



The Individualist

A voice of reason in the statist wilderness.

Special Edition: Campaign 2022

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From the Chair

A few words from Chair William Hunt.

Momentum is everything in a campaign. Last-minute surges can bring down-and-out candidates back from the dead, and a late October surprise is always something to be wary of, - even for the most favored candidates.

The Libertarian Party of Rhode Island is not a large organization. Even with a great candidate and the dedicated work of our long-time volunteers, there is only so much we can do on our own. [We NEED Volunteers!](#) The bureaucratic process required in getting our gubernatorial candidate, Elijah Gizzarelli, on the ballot has all but exhausted our resources. Without an influx of volunteer help, we are in danger of losing our momentum.

If you are on our email list or follow our social media accounts, you know that Elijah agreed to be our gubernatorial candidate, which allowed us to file the required paperwork to form a recognized political party in the state of Rhode Island. Despite gathering and submitting over 1,300 signatures, the individual boards of canvassers collectively rejected over 340 signatures—which means they rejected more than 1 out of every 4 signatures we submitted. That put our total validated signatures approximately (we received inconsistent totals over the course of our challenge) 50 signatures short of the 1,000 signature requirement.

After filing our challenge within the limited 24-hour timeframe, I personally reviewed every rejected signature against the voter rolls and we embarked on a month-long challenge to get Elijah on the ballot. Over three separate multi-hour hearings, we overcame significant headwinds: Members of the Board of Elections objected to my standing as party chair to bring this challenge, citing that we were not a recognized party therefore I did not meet the definition of a party chair. The BOE also dismissed our complaints regarding the statistically significant discrepancies in specific municipalities' signature rejection rates. In the end, after reviewing each individual signature and comparing them to the historic voter cards, the BOE members had to vote to accept an additional 50+ of the signatures as valid, and we successfully got Elijah on the ballot.

At this point, I would be remiss if I didn't take a moment to recognize our major volunteers who collected signatures for Elijah: Corey, Shawn, Larry, Jesse, Shane and a handful of other volunteers gave up their free time to attend signature events, knock on doors, stand in front of grocery stores, and harassed their family and friends to get signatures. I also want to specifically recognize Tom & Terry, who not only collected over 80 signatures, but also got rear-ended while they were trying to deliver their petitions to the local board of canvassers. Both Tom & Terry are thankfully okay, but their car is not. Their physical sacrifice for our cause

demonstrates just how ridiculous these ballot access and party access requirements are in our state.

While I am sincerely grateful to all of the great volunteers mentioned above, I am also very disappointed that we did not get the support of many members who I expect will be reading this: Even at the high rejection rate of 26%, if we only collected or submitted 70 more signatures for Elijah, we would have gotten him on the ballot outright - without the challenge. Those signatures could have easily been obtained if many of you in our larger membership base made even the slightest effort to help us: Two dozen signed and notarized petitions did not get delivered to local boards of canvassers due to lack of time/volunteers. Our volunteers were able to collect 70+ signatures in an afternoon—we just needed a few more volunteers to spend an hour in front of a grocery store over the course of the 9 days we were given to obtain our signatures. If a handful of you just grabbed a ballot petition and got signatures from your immediate family and friends—we would have made our goal. We really put ourselves at a significant disadvantage, lost valuable time, and used up significant resources unnecessarily, because a lot of people—who like to talk about how bad things are in this state—didn't take personal responsibility when it came time to do something about it.

I for one am not going to dwell on this setback. We have such an opportunity in this current election. Does anyone really like either the Democratic or Republican nominee? There is so much voter apathy, including their prospective political bases. People are looking for someone to vote FOR and I think Elijah is that someone.

With a grassroots effort, we can make our campaign impossible to ignore by legacy media in our state. We can put ourselves in the position to not only meet the 5% requirement to become a recognized party in Rhode Island, but to put our party on the political map in our small state and give us the momentum to register voters as Libertarians and run local candidates as "official" Libertarians in the 2024 election and beyond.

- Billy Hunt
Chairman LPRI

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Interview with Gubernatorial Candidate Elijah Gizzarelli

Get to know LPRI's endorsed candidate for governor.

How did you become a libertarian?

I became a libertarian during the 2011 Republican Primary debates. Dr. Ron Paul seemed to be the only person on the stage that knew what he was talking about. I began investigating a lot of things he was saying and it didn't take long before I was all the way down the rabbit hole.

What are some of the issues you're most passionate about?

I think the four most important issues facing society right now are the military-industrial complex, the drug war, sound money, and education. For my gubernatorial campaign I have decided to focus on ending the drug war since it is the topic that a governor can affect the most directly and unilaterally.

What libertarian thinkers or texts do you find most influential?

I actually find most stories have libertarian themes. Subconsciously, people want to be free from violent coercion and since we live in such a coercive society, that repressed yearning boils to the surface in the imagination. *The Lord of The Rings*, *Star Wars*, even Marvel films all have strong libertarian messages. Pop culture aside, I personally like *Liberty Defined* by Dr. Paul as a one-stop libertarian reference book.

