

Hasta la Vista, Baby!
Arizona "Top-Two" Initiative Goes

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LP News

The Party of Principle™

December 2012

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Record-Setting Libertarian Votes in 2012 Election

More Than 15,755,122 Votes Cast for Libertarian Candidates Nationwide

The 2012 election marks the highest vote total in LP history for the Libertarian presidential and vice presidential candidates, signaling that a growing bloc of Americans are aligning with the Libertarian agenda of less government and more freedom.

Libertarians Gov. Gary Johnson and Judge Jim Gray won a record 1,272,558 votes, surpassing the 32-year record held by Ed Clark and David Koch, the LP's 1980 presidential and vice presidential nominees, who won 921,128 votes.

The Johnson-Gray ticket more than doubled the 2008 LP presidential vote total of Bob Barr and Wayne Root, and more than tripled the 2004 vote total of Michael Badnarik and Richard Campagna.

Nationwide, voters cast at least 15,755,122 votes for Libertarians in federal, state and local campaigns. That's higher than the combined circulation of the nation's top 25 newspapers — including both print and digital readers — which totals

just 12,869,625.

In addition to the Johnson/Gray ticket, more than 1 million votes were cast for Libertarians in six additional races:

- Mark W. Bennett, Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, won 1,326,526 votes.
- William Bryan Strange, Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, won 1,313,746 votes.
- RS Roberto Koelsch, Texas Supreme Court, won 1,280,886 votes.
- Jaime O. Perez, Texas Railroad Commissioner, won 1,122,792 votes.
- David Staples, Georgia Public Service Commission, District 5, won 1,082,481 votes.
- Tom Oxford, Texas Supreme Court, won 1,030,735 votes.

These election results are especially impressive in light of the dramatic advantages awarded the LP's Democratic and Republican opponents.



Gov. Gary Johnson

The Johnson campaign raised and spent just \$3 million — while Democrats and Republicans spent \$2.2 billion for the presidential campaigns of Barack Obama and Mitt Romney combined.

For every news story covering Gov.

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CHAIR'S CORNER

Success in the 2012 Elections Signal Coming Libertarian Tide

by Geoff Neale, Chair



This issue of LP News is replete with good news. We've achieved unprecedented success in numerous ways. Read every article, and be encouraged.

I wish to publicly and officially thank the presidential ticket of Gary Johnson and Jim Gray for representing the Libertarian Party so well. They have

definitely confirmed the choice our National Convention delegates made in May of this year. Congratulations on a job well done.

I would also like to thank the uncounted number of individuals who helped the Johnson/Gray ticket in so many ways, including all of their staff, their volunteers, their donors, and most of all, their voters.

Our good news is not limited to the presidential results. New levels of Libertarian Party results have been achieved in many states, counties, cities and communities across the country, and the results were earned in large

part to the work of a multitude of libertarians. There are many people I would like to single out, but I will not, lest I offend those whose contributions are worthy of mention. Our results were made possible by the hundreds of candidates, the thousands of volunteers, the many thousands of donors, and the MILLIONS of voters who all played a part, no matter how small or humble, and I thank each and every one of them.

Today I feel like a surfer who has been sitting on his surfboard, dangling his feet, and waiting for a wave worth riding for a very long time. Folks, the ocean just surged beneath us. The choice is now ours — do we wait to see if this surge that passed us by becomes a wave? Or do we paddle like mad, and ride the surge until it becomes a wave?

I've waited 12 years for a wave to ride, and I'm not going to wait. I'm going to ride this as fast and as far as it will take us.

Join me!

Next Libertarian National Committee Meeting: March 16-17, 2013. Location to be determined. Check events calendar at LP.org for updates.

If you'd like to be considered for appointment by the LNC to the Credentials, By-laws or Platform Committee for the 2014 National LP Convention, please send an email stating your interest and your qualifications to credentials@LP.org, bylaws@LP.org, or platform@LP.org respectively. Chairman Geoffrey Neale intends to place populating these committees on the proposed agenda for the next LNC meeting (March 16-17, 2013).

The following individuals became Lifetime Members of the Libertarian Party between Sept. 8 and Dec. 3, 2012:

Richard Bennett Jr. (VA)
 Brian Bishop (VA)
 Paul Burbank (NY)
 Amy Damon (OH)
 Matthew Daniel (CA)
 Michael Duffy (VA)
 Paul Glenn (CA)
 Mark Guidry (NV)
 Jeffrey Hammer (NM)
 Christopher Hubbard (RI)
 Donald Johnston (HI)
 Bill Lynn (IA)
 William McDavid (NY)
 Brian McNally (AZ)
 Robert O'Donovan (CO)
 David Porter (IL)
 Bruce Sharp (KS)
 Vernon Smith (CO)
 Matthew Smythe (NV)
 Joseph Terwilliger (NY)
 Michael Wilson (WV)
 George Zsidisin (OH)

The Libertarian Party grants Lifetime Membership to individuals who contribute at least \$1,000 during any 12-month period. Call 202-333-0008 to find out how much more you would need to donate to become a Lifetime Member today.

LP News

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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 vice president of the United States, and supporting party and affiliate party candidates for political office; and, entering into public information activities.

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Mike Fellows Sets Libertarian Record in Montana Race

This year, Mike Fellows of Montana became the first Libertarian in national LP history to crack the 40 percent barrier in a partisan statewide race. He won 185,419 votes, or 43 percent, and carried 27 of the state's 56 counties in a two-way race for clerk of the Supreme Court against incumbent Democrat Ed Smith.

It was also the largest vote percentage for an LP candidate in the state's history.

Montana Libertarians credit his success to the election's two-way race, to the name recognition Fellows has built for himself through previous campaigns, and to the state LP's overall success in exposing voters to libertarian ideas.

"The large percentage that he got showed that, I think, more and more Montanans realize what 'libertarian' is," said Roger Roots, who ran for Secretary of State. He says the state party has articulated the message of libertarianism well, winning over some Republicans.

"He's been [active] a long time in the Libertarian Party here in Montana," said David Merrick, the Ravalli County LP Chairman. "In fact, he's probably been the glue that's kept it together and kept us on the ballot here for probably 10 to 15 years."

Fellows ran for Congress against Rep. Denny Rehberg (R) five consecutive times from 2002 to 2010, more than doubling his first-time vote totals in the last election. He won 8,988 votes in 2002, growing to 20,691 votes, or 7.9 percent, in 2010.

Fellows got out to plenty of events during his campaign, including the Missoula Hempfest, the the Missoula gun show and numerous parades and festivals.

"He did most of this on his own, but it's been an accumulation over all the years he's been involved with the party,"

said Merrick.

Merrick played a role in the Fellows campaign by mentioning his colleague in interviews, placing his name in ads, and passing out some of his literature at rallies. Roots had a hand with his social media strategy.

Roots said that, in retrospect, he thinks Fellows would have won the race if the campaign had raised more money.

Fellows, of Missoula, ran because he said people need to know their rights when they serve on a jury and to improve the efficiency of the clerk of the Montana Supreme Court.

"We assert the common-law right of juries to judge not only the facts but also the justice of the law," says the LP platform. During the late 1920s and early 1930s, juries nullified alcohol prohibition by exercising their right to acquit those charged with alcohol possession based on their view that the law itself was unjust, leading to the eventual repeal of the 18th Amendment. Since then, courts have refused to inform juries of this right, and it is therefore rarely exercised.

"My main issue was always the fully-informed jury," Fellows said. "And some of the other stuff we talked about [included] trying to get some better indexing software within the Clerk's office and have



Mike Fellows

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SC Libertarian Jeremy Walters Comes Close to Major LP Victory

Libertarian Jeremy Walters was in the unique position of being the only partisan candidate on the ballot for a state house seat. On a small budget, he ran a spirited race but fell short of winning by just 3 percent of the vote, or 656 votes. Had he won, South Carolina would have become the fourth state to elect a Libertarian to a state legislature, joining New Hampshire, Vermont and Alaska.

Walters received 5,243 votes (47 percent) and Felder won 5,899 votes (53 percent).

Walters ran for an open seat in the newly-created 26th district of the South Carolina House against Raye Felder, a Republican, who had been disqualified from the ballot on a technicality. She had neglected to file a paper copy of her statement of economic interest. But she subsequently collected enough signatures to get on the ballot as a nonpartisan "petition candidate."

The Republican Party had tried, but failed, to get Walters knocked off the ballot too, accusing him of not getting his papers correct.

"It was exciting to fight a machine like that," Walters said.

He ran no radio, TV, or newspaper ads, and was outspent by his opponent seven to one. Walters received \$4,620 in donations, while Felder received \$31,251. Felder also allegedly had the Republican "machine" working on her behalf.

"I lost but I really didn't lose," Walters said.

New to politics, Jeremy Walters initially announced he would run on the Republican ticket. After GOP leadership discouraged him from running, he sought the LP nomination, which he won unanimously after delivering a passionate speech at the party's state convention in April.

He said he gained momentum once LP presidential candidate Gov. Gary Johnson spoke at Winthrop University. Walters received \$1,800 in contributions after a Johnson endorsement.

York County LP Chair Jennifer Schulz said that Walters was cautious not to overpromise when dealing with voters. "I'm not going to lie to you. I'm going to stand for the Constitution," Walters told voters.

Schulz helped spread his campaign message through social media, which he estimates comprised about 30 percent of his campaign efforts. He also went door to door in his district, hung around at the local Starbucks talking one on one with voters, staked yard signs at the entrance to residential subdivisions, and attended homeowners' association meetings.



Jeremy Walters

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Libertarian Tim Menger Wins 41% of Vote for CO State House in 2-Way

Tim Menger won an impressive 41 percent (13,951 votes) in his race for Colorado's 54th House district — with a little help from Republicans, who can't seem to keep their records clean.

The incumbent, Republican Laura Bradford, was asked by her party to step down after trying to use her position to avoid being cited for driving under the influence.

Jared Wright, the Republican who ran to replace her, was caught lying about his termination from the Fruita Police Department, where he was chronically late for work. He was also caught lying about his

reason for filing for Chapter 7 bankruptcy, blaming it on bad investments. It turns out he had racked up \$74,000 in personal debt. Two of the three vehicles he bought on loans were repossessed.

Enter Libertarian Timothy Menger of Mesa County, a model of fiscal prudence.

"My wife and I have never made over \$55,000 in one year, yet we put two kids through college, we own three vehicles paid off, and one year ago we paid off our ranch mortgage," he said. "Who would you rather have control over your tax dollars?"

With no Democrat in the race, Menger and Wright were the only two



Tim Menger

candidates on the ballot. Tim Menger opposed new taxes under any circumstance

and promised to carefully monitor state spending. He supported legalizing marijuana and concealed carry. Running for office for the first time, Menger's grassroots campaign relied on homemade signs and word of mouth. The Daily Sentinel endorsed Menger, stating, "We don't agree with everything Menger espouses, but ... he would be a far better representative for Mesa County than Jared Wright." The paper also noted that Menger "has at least a shot at actually winning."

A Democrat in his youth, and an unsatisfied Republican later in life, Menger now finds his home in the Libertarian Party.

Libertarian Votes Result in LP Ballot Access in 30 States Plus D.C.

Following the 2012 election, the Libertarian Party has ballot access in 30 states and, for the first time ever, the District of Columbia.

