2010

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3915 Union Deposit Road #223  
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LIBERTARIAN PARTY  
OF PENNSYLVANIA

### Trivia question for this issue:

What's included with  
your LPPA dues?

Answer on next pg.

### What Am I..... (cont. from previous LibPENN)

By: John Stossel

David Boaz, executive vice president of the Cato Institute, took the discussion to a deeper level. "Instead of asking, 'What should we do about people who are poor in a rich country?' The first question is, 'Why is this a rich country?' ...

"Five hundred years ago, there weren't rich countries in the world. There are rich countries now because part of the world is following basically libertarian rules: private property, free markets, individualism."

Boaz makes an important distinction between equality and absolute living standards. "The most important way that people get out of poverty is economic growth that free markets allow. The second-most important way -- maybe it's the first -- is family. There are lots of income transfers within families. Third would be self-help and mutual-aid organizations. This was very big before the rise of the welfare state."

This is an important but unappreciated point: Before the New Deal, people of modest means banded together to help themselves. These organizations were crowded out (Cont. on Pg. 2)

### LPPA Announces 2010 Libertarian Candidates

By: Susan Haythornthwaite  
*Libertarian Member— Potter County*

The Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania is pleased to announce that the following Libertarian candidates will be listed on the ballot in November's general election:

- |                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Marakay Rogers - Governor         | Kat Valleley - Lieutenant Governor                 |
| Douglas Jamison - US Senator      | Vernon Etzel - 5th US Congressional District       |
| Betsy Summers - 4th State Sen.    | Ed Gately - 28th State Senate District             |
| Mik Robertson - 63rd State Rep.   | Vance Mays - 64th State Representative District    |
| Erik Viker - 85th State Rep.      | Tom Anderson - 109th State Representative District |
| Brian Bergman - 119th State Rep.  | Tim Mullen - 120th State Representative District   |
| William Kohler - 196th State Rep. | Mike Muhammad - 203rd State Rep. District          |

Libertarian volunteers and supporters throughout Pennsylvania collected over 24,000 signatures on nomination papers in order for Pennsylvania voters to have the opportunity in November to vote for candidates who support fiscally responsible government.

Douglas Jamison, Libertarian candidate for US Senator, is an engineer and manager, so why is he running for the US Senate?. "Like most Americans, I've watched our political leaders steer this country in the wrong direction. According to James Madison, a US Senator is an agent of both the Union and the State. Today, US Senators are an agent to their own party and the special interest groups that got them elected. I can no longer stand idly by and watch the government, our founding fathers fought so hard for, become its own ruin." (Cont. on Pg 4)

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## What Am I? (Cont. from pg. 1)

when government co-opted their insurance functions, which included inexpensive medical care.

Boaz indicts the welfare state for the untold harm it's done in the name of the poor.

"What we find is a system that traps people into dependency. ... You should be asking advocates of that system, 'Why don't you care about the poor?'"

I agree. It appears that when government sets out to solve a problem, not only does it violate our freedom, it also accomplishes the opposite of what it set out to do.

## Withdrawal of Statewide LPPA Candidates

By: Marakay Rogers  
LPPA Candidate for PA Governor  
Libertarian Member - York County

I am saddened to announce that thanks to the blackmail forced upon the Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania by the Republican Party of our state, I am forced to withdraw from the governor's race.

The Republicans presented us with a Hobson's choice of withdrawing our candidates from the ballot, incurring no costs assessed to us by the Republicans, or going on to court after the signature review and potentially bankrupting the Party and its candidates by fighting for the right to remain on the ballot, being assessed inflated costs and associated penalties should we lose, as have most third-party candidates in the past several years.

### ***This blackmail, unfortunately for the public, extends to the voters of Pennsylvania***

This blackmail, unfortunately for the public, extends to the voters of Pennsylvania as well and hurts them, due to Pennsylvania's draconian ballot access laws, even more than it hurts the LPPA. Hundreds of legally registered voters in this state had their names removed from our petitions due to an error of signature or a change of address within their voting district, among many things that ordinary voters do not realize will affect their franchise.

Further, given that the Democratic candidate for Governor is as anti-female and anti-rights as his opponent, Tom Corbett, my absence from the ballot presents the voting public of Pennsylvania with a choice that is no choice, for either of two conservatives who are unlikely to provide the sweeping changes in taxes and in control of the legislature that the residents of the Commonwealth sorely need. There will be no debate of land use value taxes. There will be no discussion of reforming the legislative system in the state. Women's rights and minority rights in the Commonwealth will not be protected substantially.

