

## LP News



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**South Dakota LP wins ballot-access case**

One of the most recent Libertarian Party victories is a ballot access case in South Dakota. A federal district court judge has ruled South Dakota's laws regulating third-party ballot access to be unconstitutional. He said these laws violate the First and Fourteenth Amendment rights of the plaintiffs: the Libertarian Party and Constitution Party.

"South Dakota has one of the most, if not the most, restrictive ballot-access laws in the United states," said ACLU attorney Stephen Pevar, who served as lead counsel in the case. "In South Dakota you have to get 2.5 percent of the people who voted for governor in the last gubernatorial election. More than forty states have a 1 percent requirement."

Ballot access is the most important function for the Libertarian Party, because it is the biggest hurdle to getting candidates on ballots and allowing people to vote for



LP South Dakota Chair Aaron Aylward and LPSD candidate for U.S. House George Hendrickson speak with the *Argus Leader* about how difficult it is for third parties to achieve ballot access.

them. This leads to a fundamental lack of choice on Election Day.

"The idea that two parties will represent the views of everybody in this coun-

try is patently false," Brandon resident and plaintiff Joy Howe said during the proceedings, as quoted by the *Argus Leader*.

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**Nebraska passes Libertarian Laura Ebke's major occupational licensing reform**

By Eric Boehm  
*Reason*

*This story first appeared at Reason.com*

Nebraska lawmakers struck a rare *tri*-partisan blow against onerous occupational licensing laws on the 60th and final day of the 2018 legislative session, voting 45–1 to pass a major reform bill authored by Libertarian state Sen. Laura Ebke.

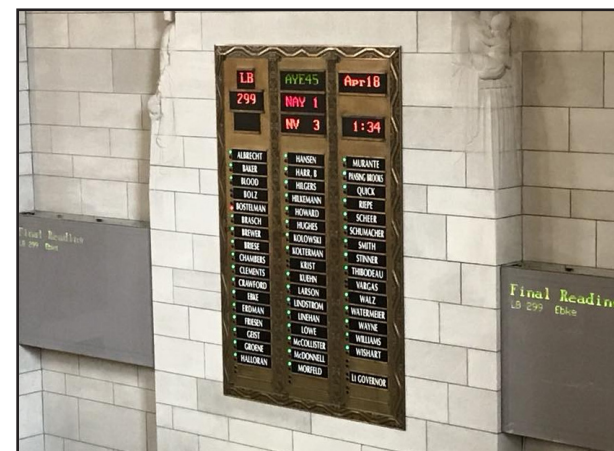
Ebke's Occupational Board Reform Act requires state lawmakers to undertake a review of Nebraska's occupational licensing laws with an eye toward loosening or eliminating requirements that serve as barriers to employment without benefiting public safety. The bill requires that licensing laws "respect the fundamental right of an individual to pursue an occupation" and instructs lawmakers to favor less restrictive

forms of regulation — which could include private certification, registration, insurance or bonding requirements, inspections, open market competition, or a combination of these approaches — in circumstances where one-size-fits-all licensing rules violate that right.

"It will help give power back to Nebraskans to cut the hidden tax of red tape that is creating barriers for working people across our state," says Jim Vokal, CEO of the Platte Institute, a Nebraska-based think tank.

The bill's backers included the free-marketeers at the Platte Institute and the licensing reform campaigners at the Institute for Justice, a libertarian law firm that helped craft the bill. But it also won support across the political spectrum. The Nebraska chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union sponsored a series of events at locations around the state highlighting the bill's importance, and

*continued on page 11...*



Nebraska's Libertarian state Sen. Laura Ebke sponsored L.B. 299, which reforms the state's occupational licensing laws. The bill passed 41-13 before being sent to the governor to sign.

## CHAIR'S Corner

# The road to 2020 starts in 2018

By Nicholas Sarwark, LNC Chair

People ask me all the time who is likely to be the Libertarian presidential nominee in 2020. Journalists, party members, and innumerable people on social media like to speculate about who has the best chance. They are asking the wrong question.

Any answer I give now would be based on who ran in 2016 and what the situation looks like today. It won't take into account the results of the Libertarian Party's performance in the 2018 elections. Those results can make a huge difference in who will be interested in seeking our nomination two years from now.

The more productive focus for all of us is to work on running an army of more than 2,000 Libertarian candidates around the country this November. We can step up to run for office or help recruit and support other Libertarians to do so. If our 2018 campaigns are successful, it will show people that the Libertarian Party is organized and ready to impact the 2020 presidential race.

If our party can take advantage of the disorganization of the two old parties in the midterm elections, it will show our members, the media, and potential candidates that we are serious about achieving liberty in our lifetime. That strong showing has the best potential to attract talented and qualified candidates to seek the Libertarian Party nomination instead of one of the old parties or running as an independent.

The national convention coming up in New Orleans at the end of June is poised to be the most successful mid-term convention in Libertarian Party history. We're



Nicholas Sarwark

already shattering records for registration and sponsorships, and I can't wait to be together with nearly 1,000 Libertarian delegates from all across the country.

Convention delegates will be voting on platform and bylaws changes and choosing the members of the Libertarian National Committee who will serve until the 2020 convention. This business may not be as glamorous as the presidential nomination, but deciding who will represent you on the LNC is important for the direction of the party going into 2020. Thank you to every delegate who is committed to coming to the convention to make these choices.

The last two years have seen incredible success for the Libertarian Party. We've expanded staff, with full-time people improving our fundraising capabilities, recruiting and supporting candidates, and getting our message out to the press. We've had the best first quarter for fundraising since 2004, and as of early April were about halfway to our goal of running 2,000 candidates. In visiting state conventions around the country, I'm seeing greater attendance, more energy, and more Libertarians stepping up to run for office and give their neighbors a real choice on the ballot.