The LP:

- Retained party status in Alaska, Michigan, New Mexico, Nevada, North Carolina, and Wyoming.
- Gained party status in D.C., West Virginia, and Wisconsin.
- Lost ballot access in Arkansas, Hawaii, New Hampshire, and North Dakota.
- Can now run a candidate for U.S. Senate in 2016 and the U.S. House 2nd District in Connecticut in 2014 without petitioning.
- Can continue to run statewide candidates in Georgia.

In some states, ballot access was not affected by 2012 election results, usually because either the LP achieved four-year ballot access in 2010 or because there are sufficient registered Libertarians to meet the state's requirement.

Bruce Majors, the Libertarian Party candidate for Delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives, won ballot access for the LP in Washington, D.C., for the first

time in the party's history. Majors won 16,524 votes, more than double the 7,500 needed for ballot access. He finished in second place behind the incumbent Democrat, Eleanor Holmes Norton, and well ahead of the Statehood Green Party candidate.

For the second time ever, the West Virginia LP has won ballot access in the state, thanks to the campaign of David Moran for governor. He pulled in 8,760 votes, or 1.3 percent, surpassing the 1 percent required for ballot status.

In ballot access victories for the LP resulting from U.S. Senate campaigns, Joseph Kexel won 61,904 votes (2.1 percent), gaining ballot access in Wisconsin; Scotty Bowman won 84,198 votes (1.8 percent), retaining ballot access in Michigan; and Paul Passarelli won 25,059 votes (1.7 percent), allowing the LP to run a U.S. Senate candidate in Connecticut in 2016, as well as a U.S. House 2nd District candidate in 2014, without petitioning.

In his race for Alaska's only U.S. House district, Jim McDermott received 11,051 votes, or 5 percent, in a 4-way race, which retained ballot access for the state.

Richard Brubaker of Wyoming's only U.S. House district won 8,286 votes, or 3.4 percent, in a 5-way race,

easily exceeding the 2 percent needed to retain ballot access in the state.

Gov. Gary Johnson won 3.5 percent of the vote in his home state of New Mexico, well over the 0.5 percent required to retain ballot access there for two more years. Johnson's votes in Nevada also met the threshold necessary to retain LP ballot access in that state.

David Staples, candidate for the Georgia Public Service Commission 5th District, won 1,082,481 votes, blowing by the 58,049 votes (1 percent of registered voters) needed to enable Libertarian statewide candidates to run for office without petitioning for the next two years.

In a few states, such as Minnesota, New Jersey, and Tennessee, where ballot access is difficult to achieve, getting candidates on the ballot is relatively easy. In Massachusetts, achieving ballot access actually makes getting candidates on the ballot more difficult, although having party status provides other benefits, such as listing the Libertarian Party as a choice on voter registration forms.

Vermont is among the 30 states where the LP is recognized as a party because it met the requirement to organize in 10 towns in late 2011. The LP must repeat this process in 2013 to maintain party status.

Libertarian Election Results

Libertarians for U.S. Senate

Candidate	Position	Votes	Percentage
Dan Cox	Montana	31,476	* 6.6%
Jonathan Dine	Missouri	164,990	6.1%
Andrew Horning	Indiana	146,221	* 5.8%
Marc Victor	Arizona	102,109	* 4.3%
John Jay Myers	Texas	161,473	2.1%
Joseph Kexel	Wisconsin	61,904	** 2.1%
Scotty Bowman	Michigan	84,198	** 1.8%
Paul Passarelli	Connecticut	25,059	** 1.7%
Rayburn Douglas Smith	Pennsylvania	93,500	1.7%
Dean Ahmad	Maryland	32,252	1.2%
Shaun Crowell	Tennessee	20,813	0.9%
Andrew Ian Dodge	Maine	6,313	^ 0.9%
Chris Edes	New York	28,315	0.5%
Ken Kaplan	New Jersey	15,169	0.5%

Libertarians for Governor

Candidate	Position	Votes	Percentage
Rupert Boneham	Indiana	101,326	4.0%
Ron Vandevender	Montana	17,729	3.7%
John Babiarz	New Hampshire	19,868	2.9%
Jim Higgins	Missouri	73,196	2.7%
Ken Larson	Utah	19,956	2.2%
Barbara Howe	North Carolina	95,154	** 2.1%
David Moran	West Virginia	8,760	** 1.3%
Roland Riemers	North Dakota	2,607	^ 0.8%

Top Libertarians for U.S. House in 2-Way

Candidate	Position	Votes	Percentage
Joel Balam	Kansas 3rd	90,391	31%
Randall Lord	Louisiana 4th	61,587	25%
Ben Easton	Texas 17th	35,902	20%
Joe Cobb	Arizona 7th	20,721	19%
Chip Peterson	Texas 19th	28,359	15%

Top Libertarians for U.S. House in 3-Way

Candidate	Position	Votes	Percentage
Powell Gammill	Arizona 9th	14,361	* 6.4%
Ron Williams	Mississippi 4th	17,262	6.4%
Thomas Jefferson	Kansas 4th	15,587	6.2%
Kim Allen	Arizona 1st	14,450	* 5.9%
Rex Bell	Indiana 6th	15,994	5.8%
Kevin Craig	Missouri 7th	16,656	5.2%
James Stanczak	Texas 29th	4,988	5.2%
Chris Kalla	Ohio 4th	15,487	5.1%
David Kaiser	Montana At-large	19,062	5.0%

Libertarians for U.S. House in 3+ -Way Who Finished 2nd With Either Democrat or Republican (Not Both)

Candidate	Position	Votes	Percentage
Rufus Craig	Louisiana 6th	32,200	11%
John Robert Deek	Texas 13th	12,671	6%

* High impact: more than margin of victory between Democrat and Republican
** High impact: secures ballot access for LP
^ Libertarian who ran as Independent

Republicans Deny Responsibility for Their Own Defeat in MA U.S. House Race

Libertarian Dan Fishman Stands His Ground Against Republican Attacks



Dan Fishman talks to a voter after a debate.

When a Libertarian wins more votes than the margin by which a Republican candidate loses to a Democrat, some Republicans blame the Libertarian for their loss.

But they have only themselves, and their candidates, to blame.

Rather than support fiscally conservative candidates within their own party, they usually nominate and back Big Government Republicans whose voting records are virtually indistinguishable from their Big Government Democratic opponents.

Such was the case when the Massachusetts GOP nominated Big Government Republican Richard Tisei to run in the U.S. House 6th District. On Nov. 6, he lost to Big Government incumbent Democrat John Tierney by 4,330 votes. Libertarian Dan Fishman pulled in 16,739 votes.

Fishman ran his campaign on balancing the budget, ending the war on marijuana, ending all U.S.-sponsored foreign welfare, and reducing regulations on employers to create jobs.

No one can say for sure how many of those 16,739 voters would have opted for Tisei, for Tierney, or for staying home, had

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Libertarians Beat Margin in 14 Races

There were 14 federal and gubernatorial races in the 2012 election where the Libertarian won more votes than the margin by which either the Republican lost to the Democrat or vice versa. In nine of those cases, the Republican lost. In five cases, the Democrat lost.

Republicans were quick to cry foul, charging that the Libertarian candidates should not have run, especially in the cases of Libertarian Dan Fishman, who ran in the Massachusetts House 6th District, and Dan Cox, who ran for U.S. Senate in Montana.

It is much less likely that the Libertarian changed the outcome of the election in cases where the Libertarian won just barely more than the margin of victory. It is more likely in cases where the Libertarian won substantially more than the margin.

For example, Libertarian for U.S. Senate Andrew Horning of Indiana won 146,002 votes, just 6,175 more than the 139,827 margin by which the Democrat won the race. 97 percent of those who voted for Horning

would have to have voted for his Republican rival, Richard Mourdock, in order for Mourdock to win. Some would contend this was not likely and that at least 3 percent of Horning's voters would have blanked the ballot had he not been in the race.

Yet many Republicans blamed Horning viciously for their loss, claiming he siphoned votes from their candidate.

Many Libertarians view beating the margin as a sign of the party's relevance.

Ruth Bennett, who ran in 2008 for governor in Washington, said, "In every close race, the Libertarian has an opportunity to control the outcome and get our issues heard by 'running to the left or to the right.' In my race for governor, we decided that the Republican was somewhat less odious, so I ran to the 'left.' That is, I ran on the issues of marriage equality and decriminalizing marijuana."

Washingtonians still talk about the

continued on page 15...

Dan Cox Wins More Than Margin in High Profile 3-Way Montana U.S. Senate Race

With the balance of power in the Senate at stake, the 2012 Republican and Democratic candidates for U.S. Senate in Montana spent an average of \$41.61 per vote — one of the highest of any federal race in the country. Libertarian Dan Cox found himself in the crossfire of the hotly contested campaign, where his Democratic and Republican opponents spent \$18.8 million combined, according to OpenSecrets.org, in a state where just 486,066 votes were cast for U.S. Senate.

Republicans implored Dan Cox to withdraw from the race for fear his influence would cost their candidate, Republican Congressman Denny Rehberg, to lose to incumbent Democrat John Tester. In the end, Cox won 31,892 votes, or 6.6 percent, almost twice the 3.7 percent margin by which Democrat Tester prevailed over Rehberg, 236,123 (48.6 percent) votes to 218,051 (44.9 percent).

Cox seized the moment when he appeared in two debates and was covered by national media, including Mother Jones, the Washington Examiner, Politico, the Associated Press, Talking Points Memo, CQ Roll Call, the Wall Street Journal, and the Christian Science Monitor. He offered



Dan Cox

a bold, Libertarian agenda while exposing the Big Government track records of both of his opponents.

"I think people are starting to wake up to the fact that there's really not that much difference at all between the Republicans and the Democrats," Cox said.

On his Republican opponent, he said "he voted for every police-state big-brother bill he could get his hands on," and added that Rehberg "voted to raise the debt ceiling 10 times."

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Barbara Howe Campaign Saves LP \$300,000 by Securing Ballot Access in NC



Barbara Howe

The Libertarian campaign of Barbara Howe for Governor in North Carolina scored a major victory for the LP, which will save party donors more than \$300,000 in future petitioning costs.

North Carolina is one of the most difficult and expensive states in the nation for getting Libertarians on the ballot. Now, for the second time, the LP has secured ballot status, avoiding costly petitioning that would otherwise be required. She won 93,460 votes, or 2.1 percent of the vote for governor, just over the 2 percent required in a statewide race to be a recognized political party.

Michael Munger first secured Libertarian ballot access in the state in his 2008 race for governor, where he won 121,585 votes, or 2.85 percent. He was included in the gubernatorial debates.

Howe has now achieved the same, despite being excluded from the debates. Without this victory, the LP would have needed to collect 88,608 certified signatures, or at least 126,000 raw signatures, in 2016 to make the ballot.

Barbara Howe ran hard — literally. She ran 100 separate 5K races throughout the state, one in each county, to reach voters and to give them a choice for less government, lower taxes and more freedom.

"I am pleased that we accomplished the goal of keeping the LP a legally qualified party in North Carolina. Thanks to all the enthusiastic supporters who planted signs, passed out rack cards, and shared the message," she said.

