



LP News



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New Mexico land commissioner becomes nation's first LP statewide elected official

On Jan. 27, Aubrey Dunn, New Mexico's land commissioner, switched his voter registration from Republican to Libertarian, making him the first ever Libertarian statewide elected official, according to *Ballot Access News*.

The Santa Fe New Mexican reported Dunn's announcement and that he is considering seeking another state-level office in conjunction with the end of his term as land commissioner this year. From the Jan. 27 article "Dunn switches to Libertarian Party" by Andrew Oxford:

Some Libertarians have launched a campaign to draft [Dunn] as their candidate for the U.S. Senate. Regardless of his next steps, Dunn's departure from

the GOP means Republicans now hold one less statewide elected office.

Dunn's move, though unusual, is hardly a surprise. A rancher and banker from southern New Mexico, he has long been at odds with Republican Gov. Susana Martinez.

He has generally developed a reputation as the sort of libertarian-leaning Republican that can be a rare breed in the party.

"I was on the outside," Dunn said of his decision to switch parties.

Dunn's son, A. Blair Dunn, is running for [N.M.] attorney general as a Libertarian and has undertaken a campaign of sorts to get his father into the race for U.S. Senate.

continued on page 9...



Aubrey Dunn

Elected Libertarian Jeffrey Hewitt spurs firefighting reform in Calimesa, CA



Jeffrey Hewitt

Elected Libertarian Mayor Jeffrey Hewitt, the Region 4 representative to the Libertarian National Committee, has taken a bold step toward shrinking big government in his city of Calimesa, Calif. He has led the charge to replace the town's dependence on the expanding state fire-protection bureaucracy with its own new fire department, enabling his city to fend off the spiraling pension costs that affect many California communities.

The move was lauded as a "model for the state" in an *Orange County Register* op-ed by the R Street Institute's Steven Greenhut, author of *Plunder: How Public Employee Unions are Raiding Treasuries, Controlling Our Lives, and Bankrupting the Nation*. The following are highlights from the Jan. 6 article, "Tiny Calimesa's firefighter changes should be model for state":

Mayor Jeff Hewitt led the city to curtail its contract with Cal Fire (the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection) and create its own fire department. The main reason is to get out from under the

union contracts that make it impossible to shave costs and innovate.

Specifically, the new department will be free to determine its own staffing levels on fire trucks. It will also enable the city to switch from a "3 percent at 50" pension deal that lets firefighters retire at age 50 with at least 90 percent of their final three years' pay and move to a cost-effective 401/k-style retirement plan that's common in the private sector.

"In 2012, Riverside County adopted a policy requiring all contract fire service cities to pay for three-person engine companies, despite the already high-quality level of service provided under the previous arrangement," Hewitt explained. "Calimesa was never asked if there was an actual need for increased staffing, and never agreed to upgrade because the associated costs were simply unsustainable" Hewitt feared his city was being pushed toward bankruptcy.

By taking control of fire services, and starting fresh with a new department, the city can get its cost under control and actually expand the level of service — including building a new fire station to serve the Western neighborhoods and purchasing a new \$411,000 fire truck.

CHAIR'S Corner

We need you to run as a Libertarian

By Nicholas Sarwark, LNC Chair

What kind of impact will it have on the country when we have 2,000 Libertarian candidates running nationwide? Will it inspire more people to leave the old parties and re-register as Libertarians? Will it attract more candidates to seek our nominations in 2020? Will it push the elected politicians currently in office to start addressing Libertarian concerns for fear of losing their seats?

If you can predict accurately what will happen at the end of the 2018 election cycle, you should probably buy a lottery ticket. None of us has a crystal ball, but based on previous experience I can tell you one thing that will happen: The Libertarian Party will be stronger than ever before.

When people like you step up to run for office, it doesn't just give your friends and neighbors a real choice when they vote. It inspires volunteers to work on your campaign, helping you gather petition signatures and knock on doors. It shows people who may not have known about the Libertarian Party that there is a political home for them where they don't have to pick and choose which freedoms they support. It strengthens state and local Libertarian Party affiliates as some of the campaign volunteers stay actively involved in the party after the campaign signs are all picked up and the votes cast.

For two full election cycles, I've played the role of a recruiter and a cheerleader for Libertarian candidates, asking people to step up to run for office to avoid the



Nicholas Sarwark

"wasted votes" when a person goes into a polling place ready to vote Libertarian and doesn't have a candidate to vote for. With such an ambitious goal as 2,000 candidates in 2018, I'm adding another role for myself: candidate.

The mayor of Phoenix has announced that he will step down before the end of his term to run for Congress, which will trigger a special election in 2018. After an encouraging conversation with my wife, Valerie, I decided to take the advice I'd been dispensing for years and stepped up to run for mayor. Our municipal elections are nonpartisan, but being a Libertarian has been prominent in the early news coverage. Please visit SarwarkForPhoenix.com if you would like to follow the campaign.

As this issue goes to press, we are already more than a quarter of the way to our goal of 2,000 candidates, thanks to the incredible work of Cara Schulz, our candidate recruiting specialist. She has been working in close cooperation with state and local party leaders to recruit an army of Libertarian candidates nationwide, drawing from her experiences as a two-time candidate and elected Libertarian to show Libertarian Party members how they can step up to serve their communities like she has done.

There may be one very important candidate we haven't been able to recruit yet ... you! Whether you have thought about it in the past or have never even considered running for office, we need you to run as a Libertarian in 2018. The seeds that you plant with your campaign will grow and bear fruit in the years to come. Just visit LP.org/run to answer the call.

Yours in liberty,

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The following individuals became
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Plaques recognizing our top building-fund donors (\$1,000 or more) are now on display at the Libertarian National Committee building in Alexandria, Va. To have your name appear on a plaque, or if you'd just like to help pay off the mortgage, mail in your donation or visit LP.org.

Contribute today: LP.org/office-fund

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LP News

The Libertarian Party (LP) and its state affiliates work to advance the right of individuals to be free, so long as they do not forcibly interfere with the equal rights of others. The party runs candidates for public office, elects Libertarians, supports and opposes ballot measures, lobbies, and takes positions on public policy aimed at removing, reducing, and nullifying government laws, regulations, prohibitions, taxes, spending, debt, and foreign interventions.

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Leave a legacy of liberty by designating LP as a beneficiary

By Wes Benedict
Executive Director

Have you considered designating the Libertarian Party in your will?

Many Libertarians have done this and we are very thankful for their generosity. Their bequests have done tremendous good by growing the Party and spreading the timeless and precious message of Liberty.

To better honor these special folks, we are starting a new program called Legacy Libertarians.

Legacy Libertarians are Libertarians who want to leave a legacy of liberty and are doing so by designating the Libertarian



Wes Benedict



Party as a beneficiary in their will.

The Libertarian Party will honor these generous supporters by listing their names on a permanent plaque at our headquarters.

Please know that current law places limitations on the amount we accept per year from any donor, including estates.

So, when generous Libertarians leave sums larger than the yearly limitation, the remainder goes into a trust that then transfers funds each year until all the money has been transferred.

We have sued the FEC over this law but

that case is still pending.

But the important point is that there is no maximum limitation on the amount of money you can leave to the Libertarian Party in your will.

If you have any questions about including the Libertarian Party in your will, please email Head of Development Lauren Daugherty at lauren.daugherty@LP.org or call 1-800-Elect-Us.

But, you don't have to contact the Libertarian Party if you don't wish to. You can simply use the information below to name

the Libertarian Party as a beneficiary:

Beneficiary name:

Libertarian National Committee, Inc.

Address:

1444 Duke St., Alexandria, VA 22314

Tax ID number:

52-1170810

I hope that you will consider becoming a Legacy Libertarian.

As always, thank you for your support of the Libertarian Party!

Wes Benedict

Wes Benedict

Executive Director

Those who would like more information about the Legacy Libertarians program should contact Lauren Daugherty, the Libertarian National Committee's head of development, at: Lauren.Daugherty@LP.org

Senate reaches budget deal to clean out your wallet

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer made a deal on Feb. 7 to prevent yet another government shutdown. If the rest of Congress votes for their new spending agreement, the American people will ultimately foot a much larger tax bill.

"In order to reach a 'bipartisan' deal, McConnell granted the Democrats their wish list and Schumer granted the Republicans their wish list," said Libertarian National Committee Chair Nicholas Sarwark. "We get stuck with the credit card debt."

The Republicans want \$165 billion more in defense spending over the next two years. The Democrats want \$131 billion in extra domestic spending. Both parties want another \$90 billion in disaster aid funding.

"The 'bipartisan deal' means that the politicians get what they want," Sarwark said. "We, as taxpayers, will pay an extra \$400 billion according to the Washington Post. More precisely, because nearly all this extra spending will be funded by borrowing more money, our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren will pay. In individual terms, this means that every man, woman, and child in the United States will have \$1,238 added to their federal tab. When we combine that with the GOP tax cut of \$1.5 trillion, which was not accompanied by reduced spending, our additional federal credit charge adds up to \$5,880 per person."

