



Free New York

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The Official Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of New York

October 2023

SCOTUS DECLINES TO HEAR LIBERTARIAN AND GREEN PARTIES' CASE; MAY THREATEN THIRD PARTY BALLOT ACCESS IN NEW YORK STATE

by Libertarian Party of New York and Green Party of New York

Libertarian and Green Parties contend that a two-thirds supermajority in New York legislature and no ballot access for third parties makes it a one-party state.

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The U.S. Supreme Court has issued a decision to deny the writ of certiorari petition for an appeal brought forth by the Libertarian Party of New York and the Green Party of New York, concluding their legal battle over New York State's ballot access thresholds. The petition, which was filed on March 13, 2023, sought to challenge the increase in ballot access requirements implemented in 2020.

In 2020, then-Governor Andrew



Cuomo introduced significant changes to the state's election laws as part of the emergency COVID-19 budget. These changes included a substantial increase in the threshold for political parties to maintain recognized party status and ballot access. The previous requirement of 50,000 votes or 2% of the vote

in the previous gubernatorial or presidential election was raised to 130,000 votes or 2%, which ever is higher. Additionally, the signature threshold for independent candidates to appear on the ballot and qualify their party for ballot access was increased from 15,000 to 45,000 signatures, (continued on page 2)

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while maintaining the same narrow, 42-day window for collection.

As a consequence of these new requirements, four parties, including the Libertarian Party and the Green Party, lost their ballot access status despite their candidates receiving substantial support in the 2020 election. The increased thresholds effectively limited recognized parties to the Democrat and Republican Parties, along with their respective fusion parties (Working Families and Conservative), resulting in New York State becoming a de facto two-party system.

The difficulties faced by third-party candidates attempting to secure ballot access became apparent in the 2022 election, where there were only two candidates on the ballot for the office of Governor, a situation not seen since 1946. This will affect other candidates including Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. and Cornel West too, who have independent bids for President without currently seeking party lines. Despite the efforts of various independent candidates, the elevated signature requirements hindered their ability to appear on the ballot, undermining the competitiveness and diversity of the electoral process.

The Supreme Court has declined all cert petitions concerning mi-

nor-party ballot access for the past 32 years, abandoning its protective stance from 1968 to 1992. This trend suggests New York might be the only state with a Democratic-Republican monopoly on the 2024 presidential ballot, while the Libertarian Party is likely to appear on ballots in all other states.

“We are frustrated and disappointed by the Supreme Court’s decision to not hear our case,” said Andrew Kolstee, Chair of the Libertarian Party of New York. “It’s a harsh blow to the future of third parties in New York State, despite a growing number of people identifying as independent and yearning for alternatives; the duopoly’s stranglehold continues to stifle the voices of diverse political movements. The Supreme Court missed an opportunity to address items such as the lower courts’ disregard for New York’s nation-leading signature-per-day requirement as well as their contention that third parties must endorse Republican or Democratic candidates to attain ballot access.”

“Furthermore,” said Kolstee, “the Supreme Court is not only risking the rigid establishment in New York State of a two-party system, but even a one-party system—due to the two-thirds supermajorities in both legislative houses, plus the Governor’s office. Despite these setbacks, we’ll persist through legislative channels, and we thank our de-

voted legal team and supporters over the past three years. The fight for political inclusivity and genuine representation will continue.”

“It is a disappointing, though unsurprising, decision by the Supreme Court to not hear our case. The entire institutional structure of government at the federal and state level has limited third party access to the ballot for decades, and now has almost eliminated it in New York State. We will continue to work to build a genuine multiparty democracy here in New York State for as long as it takes, no matter how difficult the path. This is about providing voters with real choices, and confronting a corrupt duopoly, and we won’t back down in that fight,” said Peter LaVenía, co-chair of the Green Party of New York.