Why did you decide to run for governor?

I am sick and tired of all the corruption and incompetence in the Rhode Island government. It's really blown completely out of control. Instead of just complaining, I decided to go and do something about it.

How do you think libertarianism will benefit Rhode Island?

Our state has trampled on our civil rights time and time again. Libertarianism is just upholding the rights of the little guy. Just a simple policy change like ending the drug war and releasing all non-violent drug offenders will yield massive benefits for our economy. We need to stop wasting money on destroying Rhode Island families and imprisoning people who are only a threat to themselves. The drug war is an economic disaster and a humanitarian crisis and we need to end it, now!

How can we help your campaign?

The best thing you can do is to like my [Facebook page](#) and follow me on [Twitter](#). We could really use volunteers, so if you want to help, you can sign up at [eli4ri.com](#). There you can also make a donation. We make much better use of money than our opponents and any and all money raised will be used to further the cause of liberty in our state.

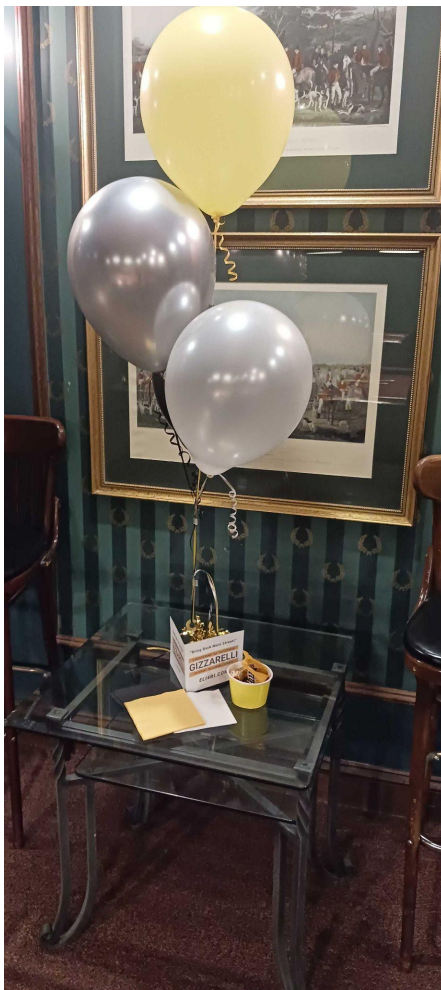
What are some of your goals if elected?

The primary goal if elected will be to end the drug war and release its victims from the ACI. After that, it's fixing the economy as much as I can. I will fight to get the government out of the way of small businesses and create an economy that works for everybody.

From the Floor

A place for LPRI members to have their voices heard.

LPRI members gathered at Bo's Bar and Billiards in Warwick on September 17 to help Elijah Gizzarelli kick off his campaign for governor.







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Help us #Fightfor5

We need 5% of the vote to become a recognized political party, but that's the floor—not the ceiling—of this campaign.

As Billy Hunt laid out in his latest “From the Chair,” Rhode Island’s ridiculous ballot access laws cost Elijah and LPRI a month’s worth of time that could have been spent campaigning and building momentum for libertarian messaging.

Instead of letting people know there was a libertarian on the ballot, we spent that time fighting to get on the ballot. With state overreach during COVID-19 fresh in the minds of the public, and centralized policies from Washington, D.C. driving inflation and pinching everyone’s pockets, there is a tremendous desire for libertarianism’s core principles of individual sovereignty, limited government, and free markets. But, as Billy said, LPRI is a small organization and it’s hard to spread those messages when we have to expend our efforts fighting the state.

This election is our best chance to gain party status, which comes with automatic ballot access. That means we won't have to fight local boards of canvassers and the Board of Election in 2024. It also means we'd be able to register voters and candidates as libertarians—and even hold primaries. Can you imagine being able to actually cast a vote between competing libertarian candidates for elected office in 2024?

We only need 5% of the overall vote total in the governor's race to become a recognized political party. Roughly 338,000 people voted in the 2018 governor's race: that means we need roughly 17,000 votes in November's election. We collected over 1,000 signatures in 10 days. We can convince that many people to vote for Elijah.

But that's only the floor of the campaign. Just as we collected more ballot signatures than were required to get Elijah on the ballot—because we knew eligible signatures would be thrown out in error—we need to set our sights much higher than 5% of the overall vote.

We need to spread libertarian messages to as many people as possible this election cycle, not only to ensure we get 5%, but to ensure we reach even more people next cycle.

LPRI can't do any of this without help, though. We need volunteers to help run Elijah's campaign. Whether you want to help us with social media or help distribute signs, we have a spot waiting for you. So send us a message! Let's make sure liberty wins at the ballot box this November.

Remember: we don't need to win the governor's race in order to score a major victory this November. Just 5% of the vote gets LPRI party status. And that's a victory. That means you're not throwing away your vote when you vote for a third-party candidate. But 5% is the floor, not the ceiling. With your help, this election is winnable.

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