This term has been incredible, and the next two years after the national convention in New Orleans have the potential for even more party growth in fundraising, organization, and membership. Let's work together to keep the Libertarian Party on the right path to come out of the midterm elections in 2018 ready to shatter all previous records in the 2020 presidential election.

Yours in liberty,

## DONOR Appreciation

The following individuals became Chairman's Circle contributors:

Chris J. Rufer  
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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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# Florida Libertarian elected to Davenport City Council

Florida Libertarian Brandon Kneeld was elected to the Davenport City Council on April 3. Kneeld easily defeated his opponent, Headley Oliver, with 245 votes to Oliver's 117.

"History was made in Davenport on Tuesday night," reported a Davenport newspaper, the *Ledger*. "With the victory, Kneeld becomes the first openly gay commissioner to be elected in the city's history."

Kneeld replaces Abel Gonzalez, who had been appointed to the position and was the first gay commissioner in the city's history. Gonzalez chose not to run after his appointed term ended.

"I'm just incredibly humbled they're putting their trust in me," Kneeld said of the residents, in an election-night interview with the local newspaper, the *Ledger*. "I'm just excited to try to do my part to keep Davenport a wonderful place to be."

The term for the office is three years.



"I have heard the voices of the residents of Davenport, and I promise to serve faithfully and to the best of my ability," Kneeld wrote on his Facebook campaign page after winning the election. "I am humbled by the resounding faith you have placed in me. We have an overwhelming mandate that common sense ideas and independent thinking are the will of the citizens, and I hope to prove myself as a leader you can all be proud of."

Kneeld's election brings the Libertarian Party's number of elected officials to 162. They are listed at: [LP.org/elected-officials-2](http://LP.org/elected-officials-2)



Brandon Kneeld, LP Florida candidate for the Davenport City Council, was elected on April 3 by a wide margin, 245 to 117. He is both the first Libertarian and the first gay man to be elected to the Davenport City Council. Kneeld will serve a three-year term.

## Name Badges

Want your brand to be seen by every attendee of the 2018 National Convention? Name Badges will be worn all day long, for up to four full days! Be sure to get all the details, there are great benefits in this package.

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/name-badge](http://libertarianconvention.org/name-badge)





# U.S. should stay out of Syria and other impulsive wars

On April 13, President Donald Trump addressed the nation to announce that he had ordered missile strikes on Syria. His rationale: Syrian President Bashar al-Assad had used chemical weapons to kill civilians in Douma, a rebel-held suburb of Damascus. Assad, along with his Russian and Iranian allies, denied the use of chemical weapons. The Syrian government had requested that a fact-finding mission be conducted by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, but Trump launched missiles before any fact-finding mission could occur. Those missiles are said to have targeted Syrian military installations allegedly involved with the use of chemical weapons.

“Once again, the United States is getting involved in a civil war in the Middle East,” said Libertarian National Committee Executive Director Wes Benedict. “Once again, this is a war being conducted without a congressional declaration of war. Once again, we are at war because of the impulsiveness of one man, the president of the United States. The magnitude of Trump’s impul-

siveness can be illustrated by his tweets.”

In 2013, Trump tweeted, “We should stay the hell out of Syria, the ‘rebels’ are just as bad as the current regime. WHAT WILL WE GET FOR OUR LIVES AND \$ BILLIONS?ZERO.” A couple of months later, he tweeted, “Let the Arab League take care of Syria. Why are these rich Arab countries not paying us for the tremendous cost of such an attack?” He followed that on the same day with, “What will we get for bombing Syria besides more debt and a possible long term conflict? Obama needs Congressional approval.”

Trump’s tweets express significantly different sentiments when we fast-forward to this week: “Russia vows to shoot down any and all missiles fired at Syria. Get ready Russia, because they will be coming, nice and new and ‘smart!’ You shouldn’t be partners with a Gas Killing Animal who kills his people and enjoys it!”

Trump’s opinions may have changed since he joined the political establishment, but the drawbacks of war with Syria remain the same.

“Trump was right in 2013,” Benedict said.

“He is wrong now. If this is a ‘wag the dog’ war to deflect attention away from Robert Mueller’s Department of Justice investigation, as well as from his own repeated scandals with women, he is doubly wrong. The United States has no business getting more involved with a civil war in Syria. Assad is obviously one of the bad guys, but so are the Islamic State and the literally dozens of other rebel groups in Syria. Given that Syria is allied with Russia and Iran, Trump’s rash decisions here could potentially spark another World War.”

One of the reasons that the U.S. Constitution gave Congress the sole authority to declare war was to prevent precisely this kind of impulsive warfare. The “Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Terrorists” (AUMF) passed by Congress in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in 2001, gave the executive branch power to use the military against those who “planned, authorized, committed or aided” the 9/11 tragedy, or harbored them. The Barack Obama administration interpreted that authorization to apply to terrorist groups that had nothing to do with

9/11, and that interpretation continues in the Trump administration. By allowing this extension of power, Congress is derelict in its duty to assume responsibility for authorizing the waging of war.

“The Libertarian Party calls upon Congress to repeal the AUMF immediately,” Benedict said. “If America is attacked, Congress should declare war as a matter of self-defense. If America has not been attacked, though, we should not give impetuous presidents the power to risk American lives and resources on no-win civil wars in other countries. If we’ve learned nothing from Korea to Vietnam to Afghanistan to Iraq to Libya and dozens of smaller conflicts in between, it’s what Trump tweeted in 2013: ‘WHAT WILL WE GET FOR OUR LIVES AND \$ BILLIONS?ZERO.’”