Despite the Supreme Court’s denial of the case, ongoing efforts are underway to pursue a legislative solution aimed at reversing the 2020 actions. In 2022, Assemblyman John Salka introduced Bill A8683, which seeks to restore the thresholds to their 2020 levels. In parallel, Senator Phil Boyle introduced the companion bill, S8730A, in the Senate. In 2023, Assemblyman Ken Blankenship reintroduced Salka’s same bill as A3312. Legislators have the opportunity to take a stand for democracy simply by undoing Governor Cuomo’s petty politics.

EMPIRE STATE
FREEDOM
SUMMIT
FREEDOM

+ SYRACUSE +

NOVEMBER 10 & 11 2023

LOCATION

Rail Line
530 S. Clinton Street
Syracuse, NY 13202

SPEAKERS

Lou Perez
comedian, writer, author
Shane Hazel
Libertarian candidate for Governor of Georgia
Dr. Clayton Baker
physician, medical freedom advocate
Dan Warmus
Auditing Erie County

PRICING (individual)

Friday Only (\$29)
Saturday Speakers (\$89)
Sunday Evening Fundraiser (\$99)

PRICING (packages)

Full Package (\$199)
Friday Evening/Saturday Speakers (\$109)
Saturday Speakers and Fundraiser (\$179)

sponsorships and program ads available; see lpny.org for details

HELP US GET A3312 REINTRODUCED

This bill, from the 2023 legislative session, would have lowered the ballot access thresholds back to the previous standards: the number of votes needed to get ballot access to 50,000 (from 130,000 or 2%), and lower the petition signature requirement for a statewide office to 15,000 (from 45,000). Contact your representatives in the New York State Legislature and ask them to support reintroducing this bill for the 2024 legislative session!

2023 CANDIDATES LIST

There are 19 Libertarian candidates running throughout New York this year:

Ryan Sanders for Sherman Village Trustee (Chautauqua County)

Thomas Quiter for Guilford Town Supervisor (Chenango County)

Craig Colwell for Elmira City Council District 6 (Chemung County)

Duane Whitmer for Erie County Executive (Erie County)

Earl A. Gingerich, Jr. for Marilla Town Supervisor (Erie County)

Sharon Lee Forersch for Marilla Town Clerk (Erie County)

Wendy Schoenwetter for Marilla Town Council (Erie County)

Mark Braiman for Cazenovia Town Council (Madison County)

Wendi Szabo for Royalton Town Council (Niagara County)

Keith Redhead for Ava Town Supervisor (Oneida County)

Kathleen Redhead for Town of Ava Tax Collector (Oneida County)

Craig Shute for Lafayette Town Supervisor (Onondaga County)

Angela Einwachter for Prattsburgh Town Council (Steuben County)

Jeff Bradley for Yates County Legislature District 3 (Yates County)

Janice Enos for County Legislature District 3 (Yates County)

Phillip Rahr for County Legislature District 3 (Yates County)

Suzanne Timbrouck for Ulster County Legislature District 6 (Ulster County)

Chris Madden for Ulster County Legislature District 19 (Ulster County)

Michael J. Kavanagh for Ulster County District Attorney (Ulster County)

UPDATES FROM THE CHAIR

by Andrew Kolstee
LPNY Chair

Here is this month's update on some of the things going on behind the scenes at the Libertarian Party of New York.

State Committee

The next State Committee meeting will be held on Monday, December 4, 2023. We have vacancies remaining on the committee that can be filled at this meeting. We will also be electing our Platform and Credentials Committee representatives for the 2024 Libertarian National Convention at that meeting.

2024 National Convention

The 2024 Libertarian National Convention is scheduled for May 2024 in Washington, D.C. October 31, 2023 is the last day to renew your membership before delegate numbers are locked in.

If you would like to be a delegate, a form has been sent out for interested individuals to sign up. We will be choosing our delegates in early 2024. Emails will be sent to remind everyone about the form and to apply to be a delegate.

Empire State Freedom Summit

The Libertarian Party of New York's second Empire State Freedom Summit is set for November 10-11, 2023 at the Rail Line in Syracuse, New York. See the poster in this newsletter on page 3 for details.