Cont. on Next. Pg.

**Have you  
seen the new**

**LPPA  
website??**

**Visit**

**[www.lppa.org](http://www.lppa.org)**



**Trivia Answer:  
LibPENN, Voting  
Privileges at  
Convention and  
Supporting the LPPA**

## Victimless Crimes (Cont.)

Alcohol is my drug of choice, but millions of people smoke marijuana and never commit any other crime related to their smoking. It doesn't matter why a criminal breaks into my house. I don't care if he wants to steal my stuff to buy weed or buy a hat. I'm going to reach for my pistol either way, and if I don't take him out I want him prosecuted for burglary, not for whatever he was hoping to spend the money on. Smoking weed doesn't result in a victim, but assault and burglary do.

The "war on drugs" is a dismal failure. We spend over \$20 billion a year to combat drug use and you can still buy pot or cocaine within two miles of any traffic light in America. Every low-level drug dealer or user sitting in prison costs us over \$40,000 per year per person to house and feed, plus the costs of legal services for court proceedings along the way.

### ***"The War on Drugs is a dismal Failure"***

Decriminalizing marijuana and allowing tobacco companies to cultivate and sell it will hamstring many of the illegal industries resulting from the "war on drugs," drastically reduce related crimes and increase tax revenues. Most people would buy a pack of pot from the convenience store rather than go through the hassle of home cultivation. Let's tax these luxuries and reduce our income taxes.

The "gateway drug" defense assumes we should be denied certain freedoms because other people cannot handle those freedoms. We might as well outlaw bicycles because they often lead to the use of automobiles, and we know how dangerous THEY are to Americans. Let's use the debilitating effects of alcohol as the guide. Any substance that is no more dangerous to use than alcohol is should be legal under the same rules we apply to alcohol.

Alcohol is addictive, adversely affects physical abilities (including driving skills), and can cause long-term health problems. And it's legal. By comparison, the health and temporary impairment effects of marijuana and powder cocaine are no worse than those caused by alcohol.

Prostitution and adult pornography are more complicated issues because of the visceral distaste many people have for these activities, but a dispassionate analysis calls some objections into question. Why does the law prohibit certain physical activities between consenting adults, just because an exchange of currency is also involved? These same activities happen millions of times every day between consenting adults with no overt financial arrangements made and no harm done. We already have laws that protect citizens, especially children, from unwanted participation in sexual activity, including laws prohibiting kidnapping, exploitation, harassment and child endangerment. Like it or not, prostitution is just another potentially taxable public service. I don't care if you're getting a therapeutic massage, a pedicure, or a more intimate professional service, just don't do it on the sidewalk. If it's kept away from the public eye, it isn't anyone else's business.

Pornography may be distasteful (and in poor taste, which is a different matter entirely) but if nobody's forcing any adults to participate, why should it be a government issue?

Gambling is just another expensive hobby and nobody is coerced into doing it. I know people who are at least as obsessive about their golf game as some gamblers are about horse races and slot machines. If gambling is "addictive" for some, regulate it the same way we regulate adult alcohol consumption.

## Victimless Crimes

By: Erik Viker  
 Libertarian Member — Snyder County  
 Candidate — 85th District State Rep.

The law and the government should protect citizens from violence, coercion and fraud. The law should not prohibit responsible citizens from doing what they choose to do in private, if their choices don't harm anybody else. The government has a responsibility to uphold community standards based on community consensus, but should also protect personal liberty.

Here are a few examples of victimless crimes:

Construction on private residential property without government permits.  
 Driving without wearing a seatbelt (or operating a motorcycle without a helmet in some states).  
 Alcohol consumption by voting-eligible citizens over 18 years of age.  
 Use and distribution of marijuana and powder cocaine by and for adults.  
 Prostitution involving consenting adults.  
 Possession or distribution of pornography exclusively featuring adults by adults.

Gambling.

DISCLAIMER: I personally do not in participate in the activities described here, except for occasionally driving without a seatbelt and doing home renovations without a "permit." And sometimes a roulette wheel gets my attention.

Enforce the laws intended to prevent fraud, but don't tell me what I can and cannot do to my private property. If the contractor who repairs my house gets a reputation for shoddy craftsmanship, he or she won't get work, will endure civil lawsuits and will go out of business.

The free market can take care of the public without shaking me down to fund government inspectors and paperwork. I know I can't run a hog farm in my residential neighborhood, but if what I do around my home doesn't affect anyone else, stay out of my private business.