Although Republicans often pretend to be the party of fiscal responsibility, their enthusiasm for funding endless mili-

“ALL PERSONS ARE ENTITLED TO KEEP THE FRUITS OF THEIR LABOR. WE CALL FOR THE REPEAL OF THE INCOME TAX, THE ABOLISHMENT OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE AND ALL FEDERAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES NOT REQUIRED UNDER THE U.S. CONSTITUTION.”

tary adventurism is a deadly waste of both money and lives.

"Libertarians favor actual defense," Sarwark said. "According to Forbes, though, the United States spent \$611 billion on military spending in 2016. That's more than the combined defense budgets of the next nine largest countries: China, Russia, Saudi Arabia, India, France, the United Kingdom, Japan, Germany, and South Korea. Many of those countries are our allies. There is simply no need to bust the budget caps to increase military spending by more than 25 percent. It's not the safety of the American people that's being protected, but the security of defense contractor profits."

The grab bag of goodies for the Democratic Party includes billions in infrastructure spending and a raft of medical expenditures, including opioid treatment programs, community health centers, a 10-year extension of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), extra funding for the National Institutes of Health, and more

Medicare drug coverage.

"Per capita health care spending in the United States is already more than double that of the average country in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)," Sarwark said. "What we need in the health care delivery system is not more government spending, but more competition. As just one example, Certificate of Need laws in 35 states effectively prevent opening new competitive hospitals in a community unless the state consents — and only after it has sought the advice of existing hospitals. This

process explicitly reduces competition and results in higher hospital bills."

The recent government shutdown occurred largely because Democrats wanted to prevent the deportation of Dreamers, who had previously been protected by Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). The McConnell/Schumer deal does not address these concerns, and House Speaker Paul Ryan has not yet agreed to a vote on allowing children of undocumented immigrants, brought here by their families, to remain in the country with a path to citizenship.

"Not dealing with DACA is deplorable," Sarwark concluded. "Both parties should be ashamed."

Libertarians want to end the political brinkmanship that benefits politicians and bureaucrats at the expense of taxpayers. To that end, the Libertarian Party plans to run more than 2,000 candidates for local, state, and federal office in 2018.

2018 Libertarian National Convention sponsorship packages

Help sponsor the 2018 Libertarian National Convention, which will be held in in New Orleans from June 30 – July 3, 2018, and get your name or organization’s name and message seen by thousands of Libertarians. (For regular registration, see page 5.)

We have something for a broad range of interests and budgets including one-of-a-kind packages, limited-availability packages, and other opportunities available. Pick your favorites and reserve your sponsorship packages today!

A few exclusive and limited-availability packages are listed below. For even more options and details, visit:

LibertarianConvention.org/sponsorship



Presidential Package — \$10,000 (only one available!)

It doesn’t get better than this! Reserve the Convention Presidential Suite!

This fabulous package includes a stay in the Hyatt’s Presidential Suite from June 28 – July 4, two Gold Registration Packages, plus one Gala Table Package (seats 8).



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Want to help the Libertarian Party host the 2018 Libertarian National Convention? Join the Welcoming Committee with a donation of \$1,000 or more and receive a Gold Registration Package plus your name/logo listed on signage, in the Convention Book, and on the convention website in recognition of your sponsorship.

Please note: Limited number of packages available for this sponsorship. Join the Welcoming Committee today!



Name Badge Package — \$5,000 (only one available!)

Want your name/logo to be seen by every attendee (and then some) of the 2018 Libertarian National Convention? Sponsor the Convention Name Badges for just \$5,000 and your name/logo will be featured on the back of all registered attendee name badges, where they will be not only seen, but worn by all our guests, all day long, for up to four full days! Also, many delegates keep their badges for years after the convention, as special keepsakes of the event.



Convention Book Sponsorship

Full Page Back Cover: \$5,000 — Full Page Inside Back Cover: \$2,000
Half Page: \$500 — Quarter Page: \$250

Sponsor the 2018 Libertarian National Convention by purchasing space in our Convention Book! The deadline to submit art for placement is June 1, 2018. Order and reserve your space today, then submit your art files by the deadline to ensure placement. First come, first serve on reserving the best interior page placement.

Register for 2018 National Convention in New Orleans

The **2018 Libertarian National Convention** will be here before you know it! The convention packages allow you to get as little or as much out of the convention as you want.

Basic Package: \$159 (\$169 at the door)

(includes convention bag, badge with lanyard, convention book, training workshops, seminars, exhibits, and after party)

Bronze Package: \$259 (\$279 at the door)

(includes above, plus opening reception and breakfast with guest speaker)

Silver Package: \$359 (\$389 at the door)

(includes above, plus two special lunch engagements with guest speakers)

Gold Package: \$459 (\$499 at the door)

(includes above, plus gala banquet dinner service with entertainment and special guest speaker)

Gala Only: \$129 (limited availability)

(you may also add a gala-only admission to any other package for \$109)



The **2018 Libertarian National Convention** will be held **June 30 – July 3 in New Orleans.**

For more information about convention details and online registration options, visit:

LibertarianConvention.org

Reserve your Gala Table Package for 2018 Libertarian National Convention

Want to sit with seven of your favorite Libertarians at the Gala at the 2018 Libertarian National Convention?

Consider a Gala Table Package. Each Gala Table Package comes with eight tickets to the Gala, and your name or logo will be displayed prominently on your table. The cost is \$1,000, and your donation helps sponsor the 2018 Libertarian National Convention and make this important event a success.

Reserve your table or learn more details by visiting:

LibertarianConvention.org/sponsorship



It's high time for Congress to end marijuana prohibition

Libertarians denounce Attorney General Jeff Sessions for overriding state marijuana laws

On Jan. 4, acting against the advice of his own Task Force on Crime Reduction and Public Safety, U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions rescinded the Cole Memorandum. This Obama-era memo had allowed states to set their own cannabis rules and regulations, with minimal intervention by the federal government. In rescinding the memo, the Trump administration has flouted the U.S. Constitution's provision to reserve most powers to the states, a precept that the Libertarian Party holds as fundamental to the federalist structure the country's founders crafted.

"Sessions's move to reinstate excessive power at the federal level is like opening hunting season," said Libertarian National Committee Chair Nicholas Sarwark. "Now federal prosecutors may fire their regulatory 'shotguns,' at will, at anybody in the pot business, whether medical or recreational, whether operating legally under state laws or not. It is high time for Congress to act. They should immediately end prohibition: that means repeal all drug laws and grant amnesty to federal prisoners found guilty solely of nonviolent drug offenses."

Since 2014, the bipartisan Rohrabacher-Blumenauer amendment (formerly Rohrabacher-Farr) attached to all federal spending bills has served to prohibit the use of federal funds on medical-marijuana prosecution, thus offering individuals and businesses only a veneer of protection. In 2015, Rep. Tom McClintock (R-Calif.) proposed a stronger amendment that would also apply to recreational marijuana and would codify into law that spending ban, but which unfortunately has not yet been passed.

Libertarians appreciate that other representatives from the older parties have also been moving toward the repeal of prohibition.

On the Senate floor on Jan. 4, Sen. Cory Gardner (R-Colo.), who actually opposed marijuana legalization in Colorado, blasted Sessions: "Prior to his confirmation, then-Senator Sessions ... told me there were no plans to reverse the Cole memorandum. ... One tweet later ... [the policy was] completely reversed." Gardner vowed to put all Justice Department nominations on hold until the Cole memo rescission is reversed.

In December, Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) joined as co-sponsor of Sen. Cory Booker's (D-N.J.) Marijuana Justice Act (S. 1689), which would remove cannabis from the federal list of controlled substances, making it legal at the federal level. This bill, however, is saddled with a \$500 million annual price tag, and, according to Jim Moore of the Tom McCall Center for Policy Innovation, it has little chance of passing.

In February 2017, Reps. Tom Garrett (R-Va.) and Tulsi Gabbard (D-Hawaii) introduced the Ending Federal Marijuana Prohibition Act (H.R. 1227), which would remove cannabis from the federal controlled substances list although still impose federal criminal penalties for transporting cannabis into a state that prohibits it.

Platform Plank 1.7 Crime and Justice

...we favor the
repeal of all laws
creating "crimes"
without victims...



"While these efforts seem encouraging, Libertarians expect the men and women we have elected to represent us to stop dawdling, fulfill their oath to defend our rights, and comply fully with the constitution as the law of the land," Sarwark said. "Republicans should support ending marijuana prohibition at the federal level as a 'states' rights' issue, if nothing else. But both Democrats and Republicans should join with Libertarians in supporting its repeal, as a fundamental issue of individual, civil rights."

It turns out that the empirical data support the principle held by the LP since its 1971 founding, that all people have an inherent right to medicate or recreate however they choose, so long as they respect the rights of others. Since Colorado legalized medical and recreational use of cannabis, teen use of marijuana there has declined by more than 18 percent, according to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health. A study published by the American Journal of Public Health showed no change in rates of auto accident fatalities in the states of Washington and Colorado after legalization, compared to similar states.