Four Out of Five States Pass Initiatives Resisting Obamacare

Four states — Alabama, Missouri, Montana, and Wyoming — pushed back on Obamacare by passing initiatives in 2012 that forbid or weaken the federal government mandate to create health insurance exchanges or to require citizens to purchase health insurance. A similar proposal failed in Florida.

All four winning states passed their measures by a wide margin, from nearly 60 percent in Alabama to almost 73 percent in Wyoming.

The Missouri initiative, put on the ballot by the legislature rather than citizen petition, still allows an Obamacare exchange if approved by the legislature. Some Missouri Libertarians viewed this as mere “republican politicking.”

“While we tire of the Republicans’

hypocrisy on health care, from Bush’s radical expansion of Medicare to their recent presidential nominee being the de facto creator of the Obamacare model, we still feel the proposition is worthwhile to support,” said Dr. Cisse Spragins, Missouri Libertarian Party chair. “The concept that government is somehow needed to create a place where buyers and sellers of a product can get together is utterly absurd.”

This year’s victories further the trend set in 2010, when two out of three initiatives came down on the side of health freedom. Arizona and Oklahoma voters said “Yes” to referendums opposing an individual mandate, while Colorado voters said “No.”

In March, the U.S. Supreme Court will hear cases challenging the constitutionality of the mandate.

Libertarian Social Tolerance Prevails as States Legalize Same-Sex Marriage

Ballots in four states gave voters a choice to rule on same-sex marriage questions during the 2012 election. In all four cases, voters chose the Libertarian agenda of social tolerance.

Washington and Maryland both had tight races in which voters narrowly approved legalizing same-sex marriage in their respective states. Both measures also preserve the freedom of religious organizations to refuse to recognize, accommodate, or participate in any such marriages if they so choose.

These measures shared a recognition of the right to free association from multiple perspectives, which helped to bring disparate interests together in supporting them. Washington’s measure also converts most existing same-sex domestic partnerships to full civil marriages after 2014.

Maine saw another close contest, with the passage of an initiative that overturns a 2009 measure banning same-sex marriage. That prior initiative had nullified an existing law permitting same-sex marriage that had been passed earlier that same year by Maine’s legislature.

Now that the pendulum has swung from legalization to prohibition and back again, opponents of same-sex marriage in Maine have dissolved their political action committee, according to the Bangor

Daily News.

Minnesota, on the other hand, faced a ballot measure that would have constitutionally defined marriage as between one man and one woman within the state, thereby prohibiting the potential future passage of same-sex marriage laws absent another constitutional amendment. Voters narrowly defeated the measure, but the state would require still another initiative or bill in order to approve the rights of gay and lesbian Minnesotans to marry their partners.

“Government has no business involving itself with marriage, an institution that’s best left to religious organizations or to individuals as private agreements,” the Libertarian Party of Minnesota wrote in its voter guide prior to the election. “We believe this amendment would be a grave misuse of the state constitution, which is intended to protect freedom, not restrict it.”

Gov. Gary Johnson, Libertarian Party candidate for president during the election, also weighed in.

“As a Libertarian, I believe there is much that government does and tries to do to interfere in our personal lives that it simply has no business doing,” Johnson said. “I am proud to join with Minnesota Libertarians in taking a stand against discrimination and the idea that government should be imposing moral values on free people.”

Virginia Voters Strike Down Overreaching Eminent Domain

Eminent domain was dealt a huge blow in Virginia this year, as nearly 75 percent of voters approved Question 1, a constitutional amendment that bans the taking of property for private benefit or to increase tax revenue, and forbids taking more property than is necessary for public use.

The measure not only curtails an increasingly popular method for governments to collect more taxes, it more carefully secures the fundamental property rights of Virginia citizens.

It also expands what may be includ-

ed in “just compensation” for takings that are deemed to fall within public use requirements, so that people who do have their property expropriated can be paid not only for a lowball market valuation, but for lost profits and lost access.

Far fewer Virginians will fall victim to eminent domain takings as a result of this initiative’s passage, and those who do are more likely to be justly compensated. The much greater cost of eminent domain will inevitably reduce its attractiveness to policymakers as a coercive planning tool.

Marijuana Initiatives Bring Huge Victories for Personal Freedom

Three marijuana ballot initiative victories bring the United States one step closer to ending the destructive War on Marijuana, making 2012 a landmark year for advocates of freedom and personal choice.

Colorado and Washington became the first states to approve legalization of small amounts of marijuana for adults aged 21 and older, irrespective of a medical need, while Massachusetts joined the ranks of states allowing the medical use of marijuana.

The Massachusetts initiative won decisively with 63 percent of the vote, while both marijuana legalization initiatives won with 55 percent. A similar legalization initiative in Oregon failed, as did medical marijuana measures in Arkansas and Montana.

Since its inception, the Libertarian Party platform has called for the abolition of all laws criminalizing consensual adult behavior. Drug prohibition has wasted trillions of dollars and imprisoned millions of people during the past several decades, including more than 350,000 drug-related incarcerations today in the United States.

These initiatives represent a substantial shift in public opinion in a libertarian direction, and may serve to weaken the federal government’s sweeping drug prohibition laws.

Already, many prosecutors in Colorado and Washington have announced that they’re dropping current personal-use marijuana cases, and will be unable to pursue more after the laws are fully implemented during the course of the

coming year.

“Thousands of peaceful drug offenders will soon be spared incarceration and a criminal record,” said LP national Chair Geoffrey Neale. “We’re moving fast toward the day when politicians finally stop waging war on the American people through the insane War on Drugs.”

For several years, both Washington and Colorado have had laws allowing medical marijuana, since 1998 and 2000, respectively. Their long history of approving marijuana use for a particular purpose has allowed residents of both states to see that the sky isn’t falling and that their neighbors haven’t turned into dangerous reprobates.

Although marijuana will still remain strictly prohibited under federal law, enforcement has historically required the cooperation of state governments. As more states opt out of prohibition, federal efforts to control marijuana use will be spread increasingly thin and rendered ineffective.

“I strongly believe the tide is turning on this issue, and it’s because of education and thoughtful discussion,” wrote Gov. Gary Johnson, 2012 Libertarian Party candidate for president, in an October op-ed. “The more we learn about marijuana and our federal government’s futile and ill-advised attempt to prohibit it, the more the solution becomes clear. America will be better off when marijuana is managed like alcohol and tobacco. Our border with Mexico will be safer, and addiction will at last be treated as the health concern it is, rather than as a criminal justice issue.”

Glorious Victory for LP: Arizona 'Top-Two' Initiative Goes DOWN!

See related article on page 9

In a major strategic victory for the LP, Arizona voters soundly rejected the state's Prop 121 initiative, which would have excluded all but the top two vote-getters of the primary elections from the general election.

Similar initiatives that passed in prior election years in Washington, Louisiana and California have been destructive to the LP in those states. Not only do they serve to exclude Libertarians from general elections; in some cases, they have also resulted in allowing only one party's candidate to be on the general election ballot, usually a Democrat.

This defeat of top-two stops a dangerous trend and shows that voters, when properly informed, say 'No' to excluding challengers of the status quo.

Arizona is the second state where top-two has gone down at the polls. A similar initiative in Oregon lost in 2008.

The Arizona LP played a critical role in this monumental victory. Here's the story told by LP state chair, Warren Severin:

"It started as an uphill fight and it stayed that way, all the way. And, we won!" Severin said.

"Mid-summer of 2011, an ex-mayor of Phoenix decided that what was good for California surely must be good for Arizona. So, he began a ballot initiative to amend the Arizona Constitution to replace much of Arizona's election code ('Title 16') with a top-two system. Unlike a legislative change, a constitutional amendment is the way to get something implemented so that it isn't easily reversed a few years down the road, when folks figure out it was a bad idea. And, a ballot initiative is a sneaky way to implement a Constitutional amendment. Instead of requiring a two-thirds majority to pass in the legislature, it takes a mere 50 percent of voters at the polls.

"There was serious money, by Arizona standards, behind the duplicitously named 'Open Government Commit-

tee' and their Proposition 121. Overall the committee spent over \$1.3 million to get the measure on the ballot and publicize it.

"Arizona's major media outlets, including the Arizona Republic, lined up behind Prop 121, running favorable editorials and letters to the editor throughout the campaign.

"The pro publicity was extremely effective. In November 2011, one year before the election, Arizona State University Morrison Institute for Public Policy conducted a poll to gauge the support for such an initiative. The poll showed that voters who had an opinion were 2:1 in favor of the initiative.

"Opposition to Prop 121 started with a heads-up email from then-LNC chair Mark Hinkle to me, the Arizona state chair, noting that a top-two ballot proposition had been filed with the Arizona secretary of state the day before. Richard Winger, editor of Ballot Access News, quickly made contact with the Arizona LP (AZLP) to offer his help. A joint meeting of the AZLP and Arizona Green Party (AZGP) boards was quickly convened in my living room. Richard Winger flew in for the meeting. At that meeting, it was agreed that AZLP and AZGP would join forces in opposition to the proposition. While we would not speak for each other, we would at every opportunity reinforce our joint opposition, and we would collaborate on opportunities to do so. We very quickly found another ally, the League of Women Voters of Arizona.

"There was tight communication between these groups for the duration of the fight. All opportunities for speaking and written opposition were quickly communicated among us. We all took every opportunity, whether



Warren Severin

online or in the printed press or public speaking. Winger provided documentation and historical context. Before long, the press took note that there was tightly knit opposition. In Arizona, the secretary of state publishes a booklet of pro and con statements about the various resolutions, mailed to every voter. The AZLP alone was responsible for three separate statements in that booklet.

"Reinforcements began to arrive. Meetings with local Tea Parties were fruitful. Mark Rogalski, a local activist lawyer, joined the team. Mark successfully petitioned the secretary of state to have the wording of Prop 121 on the ballot and in the voter guide changed to something fair to both the proponents and opponents.

"This was critical to informing voters of what they were voting for. Wording that favored proponents in the California and Washington ballot initiatives may be the biggest reason they passed in those states.

"Americans for Responsible Leadership, a group of conservative Arizona business leaders, formed a group called Save Our Vote Arizona. This group and Michael Liburdi provided legal counsel during the summer. Court challenges were launched on two fronts — the constitutionality of the proposition in regard to Arizona's 'single subject' rule for ballot propositions as well as the legitimacy of the signatures on the petitions. Although both actions failed, they raised public awareness.

"Local Ron Paul supporters began to see the detrimental effects that Prop 121 would have on the broader Freedom Movement and took up the fight against top-two.

"Christina Tobin and her Free and Equal Elections Foundation were valuable. Christina herself made a tour through Arizona in opposition to Prop 121, speaking at the Goldwater Institute and a host of other venues all across the state.

"By late summer unofficial polls rumored that Prop

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John Inks Gets Second Term in Mountain View, Calif.

First granted a four-year term in 2008, Libertarian Party candidate John Inks was re-elected to the city council in Mountain View, Calif., located in the San Francisco Bay area. There were four available positions in a six-way race for the council, and Inks received the highest percentage of the vote (19 percent), with the three other victors trailing closely. Inks is expected to be voted to the position of mayor by council members in early 2013.

Since January of 2012, he has served as vice mayor. He chairs the council's Transportation Committee and Goal-Setting Committee, is a member of the Neighborhoods Committee, and is an appointee to a number of area boards and committees.