The Libertarian Party will run more than 2,000 candidates for local, state, and federal office in 2018. Unlike Democrats and Republicans who invariably support the interests of the military-industrial complex, the intelligence-surveillance regime, and the expropriating welfare state, Libertarians will support the interests of the people.



## Welcoming Committee

Join the Welcoming Committee and receive a Gold Registration Package plus brand recognition on lots of goodies! Limited availability, so don't wait too long!

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*I'm THAT Libertarian!*  
**2018**  
**New Orleans**  
 LIBERTARIAN NATIONAL CONVENTION



# 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)

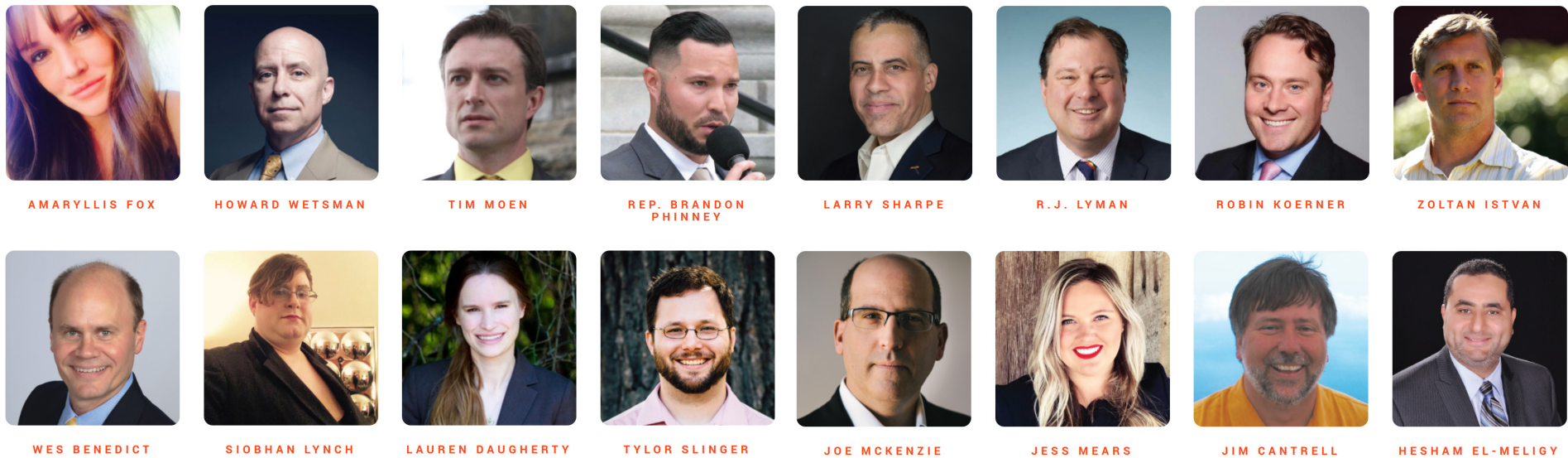
(you may also add a gala-only admission to any other package for \$109)



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**

**Join us for a packed schedule of convention business, special events, trainings, breakout sessions, caucus meetings, parties, and dynamic speakers including:**





# Millennials support gay marriage ... and the Second Amendment!

What do gun rights and gay marriage have in common among millennials? Surging support. A recent NPR article notes that people younger than 30 in the United States “are no more liberal on gun control” than earlier generations, “despite diverging from their elders on the legalization of marijuana, same-sex marriage and other social issues.” The article seems to view this as a puzzling anomaly — why are American youth more liberal in some areas but not in others? The answer, though, is simple. Even if they don’t know or embrace the label, millennials increasingly hold libertarian views.

“Being in favor of the right to self-defense, to marry whomever one chooses, to medicate or recreate responsibly, to stay out of foreign civil wars — these positions all have something in common,” said Libertarian National Committee Chair Nicholas Sarwark. “They all involve taking responsibility for one’s own life and bettering the world through persuasion, not coercion. These are all core libertarian values.”

For several years, the Pew Research Center has periodically asked the question: “What do you think is more important – to protect the right of Americans to own guns, OR to control gun ownership?” In 2007, only 20 percent of millennials responded in favor of the right to own guns.



Ten years later, that figure had more than doubled to 44 percent. That’s approximately the same percentage as the Silent Generation, the Baby Boomers, and Generation X.

The Pew Research Center has also been asking about support of same-sex marriage. Among millennials, the percentage in support has climbed from 53 percent in 2007 to 74 percent last year. Support for gay marriage

among the earlier generations, although lower, is still rising over time. All generations except the Silent Generation now voice majority support for gay marriage.

A study by the Reason Foundation and the Arthur N. Rupe Foundation showed that the millennial generation is the first generation to voice major skepticism about the viability of Social Security. Polling showed that 64 percent of millennials doubt that Social Security will provide the same benefits when they retire as it provides today. A full 75 percent of millennials favor the option of diverting Social Security payments to private retirement accounts instead.

More millennials than other generations support liberalizing immigration policy, legalizing cannabis, and staying out of foreign wars.

“These are all signature Libertarian Party issues,” Sarwark said. “Gallup polling found that 27 percent of Americans can be characterized as libertarian — a clear plurality. Conservatives come in at 26 percent, liberals at 23 percent, and populists at only 15 percent. There is a sea change coming in the American electorate, and we plan to make the Libertarian Party a powerful vehicle for rising libertarian views. As part of that effort, we will run more than 2,000 candidates for local, state, and federal office this year. We’re well on our way.”