Attitudes have shifted, as well. Gallup's latest survey from 2017 shows that 64 percent of Americans, including a majority of Republicans, support legalization of marijuana. Americans are no longer responding to the racist divide-and-conquer tactics of the early years of the drug war. In 1994, Richard Nixon's domestic-policy chief, John Ehrlichman, admitted to author Dan Baum, "We knew we couldn't make it illegal to be either against the [Vietnam] war or black, but by getting the public to associate the hippies with marijuana and blacks with heroin, and then criminalizing both heavily, we could disrupt those communities. We could arrest their leaders ... and vilify them night

after night on the evening news. Did we know we were lying about the drugs? Of course we did."

According to the ACLU, black people are ten times more likely to be imprisoned for drug offenses than are white people, and three times more likely to be arrested. A 2016 Sentencing Project study found that "Harsh drug laws are clearly an important factor in the persistent racial and ethnic disparities observed in state prisons. ... Blacks are ... 2.5 times as likely to be arrested for drug possession. This is despite the evidence that whites and blacks use drugs at roughly the same rate."

Unequal protection under the law isn't the only sinister aspect of the Sessions policy change. It also opens the door, wide, to more civil asset forfeiture. Last July, Sessions told a crowd of Minneapolis law-enforcement professionals, "We plan to develop policies to increase forfeitures." Civil asset forfeiture can be literal highway robbery. For example, if a drug-sniffing dog "alerts" to the odor of marijuana during a routine traffic stop, under the ruling in *Illinois v. Caballes*, a search warrant is not required. The search may yield as little as a gram of marijuana, and the officer can seize the vehicle — no need for civil or criminal charges.

With its lure of increasing revenue, the tactic of civil asset forfeiture is far too great a temptation — one which federal government agents should never be offered. The LP calls upon Congress to remove that temptation immediately by passing a bill to end the unconstitutional marijuana prohibition, and upon President Donald Trump, who campaigned on empowering states to be responsible for their own cannabis laws, to sign such legislation.

In 2018, the Libertarian Party has plans to field at least 2,000 candidates for federal, state, and local offices nationwide. Americans can count on their Libertarian elected officials to honor their oath of office and make the moral, sensible decision to put an end to prohibition, once and for all.

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Libertarian Party response to 2018 State of the Union

The following is the transcript for a video address recorded by Libertarian National Committee Chair Nicholas Sarwark on the evening of Jan. 30. View the full address here: LP.org/sotu2018

By Nicholas Sarwark
LNC Chair

Hello, I'm Nicholas Sarwark, chairman of the Libertarian Party. Tonight, the president gave a speech on the state of the Union to Congress. It was a mixture of the good, the bad, and the ugly. Sadly, more of the latter, too.

Let's start with the good stuff. The president called for Congress to pass right-to-try legislation. That would be legislation that would let terminally ill people get experimental medications that would potentially save their lives, and get government out of the way. That's good.

He called for reducing regulations, and actually pointed out that this administration has reduced regulations more than any other administration in history. That's also good, because every government regulation that goes away is another rule about how you live your life or run your business or raise your family that's no longer standing between you and your pursuit of happiness.

He talked about the booming economy, which is really good, although not really the government's fault. That's the fault of people like you, working hard to feed your families and build a better life for yourselves. But we'll give him credit for that, because there's not really that much else.

There were tax cuts, and a lot of Americans are going to spend less on their tax bill. The Libertarian Party supports that. That shifts us into the bad a little bit, though, because with those tax cuts there were no government spending cuts. And everyone knows the simple math that if you don't bring in as much money, but you keep spending as much money, you're going to add to the national debt.

Even worse, the president called for a \$1.5 trillion infrastructure bill — \$1.5 trillion. There's not going to be any more money to spend on that, and the government only gets money by taxing, so what that really means — to break it down into terms that are meaningful to you or me — is \$4,658 for every man, woman, and child in this country. Since that money's



Nicholas Sarwark
Chair, Libertarian National Committee

not going to be paid for now, that means that you and I won't pay for it. It'll be our children and our grandchildren crippled with a national debt that's completely untenable, that will crush their dreams. So, that's probably not so good.

Another bad thing: The president talked about trying to fix the VA — fix the system that deals with our injured vets — and that's a noble goal. But the best thing that we could do as a country for our injured vets is to stop making so many of them. It's time to end our overseas wars, and stop bringing home our sons and daughters broken and injured.

The president called to expand the military. That's terrible. Now we're getting into the ugly, because every dollar that would be spent to expand the military takes food off of your table to send our sons and daughters overseas to fight and die in other countries' civil wars, rather than raise their children and build a life here at home.

The president called to keep Guantanamo Bay open, to continue to have unlawful enemy combatants that are not treated to the same legal standards that we treat everybody under the American system of justice. That's ugly. America is built on American values. America won

two world wars without losing sight of our values. We gave trials to literal Nazis. If we can do that, we can win the war on terror without losing the values that we're fighting for in the first place. It's time to close Guantanamo. It's time to deal with things like Americans.

The president talked about the opioid crisis. The opioid crisis in this country really has been made worse by the war on drugs. When the government prohibits drugs, it makes people into criminals — not just addicts. When it gets in-between doctors and patients, what we've found is that by stopping doctors from prescribing legal medications the patients turn to illegal medications like heroin and fentanyl. They become addicted, and then they're afraid to get help because they're afraid that they'll be in the criminal justice system; they'll be locked up; they'll be unable to find a job.

We heard a story tonight of an addicted mother who gave her daughter Hope up for adoption so that she would have a chance to live a life that was safe, in spite of her mother's choices. There are millions of Americans right now, millions of people in this country who've grown up here, who were brought here by their par-

ents — not through their choice, but their parents' choice. They've gone to school here; they've worked here; they're part of the fabric of America. And those millions of people should not be held hostage to an immigration scheme that would build a wall, cripple our economy, and break up families. It's time for Congress to act to protect these millions of Dreamers who are just looking for their own home. Without any preconditions. Without giving in to immigration schemes that are bad for our country.

The Libertarian Party has a vision for America where government barriers are taken down. Where every American has the right and the freedom to pursue happiness however they choose, to raise their family, to run their business, to live the American dream without government telling them what to do. If you share that vision, join us at LP.org.

We'll be running over 2,000 candidates nationwide who share this vision for a better America. People like you and me standing up to create a freer America, where government is less involved in our life and the state of our union is even stronger.

Thank you for watching. Good night, and good luck.

DHS announces plans to deport Salvadorans who have 192,700 US-born children

Temporary Protected Status (TPS) allows immigrants to live and work legally in the United States if they would face extreme hardship after being forced to return to their countries of origin. Immigrants from El Salvador, which has been ravaged by natural disaster and poverty, have been TPS-eligible since 2001, and today there are 262,500 Salvadorans with that status in the United States. Collectively, they are the parents of 192,700 American-born U.S. citizens. On Jan. 8, the federal government announced that it would end the TPS program for Salvadorans by September 2019, forcing immigrants who have built a long-term life in the United States to return to a poor and violence-wracked El Salvador or join the ranks of unauthorized U.S. immigrants living fearfully in the shadows.

When asked whether DHS proposes that Salvadoran parents must leave their U.S. citizen children behind, a senior administration official replied, “We’re not getting involved in individual family decisions.” There’s no question, though, that the policy will tear countless families and individual lives apart.

“The deportation of hundreds of thousands of Salvadorans — as well as Sudanese, Nicaraguans, Haitians, and Hondurans — is objectionable on multiple levels,” said Libertarian National Committee Chair and Phoenix, Ariz., mayoral candidate Nicholas Sarwark. “Salvadorans are exceptionally well-integrated into American society, with 85 percent speaking some English and 48 percent speaking English very well or exclusively. Their labor force participation rate is 88 percent compared to the U.S. average of 63 percent, and 45,000 Salvadoran TPS holders have mortgages. They are not part of the problem of welfare dependency. They are part of the solution. People who are obviously contributing members of society should be welcomed with open arms. The comparatively few who have criminal backgrounds should be dealt with separately.”

In her announcement, Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen argued that the 18-month delay before deportations become effective will allow Congress to come up with a “permanent solution.” Immigration isn’t a problem in need of a solution, though. Immigration is an asset to the United States, one that grows the economy and improves the lives of not only those people who move here, but also those who were already here. Ultimately, the only way to deter immigrants is to destroy the market economy that draws people here from throughout the world.

The United States had no quantitative immigration laws until 1921, and no qualitative laws until 1875 when convicts and prostitutes were barred from entry. “Mental defectives” and Chinese were prohibited in 1882 for blatantly racist reasons. One of the complaints in the Declaration of Independence for the revolt against King George III was that “He has endeavoured to prevent the Population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for the Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their Migrations hither.”

The U.S. economy suffered not at all from our acceptance of the huddled masses yearning to breathe free. Im-

ECONOMIC FREEDOM DEMANDS THE UNRESTRICTED MOVEMENT OF HUMAN AS WELL AS FINANCIAL CAPITAL ACROSS NATIONAL BORDERS.

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migrants made this country great in the first place, and they continue to do so today. We need to move in the direction of more open, legal immigration, not in the direction of militarized borders fit only for a police state.