His advice to fellow Libertarians who want to be elected: First become active in the community, through a charity or an appoint-



John Inks

ed position in a community organization. Then establish name recognition by getting to know public officials and area residents.

He recommends starting a city council campaign 6–12 months before the election, forming a campaign team, learning how many votes it takes to be elected and focusing on getting those votes. Above all, he notes, the candidate must raise funds.

Susan Marie Weber Wins First LP Victory for Palm Desert City Council

She had run three times previously against incumbents, but it was this year's last-minute decision to run for an open seat that led to Susan Marie Weber's landing a spot on the city council in Palm Desert, Calif.

"On the last day to file, the woman who runs our local Tea Party group insisted that I run one more time, and gave me \$300 toward the \$750 filing fee," Weber said. "At 4:55 p.m., quite literally the last possible moment, I filed."

Weber lagged behind by about 100 votes throughout most of Election Day, but pulled ahead to win by 45 votes.



Susan Marie Weber

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Gov. Gary Johnson Reflects on 2012 Election

Libertarian Presidential Candidate Gov. Gary Johnson has 1,272,558 reasons to be thankful this holiday season. He and Judge Jim Gray are the highest vote-winners for president and vice president in the party's history.

But it wasn't just the vote total that had an impact on Gov. Johnson. The positive reception and collaboration he experienced from the state and national parties throughout the campaign "could not have been better."

"There were so many hundreds of volunteers, all across the country," he said. Genuinely grateful for their efforts, he continued, "and all I could say was 'Holy Cow! These people are taking their time and giving it to the liberty movement, and giving it to me!' Wow."

He reflects on the campaign with fondness and enthusiasm, and is critical only of himself. "I wish I could've given a better showing for the ballot access fight. That would've been great."

Under attack in six states by GOP operatives who tried to knock Johnson off the ballot, the LP prevailed in four cases, but was blocked from placing Johnson and Gray on the ballot in Michigan and Oklahoma.

It was an unexpected obstacle, as the LP's presidential candidate had only been challenged once before, and in only one state. The escalation in challenges during this election was likely attributable to the larger threat Johnson posed as a successful, two-term governor.

In a race that was billed as tight, Republican and Democratic cheerleaders convinced many voters who would otherwise have cast their vote for Johnson and Gray to choose between the 'lesser of two evils.'

While Gov. Johnson acknowledges that might be the case, he refuses to accept this as the norm moving forward, and is unwilling to back down from a fight. A lifelong athlete, Johnson is no stranger to long races.

Recently named honorary chairman of Our American Initiative, a 501(c)(4) political advocacy committee, Gov. Johnson explains how he will work to keep the liberty movement alive. "The idea is to keep everything going, to keep moving forward, to provide a voice for the balanced solutions to the real issues at hand."

"It isn't enough to be socially tolerant. We have to focus on the budget, too. Where is the balance? Voting for one or the other, the lesser of two evils, just won't cut it. We have to balance the issues."

With a goal of keeping that balanced voice while advocating libertarian solutions to the problems our nation is facing, Gov. Johnson hopes to continue the type of grassroots activism and libertarian thinking that were staples of the 2012 Johnson campaign.

"That's what it's really all about, fighting for liberty, fighting for freedom," he said, adding that he's excited about the liberty movement and eager to watch what happens over the next few years.

When asked whether he will finally be able to take a break over the holiday, the governor responded with a smile. "Aconagua," he said, spelling it one letter at a time. "It's in Argentina, and it's the highest peak in South America." He plans to take the trip with his family, returning in mid-January.

South America will become the fifth continent that the governor, always up for a challenge, has scaled.

2012 Libertarian Vote

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Johnson, Obama and Romney were showered with more than 1,000 free newspaper and magazine articles, TV spots, and radio commentaries publicizing their campaigns. While the Presidential Debate Commission excluded Johnson and Gray, Obama and Romney were exposed to more than 67,000,000 viewers in just the first of three highly publicized TV debates. Both candidates were also showcased non-stop for three days in taxpayer-subsidized, prime-time televised Democratic and Republican conventions.

Add all that to the unfair burden of ballot access laws imposed on third parties, the Big Government bias that permeates educational institutions, and the influence of special interests. Despite these tremendous forces at play working against the LP, voters cast 15,755,122 votes for Libertarian candidates nonetheless.

"The Libertarian Party is coming of age with Election 2012," said Geoff Neale, LP National Chair. "We're seeing inquiries pour in from Libertarians who want to run for office in 2013 and 2014 — more than double what we saw four years ago. This is a great time to be a Libertarian."

Judge Jim Gray: The Libertarian Party Must Be Competitive

Okay, Gov. Gary Johnson and I tried to win this national presidential campaign, and we tried hard! And, on the way, we were assisted by an amazing group of supporters and staff who accomplished virtual miracles almost daily. As such, our campaign was mighty, capable, enthusiastic, and successful. But, even so, we were badly outnumbered and outspent by the Republicans and Democrats at every turn.

Yes, we received more than 1.27 million votes, which is more than any other Libertarian candidates for president in history, and that was even more notable given the virtual blackout by the national media to our campaign and our being frozen out of the national debates. We are proud of that accomplishment, but we were actually running to win.

So, should we Libertarians simply give up? Not a chance! Our country is in too much trouble, and we Libertarians are too committed to genuine change. Furthermore, although many people still do not realize it, our country desperately needs what Libertarians would do if we were to be placed in charge of government.

For example, Libertarians understand the security threat to our country represented by the fact that for every dollar the federal government now spends it literally is borrowing or printing 43 cents. We would be effective in reversing that threat. Libertarians also see that our coun-

try's very soul, which is our freedoms and liberties, is under attack by our own government. This loss of freedoms is symbolized by the fact that today, hanging down from the rafters of Reagan Airport in Washington, D.C., is a large American flag with a surveillance camera perched on top of it! We would reverse that course and safeguard our precious freedoms. Yes, America needs Libertarians!

So, what should we do? I suggest we adopt two approaches. First, we immediately should form a committee to locate and support the 30 best and most articulate Libertarian candidates that have a legitimate chance of winning local grassroots elections anywhere in the country in 2014. Then this national committee should raise enough seed money to be used as matching funds to get those candidates started on their way to victory. Second, we must even more strongly assist our own Dr. Jim Lark and others in their efforts to organize effective Young Libertarian Party organizations at every college and university campus in the nation.

Libertarians are a political party, and not a philosophical debate society! That means that Libertarians must begin winning elections! Realistically, this can only be done at the local level. Then, once this occurs, people will begin to notice the good results when the Libertarian approach of financial responsibility, limited government, social tolerance, and freedom is implemented. Soon

thereafter, many people will begin to say things like: "Wait a minute, I like what those officeholders are doing! What, they are Libertarians? I want more of them! In fact, I want to elect Libertarians to the state legislature!"

The first task of the Top 30 committee would be promptly to find at least 300 donors who would each contribute at least \$1,000 to this cause. I will be the first donor. Then the members of the committee must put emotion and local partisanship aside in finding our best candidates who have a genuine chance to win the local elections. This would result in all of our 30 candidates having an initial boost of at least \$20,000 — \$10,000 of their own and \$10,000 of ours — to begin their campaigns. I realize that empowering one person or a small committee to choose the recipient candidates is not the true "market" approach, but our local candidates need some extra help because of the initial forces against them.

As to the second approach, given the problems presently facing our great country and the fact that the Libertarian approach would literally lead us back to the prosperity, equal opportunity, and freedom that is today slipping through our grasp, organizing YLP clubs should not be too difficult. But it will take a large commitment of staff time and resources. Nevertheless, it is hard to

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Arkansas Sees First Elected Libertarian for Partisan Office

This was the first year that the Libertarian Party had full ballot access in Arkansas. Frank Gilbert, former mayor of Tull and former chair of the Arkansas LP, became the first Libertarian in the state to be elected to public office in a partisan race. He ran unopposed for constable of Dekalb Township, receiving 5,331 countywide votes and 231 in Dekalb proper.

Gilbert simultaneously ran for state Senate against a Democratic incumbent and a Republican challenger, garnering 1001 votes. He ran for governor under the Constitution Party banner in 2010.

Also in Arkansas, Casey Copeland was re-elected to a second two-year term as Prairie Grove alderman in a nonpartisan race.



Frank Gilbert

Ed Tidwell Bests Incumbent in Texas City Council Race

Libertarian Ed Tidwell of Lago Vista, Texas, won his race for City Council Place 2, defeating incumbent Bob Bradley by 1,296 votes (53 percent) to 1,146 (47 percent). He will serve a two-year term.

“Canvassing has gone very well,” said Tidwell at his Facebook page on October 30. “Three straight days of standing at the early voting poll station for nine hours a day, and walking the hills on off days as far as 17 miles in one day, has really paid off.”

His main goal is to make the city more business-friendly. He feels that the city’s ordinances and zoning restrictions block businesses from setting up shop in the city.

Ed Tidwell was the Libertarian nominee for governor in 2010, and ran for Lago Vista mayor in 2011. He hopes that this will lead to a successful career in state or national politics once he retires and can serve full-time.



Ed Tidwell

Payback: Champions of ‘Top-Two’ in WA and CA Lose Their Elections

by Richard Winger, Publisher of *Ballot Access News*

Rob McKenna had been the champion of the top-two system in Washington. As Attorney General, he argued in its defense before the U.S. Supreme Court in 2007, and won — to the detriment of the Washington LP.

When the case returned to the U.S. Supreme Court this year, McKenna, then the Republican Party’s presumptive gubernatorial nominee, used his influence to block his party from appealing.

With the top-two system in effect, it may have prevented a Libertarian candidate from competing with McKenna in his bid for governor. But he lost anyway to Democrat Jay Inslee on Nov. 6.

“Boo hoo,” said the Washington LP chair, Larry Nicholas.

The author of California’s top-two initiative met a similar fate.

In 2009 Republican Abel Maldonado forced the California legislature to put the top-two measure on the ballot by threatening to withhold his vote that was needed to pass the budget. Maldonado campaigned vigorously for the measure, which passed.

While it may have prevented a Libertarian candidate from competing with him in his race this year for U.S. House, 24th district, he lost anyway to Lois Capps, the Democratic incumbent.

Ironically, this was the only election Maldonado has ever lost in the central coast of California, and it is the only top-two election he has ever been in.