Candidates

We have several candidates running for local office across New York State. See page 5 for a full list. If you are able to help any of these candidates, that would be greatly appreciated. Please reach out to us and we can connect you with their campaign teams.

Ballot Access Lawsuit

As you will see from the article on page 1, our appeal to the Supreme Court was denied. Our remaining path to reversing the ballot access threshold changes of 2020 is to advance legislation.

Ballot Access Legislation

Rich Purtell, LPNY 2nd Vice-Chair and Legislative Affairs Director, is leading efforts to get ballot access legislation introduced that would reduce the ballot access thresholds back to the old standards. Contact Rich Purtell at rpurtell@lpony.org if you would like to help with this effort.

Website and Database

The LPNY website has been moved over to our own host and has been undergoing changes that will continue as we streamline our IT infrastructure. Our new database, also separating from the National Libertarian Party, is making progress with integration of our IT systems.

2024 Campaign

A Petitioning Committee has been created to explore ideas for a potential statewide petitioning drive in 2024. If you are interested in joining this committee, please reach out. A nominating convention will be held in early 2024 to determine the LPNY's placeholder candidate for President.

The Libertarian National Convention will be held at the end of the petitioning period, and so when petitioning begins, it is unknown who the nominee will be, and so a placeholder candidate would need to be selected in order to get a candidate on the ballot. If the Libertarian Party of New York has a successful petitioning drive, the placeholder candidate is able to withdraw in favor of the candidate selected at the Libertarian National Convention.



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COUNTY AFFILIATE NEWS

ALBANY

CONTACT:
Vacant, Chair

ALLEGANY

CONTACT:
Jame VanDewalker,
**Acting County Chair/
County Liaison**
jvandewalker@lpny.org

LEARN MORE:
fb.com/AlleganyCountyLP

CHAUTAUQUA

NEXT MEETING:
Tues., Nov. 7, 2023 @ 7:00 PM
Lakeview Hotel & Resturant
Mayville, NY and Zoom
(Election Night Party)

CONTACT:
Len Morlock, Chair
lmorlock@lpny.org
Andrew Kolstee, Secretary
akolstee@lpny.org

LEARN MORE:
www.chautauquaLP.org
fb.com/chautauquaLP

CHEMUNG

NEXT MEETING:
Tues., Nov. 14, 2023 at 6 PM
at Ill Eagle Taphouse
(2nd Tuesdays)

TRIVIA NIGHT:
Wed., Nov. 22, 2023 at 6:30 PM
at Ill Eagle Taphouse
(4th Wednesdays)

CONTACT:
Craig Colwell, Chair
ccolwell@lpny.org

LEARN MORE:
lpchemung.org

CHENANGO

Tom Quiter is running for Guilford Town Supervisor. Contact him to get involved.

CONTACT:
Tom Quiter, County Liaison
tquiter@lpny.org

COLUMBIA

NEXT MEETING:
Wed., Nov. 15, 2023 @ 7 PM
Claverack Free Library
and Google Meet
(third Wednesdays)

CONTACT:
Scott Hoskins, Chair
scottdhoskins@gmail.com

CLINTON

CONTACT:
Zachary Remian,
County Liaison
zremian@lpny.org
(518) 310-6664

DUTCHESS

NEXT MEETING:
Held 3rd Saturdays
Time/Location Varies

CONTACT:
Catrina Rocco, Chair
DCLPChair@outlook.com

ERIE

NEXT MEETING:
Held Monthly via Zoom

CONTACT:
Duane Whitmer, Chair
chairman@eriecountytp.org

FULTON

NEXT MEETING:
TBD via Google Meet

CONTACT:
Michael Long,
Acting Chair/Secretary
mlong@lpny.org

KINGS (BROOKLYN)

NEXT MEETING:

Tues., Nov. 21, 2023 at 3 PM
@ Fourth Avenue Pub
76 4th Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11217
(third Tuesdays)

CONTACT:

Matthew Morgan, Chair
matthewisaiahmorgan@gmail.com

LEWIS

CONTACT:

Christopher Lyndaker,
Acting County Chair
lyndaker2020@gmail.com

MADISON

CONTACT:

Mark Braiman, Chair
mbraiman@lpony.org

MONROE

Contact the Monroe County Libertarian Party for meeting link. We also have monthly social meetings that you don't want to miss. There is also Google Group for announcements.