## Wi-fi Package

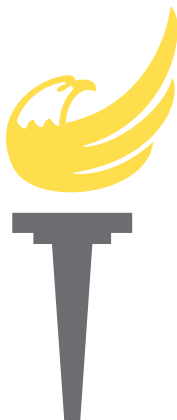
One of the things that attendees appreciate most at a convention is wi-fi access. Sponsor wi-fi access in the convention hall and your name will be posted regularly as the person or organization that made this possible.

*Be a Sponsor!*

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# THE 2017 LIBERTARIAN PARTY ANNUAL REPORT



## A Year of Strategic Investment & Growth

In 2016, our presidential candidate earned an unprecedented vote total, three times our previous record. Coming out of that election cycle, we resolved to use that momentum, invest strategically, and push forward aggressively, to prepare for 2018 and beyond.

That strategic investment included growing our small team of staff and consultants. As the party grows, so does the workload! We hired a press secretary, a technology developer, two candidate support specialists, and a development manager.

**Thanks to our many generous donors and members, in 2017 our revenues were strong.**

## Membership

Our membership swelled in 2016, with many folks joining for the first time. We knew that some would not stay with us for the long term. Many Libertarians invest year after year, and help the party grow. Others come and go. Our membership numbers dropped in 2017, but remained higher than the few years previous to 2016.

## Elected officials becoming Libertarian

In 2016, several elected officials chose to leave their previous political party and join the LP. That trend continued in 2017.

Excluding revenues related to the national convention and bequests:

2017 revenues exceeded the average of the previous 10 years' revenue by 5 percent.

2017 revenues exceeded the average of the past five odd-numbered years by 17 percent.

2017 revenues exceeded that of each of the past 10 years, with the exception of two presidential election years: 2016 and 2008.

For example, in New Hampshire, three state representatives left the Rs or Ds and became Libertarians: Caleb Dyer, Joseph Stallcop, and Brandon Phinney.

**Caleb Dyer** was first. His switch was motivated in part by the Libertarian Party's having achieved **official party status** in New Hampshire in 2016, and the ballot access that accompanied that. He said,

*This fact should be seen as a warning to members of the majority that their constituency is slowly but surely growing discontent[ed] with increasingly partisan representation.... This is a truly golden opportunity [for Libertarians]*

*to establish ourselves as a viable alternative to this representation and become advocates for principled, classically liberal policy.*

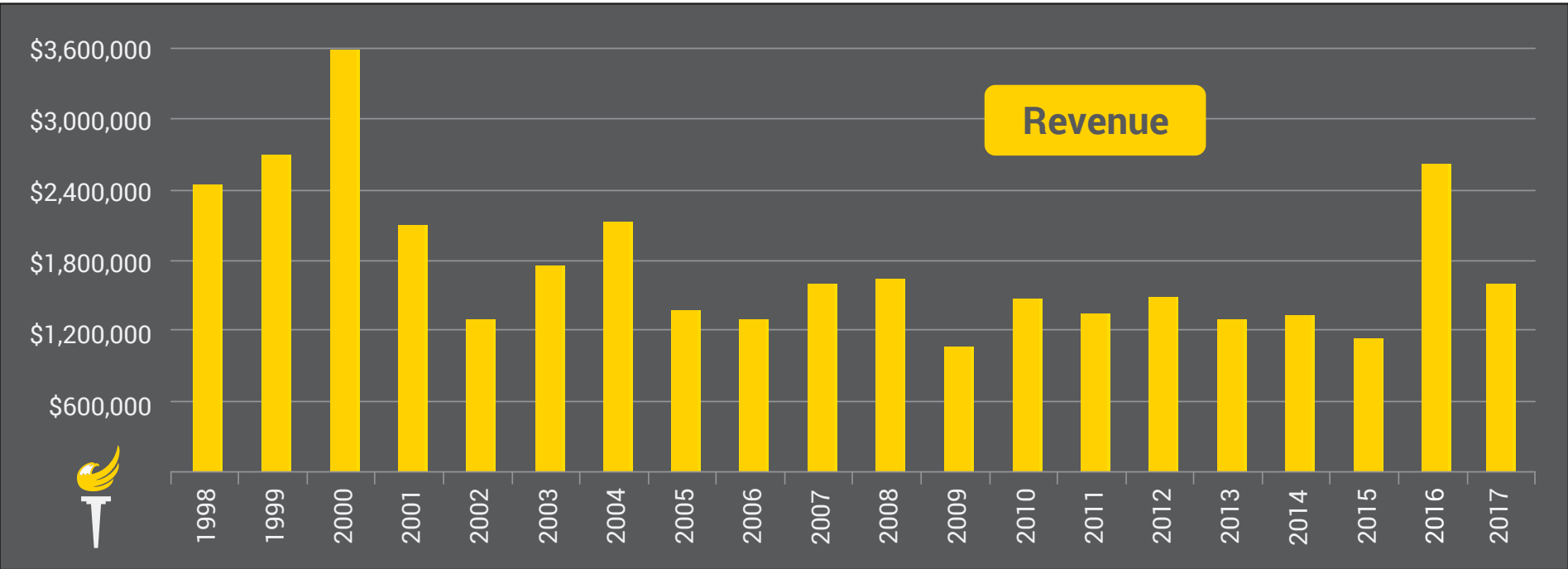
**Joseph Stallcop** said,  
*I originally joined the Democratic Party in hopes of making a difference through critical thinking and my classical liberal viewpoint, yet with the lack of unbiased data in caucuses, as well as the backlash on votes I've independently made, it seems there is no longer a place for me here.... I will not be a political prisoner and will continue to speak my mind against hypocrisy.*

And with that, Stallcop transferred his affiliation to the Libertarian Party.