Libertarian Party 2012 Election Results: Top Libertarian State Senate Vote Percentages

Senate Seat	Candidate	Votes	Vote %
AZ 15th	Dennis Grenier	19,096	* 26.4%
KS 35th	Jesse Bryant	6,272	* 23.2%
TX 5th	Jeffrey Fox	53,478	* 22.9%
NC 24th	Brandon Black	13,605	* 21.0%
OH 12th	Paul Hinds	28,376	* 20.9%
OK 41st	Richard Prawdzienski	7,112	* 20.6%
CO 10th	Brandon Hughes	9,735	16.9%
CO 12th	Dave Respecki	8,214	16.8%
TX 17th	Austin Page	31,946	13.4%
TX 26th	N. Ruben Flores Perez	22,094	13.1%

Top Libertarian State House Vote Percentages

House Seat	Candidate	Votes	Vote %
SC 26th	Jeremy Walters	5,243	* 46.8%
CO 54th	Tim Menger	13,784	* 41.0%
TX 52nd	Lillian Martinez Simmons	13,515	* 29.7%
MT 26th	Tim Martin	984	* 29.0%
IN 54th	Jeremiah Morrell	5,834	* 27.0%
MT 90th	Toby Martin	1,315	* 26.5%
CO 44th	Jarrold C. Austin	8,477	* 26.2%
CO 48th	John R. Gibson	8,616	* 25.4%
TN 52nd	Daniel Lewis	4,055	* 24.3%
CO 64th	Nick Scheider	7,590	* 23.9%
IN 53th	Kim Brand	5,619	* 23.8%
NC 62nd	Kent Wilsey	8,574	* 23.7%
OR 2nd	Jeff Adams	5,061	* 22.8%
FL 14th	Jonathan Loesche	13,947	* 21.2%
FL 106th	Peter D. Richter	16,378	* 21.1%
TX 56th	Neill Snider	9,953	* 20.5%
NM 48th	Bob Walsh	2,460	* 20.4%
TX 108th	Jarrett Rab Woods	11,081	* 20.3%
AR 51st	Rodger Paxton	1,558	* 20.2%
CO 21st	Laticia Burns	3,609	** 18.1%
CO 16th	Michael J. Giallombardo	5,458	** 17.8%
CO 14th	R. David Lucero	5,517	** 16.7%
CO 15th	Larry Reedy	4,408	** 16.0%
OR 3rd	Johnie Wayne Scott	2,882	** 11.8%
CO 19th	Alan MacGregor Bassett	4,571	** 11.5%
KS 17th	Michael Kerner	1,264	** 10.9%
WY 9th	Charles Kenworthy	385	** 10.2%
HI 3rd	Fred Fogel	860	9.6%
KS 49th	John Wilson	720	8.2%
MT 87th	Karen Fisher	451	8.2%
MT 84th	Scott Vandevender	437	7.8%
ID 16A	Jeffrey Laing	1,427	7.6%

* 2-way race
** 3+-way race with one Democrat or one Republican

AFFILIATE News And Events

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

Arkansas

First Full Ballot Access Election

In their first full-ballot access election, the LPAR's former chair, Frank Gilbert, was elected as the first partisan Libertarian in state history. Falling short of the 3 percent needed to retain ballot access, Johnson/Gray still received three times as many votes as Barr/Root.

Almost 100,000 votes were cast for 15 candidates statewide, and all of the LPAR's Congressional candidates appeared in multiple televised debates, bringing increased attention to the party.

During the 2012 election season, the LPAR saw several new county affiliates form while state membership growth and financial contributions doubled. In the wake of the election, a Membership Development and Retention committee was formed to support and expand on the LPAR's recent progress.

Later in November, the LPAR co-sponsored END THE FED Arkansas' rally, which attracted state-wide media attention. Christina Tobin of the Free and Equal Elections Foundation and Adam Kokesh of Adam Vs. the Man were keynote speakers at the event. More than 50 marchers showed up in Little Rock on a holiday weekend to protest the Federal Reserve.

LPAR member Dugan King introduced his plan for the ArBuck, a local parallel currency in Arkansas. King will be speaking about the Libertarian Revolution and the ArBuck at the Arkansas Liberty Summit at the University of Central Arkansas on February 23.

In March 2013, the LPAR will hold a state convention to elect Executive Committee members, create a state platform and kick off a ballot access petition drive in order to run partisan candidates in 2014. Arkansans interested in running for office can email INFO@LPAR.ORG for more information.

If you are a member of the National LP but have not joined the LPAR, please visit LPAR.ORG and join today. Membership dues are only \$10 a year and help support the LPAR's mission to spread liberty throughout the Natural State.

California

More Libertarians Elected to Office

Seven Libertarian incumbents won their races for public offices in California, and one new Libertarian official was elected by a mere 45 votes on her fourth try!

Susan Marie Weber won a seat on Palm Desert's City Council on a shoe-string budget and now becomes the third Libertarian city council member in the state. John Inks won reelection to Mountain View's City Council, and is expected to be selected mayor when they reconvene in Santa Clara County (Mountain View is home to Google's headquarters).

Brian Holtz won reelection to the Purissima Hills Water District Board in Santa Clara County. Jonathan Hall won reelection to the Tehachapi-Cummings Water District Board in Kern County. Jason Gonnella won reelection to the Lake Los Angeles Town Council in Los Angeles County, and heads the committee for assigning projects. Thomas Medvitz and Linda Strom each won reelection to the Lakeside Community Planning Commission in San Diego County. Kate O'Brien won reelection to the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District Board in Ventura County.

Colorado

Historic Success for LPCO

The LPCO has been very busy this year. We had one of our best election cycles in history. Volunteerism, campaigns, registrations, and political influence were all exceptional in 2012.

Through the efforts of our state chair, Jeff Orrok, and of our dedicated volunteer corps we saw an increase of more than 60 percent in registrations since January, making the total number of registered Libertarians nearly 25,000!

LPColorado ran more than 60 candidates for office and earned half a million votes for Libertarians across the board. This resulted in Libertarians being the margin of difference in six state elections, directly affecting one Democratic race and five Republican races. In Congressional District 5, Jim Pirtle took 7.4 percent in a five-way race. We shattered our old single-vote-getter record with Dan Ong earning

122,592 votes for CU Regent at Large. In state three-way races with a Republican, Democrat, and Libertarian, we averaged 4.4 percent and received as high as 8 percent in some. Our lowest percentage of votes was 2.8 percent, in a race comprising 5 candidates. No other candidate received less than 3 percent of the total votes in their race. Gov. Gary Johnson earned 40 percent more votes than we have registered Libertarians, telling us that Colorado is ready for a third party. LPColorado was very pleased with the amazing election turnout in 2012.

In regard to our ballot initiatives, LPColorado, Gov. Gary Johnson and the Libertarian Party in general were the driving force behind Amendment 64, the legalization of recreational use of marijuana, which passed by a handsome margin. LPColorado was also successful in defeating a number of tax increases in local elections.

Toward the end of the election, Gov. Johnson, in conjunction with LPColorado, organized a rally hosted at University of Colorado at Boulder. The rally proved to be one of the most successful events on the campaign trail, achieving numbers so great that people were turned away due to overcapacity. Yahoo News, the Denver Post, the Associated Press, and Reason magazine's Garrett Quinn were all on hand to interview Gov. Johnson and LPColorado State Chair Jeff Orrok. Gov. Johnson received more media exposure than any other Libertarian presidential candidate. He received overtly positive write-ups in all of the major media outlets throughout Colorado.

LPColorado is positioned very well to channel all of the recent excitement, momentum, and successes into the party by utilizing new technologies and a strong focus on fundraising. LPColorado strives to be the best state party in the country, and with the above numbers has certainly set the bar very high.

Kansas

LP Candidates Getting More Votes

The 2012 election in Kansas saw one of our elected Libertarians lose an office; however, on the encouraging side of the election cycle, we saw our average candidate vote percentage go from 4 percent in 2010 to 6 percent in 2012 in three-party races. We also had a candidate win 90,000+ votes. 2012 also saw the LPKS increase in registered voters by 6 percent — a record high for us. We have had six straight years of registration growth. The party has also started a county affiliate group program. We have had four new county affiliate

groups start up within the last six months, with more preparing to start.

We also have several initiatives either in progress or starting in the upcoming legislative session. Currently, the LPKS, led by our 2nd Amendment coordinator, Earl McIntosh, is challenging all counties and municipalities that are usurping state open-carry firearm ordinances. We have successfully moved three Kansas cities, including the state's two largest cities, to overturn their open-carry bans. The LPKS is now actively suing several cities and one county that are contesting our challenge. The LPKS has the favorable opinion of the Kansas attorney general, and the support of state and national pro-2nd Amendment groups. The state party has a nationwide fundraiser under way that it started in order to accept donations to help cover legal fees.

The upcoming 2013 legislative session will include our support of medical cannabis, the re-legalization of hemp production, and the reintroduction of the Libertarian school choice bill "KELA" (Kansas Education Liberty Act). KELA narrowly missed passage in the Kansas House in 2012.

Louisiana

Congressional Candidates Set Record

The Libertarian Party of Louisiana saw large increases across the board this year. We have hired an executive director to handle day-to-day operations. The number of registered Libertarians in Louisiana has increased by more than 42 percent, and that number continues to increase. Our revenues since August have totaled more than the last five years combined.

We fielded five congressional candidates this year, who received more than 124,000 votes combined — a record for Louisiana Libertarians. We also had more congressional candidates than the Democrats in Louisiana. The LPL had two Libertarians elected to public office. These are the first two Libertarians elected to public office in Louisiana history.

Moving forward, the LPL is focused on 2013. In Louisiana, there are more than 100 offices up for election in 2013, many of those in small towns. We plan to target these "lower level" offices and get more Libertarians elected to local offices. In addition, we plan to continue working on increasing the number of registered Libertarians in Louisiana to more than 10,000 in the year 2013, and expect revenues to

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AFFILIATE News And Events

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exceed 2012 levels.

The Libertarian Party of Louisiana has been very active over the past year and we expect to continue this level of activity over the next few years.

Michigan

Improvements in Congressional Numbers

Secretary of State “Ruthless” Johnson’s crusade, with the assistance of her GOP cronies, kept LP presidential candidate Gov. Gary Johnson off the ballot. Nonetheless, 7,774 proud Michiganders cast their votes for Gov. Johnson, making it the most successful presidential write-in campaign in Michigan’s history.

LPM candidates did very well. MSU Trustee candidate Michael Miller was our highest partisan vote-getter, with 146,799 votes. Nonpartisan Michigan Supreme Court candidate Kerry Morgan earned an incredible 264,121 votes. Jamie Lewis, LP candidate for Kent County Clerk, earned our highest vote percentage in a three-way race, 4.9 percent. Our highest percentage in a two-way race was the 24.9 percent received by Rodger Young for Livingston County Commissioner. Scotty Boman’s U.S. Senate race improved our percentage to 1.8 percent, up from 1.6 percent in 2008 and 0.7 percent in 2006. Our Congressional results improved dramatically, coming in at an average candidate vote percentage of 2.3 percent, compared to 1.3 percent in 2010, 1.8 percent in 2008, and 1.4 percent in 2006.

Several LPM candidates drew more votes than the difference between the Republican and the Democrat in their race. Emily Salvette achieved balance of power status in the 1st Congressional District, where the Republican Dan Benishek won reelection by only a small fraction of Emily’s vote total. Similarly, in his Muskegon area state representative race, Nick Sundquist rolled up a large vote total, while the incumbent Republican Holly Hughes lost by very few votes. In the 11th Congressional District special election, John Tatar earned balance of power status. For Michigan Supreme Court, Kerry Morgan and Bob Roddis each earned more votes than the difference between the Republican who won and the Democrat who didn’t. Unlike two years ago, LPM candidates led the other

third-party candidates in almost every race, usually by large margins.

The LPM fielded only 53 candidates, compared to 84 in 2010 and 85 in 2008. Although many candidates had a Facebook presence, only 23 had websites, far fewer than in 2010.