NEXT MEETING:

Thurs., Nov. 2., 2023 @ 7 PM
(first Thursdays)

CONTACT:

Steve Becker, Chair
drsbecker@aol.com

LEARN MORE:

monroecountylp.org

NASSAU

NEXT MEETING:

Thurs., Nov. 9, 2023 at 7 PM
@ Landmark Diner
(2nd Thursdays)

CONTACT:

Jon Gunther,
Executive Committee Chair
jonguntherlibertarian@gmail.com
Blay Tarnoff,
County Committee Chair
LPNY@eblay.com

NEW YORK (MANHATTAN)

CONTACT:

Chance Haywood, Chair
chaywood@lpony.org

ONEIDA

CONTACT:

Keith Redhead, Chair
kredhead@lpony.org

ONONDAGA

NEXT MEETING:

Wed., Nov. 15, 2023 at 6 PM
@ Rail Line
530 S. Clinton St., Syracuse
(third Wednesdays)

CONTACT:

Shawn Hannon, Chair
hannon.shawn@gmail.com

ORANGE

CONTACT:

Juan Ayala, Chair
livefree@juanrayala.com

PUTNAM

NEXT MEETING:

Thurs., Nov. 14, 2023 at 7 PM
at McCarthy's
374 Route 52, Carmel, NY 10512
(2nd Thursdays)

CONTACT:

Bill O'Donnell, Chair
billod10704@gmail.com

QUEENS

CONTACT:

John Clifton, Chair
mrjclifton@yahoo.com

NEXT MEETING:

Sat., Nov. 11, 2023
OBA Grill
104-02 Metropolitan Ave.,
Forest Hills, Queens, NY

RENSSELAER

Since October 2022, the Rensselaer County Libertarian Party has been collecting food items and monetary donations to give monthly to StreetSoldiers Rensselaer.

NEXT MEETING:

Wed., Nov. 1, 2023 at 6:30 PM
Alexis Diner, North Greenbush
(first Wednesdays)

CONTACT:

Jennifer O'Connor,
Acting County Chair
joconnor@lpony.org

RICHMOND (STATEN ISLAND)

CONTACT:

**Susan Overeem Cummings,
Chair**
susanovereem@gmail.com

SARATOGA

CONTACT:

Naz Garabedian, Chair
nazareth.garabedian
@lawsonproducts.com

SCHOHARIE

CONTACT:

Lora Newell, Chair
lnewell@lpny.org

SUFFOLK

CONTACT:

George Ostrowski, Chair
gtostrowskijr@msn.com

TIOGA

CONTACT:

Sara Price, Chair
sprice@lpny.org
Rich Purtell, Vice-Chair
rpurtell@lpny.org

ULSTER

NEXT MEETING:

Mon., Nov. 14, 2023 at 6:30 PM
Hickory BBQ, Kingston, NY
(second Mondays)

CONTACT:

Cipriana Costello, Chair
ciprianacostello@gmail.com

WASHINGTON

CONTACT:

**Brian Wells,
Acting County Chair/
County Liaison**
blwells45@gmail.com

WAYNE

NEXT MEETING:

Sat., Nov. 25, 2023 at 11 AM
at Yellow Mills Diner
in Palmyra, NY
(fourth Saturdays)

CONTACT:

Jim Dayton, Chair
jdayton@lpny.org

WESTCHESTER

CONTACT:

**Rajib Maitra
Acting County Chair/
County Liaison**
rajib.maitra1@gmail.com

YATES

CONTACT:

Jeff Bradley, Chair
jbradley@lpny.org

Don't see your county listed?