Upon switching from the GOP to the LP, **Brandon Phinney** said,

*I was not elected to do the bidding of a political party at the expense of my principles. Establishment partisan politics do nothing to protect the rights of people, but instead only serve to prop up and expand government with arcane plans to irresponsibly spend our money and enact burdensome regulations on business, small*

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Notable Achievement

Our highest-ranking elected Libertarian of 2017, Nebraska State Senator **Laura Ebke**, was chosen by the Nebraska unicameral legislature to head its judiciary committee.

*In a legislative body dominated about two to one by Republicans, elected on a nonpartisan ballot, I'm honored to have been elected by my colleagues to chair the Judiciary Committee. They know I'm both a libertarian and a Libertarian, and elected me without opposition, from both of the old parties. I'm grateful for their support.*

*In the Nebraska legislature, all bills are entitled to a hearing. The Judiciary Committee is responsible for hearing bills that deal with criminal and civil procedures, corrections issues, issues that touch on assorted civil liberties and constitutional rights. The chair is responsible for scheduling hearings on all legislation coming to the committee, and once hearings have been held, for scheduling executive sessions which would either move a bill onto the floor or hold it in committee.*

**Kudos and thanks** to Sen. Ebke and her fellow elected Libertarians who are out there representing our party and values in those official capacities.

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*and large alike. The Libertarian Party platform gives us, as legislators, the best possible framework to expand social freedoms, support a free-market economy, and ensure the checks and balances on government power are enforced.*

In June, **Jeremy Rodman**, a city councilman in Glenwood City, Iowa, switched his party affiliation to Libertarian. He was elected as a Republican in 2015 to a four-year term. Rodman said,

*The values I grew up with are no longer the values of the Republican Party.*

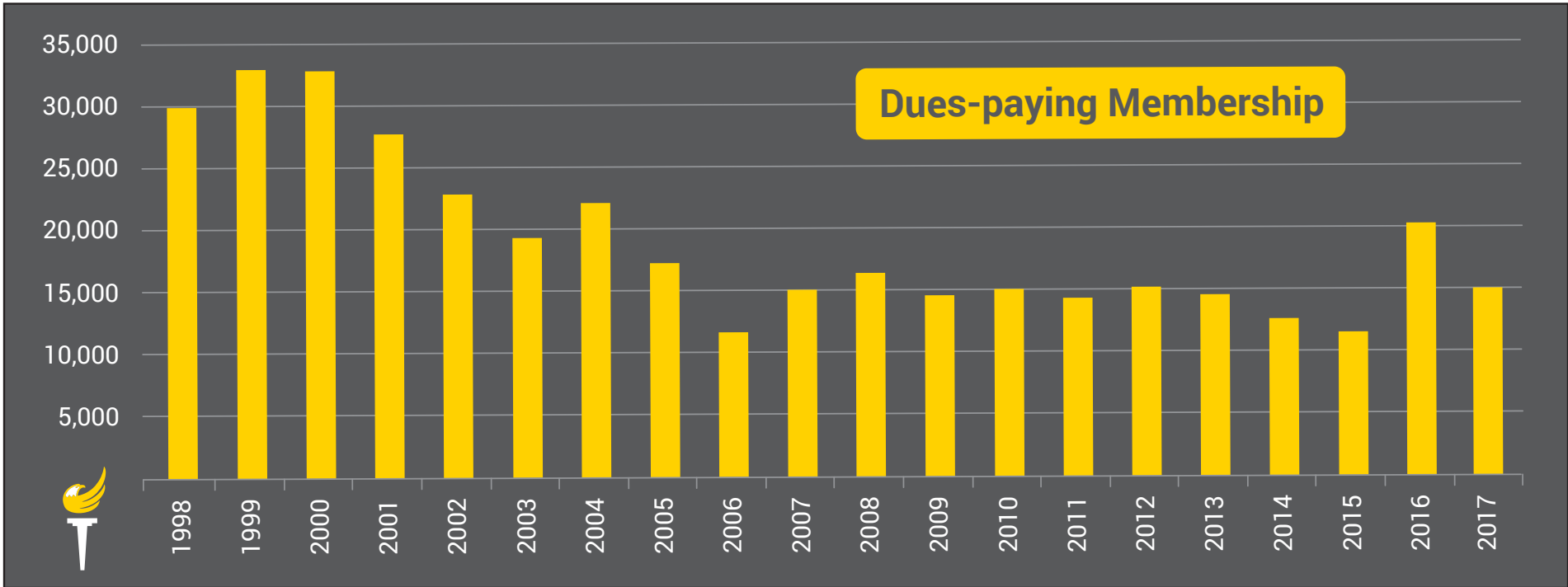
In September, **Zakk Maher**, a county commissioner in Androscoggin County, Maine, joined the Libertarian Party. He was elected to the seat in 2016 as a Republican, with 63 percent of the vote. His term runs through 2020. Maher wrote on his website,

*In an effort to reaffirm my own principles, as well as my passion for community service, I am enrolling in the Libertarian Party of Maine.*

*As a Libertarian, I feel confident that when I say we believe in you, there are no ifs, ands, or buts. And by freeing ourselves from the current political dichotomy, I am positive the path forward for the County, the State, and the Nation will be less turbulent, allowing our interpersonal relationships within our own community to bear much more fruit.*

We welcome each of these elected officials to their new home in the Libertarian Party and commend their courage to think differently and to follow their convictions.

