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## From the Chair

A few words from Chair William Hunt.

Rhode Islanders have suffered with homogeneous one-party rule and are desperate for something different. There are so many unaffiliated voters in our state, if we were a political party, we would be the largest in the state. Historically, the Rhode Island Democratic brand has stood more for the status quo than for any principled political position. Voters could be assured that they were at least getting the “D”evil they knew when they voted in November.

But, the far left has taken advantage of this voter complacency over the past few elections. They took their fight to the September primaries and targeted Democrat In Name Only (DINO) incumbents in pockets all over the state. With only a small amount of grassroots organization, they were able to capitalize on the low primary voter turnout and pick off some powerful legislators — and gave some others a run for their money. Once they got past the primaries, these leftists faced little or no competition in the November general elections.

Now they are metastasizing. The RI Political Cooperative just announced that they will be running 50 candidates for state and local office in 2022. With that many candidates, they are no longer just targeting DINOs, they are even primarying their own for not being 100% faithful to their brand of political ideology.

They will not stop until all of your liberties and freedoms are sacrificed to the greater good. They are coming for your state representatives, for your city and town councils, for your child’s school committee. If we don’t get individuals to fight back, we are going to go to the polls next November and not even have a choice.

Have you ever thought about running for office? Most people don’t because they get overwhelmed with the campaign finance requirements, or the logistics of printing palm cards and signs, setting up a website, voter targeting, or the crazy rules of trying to comply with social media’s ever-evolving political advertising requirements.

I can tell you from experience that campaigning is a big commitment, but with the help of the infrastructure we have built here at the Libertarian Party of Rhode Island since 2016, it is something that you can manage in an effective and efficient way. We provide a campaign template to endorsed candidates so you can hit the ground running and focus on getting your message of liberty out to your district.

You would be happy to discover the number of people willing to learn about the Libertarian philosophy, and even enthusiastically support the Libertarian candidate - especially when the only other alternative on the November 2022 ballot is a statist progressive who got 1,200 votes or less in a Democratic primary.

If you're interested in running for office, please reach out. Come to a monthly meetup or Executive Committee meeting. Get involved! Our 2022 LPRI Convention is just six months away in April. This is where prospective candidates will seek the endorsement of the membership of the Libertarian Party of RI per our bylaws.

-Billy Hunt, Chairman LPRI

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# From the Floor

A space for LPRI members to have their voices heard.

Being a Libertarian is always being sorry for when you're right.

If you were a doctor and you told someone, "stop smoking, stop smoking, stop smoking," and then they get lung cancer, you as a doctor would then say "sorry I was right, but you have lung cancer".

We Libertarians are always going through the same thing. We wish we weren't right but we are. The economy is built on a house of cards.

As long as there is central government manipulation of the economy, then you can't blame the free market and Libertarians. You can blame the Corporate Cronyism in the system, and the Federal Reserve that liquored it up. And the Demicons and Repuublicrats: two sides of the same coin that sold you one thing and gave you massive debt on the back of your unborn children and grandchildren instead.

Leftists and Conservatives get mad at us for speaking truth but this is tantamount to being angry at the messenger and not listening to what we're warning you about. I see it all the time in comment sections in news stories, on Facebook, or on Reddit. The fickle thing about facts is they're right whether you believe in them or not.

-Corey Vecchiarino, Outreach Director

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The Executive Committee would like to congratulate Corey Vecchiarino for his appointment as Outreach Director. We're excited to have more people join LPRI's fight for liberty.

Interested in getting more involved? We're currently looking to fill several positions, including Events Director and Political Director.

To learn more about our open positions and the responsibilities associated with them, visit <https://lpri.us/about-lpri/officers-staff/>.

If you think you're the right candidate to fill one of those positions, let us know! Email [communications@lpri.us](mailto:communications@lpri.us) or send us a message on social media!

Have something to say about recent political events? We want to hear from you! In future editions of the newsletter, *From the Floor* will feature input from members.