Driving without wearing a seatbelt (or operating a motorcycle without a helmet in some states) only poses a threat to the adult making the decision, like skydiving, which is legal. The risk to the surviving family in the event of a related injury or death involves only the family and the insurance companies the family chooses to do business with.

Why do we make adult citizens wait until 21 years of age to drink alcohol but allow them to vote for President, die for their country and marry without parental permission at 18 years old? Although the Constitution is silent on the specifics of "adulthood," the Constitutional voting age is a legitimate signifier of adult citizenship. I suspect most Supreme Court Justices would err on the side of caution favoring the rights of the individual (the voting adult) rather than favoring the right of a state to deny a voting adult any established manifestation of adulthood. Those who claim younger people are somehow not mature enough for alcohol haven't paid attention to the many forty-year-olds who behave like fools when they have a few drinks in them. Nations without restrictive underage drinking laws have substantially fewer problems with youthful binge drinking because alcohol can become a natural, gradual part of growing older without the forbidden fruit experiences of many college freshmen.

Cont. on Next Pg.

## Withdrawal of Statewide LPPA Candidates (Cont.)

I thank the members and candidates of the Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania for their hard work, the members of the Green Party and the Constitution Party, as well as many Tea Party activists, for their work and their support of the other third-party candidates who ran for statewide office this year, and I especially thank the members of Gertrude Stein Political Club in Pittsburgh for their support as well.

My deepest gratitude goes to Mik Robertson, our state chair this year, for his efforts in coordinating the Libertarian defense to the signature challenge and for his sacrifice of time, money, and family in the process. I also thank the voters of Pennsylvania who responded to Libertarian solicitations to sign our nominating papers, especially those many whose names were struck from our nominating papers by the Republican Party due to legal technicalities designed to prevent their signatures from being counted.

I urge Pennsylvania's voters to rise up against a system that takes away their real choice in selecting candidates to be on the ballot, and to contact their state legislators to demand that the state electoral code be revised to provide a true chance for what is supposed to be provided for in the state constitution, free and equal elections.

### LPPA.org Forum Comments regarding the GOP Challenge and Withdrawal:

8/17/10 From "Mik" -

"I would like to remind the candidates that they are still the Party nominees, and they may continue a write-in campaign, appear at candidate functions, etc."

8/18/10 From "Vern" -

"It's a reasonable move MJR. If we're threatened with fines or imprisonment for trying to run candidates, there is no way government can claim to hold a mandate of the people. A political party must run candidates. That's what we do. If they want to outlaw our party, then they should simply do it. A new strategy is needed. There should be some way to take advantage of this situation."

8/18/10 From "Brandon" -

"If people don't want to do a boycott campaign then come up with something better but for God sake don't just let them get away with this. The voters believe the myth that we have free and fair elections. We have to challenge the myth. If we don't then we are done as a movement."

8/22/10 From "TIm0thy"

"What do we do now that our candidates are off the ballot? Is there a chance the Federal appeal will get us back onto the ballot? Should we join with the Rohrer write in effort? There seems to be some great organization behind it and it could reap allies in the future."

8/24/10 From "bshniper"

"Think what the communist and socialist parties did when they couldn't fight the Democrats? They simply formed the New party and infiltrated the Democrats for control. Now they are in charge of the country and they pass Karl Marx's own policy."

8/25/10 From "Transpower"

"In 2006 when I was the LPPA candidate for Governor, none of the minor parties could get on the ballot--the number of signatures required was just too high. The only option was a write-in campaign. The new voting machines in 2006 allowed write-ins, and I know that I received hundreds of votes. I'm still not sure whether I came in third or fourth, but it was a worthwhile experience anyway. So that's what we have to do now. Of course, many of are still waiting for "Santa Clause"--a billionaire who will help to finance our efforts...."

### LPPA Announces 2010 Libertarian Candidates (Cont. from Pg. 1)

Betsy Summers, Libertarian candidate for the 14 State Senate District, is very concerned about abuse of tax funds by elected officials. "We need to limit the number of staffers that each Senator and Representative can hire. As Bonus-gate proved, these state employees are being used for the reelection of their benefactors. This will also help to reduce the pension crisis that is looming in our future. Another way to save money and hold our elected officials accountable is to make the members of our General Assembly claim only actual expenses, not per diem."