In addition to providing “Vote Libertarian” yard signs, the LPM funded highway billboards, made contributions to some active candidates and local party affiliates, and bore much of the cost of two lawsuits to put Gov. Johnson on the ballot.

This election’s message is that there is hope. And, going forward, we need to work harder to recruit and support our candidates, and to raise and spend real money.

Missouri

20 Years of Continuous Ballot Access

The Missouri LP marked its 20th anniversary of continuous ballot access in the state in 2012. The party had 26 candidates on the ballot in November, including candidates for U.S. Senate, all eight congressional districts, and all five statewide offices: governor, lt. governor, secretary of state, treasurer, and attorney general. U.S. Senate candidate Jonathan Dine garnered 165,300 votes for 6.1 percent in a three-way race, which broke the previous Missouri LP record set in 1994 for that office. It also broke the record for highest vote total for the party in any race. This was also the highest vote total nationally for an LP U.S. Senate candidate in 2012.

Percentages for the other five statewide races ranged from 2.7 to 4.1 percent in three three-way races and two four-way (with the CP) races. Party records set back in 1992 were broken in three of the five races. Ballot access, which requires at least 2 percent in a statewide race, was secured through 2016. Percentages for the eight congressional races ranged from 2.3 to 5.2 percent, and averaged 3.3 percent, versus 2.35 percent in 2008.

Missouri delivered 1.6 percent for Gov. Gary Johnson and Judge Jim Gray, well ahead of the previous record of 0.5 percent in 1996. The party will hold its 2013 state convention on Feb. 23 in Jefferson City. The convention will be a working meeting, with the objective of refining the strategic plan for the party to increase membership, recruit and enable more candidates,

organize more county affiliates, and develop more campus affiliates in the state.

Montana

Planning Ahead to 2013

One Libertarian Party candidate in Montana garnered 294,871 votes, with a voter turnout of 70 percent. Montana voters are realizing that the only political party working to relight the *fire* of liberty is the Libertarian Party.

Vice presidential candidate Judge Jim Gray traveled to Montana twice, and that helped the Gov. Gary Johnson/Jim Gray ticket get 2.91 percent, which was the second highest percentage of Libertarian votes of the 50 states. It couldn’t have happened without the work of Gov. Johnson’s state coordinator, David Elsa, along with Wes Hale and Ryan Hazen of the UM College Libertarians, who helped get students out to vote for Gary Johnson. We had lots of help by other Libertarian candidates and volunteers, including Grandpa Liberty.

Libertarian candidates were involved in forums and debates. U.S. Senate candidate Dan Cox (6.55 percent) appeared in two debates, and was a guest on local and statewide radio. U.S. House candidate David Kaiser (4.03 percent) appeared in one state televised debate (Montana Public Television) and on local radio. Gubernatorial candidate Ron Vandevender (3.75 percent) was invited to one debate and spoke to several forums. Secretary of state candidate Roger Roots (3.48 percent) appeared in forums and spoke to Montana Public Television’s Equal Time. Clerk of the Supreme Court candidate Mike Fellows (42.90 percent) won half of Montana’s counties, including Flathead and Ravalli.

Our main objective is to influence, educate, and win elections. Our legislative candidates worked hard this year to achieve those goals. Legislative candidates appeared at forums and in local newsprint. SD 45 candidate Rob McCoy had a debate with the competition on local radio. HD 26 candidate Tim Martin achieved 28.92 percent. Toby Martin, HD 90 candidate, had 26.36 percent, and Lake County Commission candidate John Swenson, running on a property rights platform, had 31 percent, ranking among the best percentages of our local candidates. Thanks to all our legislative candidates who helped with the Ravalli County Fair and Parade. Without our legislative candidates, all this would not be possible.

Next up will be the 2013 Montana Legislative session. We didn’t win any

seats this year, but we can influence and educate our political leaders in Helena and help defend life, liberty, and property.

New Hampshire

Membership Up 150%

New Hampshire had the first good news of election day. Gov. Gary Johnson won votes from the towns that vote at midnight. Bonus news when his initial total was reported wrong, doubling his votes. For 12+ hours, Gov. Johnson had 4.5 percent of the popular vote!

All New Hampshire Libertarians increased the vote count and vote percentage compared to the same seat in 2010/2008! Two candidates tripled the count, and more than doubled the percentage, including Gov. Johnson! Even first-time candidates got as high as 10 percent.

New Hampshire has 30,000 Libertarian votes, or 4.5 percent. We need to keep and push those votes up-ticket to regain party status. We’re lining up sponsors for ballot access legislation.

This capped a campaign season full of good, bad, and crazy.

The bad: Broken promises of support from Ds and Rs. Getting the runaround for debates after meeting criteria. New Hampshire became a battleground state, pulling away help and votes.

The good: More candidates. Our most active congressional candidates (Brendan Kelly and Hardy Macia) in years, which built support and credibility. Our campaign office hosted weekly meetups and had yard signs available 24/7.

The crazy: Every day of the campaign. Fierce competition for money and volunteers. Libertarians were called the kingmakers of the election. Making zombie campaign videos with Johnson and our top candidates.

In the final week, people did break our way and news media became interested, particularly in Gov. Johnson’s impact.

There was a noticeable shift with news of Gov. Johnson surpassing 1 million votes, and all our improvements. Several new members attended our post-election board meeting to help build on that momentum and start new projects.

Thanks to membership director Tom Sweeney’s great work, our membership is up 150 percent for the year. Our social media are buzzing. Our Facebook group grew by 50 percent, and our Twitter following doubled.

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AFFILIATE News And Events

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We held a new member social on Dec. 6. Our state convention is in January. We plan to host an event at the New Hampshire Liberty Forum in February.

Local elections are in March. Since Libertarians can win these, we plan to recruit dozens of candidates, especially people thinking of state office in 2014.

Read analysis of election results and more news at lphn.org.

Ohio

Johnson Campaign Boost for LPO

The Gov. Gary Johnson presidential campaign was a shot in the arm for the Ohio LP. The campaign excitement brought in new members and is helping us build for the future. Gov. Johnson came to Columbus, Ohio, in June, made two stops, including Cincinnati, in October, and made a highly successful three-stop tour in November. The event in Streetsboro on Nov. 2 drew more than 725 people. Judge Jim Gray also came to Ohio in August for a three-stop tour, including the Wood County Fair.

Kudos to Debbie Dean-Espie and Brad Lowry for managing the statewide campaign for Gov. Johnson in Ohio. Neither had been involved with the LPO prior to April 2012. Debbie is now the vice-chair of the Cuyahoga County affiliate. And, recently, state chair Kevin Knedler appointed Brad Lowry as director of the Field Development Division. Brad's experience with the statewide Gov. Johnson campaign and his entrepreneurship are a perfect fit for this new role, which is to develop county parties and volunteers.

The LPO had record vote counts compared to four years ago — a 279 percent increase. The 20 candidates, plus the team of Johnson/Gray, received approximately 315,000 votes in Ohio. In 2008, the LPO's eight candidates, plus the Barr/Root ticket, had a vote count of 83,000. The Johnson/Gray 2012 total of approximately 47,200 votes was the second-highest ever in Ohio.

Now the LPO focuses on the future. We will be making decisions in December regarding our annual budget and a database platform. The Political Division, led by Bob Bridges and Paul Hinds, will be focusing on the 2014 state elections, including

governor.

Our 2013 state conference will be held in Granville on April 26 and 27. For answers to questions, please email the LPO at info@lpo.org. For more details on the Ohio Libertarian Party, go to www.lpo.org.

Pennsylvania

Membership Recruit Effort Yields Big Gains for LPPA

The Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania has seen an 80 percent increase in membership since April 2012, when an active recruitment effort with follow-up procedures was instituted by Thomas Robert Stevens, the newly elected state chair.

Because of new avenues of communication set up for these new members, many have chosen to become active in the party. In the last two months alone, new county committees were organized and chartered in Blair County, Bucks County, and Chester County. A regional committee encompassing Carbon, Lehigh, Monroe, and Schuylkill counties was also established.

Because of the vote totals our statewide candidates obtained on Nov. 6, the LPPA will obtain minor party status in Pennsylvania, thus allowing voters to be able to register as Libertarian Party members with the Board of Elections. We will also be permitted to run candidates in special elections without the need to petition to get them on the ballot.

The LPPA voted to sign on as a supporting organization for Pennsylvania Farmers for Industrial Hemp, a new group formed by Dr. Tom Stevens to educate the public regarding the potential benefits of allowing farmers to grow hemp as a crop for industrial purposes.

All LPPA Standing & Working Committees are now fully staffed. Standing Committees include: Election (Ballot Access) Committee — John Karr, chair; Legal

Action Committee — Greg Teufel, chair; Legislative Action Committee — Tim Havener, chair; Media Relations Committee — Roy Minet, chair; and Membership Committee — Ron Goodman, chair. Working Committees include: Convention Committee — Tyler Kobel, chair; Grassroots Initiative (Local Action) Committee — Rich Gostkowski, chair; Marketing Committee — Roy Minet, chair; Newsletter Committee — Tim Havener, chair; Platform Committee — Henry Haller, chair; and Youth Outreach Committee — Ivan Glinski, chair.

We have already begun recruiting candidates interested in running for office in 2013 and 2014.

Texas

Texas Launches "Launch 2014"

Texas Libertarians are enthused by the results of the 2012 elections: across-the-board improvements in vote totals and percentages; Gov. Gary Johnson's dramatic improvement in results for the presidential election; a record-breaking five Libertarian candidates in Texas achieving more than 1 million votes; and Libertarian Ed Tidwell elected to the Lago Vista City Council. More details are posted on the web: <http://www.lptexas.org/libertarians-on-the-rise-in-texas>

Despite the redistricting fiasco in Texas, the party placed more than 120 candidates on the ballot. Many of these candidates are ready to run again for 2014.

"Launch 2014" is the party's effort to sustain the momentum from the elections and ensure that candidates in 2014 have the support they will need. The annual membership drive and renewals are needed to retain staff and make the necessary investments to grow the party and support the membership, local leaders, and candidates.

"We are excited and motivated," said state chair Pat Dixon. "Our candidates and volunteers are already focused on 2014. We hope to have the support of our membership as we go into the new year."

Progress toward the "Launch 2014" campaign goals will be updated online at LPTexas.org.

Dan Cox Beats Margin

...continued from page 5.

He had little confidence that the GOP was going to completely repeal the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare, when the Republicans began talking about "repeal and replace."

High on Dan Cox's once-in-office priority list was ending the Federal Reserve Banking System and repealing the National Defense Authorization Act. He let voters know that the Federal Reserve lent \$16 trillion to foreign corporations and banks during and after the financial crisis of 2008.

He also showed voters how the Federal Reserve's printing of money hurts everybody, pointing out that inflation is a hidden tax.

Dan Cox also ran on ending the Transportation Security Administration, protecting private property rights, and legalizing marijuana. He charged the federal government with overstepping its boundaries by cracking down on medical marijuana dispensaries, where they are legal in Montana, and sought to protect residents against Washington overreach.

"I think he's one of the best candidates we've had in Montana," said Dave Merrick, Ravalli County Libertarian Party chairman. "He's well-grounded in libertarianism. He's a good speaker."