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## Taking it to court

The LP continually advocates for more liberty and justice, through many methods, including bringing lawsuits against entities we believe are violating the rights of our candidates, voters, or party.

## Lawsuit against Federal Election Commission

In 2017, U.S. District Court Judge Beryl Howell **ruled in favor of the Libertarian Party**, saying that we have standing to challenge a Federal Election Commission (FEC) decision which forbids us from receiving the full amount of a bequest all at once. The case arose from a \$235,575 bequest left to the party by supporter Joseph Shaber, who died in 2014.

We filed the case, *Libertarian National Committee v. FEC*, 1:16cv-121, in January 2016.

The FEC had asserted that the limit it places on individual donations to a political party (now at \$33,900 annually) should apply to bequests, thus allowing only amounts totaling under this limit to be distributed to the party yearly.

The FEC's rationale was that an individual who makes a large donation could unduly influence politicians whom the party helps elect, into granting the donor special favors.

It is particularly absurd to impose such a limit on a person who is deceased, therefore incapable of peddling influence.

The FEC maintained that the party lacked standing, arguing that the law does allow the party to receive the money all at once—if we abide by existing FEC rules, which allow individuals to donate larger amounts if they are placed in segregated bank accounts and used only for three particular purposes—purposes which exclude supporting our candidates.

The LNC countered that to allow spending only on those specified purposes violates the First Amendment speech rights of the party and our supporters. The judge sided with the LNC, denying the FEC's request for dismissal and allowing the case to proceed to the full U.S. Court of Appeals.

*It will be difficult for the FEC to show that there is any danger of corruption allowing a deceased individual to leave money to a party,* said Richard Winger, publisher of *Ballot Access News*.

Libertarian National Committee Chair Nicholas Sarwark said,

*The FEC wants to enforce contribution limits against dead people, but not enforce them if a political party spends the money on certain purposes chosen by the government. We're fighting for our First Amendment right to use funds for a bequest for what the Libertarian Party needs, not what the government says we can use it for.*

**This lawsuit is ongoing, with cross motions for summary judgment still pending as of February 2018.**

## Lawsuit against Federal Election Commission and Commission on Presidential Debates\*

In a victory for presidential debates' being more open, a U.S. District Court ruled on Feb. 1, 2017, **against the FEC**, in the case *Level the Playing Field et al v. Federal Election Commission*. The lawsuit, in which the Libertarian Party is a co-plaintiff, aims to make more fair the debate criteria set by the Commission on Presidential Debates (CPD).

As we reported in *LP News* (Feb. 2017 issue), Judge Tanya Chutkan rebuked the FEC for its testimony in January during oral argument in the case. The FEC had attempted to justify its dismissal of a complaint issued by Level the Playing Field (LPF) against the CPD, ignoring mounds of evidence presented by LPF's lead attorney, Alexandra Shapiro.

Consistent with her comments in court, Chutkan's order stated that the FEC acted "arbitrarily, capriciously, and contrary to law" with respect to its conclusion that the polling criterion set by the CPD for inclusion in the 2016 presidential debates was objective. The order directed the FEC to reconsider the plaintiffs' allegations against the CPD within 30 days, and to reconsider LPF's request for a rule-making within 60 days. Later that week, the FEC asked Judge Chutkan to reconsider her order, and asked for more time to respond. Four days later, the judge granted the FEC an additional 30 days.

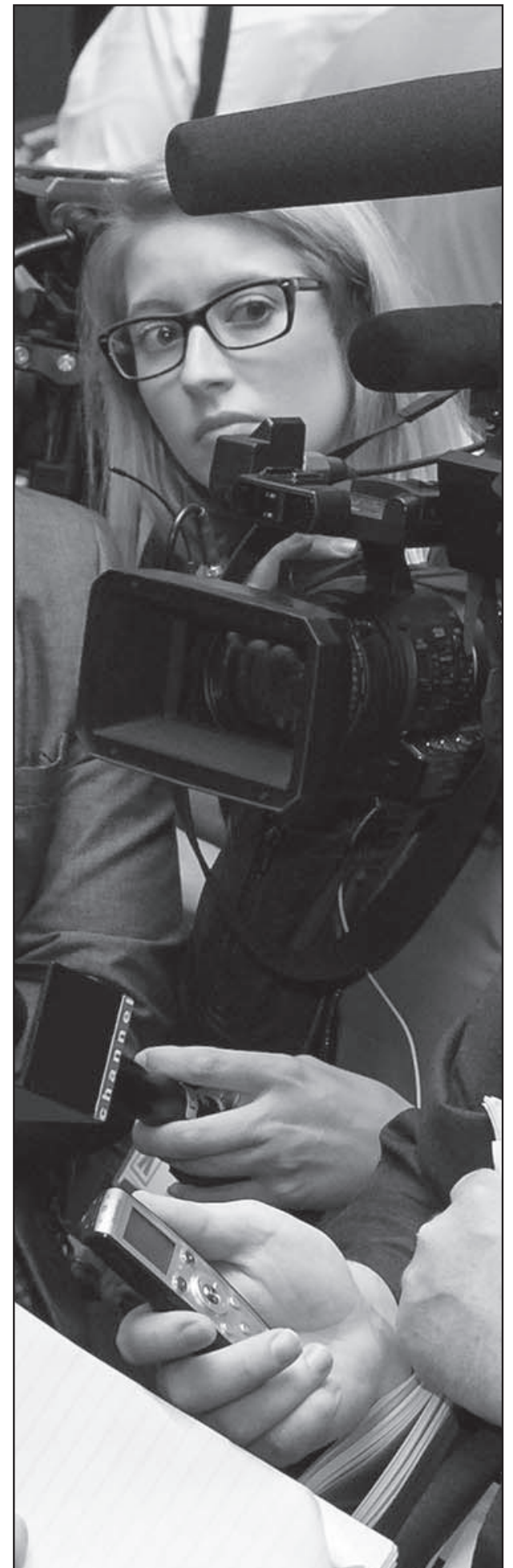
The judge noted in her response that: the **FEC failed** to notify respondents; the **FEC failed** to consider evidence; the **FEC failed** to articulate its legal analysis; and the **FEC failed** to engage in reasoned decision-making.