Ed Gately, Libertarian candidate for the 28th State Senate District, is ready to serve his district. "I did not wake up only this morning and decide to run for Senate, this is not a decision I made lightly," he said. "Rather, I made this decision because I can no longer sit idly by while the families in our community are devastated by the legislation passed by our current leaders. Please view my campaign website at [www.electedgately.org](http://www.electedgately.org) Please take the time to read my issues of concern: A Platform for Liberty and consider if these are issues of your concern. If they are, please consider getting involved and support this declaration by joining our campaign. Please consider passing this along to everyone that believes we need a choice in November to bring back Citizen Representation for the 28th District of the Pennsylvania State Senate."

Vance Mays, Libertarian candidate for the 64th State Representative District, comments, "Politicians, both Republican and Democrat, have been reaching into your pocket with both hands. With inflation accounted for, government spending has increased a staggering \$2,083 for every man, woman and child in Pennsylvania since the year 2000. This is an outrage. It would be an outrage even if the money was not wasted on cronyism and giving jobs and money to friends and associates but it is and that makes it even worse. The recently passed 28.05 billion dollar 'compromise' budget is a joke. It depends on Washington to provide \$850 million that hasn't been passed by congress, and even with that Rendell admits this budget offers zero growth and, as a result, zero jobs."

Erik Viker, Libertarian candidate for the 85th State Representative District, believes that elected officials must serve their constituents. "I stand outside of the Republican-Democratic party conflict, so I can represent the people who elect me, not the interests of an entrenched political party. I will represent my constituents as a fellow resident of our community and not become a politician worried about a career in Harrisburg. My election means your voice in the legislature will be a regular citizen of the district, who participates in our community life every day. I will hold weekend and evening office hours in the district so the people I represent can meet with me when they are usually most available."

Brian Bergman, Libertarian candidate for the 119th State Representative District, is also ready to serve those who elect him. "Too many of our elected officials have become career politicians, looking out for only themselves and expanding their power base. I am not a politician and will not become a career politician. If you send me to Harrisburg, I will be a citizen representative. I will be YOUR advocate in Harrisburg, the voice of the PEOPLE."

Tim Mullen, Libertarian candidate for the 120th State Representative District, is ready to help solve Pennsylvania's fiscal problems. "Pennsylvania property owners are being crushed under the present property tax system. Starting in 2012, they will bear a weight that will surely break the camel's back when the state pension time bomb goes off. My opponent claims to be an advocate for the elderly, while at the same time the elderly bear the brunt of this outrageously unfair tax and are increasingly taxed out of their homes, some of which they have lived in their entire lives."

William Kohler, Libertarian candidate for the 196th State Representative District, knows what needs to be done immediately. "My top priorities are term limits and part-time legislation. I was a vet in Iraq and worked seven days a week, even on holidays, under fire. Thousands of miles from my home and family, and I was only paid about \$3,000 a month. Let's weigh out the sacrifices to this nation and its people, comparing my service to this government's service."

Sources of information about Libertarian candidates can be accessed through the web at [www.lp.org/states/Pennsylvania](http://www.lp.org/states/Pennsylvania). Click on the candidate's name for candidate websites and other information.

### Want to Contribute to the LibPENN?

Do you have something to say? Who am I kidding, we're Libertarians. So why not join the LibPENN, the LPPA Official Newsletter committee. There is minimal commitment and you can work from home on your own schedule. You basically write Libertarian articles that you feel other Libertarians in PA would enjoy reading, send them in and you're done. If you would like to help out, but not write an article, maybe serve as a proofreader or send in article suggestions to the committee.

What kind of articles are we looking for? Current events are always popular and even better if they are Pennsylvania-specific. To get you started, all I need is a title of your masterpiece and a due date. Interested? Contact [weneedjohnngalt9@yahoo.com](mailto:weneedjohnngalt9@yahoo.com) for more information.

**Thank you for supporting the LPPA!!**

### The Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania Membership Form

#### Membership Options

- ◆ Full Membership / Renewal- \$15.00
- ◆ Associate Member - FREE (with valid e-mail)
- ◆ New Membership - \$15.00 (\$5.00 Full-Time Students)
- ◆ 1788 Society - \$12 / month or \$120 / year or more (includes full membership)

*NOTE: Full membership includes LibPENN Newsletter and voting privileges at the state convention.*

The Libertarian Party is the party of principal. To publically affirm what we believe - and to ensure that our party never strays from our principal - we ask our members to proudly sign this statement.

*"I hereby certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals."*

X \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature (required)

Please consider an additional donation to help us grow.  
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