**We are looking for Libertarians
to organize new County Affiliates!**

Contact us for more details!

affiliates@lpny.org

Featured Products



LPNY Logo Store **\$34.99**
Unisex Zip Hoodie



LPNY Logo Store **\$12.99**
Mug



LPNY Logo Store **\$34.99**
Classic Pullover Hoodie



LPNY Logo Store **\$22.99**
Classic Long Sleeve Tee



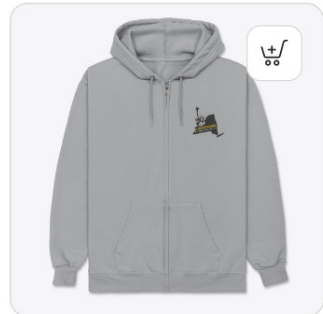
LPNY Logo Store **\$19.99**
Classic Tee



LPNY New Logo Store **\$22.99**
Classic Long Sleeve Tee



LPNY New Logo Store **\$19.99**
Classic Tee



LPNY New Logo Store **\$34.99**
Unisex Zip Hoodie



LPNY New Logo Store **\$12.99**
Mug



LPNY New Logo Store **\$34.99**
Classic Pullover Hoodie



LPNY New Logo Store **\$26.99**
Classic Crewneck
Sweatshirt



LPNY New Logo Store **\$7.99**
Die Cut Sticker

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LPNY DIRECTORY

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STATE COMMITTEE		
<p>Mark Axinn (JD1) Morry Davis (JD1) Chance Haywood (JD1) Paul Grindle (JD2) Matthew Morgan (JD2) Gary Popkin (JD2) W. Cody Anderson (JD3) Justin Carman (JD3) Lora Newell (JD3) Jennifer O'Connor (JD3) Amanda Ellithorpe (JD4) Stephen Healey (JD4) John Janes (JD4) Zachary Remian (JD4) Karyn Thompson (JD4) Brian Wells (JD4) Daniel Castello (JD5) Shawn DeGrand (JD5) Matthew Guilianelli (JD5) Erinn Leatherman (JD5) Adam Magoon (JD5) Keith Redhead (JD5) Craig Shute (JD5) <i>Vacant</i> (JD5)</p>	<p>Mark Braiman (JD6) Craig Colwell (JD6) Christopher Olenski (JD6) David Penner (JD6) <i>Vacant</i> (JD6) <i>Vacant</i> (JD6) Steven Becker (JD7) Jeffrey Bradley (JD7) Mark Glogowski (JD7) Sean Phelan (JD7) Marc Smith (JD7) James Ziobro (JD7) <i>Vacant</i> (JD7) <i>Vacant</i> (JD7) <i>Vacant</i> (JD7) <i>Vacant</i> (JD7) Erin Becker (JD8) Maura Botsford (JD8) Andrew Kolstee (JD8) Francis Law (JD8) Leonard Morlock (JD8) Michael Rebmann (JD8) Charles Roggen (JD8) Jame VanDewalker (JD8)</p>	<p>Duane Whitmer (JD8) Juan Ayala (JD9) Robert Cocomello (JD9) Daniel Donnelly (JD9) Robert Greibesland (JD9) William Schmidt (JD9) Christian Vondras (JD9) Jeffrey Denecke (JD10) Jonathan Gunther (JD10) George Ostrowski (JD10) Robert Schuon (JD10) Blay Tarnoff (JD10) Randyn Tarnoff (JD10) <i>Vacant</i> (JD10) <i>Vacant</i> (JD10) John Clifton (JD11) Francisco Olvera (JD11) Irwin Mark Weinblatt (JD11) <i>Vacant</i> (JD12) <i>Vacant</i> (JD12) <i>Vacant</i> (JD13) <i>Vacant</i> (JD13) Richard Purtell (ex-officio)</p>
<p>info@lpny.org</p>	<p>www.LPNY.org</p>	<p>866-336-3120</p>