Send us your opinions, comments, and other miscellaneous musings about libertarian topics: [communications@lpri.us](mailto:communications@lpri.us). Use “From the Floor” in the subject line.

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# Policy Report

News from around Rhode Island.

With the legislature currently out of session, recent political headlines of note primarily involve the executive branch.

Thanks to Gov. Daniel McKee, Rhode Island is still in a state of emergency. When the legislature approved the 2021 state budget in June it included language that sought to limit executive power, including a provision that limited states of emergency to 180 days.

As a result, the state of emergency former governor Gina Raimondo initially declared in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in March of 2020 finally expired. But McKee quickly found a workaround and [declared](#) a new state of emergency over the Delta variant of COVID-19 on August 19. He also called on the legislature to convene a special session “immediately” to reaffirm his emergency powers. Democratic leadership declined to do so, stating he was well within his authority, but they did [complain](#) that he had not been clear in declaring his intentions during discussions between the two parties.

McKee extended the Delta variant state of emergency on October 7. It will remain in effect until at least November 5. Though other states in the region ended their states of emergency this summer, McKee has maintained since taking office that Rhode Island needs the extra resources from the federal government that come from declaring a state of emergency.

McKee has also recently spoken about Rhode Island’s COVID-19 vaccine mandate for health care workers. McKee gave health care workers until October 1 to receive a vaccine. In late September, his administration outlined their policy for ensuring workers are in compliance.

Per he and Dr. Nicole Alexander-Scott, director of the state Department of Health, health care facilities will have 30 days from the deadline to replace unvaccinated workers with fully vaccinated workers. Health care facilities will have to provide corrective plans that show the state how they plan to come into compliance. But McKee also says he’s concerned about quality of care, and replacements will only be required if they can be done so without compromising patient care.

According to [WPRI](#), “The plans will also include a list of temporary infection prevention measures that the facility will implement for unvaccinated staff who are critically necessary to the operation, as well as their procedure for ensuring all new hires are fully vaccinated.”

Health care facilities were required to provide those plans to the state by October 1.

It’s also worth noting that, nearly a month after President Joe Biden declared a nation-wide COVID-19 vaccine mandate for businesses that employ 25 or more people, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration still has not released a finalized policy.

# 2022 Election Fight

Even if we lose, we still win.

We've been talking a lot recently about our search for a gubernatorial candidate for 2022.

And for good reason. 2022 is our next best opportunity to make sure the Libertarian Party of Rhode Island achieves party status.

Becoming a political party recognized by the state comes with many advantages, including:

- Registering voters
- Automatic ballot access
- Registering candidates
- Higher placement on the ballot

In order to receive party status, we need to receive either 5% of the vote in a gubernatorial or presidential election.

The statist policies of the pandemic show why we can't wait until 2024 to try for party status.

We don't need to win the gubernatorial race; we just need 5%. Even if we lose, we still win.

But we need your help. We need volunteers to run for office, as well as to help raise awareness and run campaigns. And we need donations to help make sure we have the resources to succeed.

We're on a mission to #TurnRIGold.

And that starts with **5%**

We only need **5%** of the gubernatorial vote next November to achieve party status.

**Even if we lose, we still win.**

**BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP.**

Visit **lpri.us** to donate or volunteer and help us **#TurnRIGold**

While there's nothing easy about running for office, things like campaign filing paperwork and campaign finance deadlines don't need to be something to fear. Our Executive Committee has a great deal of experience running national and state-wide campaigns for public office. We've developed a blueprint to help candidates with their campaign. From door knocking, to fliers, to media, we can offer help with any area of your campaign.

Running for public office not for you? We're always looking for volunteers to help with a wide variety of areas. From door knocking, to street walking, to manning booths at information fairs, we can use your talents, whatever they may be.

[Click Here to Volunteer](#)

[Click Here to Donate](#)



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