"He's gotten more [votes] for our national race in Montana, more percentage of the votes, than anyone in a national race who has ever run here," he continued.

Behind the scenes helping the campaign were Montana activists like Merrick, who put out ads for Cox and circulated his campaign literature. He also made calls to get Cox into the debates, and succeeded in getting him included in two, which, Merrick says, he won. In 2008, Cox successfully opposed the Ravalli County Growth Policy, a local zoning scheme that has been repealed, thanks to Cox's signature-gathering efforts. He says that "there's no county-wide zoning."

Cox also took interest in illuminating the federal government's policy of importing foreign wildlife and releasing it on federal land, destroying native wildlife. He says the federal government "dumped a bunch of wolves" it had imported from Canada onto federal land, which interfered with elk hunting and "ravaged herds."

Looking to the future, Cox says, "It's possible I would run again. Of course, it really depends who the candidates are."

Thinking about running for office in 2013 or 2014?

Contact your state LP or visit LP.org and click on: **Run for Office**

Hardy Macia Uses Tech Skills to Help Johnson Campaign

So, just what does it take to earn more than a million votes for president with a budget that is 1/700th the size of your two major-party competitors?

“Grassroots support,” says Ron Nielson, the senior campaign manager for the Gov. Gary Johnson 2012 presidential bid. “The true victory of this campaign is the grassroots community it helped to build, and bring together.”

Hardy Macia, the New Hampshire state director for the Gov. Johnson campaign, was a stand-out example of grassroots support. He donated hours of his time and technological expertise, building flash-embedded campaign sites, embedded YouTube videos, and live updaters for the campaign’s money bomb fundraisers.

Described by Nielson as “an expert, able to solve Internet-based technology problems on the fly,” Macia insists he “didn’t do all that much, but I took the initiative and did what I could.”

But when he maxed out his personal donation totals early on in the campaign, he was left looking for another way to help. Drawing on his background (he builds iPhone apps for a living), he was able to “take advantage of existing technology, integrating platforms like Vokle and Google Hangouts to spread more information about the campaign.”

Acting as both host and moderator, Macia helped to put on digitally broadcast town hall meetings, where voters could “directly interact” with Gov. Johnson, asking their own questions and responding to his answers.

He estimates he spent 30–40 hours each week promoting the campaign on



Hardy Macia

Facebook and other social media sites. He set up Gov. Johnson’s Google Plus page before other presidential candidates created pages, which resulted in more than 1 million people adding Johnson to their circles — more than Romney.

When Gov. Johnson visited his state in September, Macia helped stage a “Zombie Flash Mob” on the steps of the state Capitol. About 20 activists worked together to film, produce, and participate in the ad in the 60 minutes of free time Johnson had available before the sun went down. The ad was published on YouTube and shared via social media sites, resulting in nearly 28,000 views within a couple of days.

“One really great thing is that Libertarian candidates can often get this type of technological work done cheaply, because there are so many tech-savvy libertarians willing to volunteer their time,” he said.

“But in four years, by the next election, who knows what technology will look like?” he warns. “Keeping our state party websites and keeping a strong social media presence could really be beneficial to the future of this liberty movement.”

Activist Laura Delhomme Helps Revitalize Virginia LP

She’s been with the Libertarian Party for less than two years, but already Laura Delhomme has become a major activist. After moving to Virginia from her home state of Georgia, Delhomme sought out the party after learning of it while reading about Ayn Rand. “These sound like rational folks,” she said.

“She’s very organized; if she says she’ll do a task, she does it,” said Chuck Moulton, chair of the Libertarian Party of Virginia (LPV).

Delhomme’s accomplishments so far include codirecting the presidential campaign for Gov. Gary Johnson in Virginia, delivering yard signs and literature throughout her region, providing web development services to the Johnson campaign website, helping with the Robert Kraus for Alexandria City Council campaign, and chairing both the LP Virginia’s 8th congressional district and the LP of Northern Virginia’s (LPNOVA) local affiliate. She has coordinated dozens of events for LPNOVA, campaigns, and petitioning. She thinks the biggest success that she had a hand in was gain-



Laura Delhomme

ing ballot access for Johnson in her state, a process that came with “a lot of obstacles.”

Perhaps her greatest contribution to party growth in Virginia is her interpersonal skills.

“She’s very warm and welcoming of new people to the party,” Moulton said. “She’ll walk up to someone who she’s never seen before at an event, and engage them in conversation. A lot of us libertarians are introverted, and Laura’s introverted too, but she gets over her introversion to go and talk to people, and make them feel welcome.”

Delhomme believes that the distinctive principles of the Libertarian Party are key to bringing in more people like her.

“We actually believe in fiscal responsibility, and not spending

more than the government takes in,” Delhomme said. “We’re the only party that actually does believe that. And, for the first time ever, more than half of America actually thinks that marijuana is not something that should be criminalized. We’ve been saying that for more than 40 years.”

LP Newcomer Brad Lowry Becomes Rising Star in Ohio

Recently a self-described “politically homeless” entrepreneur, Ohio activist Brad Lowry discovered the Libertarian Party through the World’s Smallest Political Quiz. He realized that the description fit him perfectly, and has since quickly taken on positions of rising importance in the Ohio LP.

“My ideas have progressed to being a libertarian,” Lowry said. “I had no idea what that word even meant, or that there was a party for it, or anything like that. I always thought that I was a confused Democrat or a confused Republican.”

Lowry learned about the presidential candidacy of Gov. Gary Johnson before the LP primary, and decided to make a \$1,000 donation when he found out Johnson would make personal phone calls to big donors. They spoke about meeting in person at the LPO convention in March, and it was there that Lowry made his first impres-

sion on state party officials.

“I immediately knew he was a future leader of the Ohio team,” said Kevin Knedler, LPO chair. “After five minutes, I said to myself, ‘This guy has got the background we need in field development.’”

The qualities Knedler spotted in him have served Lowry well for many years in the private sector. He became a Jimmy John’s sandwich shop franchise owner at the age of 23, and currently owns four locations. At a previous company, he was the second-youngest general manager to be promoted in its 60-year history.



Brad Lowry

“I was known for going in the back doors and fixing them — building new teams, training and developing people,” Lowry said.

Gov. Johnson met with LPO leaders after his presidential nomination, and picked Lowry to be a state co-director of his campaign — even going so far as to model his campaign’s regional structure after the one developed within the LPO. Lowry regularly drove Johnson around the state during his visits and was instrumental in arranging many media interviews for both Johnson and Judge Jim Gray. He now serves as the LPO’s field development director.

“He knows about business, about marketing, about branding, and that’s what this party desperately needs,” Knedler said.

Judge Gray: It's Time to Be Competitive

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imagine a more beneficial use of our resources!

I began the 2012 campaign by saying that Gov. Gary Johnson is the most qualified person to be president of the United States that I know of, and I hereby restate that view. I truly believe that had we been in the three national presidential and one vice presidential debates we would have been seriously competitive in this recent election. As such, our presidential campaign plans to continue to pursue our two lawsuits in federal court against the Presidential Debates Commission and the national Republican and Democratic parties.

In addition, we will also try to organize public opposition to the PDC's commercial sponsors, like Budweiser and Southwest Airlines, until the commission allows all political parties that appear on the ballots in enough states technically to win the presidential election to participate in the national debates. It is intolerable that the most important competition in our country is completely controlled by only the two largest political parties! Thus, we will do everything in our power to put an end to this practice, if only as a community service!

But these efforts in themselves will not be enough. Real political awareness of the Libertarian Party and its candidates by the voters, media, and polling organizations can only truly be accomplished at the local level. That means we must elect local candidates and organize the leaders of upcoming generations. I believe these two approaches to making the Libertarian Party more competitive will get us the attention and respect we will need to become viable nationally as a political party. Please take these issues personally and help the LP in this effort! You will always be proud that you did! And our great country will be the beneficiary.

James P. Gray is a retired judge of the Superior Court of Orange County, California, and was the 2012 Libertarian candidate for vice president of the United States.

Double The LP Aims to Grow Membership

by Geoff Neale, Chair

Several months ago, Libertarian National Committee member Brett H. Pojunis came to me with an idea — a campaign designed to leverage social media and the Internet to increase our membership. The principle was simple: If every member invited friends, family, colleagues, and their social networks, to join the LP, and only one of those invited people joined the LP, our membership would double in a very short time.

The idea intrigued me, but there was no available budget to pursue this idea as an LNC sponsored project. Brett said he and Jillian A. Mack, who is also on the Libertarian National Committee, were willing to provide the seed money if they could earn a reasonable commission from bringing in new members.

By this time, I was hooked. If someone stands up and says they will invest their own money, and only wants to get paid a commission on results, I am going to pay attention.

Brett and Jillian formed a new company called Big L Solutions to provide membership, fundraising, and technology services to Libertarian organizations, starting with the Double The LP

campaign. Together, we worked out a performance-based contract for Big L Solutions, meaning that the LP would pay a very reasonable commission based upon results. Big L Solutions is responsible for all of the costs associated with the campaign, such as the development, hosting, and licensing costs. This was accomplished with minimal impact on staff, minimal LP costs, and very little risk to the LP.

The result can be seen and explained at DoubleTheLP.com. Check it out.

Brett's position was that we need to do something that will encourage new members — something exciting, new, and different. He also believes that we should maximize the one area where the LP has a (somewhat) level playing field: online, and, specifically, social media. Jillian believes that the technology is fantastic, but that the most effective way is to talk to people about the LP, point out all of the positive things going on in the party, and encourage people to visit their personal Double The LP campaign page to join the LP.

Brett explains that, "If each member of the party would sign up

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Making Waves in Massachusetts

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Fishman not been in the race. But because Fishman won almost four times more votes than the margin of victory, many assume Tisei would have won in a two-way against Tierney.

Certain Republicans reacted with a firestorm of attacks against Fishman, claiming he shouldn't have run — while denying the role that Republican Tisei played in his own defeat.

Tisei's supporters refuse to acknowledge, much less take responsibility for, the fact that his 26-year Big Government track record in the Massachusetts legislature may be the real reason he lost:

- Republican Tisei voted for Romney-care.
- Republican Tisei voted for higher state government spending through-

out his tenure in the Massachusetts legislature.

- Republican Tisei refused to sign a pledge stating that he will not raise taxes.
- Republican Tisei voted for scores of new and increased taxes.
- Republican Tisei opposed three Massachusetts ballot initiatives to cut taxes, insisting that high taxes in 'Taxachusetts' should stay high.
- Republican Tisei voted for the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, New England's version of Cap 'N' Trade.

Republicans like Tisei, who consistently vote for more Big Government, illustrate why Libertarian candidates are needed. If Republicans don't want to compete against true friends of liberty, they have an option: nominate and support pro-liberty candidates within their own party.

Susan Marie Weber Victory

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She says that, although city council seats are nonpartisan, she's widely known as a Libertarian in the area.

"I remind the Republicans that, fiscally, I am more republican than they are," she said.

Weber is a long-time area activist who was already a regular presence at city council meetings, and says that her experience as an accountant gave her credibility on fiscal matters. She has since been

appointed to the council's Audit/Finance Committee.

Susan Marie Weber encourages other people who want to make a difference to get involved now, rather than waiting to hold office.