“The entire debate about immigration results from a misapplied concept of property rights,” said Sarwark. “When we refer to ‘my car, my clothes, or my toothpaste,’ few would argue that the word ‘my’ does not imply a property right. But we also use the word ‘my’ in the context of ‘my street, my neighborhood, and my country.’ We obviously don’t have a property right in the entire country, but opponents of immigration use arguments that imply we all do have a collective right to our country — and, therefore, a right to exclude foreigners. We don’t. We each have an individual moral right to hire, do business with, or sell a house to any willing person from anywhere. We also have the moral obligation not to interfere with our neighbor’s right to do or not do the same.”

The issue of immigration has been obscured by layers of cynical campaign rhetoric, but it comes down to whether individual liberty applies only to native-born Americans or to everyone.

If freedom works for us — and it does — what possible moral reason do we have to say it applies to people born in San Diego, but not to those born inches away in Tijuana?

The Libertarian Party plans to field more than 2,000 candidates for public office in 2018. You can count on Libertarian officeholders to champion the common-sense policies of fairness and individual rights for all, no matter where they were born.

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Do gun-free zones actually encourage more mass shootings?

Early on the morning of Jan. 23, a 15-year-old allegedly opened fire with a pistol and killed two other students at Marshall County High School in Benton, Ky. He reportedly wounded 14 others by gunshot, and five more suffered injuries during their efforts to escape. The shooter was captured by sheriff's deputies after he ran out of ammunition.

On the afternoon of Feb. 14, a 19-year-old suspect is alleged to have shot and killed 17 people at Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., injuring at least 12 others before being taken into custody.

"As we consider this unspeakable, avoidable violence, it's hard to understand what could compel such an evil action," said Libertarian National Committee Vice-Chair Arvin Vohra. "Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of those killed or wounded; our hearts break as we imagine what they are going through. In this time of sorrow, we must ask our representatives: How long will we let this continue? How many more times will well-advertised 'gun-free' school zones predictably allow for these horrors? Don't the young people in America deserve better than to be sent to a disarmed killing field every day, hoping that no one takes advantage of it today? Don't they deserve not just to feel safe, but actually to be safe? Let's make this the last tragedy of its kind, by ending gun-free school zone laws now."

Statistics on whether more mass killings take place in gun-free zones or elsewhere vary, usually depending on the ideological agenda of the compiler of the statistics. What is known is that killers motivated by a desire for infamy, or with terrorist intent, frequently choose to inflict their mayhem in locations where few people, if any, are armed. Common sense indicates that it's easier and faster to shoot fleeing victims in the back than to shoot an armed adversary

Platform Plank 1.9

Self-Defense

We affirm the individual right recognized by the Second Amendment to keep and bear arms, and oppose the prosecution of individuals for exercising their rights of self-defense.



LIBERTARIAN
All of your freedoms. All of the time.

in a defensive position. The 2017 Sutherland Springs church shooting ended when the shooter was confronted by an armed defender — not before that confrontation.

There are many other cases in which responsible gun owners have prevented mass shootings from occurring or escalating. A 1997 high school shooting in Pearl, Miss., was halted by the school's vice principal after he retrieved the Colt .45 he kept in his truck. A 1998 middle school shooting ended when a man living next door heard gunfire and apprehended the shooter with his shotgun. A 2002 terrorist attack at an Israeli school was quickly stopped by an armed teacher and a school guard. A 2002

law school shooting in Grundy, Va., came to an abrupt conclusion when students carrying firearms confronted the shooter. A 2007 mall shooting in Salt Lake City, Utah, ended when an armed off-duty police officer intervened. A 2009 workplace shooting in Houston, Texas, was halted by two coworkers who carried concealed handguns. A 2012 church shooting in Aurora, Colo., was stopped by a member of the congregation carrying a gun. A 2012 mall shooting in Portland, Ore., ended when the gunman took his own life minutes after being confronted by a shopper carrying a concealed weapon.

The economist David D. Friedman

pointed out in his book *Hidden Order: The Economics of Everyday Life* that violent criminals tend to avoid situations in which they suspect their victims may be able to fight back.

"Suppose one little old lady in ten carries a gun," Friedman wrote. "Suppose that one in ten of those, if attacked by a mugger, will succeed in killing the mugger instead of being killed by him ... The number of muggers declines drastically, not because they have all been killed but because they have, rationally, sought safer professions."

David Kopel, a self-identified life-long Democrat who is research director at the Independence Institute in Colorado and associate policy analyst at the Cato Institute, has written prolifically on gun control. "Simply put, if not for gun control, Hitler would not have been able to murder 21 million people," Kopel wrote in *National Review*.

The work of R. J. Rummel, a political science professor at the University of Hawaii, documents 169,202,000 people who were killed during the 20th century by governments practicing democide — defined as politically motivated genocide, mass murder, or other purposeful killing. According to Rummel's scholarly research, the Soviet Union killed 61,911,000. Maoist China killed 35,236,000. The Nazis killed 20,946,000. Other smaller totalitarian dictatorships killed the rest. These numbers do not include casualties of war. All these countries were turned into gun-free-zones before the killing began.

Countries like Switzerland and the United States, which have both historically had a well-armed populace, did not suffer this kind of fate. The same principle applies in smaller settings. Those who wish to harm others tend to be deterred when people have the capability of fighting back. That is why gun-free-zones and, indeed, all forms of gun control should be opposed.

New Mexico land commissioner

...continued from page 1

Democrat Martin Heinrich is running for re-election to the Senate. The only Republican candidate is Albuquerque businessman Mick Rich.

It would be an unprecedented win for Libertarians. But the party has access to the ballot this year.

Former Republican Gov. Gary Johnson ran for president as a Libertarian in 2016 and received about 9 per-

cent of the vote in New Mexico.

That was a strong enough finish to win Libertarians a designation as a major party in the state, ostensibly making it easier for its candidates to get on the ballot.

Whether or not a Libertarian could win, Dunn could still shake up the race.

Since last fall, Dunn has been actively weighing his options for other state-level offices to pursue in New Mexi-

co. In November, U.S. News and World Report said that "Albuquerque-based attorney Blair Dunn said ... that his father ... is giving 'heavy consideration' to ... [running] for New Mexico governor as a Libertarian candidate or independent."

At the time of Dunn's switch to Libertarian Party (LP) registration, the LP of New Mexico appears confident enough that it's U.S. senate that Dunn will be seeking, to have listed him as a candidate on their website. The Feb. 6 filing deadline will be here soon.

Relieved by Roy Moore's defeat in Alabama? Thank a Libertarian

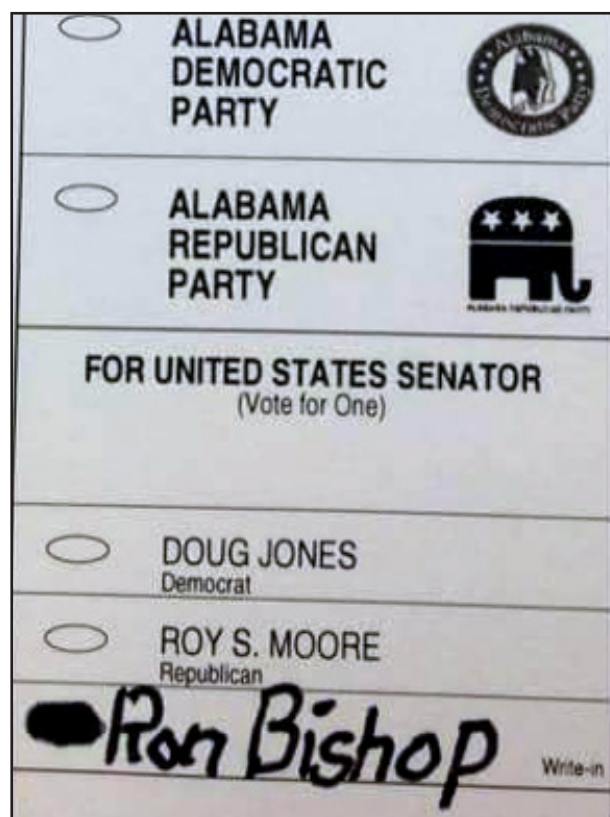
Republican candidate Roy Moore lost to Democrat Doug Jones in the Dec. 12 special election for U.S. Senate in Alabama. The Moore campaign was plagued by allegations of sexual impropriety, and voters turned away in droves from what was once considered a safe GOP seat. The race was so close, though, that Jones won by a margin of only 1.5 percent — less than the 1.7 percent of votes for write-in candidates, including Libertarian Ron Bishop.

"If you're happy that Roy Moore was not elected to the Senate, thank write-in candidates like Libertarian Ron Bishop," said Libertarian National Committee Chair Nicholas Sarwark.

Bishop and other independent candidates received 22,780 votes in the election according to the latest figures from the Alabama secretary of state, while the margin of difference between the Jones and Moore was a razor-thin 20,715. Even President Donald Trump acknowledged in a tweet that "The write-in votes played a very big factor" in determining the outcome.