*The court is perplexed by the FEC's assertion that it needs additional time to review the Plaintiffs' submissions given its earlier representations to the court that it had already carefully analyzed this evidence before dismissing Plaintiffs' administrative complaints. Nevertheless, the court will grant the FEC's request for additional time.*

RealClearPolitics reporter Melissa Cruz wrote, *Except for 2008, the Commission on Presidential Debates has been sued in every presidential cycle since it was formed in 1987. Those court challenges, usually centering on opening the process to more candidates, have never gotten anywhere—until now. Those frustrated with the two-party domination of America's election process finally have something to cheer about, thanks to a federal judge's ruling against the Federal Election Commission. Reformers hope this decision could result in the next presidential debate stage being more crowded—and more independent—than it has been since the 1990s.*

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\* Some content courtesy of *Level the Playing Field*. Emphasis added.



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In April 2017, the **FEC decided not to take enforcement action against the CPD**. So, in August 2017, Level the Playing Field filed a brief in U.S. District Court.

Libertarian National Committee Chair Nicholas Sarwark said,

*This case is waiting on a decision on motions for summary judgement in front of Judge Chutkan. She has previously ruled in our favor on the FEC's dismissal of our original complaint, but we know that fighting against the CPD in Federal Court is an uphill battle.*

## Ballot access progress

In 2016, the Libertarian Party (LP) had access to the ballot in all 50 states and D.C. for the first time in many years. Every state's laws and requirements are different, thus the nature of our work is different in each state. Some states' thresholds are modest enough that our affiliates there can fulfill the requirements on their own. Other states' thresholds are more rigorous, such that our state affiliates need significant assistance from the national party to attain ballot access. We seek to help the state affiliates in the most difficult situations, and we work steadily and strategically throughout the election cycle.

In the 2016 election, the LP garnered the results necessary to **automatically retain ballot access in 37 states** for 2018. This put us further ahead than ever before for that time in the election cycle.

We promptly began working toward achieving ballot access in all 50 states (and D.C.) for 2018. Most of our work involves conventional petitioning, but we also work to encourage states legislatures to improve their state's ballot-access laws.

One such win came in 2017 when **Maine lowered the legal threshold for parties to attain ballot access there**.

In 2017, we also achieved ballot access in Arkansas. Together with LP Arkansas, we collected and sub-



mitted 15,000 signatures toward the 10,000 needed to qualify for party status. The national party invested about \$20,000 to help make this happen.

We also focused substantial attention and resources on ballot access in Ohio, spending a little over \$100,000 toward achieving ballot access there for 2018. The ballot-access requirements in Ohio are particularly egregious, requiring more than 55,000 valid petition signatures.

As if that weren't enough of a barrier to entry, there is a history of Republican operatives working very hard to twist laws to keep us off the Ohio ballot. Ken Moellman, one of our ballot-access champions and tireless leaders, said,

*In Ohio, repeatedly, we have been deprived of ballot access by Republican establishment*

*hacks, who used a 'guileless dupe' to remove us from the ballot and then used their courts stacked with partisan judges to keep us off. But we will not be kept down, and we will not tolerate these injustices. We will achieve ballot access in Ohio and are doing the hard work every day to make that happen.*

The national party expects the Ohio Libertarian Party to attain ballot access for 2018 in the spring.

## Elections

While odd-numbered years are not election years in many areas of the country, in 2017 there were some local races on the ballot, and New Jersey and Virginia held statewide elections.

Steve McCluskey, a member of the Mississippi Libertarian Party, was elected mayor of the town of McLain on June 6. McCluskey won his three-way race with 52 percent of the vote, defeating the incumbent mayor. He is the first Libertarian to be elected to office in Mississippi's history.

McCluskey shared with *71Republic*, for its July 9 coverage of the race, these remarks on his being elected:

*[Getting elected] feels great. There are people who look, sound, and think like me throughout Mississippi. They are Libertarians and simply did not know it, like I didn't know it for many years. They are 'salt of the earth' people who care for each other and want to be left alone by the government. I'm proud to give them a voice and am excited to see what the future holds.*

On Nov. 8, Libertarian candidates appeared on the ballot in Connecticut, Florida, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Utah, Virginia, and Washington.

Eighteen Libertarian candidates won their races for public office. After the election of these 18 Libertarians, the Libertarian Party had 156 elected officials serving or about to be sworn in, as of Dec. 31, 2017.