"I have told people that we don't have to get elected in order to make changes," Weber said. "My friend and I began attending council meetings every two weeks in January 2005. Once it was apparent that someone was watching, behavior changed."

Jeremy Walters

...continued from page 3.

"It was a full time [job]," he said.

In hindsight, he wishes that he had used some funds for advertising, to point out his opponent's admission that she wants to raise taxes. During their live-stream debate, hosted by the Fort Mill Times, the candidates were asked if they would eliminate many of the state's tax exemptions, thus raising state revenues. Walters responded by saying his goal was to end the state income tax, pointing out that taxes hinder job growth. Republican Felder countered that the loss of revenue from ending the state income tax would need to be replaced, assuming that cutting state spending is not an option. Further, she wants to eliminate sales tax exemptions to increase tax collections.

As the new vice chairman of the York County LP, Walters said that he's going to spend the next two years mastering the art of fundraising and trying to convince people to join the LP.

"[I want to] build a libertarian caucus in the state of South Carolina," he said.

Mike Fellows

...continued from page 3.

some better response times for getting the case numbers out for the various cases."

Besides his own campaign, Fellows is the state LP Chair and regularly supported other LP candidates by passing out literature, mentioning them at parades and on blogs, and writing op-eds on their behalf.

Beating the Margins

...continued from page 5.

impact Bennett’s race made, even though the Democrat ended up winning by a razor thin margin. The close race drew national attention and put a spotlight on the issues of marijuana and same-sex marriage. Both prohibitions have come to an end in the state because of voter initiatives that passed this year.

“I wish that more Libertarians would actually win high-level elections,” she added. “But until that can happen, we might as well be relevant. The way we can do that is to be the margin of difference between

the Republican and Democrat candidates.” In the case of Dan Fishman, he had no ambition to affect the relative vote totals of his opponents. Rather, his primary goal in running was to bring attention to the national debt, which he considers to be the biggest problem facing our country.

“I was not in the race to weaken either candidate. I certainly disagree with how Democrat Tierney has voted, but I disagree very strongly with Republicans as well,” he said. “The number one threat to the country right now is the national debt, and I was the only candidate who committed that I would never vote to raise the national debt.”

National LP Executive Director Carla Howell notes that “Republicans and Democrats have spoiled elections for voters to such a degree that a majority of them don’t even bother to show up at the polls, offering them just two slight variations of more Big Government. Libertarians bring life to elections by giving voters a choice for shrinking Big Government and expanding freedom.”

Here are the races where the Democrat beat the Republican and the Libertarian beat the margin. The races where it is more likely the Libertarian’s presence decided the outcome (lowest percentage of margin) are listed first:

Race	LP Candidate	LP % of Vote	LP Votes	Difference R/D Vote	% of LP Votes
Massachusetts House 6th	Dan Fishman	4.5%	16,668	3,650	22%
Utah House 4th	Jim Vein	2.6%	5,703	2,646	46%
Montanna Governor	Ron Vandevender	3.7%	17,729	8,425	48%
Arizona House 9th	Powell Gammill	6.4%	14,361	6,967	49%
Arizona House 1st	Kim Allen	6.0%	14,450	7,914	55%
Montanna U.S. Senate	Dan Cox	6.5%	31,287	18,764	60%
Michigan House 11th	John J. Tatar	3.6%	11,611	7,527	65%
New Hampshire House 1st	Brandon Kelly	4.3%	14,968	12,874	86%
Indiana U.S. Senate	Andrew Horning	5.8%	146,453	141,575	97%

Here are the races where the Republican beat the Democrat and the Libertarian beat the margin:

Race	LP Candidate	LP % of Vote	LP Votes	Difference R/D Vote	% of LP Votes
Michigan House 1st	Emily Salvette	3.1%	10,630	1,881	18%
Indiana House 2nd	Joe Ruiz	3.4%	9,326	3,890	42%
Arizona U.S. Senate	Marc Victor	4.6%	102,109	67,915	67%
Colorado House 6th	Patrick E. Provost	2.6%	8,597	6,992	81%
Indiana Governor	Rupert Boneham	4.1%	102,108	87,660	86%

Eugene Flynn Plays Key Behind-the-Scenes Role for Texas LP

Activist Eugene Flynn has been an invaluable member of the Texas LP this year.



Eugene Flynn

Among his many contributions, Flynn ensured that paperwork filed by the party passed state scrutiny and kept the party in compliance with election law. He maintained the party’s candidate database, which has been instrumental in the Texas LP’s legendary success at candidate recruitment.

Flynn formats and updates the party’s candidate, county chair, and executive committee membership pages on LPTexas.org. Most notably, he led the Texas LP through a tedious redistricting boondoggle, providing up-to-date information, court rulings, and district maps. Eugene Flynn’s hard work and key contributions were an indispensable element of the Texas LP’s success in election year 2012.

Heather Fazio, membership coordinator for the state party, said, “Without the hard work of Mr. Flynn, there is no doubt that our success would not have been so great. Thank you, Eugene!”

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Great Concept for Sticker

Print bumper stickers that people stop me and ask where to get one.The Libertarian message hits home. Three Words: “TOO MANY RULES.”

Add “Libertarian Party,” and you have one people will use.

Ken Obenski
Honaunau, HI

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. Content should be topical and related to Libertarian Party issues.

‘Top-Two’ Goes Down

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121 might be in trouble. Then, the icing on the cake — in October, Save Our Vote Arizona put \$400,000 into a final anti-Prop 121 mail advertising campaign.

“On election day, the results were

profound. The proposition that had started a year earlier with 2:1 voter approval lost by a 2:1 margin, despite the fact that the proponents outspent the opposition by 3:1. We all pulled together with good communication and cooperation, and the electoral process performed as it should. Sometimes I think the system might just work.”

Double the LP

...continued from page 14.

on the Double The LP platform and utilize the easy-to-use technology, which enables members to invite their friends via email and through social media, the size of the LP would increase dramatically. In addition to individual members getting involved, now that the election is over we expect a lot of states to get on board and use Double The LP as a tool to increase national membership for their states with very little effort.”

I am hopeful that this particular project bears fruit, but I am also excited that we are taking a step into entrepreneurial efforts to expand the LP. I am ready and willing to work with any other individual or group that is willing to put forth their own capital, and take on the risks of ventures such as this.

As of right now, the LNC has approved continuing with this experiment, and I think it is worth checking out.

LNC elects Mark Hinkle to Fill At-Large Vacancy

At the Libertarian National Committee meeting held on Nov. 17 in Arlington, Va., members voted for Mark Hinkle of California, former LP National Chair, to fill the At-Large vacancy created by Wayne Root’s resignation last September.

Hinkle won on the second ballot, with 10 votes, over David Blau of Massachusetts, with seven votes. On the first ballot, the votes were: seven for Mark Hinkle, six for David Blau, two for Gary Johnson of Texas (no relation to the LP presidential nominee), and one for Paul Frankel of Alabama. There were 12 additional candidates for the position who did not receive any votes.

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WHATS 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

Libertarians Newly-Elected to Office in 2012

Candidate	Office	State
Ruth E. Bennett	Continental Elementary School District Board	AZ
Frank Gilbert *	Constable for Dekalb Township	AR
Susan Marie Weber	Palm Desert City Council	CA
Brett Bittner	Marietta Board of Education	GA
Randall T. Hayes *	Atlanta Alderman	LA
Michael Riffe *	Sikes Alderman	LA
Bob Clark	Berlin Library Trustee	MA
William Brooke Harris	Alfred-Almond Central School Board of Education	NY
Ed Tidwell	Lago Vista City Council Place 2	TX

*Partisan election

Libertarians Re-Elected to Office in 2012

Candidate	Office	State
James Bertrand	Drexel Heights Fire District Board	AZ
Casey D. Copeland	Prairie Grove Alderman	AR
Jason Gonella	Lake Los Angeles Town Council	CA
Jonathan D. Hall	Tehachapi Cummings Water District Board	CA
Brian Holtz	Purissima Hills Water District Board	CA
John Inks	Mountain View City Council	CA
Linda Strom	Lakeside Community Planning Group	CA
Michael Dunafon	Glendale City Council	CO
Art Torrey	Billerica Town Meeting Representative	MA
Maynard Meyer	Madison City Council	MN
William Marsh	Brookfield Town Moderator	NH
Richard Sager	Gaston City Council, Position 3	OR
Wallace Redd	Clarksville City Council, Ward 4	TN
Gerhard Kleinschmidt	Annetta South Mayor	TX
Andy Hooper	Montpelier City Council, District 1	VT
Mark Hepfinger	Cottage Grove Municipal Court Judge	WI
Chris King	Monroe County Board of Supervisors, District 21	WI
Phillip Owens	Rock County Board of Supervisors, District 16	WI
Dave Ripp	Dane County Board of Supervisors, District 29	WI
Sean Scallon	Pepin County Board of Supervisors, District 8	WI
Kurt Schlicht	Dane County Board of Supervisors, District 28	WI

Media Buzz About the Libertarian Party

"Though largely unnoticed by the media or the public at large, the Libertarian Party has achieved what no third party has achieved in the modern era: it has influenced the balance of power. It has become a cog in the wheel and a force that can no longer be ignored by the political heavyweights."

Dissident Voice, 12/3/2012

"[W]hat we do know is that more and more people are voting Libertarian."

Washington Post, 11/20/2012

"Republicans in virtually every state appear to do their utmost to discourage a Libertarian from entering contests."

Human Events, 11/26/2012

"The Republican Party is fatally connected with the religious right's rejected social agenda, and so the most plausible way to creating this new coalition is for business to leave the Republican Party and start providing serious financial support to the Libertarian Party."

PolicyMic, 12/3/2012

"Where the Libertarian received more votes than the difference between the Democratic and Republican candidates ... none of these involved the typical 1 or maybe 2 percent you ordinarily expect a Lib to garner: Looking at the three-way vote, all but one were over 3 percent, and three took 6 percent or more, with a high of 6.5 percent in the Montana Senate race. These definitely seem like unusually high figures."

DailyKos, 11/15/2012

"From their policies and positions to the problems and issues of the day, Libertarians are some of the most educated and well-thought voters in America."

Examiner.com, 12/1/2013

What have you missed recently on LP.org?

- 5 Ways Your Libertarian Vote Will Help Change the World
- 2 Sponsors Pull Out From Debates Over Exclusion of 2-Term Gov. Gary Johnson
- Finally: A Stark Look at All 3 Presidential Candidates: Gov. Johnson Versus Obama and Romney
- Washington Post: The GOP's Growing Libertarian Problem
- Huffington Post: Let Gov. Gary Johnson Debate
- Chattanooga Times Free Press Endorses Libertarian Gov. Gary Johnson
- Libertarians Prevail Against 9-Week Republican Attack on Ballot Access in PA
- Why NO True Libertarian, NO True Ron Paul Supporter, NO True Tea Partier Will Even Consider Voting for Big Govt. Mitt Romney
- Johnson Campaign Asks D.C. Federal Court to Intervene in Presidential Debates, Citing Polling Fallacy
- Breitbart: GOP Reaps Its Abandonment of Limited Government
- Washington Post: LP Lawsuit May Cause End to Ballot Access Obstacle in D.C.
- Time Magazine Showcases Gov. Gary Johnson
- Washington Times Urges Vote for Johnson