According to Bishop campaign staffer Jim Albea, it will be several weeks before we know how many of the write-in votes went to Bishop. Libertarian candidates usually draw equally from disaffected Republicans, Democrats, and independents. Considering the slim margin of victory in such a heavily Republican state, though, Bishop probably turned far more voters away from Moore than from Jones. He did so with an unabashed campaign championing free trade, a balanced budget, lower taxes, and other common-sense Libertarian positions that would also appeal to fiscally conservative Republicans — but he didn't shy away from Libertarian positions on social issues that can make social conservatives uncomfortable.

Bishop's campaign also remained respectful toward



Jones, whose long career as U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Alabama included a remarkable victory in convicting the Ku Klux Klan members who had been responsible for a 1963 Baptist church bombing.

According to a 2015 Gallup survey, 27 percent of the electorate is broadly libertarian. That's more than the 26 percent who are conservative, the 23 percent who are liberal, and the 15 percent who are populist. That's the highest percentage of libertarians Gallup has ever found

among U.S. voters. Thanks to the efforts of both Republican and Democratic state politicians, Alabama has long been subject to state ballot access laws that keep third parties off the ballot in a special election this one. This prevents Libertarian voters from easily expressing their preferred electoral choice and ensures that Republicans and Democrats will retain a stranglehold on the political process.

"In 2018, the Libertarian Party aims to challenge the Democratic/Republican duopoly across the country," Sarwark said. "We plan on fielding more than 2,000 candidates nationwide. Libertarians don't care whether people are liberal or conservative. We welcome both liberals and conservatives with open arms. What we do care about is when conservatives force their views on others, for instance, by trying to ban gay marriage. Or when liberals try to force their views on others, for instance, by mandating the intricate details of health insurance contracts and then forcing people to buy them or pay draconian fines."

The Libertarian Party also stands in opposition to the strain of populism that dominates in the United States today, which seeks to restrict people's ability to do business with someone on the other side of a line in the sand drawn by dead politicians decades ago.

"We believe that limiting the power and size of government is a great first step toward creating a society in which people of all types accept and get along with each other," Sarwark said. "Instead, our authoritarian regulatory regime encourages combat between blue and red tribes over the spoils collected by taxation and inflation. A better world of peace and freedom is possible, but cultural change comes before political change. The increase in libertarian cultural thinking, documented by Gallup, bodes well for political change in a libertarian direction."

US Department of Justice should stop persecuting foreign-owned press

The Department of Justice demanded in November that the Russia-owned media outlet RT must register as a foreign agent under the provisions of a World War II-era law, even though it specifically excludes "any news or press service" with primary interests in the United States. After RT registered, the Executive Committee of the Congressional Radio & Television Correspondents' Galleries withdrew the organization's press credentials, effectively hindering its political coverage — and Deputy Assistant Attorney General for National Security Adam Hickey now insists that, despite the DOJ's demand, RT's compliance was only a "voluntary decision."

Freedom of the press should be sacrosanct in the United States, especially

considering the explicit protection for the rights to speak and publish guaranteed in the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, but government officials are using the Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA) in an effort to silence views they don't like.

"Freedom of speech, especially political speech, is essential to a free society," said Libertarian National Committee Chair Nicholas Sarwark. "It doesn't matter if some of that speech is sponsored by people in other countries. The BBC isn't subject to U.S. government harassment because it's owned by the United Kingdom. France 24, Deutsche Welle, and Al Jazeera all have a longstanding American presence despite funding by foreign governments. The United States has its own

state-sponsored foreign media presence, the Voice of America. If people don't like the news coverage or commentary published by RT or any other media outlets, they should respond with their own views and arguments rather than resorting to effective censorship."

Allegations that Russia interfered in the 2016 U.S. presidential election were "certainly relevant to our decision" regarding RT, Hickey said in his remarks, but the allegations are still uncertain and accusations of secret hacking are a far cry from an organization that engages in routine, public news coverage. This amounts to a flimsy pretext for the use of government power to prevent a particular editorial viewpoints from being heard.

"The marketplace of ideas can't func-

tion when some people's views are pushed aside by an arbitrary government ruling," Sarwark said. "Libertarians understand what it's like to be silenced and marginalized by powerful interests. We stand up for individual freedom and advocate radically limiting the unjust exercise of authority, so people with an entrenched interest in the status quo fear our ideas and try to keep us off the ballot. No matter how controversial some ideas may be, though, the government's ability to silence them is a far larger threat to freedom."

The Libertarian Party has an ambitious goal of running 2,000 candidates for public office during 2018, bringing its radical but common-sense ideas of fiscal responsibility, social acceptance, and peace to voters throughout the United States.

Senate should repeal FISA, end warrantless surveillance of all Americans

Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) enables the government to monitor the communications of foreigners, including “incidental” surveillance of any Americans communicating outside U.S. borders. In practice, Section 702 essentially allows for unlimited surveillance of Americans if the initial targets of that surveillance are foreigners. As a result, the NSA and FBI have used a surveillance program called PRISM to collect and store vast quantities of user information held by Facebook, Google, Apple and Microsoft. Section 702 of FISA was scheduled to expire on Dec. 31, but the House of Representatives voted 256-164 to extend it for another six years — a bipartisan approval of the unlimited surveillance state. The reauthorization bill then moved to the Senate, where it passed with a vote of 65-34.

“This is an example of bipartisanship of the worst kind,” said Libertarian National Committee Executive Director Wes Benedict. “Republicans and Democrats have joined together to continue a law that allows the massive invasion of the privacy of all Americans. Democrats could have killed this bill in opposition to the Donald Trump administration, but they chose to continue enabling mass surveillance of their own constituents.”

Edward Snowden, the former National Security Agency (NSA) contractor and historic whistleblower, tweeted, “The vote to perform warrantless searches of Ameri-

LIBERTARIAN

1.3 PRIVACY

Libertarians advocate individual privacy and government transparency. We are committed to ending government's practice of spying on everyone. We support the rights recognized by the Fourth Amendment to be secure in our persons, homes, property, and communications. Protection from unreasonable search and seizure should include records held by third parties, such as email, medical, and library records.



LP.ORG/PLATFORM

cans' phone calls and emails failed, needing the support of 26 more. Dems could of swung it, but 55 of them voted with the Trump camp.”

In 2013, Snowden revealed to British newspaper The Guardian that the NSA was collecting and analyzing essentially all the email, Internet activity, text messages, and phone conversations of all Americans, without warrants, for the claimed goal of combating terrorism. In addition, the NSA uses a surveillance program known as “upstream” to monitor electronic traffic over

nearly all communications that flow over the infrastructure of the internet. Warrantless searches are specifically prohibited by the Fourth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. These warrantless searches have been given the veneer of constitutionality by Section 702 of FISA.

“Mr. President, this is not the way to go,” tweeted the libertarian Fox News legal analyst Judge Andrew Napolitano. “Spying is valid to find the foreign agents among us. But it’s got to be based on suspicion, and not an area code.”

Trump appeared at first to take Napolitano’s message to heart, responding on Twitter, “This is the act that may have been used, with the help of the discredited and phony Dossier, to so badly surveil and abuse the Trump Campaign by the previous administration and others?” Unfortunately, establishment Republicans yanked his leash and Trump later tweeted his support for surveillance, saying, “With that being said, I have personally directed the fix to the unmasking process since taking office and today’s vote is about foreign surveillance of foreign bad guys on foreign land. We need it! Get smart!”

Sen. Rand Paul has promised that he “will filibuster and do whatever” to stop reauthorization of Section 702 while it is being considered by the Senate.

“We can only hope that enough Freedom Caucus Republicans and civil liberties-supporting Democrats unite to allow the filibuster to work,” Benedict said. “We should encourage whatever libertarian tendencies they may have. That’s no substitute, though, for electing real Libertarians. The more actual Libertarian Party candidates who reach public office, the less politicians at all levels of government can get away with abusing their power.”

In 2018, the Libertarian Party plans to field more than 2,000 common-sense candidates at the local, state, and federal levels. All of them can be counted upon to oppose warrantless spying on Americans by the government.

LP files amicus brief for Supreme Court case on Ohio voter purging

Voters who are fed up with the two dominant political parties often decide not to vote out of protest at the lack of choices being offered at the ballot. Choosing not to participate in any election is a fundamental aspect of the right to vote, but failing to vote in Ohio triggers a process that removes many people from the rolls of registered voters. A recent entry at SCOTUSblog notes that the Libertarian National Committee filed an amicus brief in the case *Husted v. A. Philip Randolph Institute*, currently being considered by the U.S. Supreme Court. The lawsuit is being waged over whether Ohio’s voter purge practices violate federal law.

“The Libertarian National Commit-

tee suggests that Ohio’s rule also disproportionately affects voters who do not support the two major political parties,” writes SCOTUSblog reporter Amy Howe. “Those voters, it contends, ‘are particularly likely to engage in principled non-voting,’ but the Ohio rule punishes them for not voting by dropping them from the rolls. When that happens, it explains, such voters are not only unable to vote, but they are also ‘ineligible to sign ballot access petitions under state law (i.e., unable to help their preferred candidates, parties, and initiatives make it onto the ballot in future elections), unable to be identified and contacted by candidate campaigns that rely on the state’s voter registration records and in-

visible to pollsters and others who measure public opinion by seeking the views of registered voters.”

The Ohio state government interprets federal law regarding voter registration in a way that allows the state to purge voters from registration rolls if they haven’t voted in the prior two elections. This creates artificial barriers to achieving and maintaining ballot access, as the Libertarian Party of Ohio has unfortunately found.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, however, has ruled that Ohio’s interpretation is erroneous, and the purge from voter rolls can’t take place until four years of non-voting have elapsed.

“Like many states, Ohio has engineered its laws and practices to protect its two-party system,” the amicus brief explains. “Ballot access laws make it extremely costly and difficult for minor political parties and minor candidates to win space on Ohio’s ballots. Because of Ohio’s restrictive access laws and mechanisms, even minor parties in Ohio that are capable of achieving ballot access are often stripped of their status. They must begin the whole process anew. This is precisely what has happened to the LPO.”

Read the full SCOTUSblog entry about *Husted v. A. Philip Randolph Institute*.

Thanks to Richard Winger of *Ballot Access News* for the information on this lawsuit.

Show us your #ProudlyLP membership card selfie photos

Join these and thousands of other Libertarians as LP members by joining here, or showing a friend how to join: LP.org/join

The Libertarian Party will send you a personalized membership card, an annual subscription to the official mailed newspaper, *LP News*, and a complimentary gift of your choice. If you want to be featured as a #ProudlyLP member on Facebook, send us an email, with your membership card selfie attached, to proudlylp@lp.org and we will feature your photo on social media!



"My name is JoAnna from Anchorage, Alaska, and I am proud to be a member of the Libertarian Party."



"My name is Shawn Jones from Plano, Texas, and I am proud to be a member of the Libertarian Party."



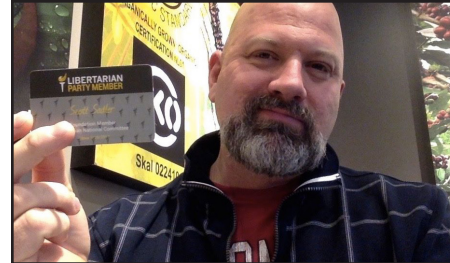
"My name is Sherwin Loyola from San Tan Valley, Arizona. I am proud to be a member of the Libertarian Party. As a Catholic Christian Libertarian, I believe individual Liberty is the best solution to help my fellow human beings realize the truth in the power of love that my faith teaches."



"My name is Janai Hall from Maryland and I am proud to be a member of the Libertarian Party."



"My name is Michelle MacCutcheon and I am proud to be a member of the Libertarian Party. I'm a volunteer and leader for the Libertarian Party of Ohio and The Feldman Foundation."



"My name is Scott Sadler from Tennessee and I am proud to be a member of the Libertarian Party."



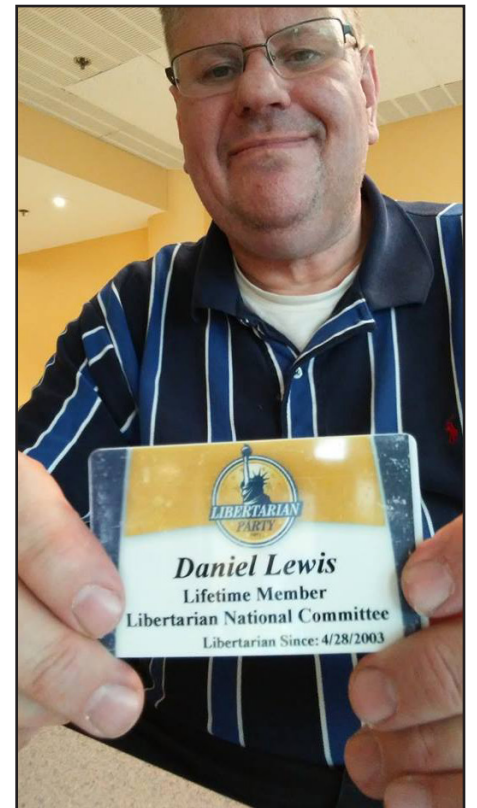
"My name is Anthony Welti and I am proud to be a member of the Libertarian Party, Chairman of the Snohomish County Libertarian Party. Having grown tired of the two party system that serves itself and not its country, I walked away and vowed to never look back in 2012."



"My name is Mike McFarland and I am proud to be a member of the Libertarian Party. I have been a registered Libertarian off and on since 2012, but it wasn't until recently that I decided to become a dues paying member. Membership is crucial to having a voice at the national level because of the way delegate allocation works, and to support the party with funding. I'm currently fighting for ballot access for my county in Arizona, and I'm running for city council."



"My name is Chad McNamara from Michigan and I am proud to be a member of the Libertarian Party. This year, I will be running for state senate as a Libertarian and you can follow my campaign at www.chadmcmamara.com."



"My name is Daniel Lewis and I am proud to be a Lifetime Member of the Libertarian Party."

AFFILIATE

Updates

Arizona

New Arizona LP officers elected for 2018

The Libertarian Party of Arizona held its annual meeting on Jan. 28, and new officers were elected. The following individuals will serve for the next year as officers of the Arizona State Libertarian Party:

- Chairman: Howard Blitz
- Secretary: Jeff Daniels
- Treasurer: Robert Pepiton
- 1st Vice Chairman: Kevin McCormick
- 2nd Vice Chairman: Jonathan Winder
- Assistant Secretary: Emily Goldberg
- Assistant Treasurer: Laila Aussie

AZLP will also be selecting its 23 delegates to the national convention.

This year, Arizona is allowing candidates to collect 100 percent of their ballot access signatures online. In less than five minutes, you can sign multiple petitions. Please visit our new website at AZLP.org to learn more.

Colorado

Exciting petition projects under way

The Libertarian Party of Colorado is gearing up for its convention on March 23–25, during which we will also be hosting the Libertarian State Leadership Alliance (LSLA) convention.

There are multiple exciting petitioning projects going on. One of them, “Stop the Shakedowns,” will require fines from certain

victimless crimes to be given to charity rather than the state. Another has the potential for a huge tax reform simplification, which of course will not make taxes “fairer” — as there is no such thing — but it will make them slightly less theft-y and complicated.

The LPCO has also made it easier for Colorado Libertarians to lobby their legislators through a portal at LPColorado.org/lobby that is updated every Monday morning. Emails are sent out on select bills to people who are registered in the districts of the senators who are voting on important bills.

The LPCO is also proud to be selected to be the host state for the next LNC meeting, to take place over the 4/20 weekend. Very apropos.

Connecticut

LPIL ticket gaining ground with press

The Libertarian Party of Connecticut will hold its state convention on March 10 at the Deck in Westbrook. We had 80 people attend last year, and we expect at least double that this year.

We’re nominating candidates for governor, Senate, and Congress. Contact heath.ergwynn@lpct.org for the final schedule.

Hawaii

Focusing on how to improve the party

The Libertarian Party of Hawaii had its convention on Dec. 3. A Skype

connection enabled people in Hilo and Honolulu to participate. Attendance was down slightly from the last convention two years earlier, but the chair was happy to announce that, with the day’s renewals, current dues-paid membership had reached 100 for the first time in decades.

Dr. Kyle Varner gave the featured speech on health care and the government. He outlined many areas where government intervention into medical practice had made it difficult to give quality care to patients.

Since there were no declared candidates for public office this time around, most of the time was given over to dividing into focus groups. This networking helped ensure that everyone had a chance to talk and give their ideas on how to improve the party.

Several ideas involved better use of the Internet. This is one area in which the party has had some success, so getting our qualified people to push harder here seems worthwhile.

More meetings and better recruitment and vetting of candidates were clearly identified needs. Several weeks later, it continues to be one we are trying to focus on.

Lastly, participants put forward more general public activities that involve LP members talking to folks at the legislature, going to neighborhood meetings, and being involved in single-issue advocacy groups.

None of these were particularly revelatory. They come up again and again. The desire to have a fixed campaign headquarters was another suggestion. This is a money issue, which may be resolved in time.

As of the end of January, we have less than five likely candidates. We will need

to do better to fill out a respectable roster by the June deadline. Ideally, one or two of these folks will make a serious time and fundraising commitment in a small winnable race.

Iowa

New LPIA caucus will aid organization

Iowa Libertarians are pleased to announce our first caucus as a major party. The LPIA has coordinated 15 regional caucus sites around the state for electing county committee persons on Feb. 5. In many counties, this will be the first formation of local party affiliates, helping Iowa Libertarians organize locally and be better prepared to support and run Libertarian candidates.

We will also be holding our county conventions at the same sites for county convention delegates selected during the caucus proceedings.

During these conventions, in addition to the regular order of business, we will conduct a straw poll for the Libertarian Party of Iowa gubernatorial primary between Marco Battaglia and Jake Porter! They are participating in their first gubernatorial primary as major party candidates. This means that they have been included in polling and forums with the other political parties’ candidates, and that their teams are monitoring for post primary debate inclusion.

Kansas

Working with 2018 candidates for office

Candidate Recruitment Director Rob Hodgkinson is working with a number of Libertarians who are considering running for office, both at the state and local levels. Announcements will be made when the candidates file with the secretary of state.

The Kansas State LP Convention will be held in Wichita the weekend of April 20–24.

Third District Libertarians (Kansas City) are planning a Tax Day protest at the Mission, Kansas, post office at 3 p.m. on April 17.

The Jackson County LP (Kansas City) is planning a mixer for Feb. 13 at 6:30 p.m. in Lee’s Summit.

Here are some of the legislative items that the LPKS is actively involved in:

- Kansas Safe Access Act (medical cannabis), SB187 and HB2348
- Regulation of Cannabidiol Investigational Products, HB2029

continued on page 14...

Nebraska Sen. Laura Ebke, an elected Libertarian, speaks to the quarterly meeting of the Libertarian Party of Kansas on Jan. 14 in Mission. Mission City Councilman Nick Schlossmacher, also an elected Libertarian, spoke at the event as well.



AFFILIATE

Updates

...continued from page 13

- Kansas Standard Asset Seizure and Forfeiture Act, Restriction on County or District Attorney, HB2003
- Kansans for Hemp, HB2182
- Kansas School Funding Constitutional Amendment, SCR1609
- Kansas Child Welfare Task Force 2018 Legislative Preliminary Report and Recommendations

Nevada

Numerous volunteers keep LPNV busy

January was a busy month for LP Nevada. In Elko, Libertarians opposed the City Council's resolution to issue a four-year moratorium on the issuance of business licenses for marijuana establishments. In Las Vegas, Libertarians opposed the Clark County School District's attempts to evade financial accountability.

County conventions were hosted in both Clark and Washoe counties; additionally, social events were held in Las Vegas, North Las Vegas, Henderson, Reno, Sparks, Carson City, Minden, Virginia City, and Elko. February is shaping up to become more of the same, thanks to the help of our numerous volunteers throughout the state.

The Libertarian Party of Nevada will be hosting its state convention at Alexis Park Resort in Las Vegas on March 3. Our convention is free to attend for all registered Libertarian voters. For more information, visit: LPNevada.org/2018_state_convention

New Hampshire

LPNH convention to be held on April 28

The LPNH Convention is coming up on April 28, and will include two business sessions; a lunch with speaker Lily Tang Williams, who grew up in communist China; and a dinner banquet with keynote speaker Caryn Ann Harlos, LNC Region 1 representative and chair of the Historical Preservation Committee, who will speak about the history of the LP's Statement of Principles.

All candidates for LNC chair and vice chair are welcome to attend the convention, and any who attend will be given time to speak.

Lunch and banquet tickets must be purchased by April 13. Ticket sales end on

April 26 for the business session, but you can register for the business session at the door if you miss this deadline. You will NOT be able to buy a lunch or banquet session ticket at the door.

If you are a member of the LPNH, this is your chance to vote on any bylaws, constitution, and platform changes, as well as elect the Executive Committee.

We welcome both LPNH members and nonmembers to both sessions of the convention, but only LPNH Members who are inhabitants of New Hampshire and have been a state party member in good standing for at least 30 days may vote during the business session.

New Jersey

Murray Sabrin to seek U.S. Senate office

After weighing the pros and cons with his wife and many close friends and colleagues, Murray Sabrin has decided to seek the New Jersey Libertarian Party's nomination for U.S. Senate at the March 24 convention, which will be held at Rutgers University: NJLP.org/convention

Sabrin won more than 114,000 votes (4.7 percent) when he ran as a Libertarian Party candidate for governor of New Jersey in 1997.

If Sabrin is successful at the convention, he plans the most out-of-the-box U.S. Senate campaign in the history of New Jersey and possibly U.S. history. He has "tested" his strategy with many people across the political spectrum, and they were, to a person, enthusiastically supportive. His approach included a "signature" proposal that would resonate again with individuals no matter their party affiliation.

In addition, at the convention Sabrin will outline our path to victory in November against the ethically challenged, pro-war, pro-big government incumbent. We will take our message of "Peace, Liberty, and Prosperity" to all of New Jersey's 21 counties.

For nearly five decades, Sabrin has been advocating these principles in letters to the editor, op-eds, essays, and lectures, and as a guest on radio and cable talk shows and in several political campaigns.

By becoming the NJLP nominee for the U.S. Senate this year, Sabrin will get the opportunity to take these principles to all the people of New Jersey in the fall campaign,



Two candidates for the Libertarian Party of New Jersey, candidates Jim Tosone (House District 5) and Murray Sabrin (Senate) attended the Young Americans for Liberty New York Regional Conference on Feb. 17.

so they can elect at last a common-sense individual who will not only pay lip service to our state motto, "Liberty and Prosperity," but will work tirelessly to become the most effective U.S. Senator for our core principles.

Consider joining the New Jersey Libertarian Party so you can help me become the LP candidate at the convention: NJLP.org/membership

Consider changing your voter registration to Libertarian if you are a Republican, Democrat or Independent. And if you will be registering for the first time, you can join a political party that supports civil liberties, a peaceful foreign policy and opposes crony capitalism.

If you don't join the NJLP, you could still attend the convention as a nonvoting attendee.

We hope to see you at the NJLP convention on March 24.

New Mexico

LPNM reaches major party status

The Libertarian Party of New Mexico has hit major party status after the state's former governor, Gary Johnson, attracted 9.34 percent of the vote in the 2017 presidential election.

LPNM is running candidates for Senate, House, secretary of state, land commissioner, and attorney general, as well as several candidates for city and county commissions and one for sheriff.

The sitting land commissioner, Aubrey Dunn switched to the Libertarian Party in

January, and made a splash in the media.

Our convention will be held on March 3 at the DoubleTree in Albuquerque, and it is (more or less) mandatory for candidates to attend.

New York

Finding, vetting candidates for NY office

The Libertarian Party of New York is anxiously awaiting its fate. At the time of this writing, we are anxiously awaiting additional action on pending litigation regarding the use of paid petitioners who are not registered New York state voters. We are also awaiting the final action on New York state legislation that will move the petition period for state and federal candidates forward to 24 weeks before the general election — potentially giving the state the earliest petition period in the nation. If the proposed schedule holds, we could be petitioning as soon as two days after the convention.

On a brighter note, there is a new county chapter on the horizon in Steuben County, and before this article is published Steuben will already have held their inaugural convention and be waiting for its charter to be issued. It is anticipated that several more county chapters will be formed in the coming months.

Also, on the brighter side, LPNY's new political director, Rich Purtell, will have his hands full finding and vetting candidates for the four statewide offices — gov-

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AFFILIATE

Updates

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ernor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, and comptroller — and the U.S. Senate. He is also in charge of vetting candidates for New York state Senate and Assembly, as well as Congress. Rich stated he would like to find as many candidates as possible in those districts that cross county lines. With February as candidates' month, Rich will have his hands full.

Lastly, the LPNY annual convention, where all the action will be, will be held at the Comfort Inn on 99 Miller Road in East Greenbush, Rensselaer County (i.e., Albany area). A reception will be held on Friday evening, April 20, with the convention on Saturday, April 21, and a continuation of the business meeting (if necessary), training sessions, and breakout sessions for organizing petitions and the petition drive, and for the candidates to meet and organize with LPNY members around the state.

Ohio

New headquarters; convention in May

It's been a busy and exciting few months for the Libertarian Party of Ohio. After more than a decade in our old offices, the party has a new headquarters at 6230 Busch Blvd., Suite 102, Columbus, OH 43229. The party also has a new mailing address: P.O. Box 29193, Columbus, OH 43229-0193. The new office is much more spacious, and will accommodate party meetings that have had to be held elsewhere recently.

Since our esteemed governor and his Republican cronies successfully conspired to deprive the party of its deserved ballot access, the LPO has had to make do without the ability to elect its Central Committee in primaries like the other, recognized, parties. So the party will be holding election meetings all across the state between April 2 and May 8 to select CentComm members from each of the state's 16 Congressional Districts. The new CentComm will take office at the state convention. For more information on times and locations, as well as instructions on mail-in voting, visit the party website: www.LPO.org

Speaking of the convention, plans are well under way for a get-together that looks to be the best and biggest in years. The convention will be held from May 18 through 20 at the Holiday Inn Columbus

off I-270 in Worthington. Guest speakers (so far) include party favorites Larry Sharpe, Caryn Ann Harlos, Adam Kokesh, Joshua Smith, and Jesse Fullington. Spaces are filling up fast. For more information or to make reservations, visit: www.LPO.org

Last, but far from least, the party is in the homestretch of a long, arduous, and costly petition drive to put the party back on the Ohio ballot. As of the end of January, the party had 50,000 validated signatures (80,000 raw signatures) toward the needed total of 55,000. The party hopes to file early this year. The party is also lining up prospective candidates for office, starting with a candidate for governor, who will need to win at least 3 percent of the vote in November to keep the LPO on future ballots.

Oklahoma

State convention to be held on March 31

The 2018 OKLP convention will be held March 31 at the Reynolds Wellness Center in Seminole. This is an historic year for our party, and many big decisions about the direction we're headed will be made there including: elections of all four state leadership positions, changes to the bylaws, and the election of 14 national convention delegates.

All registered Libertarians who are also dues paying OKLP members are eligible to be delegates at the state convention and run for office.

More details coming soon.

Tennessee

Fighting to change petition requirements

Last year, the Libertarian Party of Tennessee worked with legislators on both sides of the aisle to introduce a bill, HB0662/SB0770, which revises the number of signatures that a petition must bear for the purpose of qualifying as a recognized minor party.

The bill was filed by Representative Bud Hulsey in the House and Sen. Mae Beavers in the Senate on Feb. 8, 2017, and introduced in both the House and Senate the next day. It was then assigned to the House Local Government Committee and the Senate State and Local Government Committee on Feb. 13, 2017. Once these assignments were made, the Libertarian Party of



The Libertarian Party of Tennessee turned in a batch of signatures on Feb. 13 for its ballot access petition that brought them to just shy of 9,000 signatures — well on the way to the 33,844 signatures it has as its goal.

Tennessee went to work.

We lobbied for countless hours with dozens and dozens of senators and representatives to move this bill through. In the midst of all of this, a fiscal note was added to the bill in excess of \$1 million. The state of Tennessee, with no documentation to back it, added a cost to our bill that lowers the threshold of signatures and retention for a political party to become legitimized at the ballot box.

As the law currently stands, we must gather 2.5 percent of the total gubernatorial votes in the previous gubernatorial election (33,844 signatures) and must retain that by a 5 percent vote in a statewide election. (Gary Johnson obtained 5 percent in 2016, so we were forced to list him as an independent.) The bill proposed would lower that number to 5,000 signatures to get on the ballot and retain our ballot rights with a 1.5 percent vote in a statewide election.

So, fiscally, nothing changes. Why the fiscal note? We ask why and get zero answers. As a party, we decided to first attack the House and Senate local government committees to show that the bill had legitimacy.

On March 24, the bill passed the House subcommittee 4-2. This was a win for the battle, with many more battles to fight in this war for ballot access. Our next battle came on April 4, when the bill passed the House local committee with a 9-3 vote, with Reps. David Alexander, Barbara Cooper, John Crawford, Marc Gravitt, Dan Howell, Larry Miller, Antonio Parkinson, Cameron Sexton, and Jerry Sexton voting in favor. Reps. Dale Carr, Tim Wirgau, and Jimmy Eldridge voting nay.

Pumped on that victory, we headed over to the Senate where we testified strong against Mark Goins, the adminis-

trator of elections, whose office is in place to ensure free and fair elections — even though he did his best to illegitimize our bill. The Senate voted to move it to the next fiscal year (2018). This bought the election commission time to put the bill behind the budget, which they did on April 12.

Since the legislature opened in 2018, we have been up here working to kill the fiscal note. A few changes have been that Sen. Mae Beavers resigned her seat. Picking up her seat and our bill is Sen. Mark Pody. We started with Sen. Pody on a strategy to kill the fiscal note. Since the note is added on the House side, we moved to speaking with Rep. Bud Hulsey.

Rep. Hulsey has taken this fight more personally now. The more the state digs in its heels, the more he is digging in his. He has officially requested documentation for the fiscal note. He has also asked what the current fiscal impact is as the law stands. Additionally, he will be asking how the law changes the current fiscal impact. The answer is, it doesn't. If we can get this presented to the fiscal review board, we hope to eliminate this note and bring it back before the Senate so we can put it up for vote.

While we are working on gaining ballot access through legislation, we are also fighting this battle as the law currently stands, working on gathering a net of 33,844 signatures. We currently have gathered close to 7,500 signatures as of this writing and expect another 3,000 signatures to be reported within a matter of days. These signatures have been gathered or paid for on an all-volunteer basis.

The LNC noticed our efforts and voted in favor of assisting us with our goals. We are very thankful for their assistance, and

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www.LP.org/lnc-leadership

Upcoming LP conventions

March 2-4:	Alabama	March 30 or 31:	Wyoming*
March 2-3:	Illinois	April 13-15:	Texas
March 2-3:	New Mexico	April 14:	South Dakota
March 3-4:	Pennsylvania	April 14:	Utah*
March 10:	Connecticut	April 14:	Wisconsin
March 10:	Maryland	April 20:	New York
March 10:	Michigan	April 27-29:	California
March 10:	Virginia	April 28:	New Hampshire
March 17:	Tennessee	May 4-6:	Indiana
March 23-25:	Colorado	May 18-20:	Ohio
March 24:	Delaware	May 18-20:	North Carolina
March 24:	New Jersey	June 23:	Idaho
March 31:	Oklahoma	June 30-July 3:	National LP

For updates, visit: LP.org/events

* tentative

Affiliate News

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knowing that national is willing to invest in the state of Tennessee has driven up our membership and volunteer efforts across the state.

The war for ballot access is far from over, but we continue to fight and win battles, and we feel well-supplied with volunteers and funding on many fronts. The people of Tennessee are realizing that the two-party system is no longer the answer, and there is another way: Less Government, More Freedom.

We will continue to live up to our state nickname, the Volunteer State.

Washington

'Home Grown' state convention in Feb.

Our state hosted a Libertarian day at the capital on Jan. 31 with great speakers and elected reps attending. We held our state convention on Feb. 17, and our theme this year was "home grown," with more great speakers.

We are also taking our state head on with regards to damaging gun laws and many more freedom-eroding pieces of legislation.

You can read about all of this and more on LPWA.org and our Facebook page: [FB.com/libertarianpartyofWA](https://www.facebook.com/libertarianpartyofWA)

Wisconsin

Strong field of candidates for 2018

The Libertarian Party of Wisconsin is looking forward to a very successful 2018. Our state convention will be held April 13-15 at the Park Hotel on the Capitol Square in Madison. Jeffrey Tucker is the keynote speaker at

the Saturday banquet, and Larry Sharpe and Kevin Fortune are headlining a candidates' fundraiser on Friday night. Tickets are on sale now at LPWI.org and everyone is invited!

The LPWI has a strong field of candidates running for office in 2018. In spring elections, Brian Defferding is running unopposed for Winnebago County Board, and is also running for Neenah City Council. In the fall, Phil Anderson, LPWI chair, is challenging incumbent GOP Gov. Scott Walker. Anderson and lieutenant governor candidate Patrick Baird and secretary of state candidate Rich Reynolds form "Team Guv," a team-based approach to covering the state and maximizing visibility. LPWI is also fielding candidates for state Senate, state Assembly, and various county and local elections. A fundraiser for the campaigns is being held on Feb. 17 in Wauwatosa, with many more to follow. Visit LPWI.org and TeamGuv.org for more information.

Last, but not least, LPWI continues a path toward better organizational practices and sustainability. We now include a subscription-based membership dues system, and have adopted NationBuilder as our website and contact management platform. We are constantly striving to represent the entire membership of our party, by maximizing engagement and discussions on the issues of the day, while not sacrificing our core principles. Our membership continues to grow. More people are hearing our message of liberty and see our state affiliate as a means toward throwing off the coercive bonds of government.

LPWI looks forward to participating in the LP National Convention with a full slate of delegates, participating in various ways. Our members hold leadership positions in LP caucuses, and other groups within our party and movement. We expect to be present, active, engaging, and leading the discussion, leading up to and throughout the convention.

See you in NOLA!

Media Buzz

"According to the national L.P. office, New Mexico now joins 22 other states (or the District of Columbia) in essentially having the same requirements for ballot access for the Libertarians as for the Democrats and Republicans. Those states are Alaska, California, D.C., Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and Wisconsin. (State election ballot access law is complicated and nuanced and singular, part of what makes running for office without the protective coloration of a major party such a pain.)"

Reason, 1/30/2018

"The New Mexico land commissioner has filed to run for the Libertarian Party's nomination to the U.S. Senate.

"Aubrey Dunn has recently changed his voting registration from Republican to Libertarian to run against incumbent Democrat Martin Heinrich and Republican candidate Mick Rich.

"Dunn joins a list of Libertarians who filed declarations of candidacy Tuesday to run for state and federal offices after the Secretary of State's Office last week gave the Libertarian Party major party status in New Mexico."

KRQE News 13, 2/7/2018

"Can a juror, faced with clear evidence that a defendant is guilty, still vote to acquit if he or she feels the law is unjust?"

"Yes, say backers of 'jury nullification.' This courtroom tactic was the focus of a Kalispell event organized by the Flathead County Libertarian Party. Presentations on nullification by Kirsten Tynan and Roger Roots drew about two dozen guests to The Museum at Central School Friday night."

Daily Inter Lake, 2/11/18

Thinking of running for office? Just want to learn more?

Go to LP.org/run and send us your inquiry. You'll receive information from your state LP affiliate or from the national LP headquarters that you need to get started on your campaign.