# Libertarian Party candidates elected to office during 2017

**Jim Turney** — Altamonte Springs City Commissioner (FL)

**Andy LeCureaux** — Hazel Park City Council (MI)

**Christopher Nance** — Carthage Town Commissioner (NC)

**Trishanda Barhorst** — Pleasant Hill Council (OH)

**Jerry Nance** — Exeter Township School Director (PA)

**Demo Agoris** — Houston Borough Town Council (PA)

**Jake Towne** — Lower Nazareth Judge of Elections (PA)

**Jake Towne** — Lower Nazareth Town Auditor (PA)

**Greg Perry** — Rome Township Auditor (PA)

**Matt Schutter** — South Whitehall Judge of Elections (PA)

**Jason Aucker** — Spring Township Auditor (PA)

**Drew Bingaman** — Sunbury Constable, Sixth Ward (PA)

**Jennifer Moore** — Upper Providence Township Auditor (PA)

**James Fryman** — Victory Township Supervisor (PA)

**Ed Tidwell** — Lago Vista Mayor (TX)

**Apollo Pazell** — Copperton Metro Township At-Large Rep. (UT)

**Joseph Cimaomo** — Covington City Council, Position 4 (WA)

**Kevin Cline** — Long Beach City Council, Position 4 (WA)



# Volunteer travels from Italy to assist LP's historical archive project

There are many people who volunteer in the background for the cause of the liberty that so often go unnoticed. Earlier this year, the Historical Preservation Committee may have had the volunteer holding the longest commute record.

Marta Palazzi traveled all the way from Italy to spend several months working on the ongoing historical archive project in Colorado with Historical Preservation Committee Chair Caryn Ann Harlos and Colorado volunteer Sarah Ellsworth.

Palazzi has been involved with libertarian political movements in Italy, including the Radical Party of Italy. In her professional life, she works as a medieval docu-

ment archivist. She learned of the LP archive project through a call for volunteers on LP.org, and remembered meeting Harlos at the last convention while vacationing in Orlando.

Liberty is not just an American goal; there are fellow workers for liberty all over the world, and the Libertarian Party extends its deepest appreciation to Marta for spending time volunteering to preserve the history of this movement. There are very few people who would travel thousands of miles to give up months of time selflessly and have the courage to tackle immersion in records that are not in their primary language. Marta Palazzi is a hero of liberty.



Volunteer Marta Palazzi (left) traveled from Italy to assist the ongoing historical archive project of the Libertarian Party's Historical Preservation Committee, chaired by Caryn Ann Harlos (right).

## Nebraska passes Libertarian bill

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the conservatives at the *Wall Street Journal* editorial page called the bill a "model for licensing reform."

Nebraska licenses at least 174 different professions. (The full list, including "acupuncturists," "bulk milk haulers," "geologists," "nail technicians," "personal trainers," and even "swimming pool operators," was included on page 3 of the original version of Ebke's bill.) The Platte Institute has found that "many of Nebraska's licensing requirements are more burdensome than its neighboring states."

A 2017 report from the Institute for Justice highlighted how little sense some of the state's licensing rules make. Becoming a cosmetologist in Nebraska requires 2,100 hours of training, compared to just 138 hours of training required to become an emergency medical technician. It is such arbitrary, nonsensical rules that the five-year legislative review process will target.

Ebke, the Libertarian Party's only sitting state senator, told *Reason*'s Brian Doherty earlier this month that her unique position in the Nebraska unicameral legislature might have helped the bill's chances. "Most of the co-sponsors are Republicans," she said. "The fact that I'm not a Republican allows some of the more liberal members of the body to come and talk to me."

The lone "nay" vote Wednesday came from state Sen. Bruce Bostelman (R-Brainard). Gov. Pete Ricketts, a Republican, has not said whether he will sign the bill.

In the wake of Wednesday's vote, Ebke tells *Reason* she's "very pleased."

"We still need the signature of the governor, but we're optimistic," Ebke says. Passing with such overwhelming support—including "yes" votes from lawmakers who had



Laura Ebke

opposed the bill at early stages in the legislative process — makes it increasingly likely that Ricketts will sign the bill, she notes. Although it passed with a veto-proof majority, there will not be an opportunity to overturn a veto because the legislative session ends today.

"If the governor signs this bill, Nebraska would become a national leader in licensing reform and set a landmark model for other states to follow," says Lee McGrath, senior legislative counsel at the Institute for Justice.

Another important aspect of the bill is a change how state licensing boards will review criminal histories. Under the terms of Ebke's bill, boards would provide an advisory opinion to prospective applicants as to whether or not their criminal history would disqualify them from licensure, even though the underlying license requirements would remain in place.\*

That's a big change from the status quo. In many states, licensing boards are allowed to ban anyone with a criminal record from qualifying for a license, usually under vague rules prohibiting anyone not showing "good character" or "moral turpitude" from holding a licensed job. Nebraska has over 450 occupational and business license restrictions on ex-offenders, according to the American Bar Association.

That's obviously good news for ex-cons who want to pursue a licensed profession, but it's also good news for everyone else. After getting out of prison, the best indicator of whether someone will commit another crime is whether he or she is able to find a job. Not surprisingly, states with stricter licensing rules tend to have higher rates of recidivism, as research from the Arizona State University economist Stephen Slivinski has shown.

"Nebraska's existing professional licensing structure is full of potential barriers for those who have paid their debt to society," Danielle Conrad, executive director of the Nebraska chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, said last year when the organization announced its support for Ebke's bill. "Removing those barriers will help more Nebraskans secure good jobs which not only helps them and their families, but supports our economy while reducing recidivism."

## S. Dakota ballot access victory

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"When we're left with only two parties, and neither of them represents your views, where do we go?"

In his ruling, Judge Lawrence Piersol noted that states have the responsibility to ensure ease of ballot access.

"Where restrictions on access to the ballot are involved, states must adopt the least restrictive means to achieve their ends and the state's interests must be considered in light of the significant role third parties have played in the political history of this country," Piersol said in the ruling.

The Libertarian Party has made considerable progress over the years by chipping away at barriers to ballot access all around the country, facing different laws and challenges and challenges in each state. Sometimes friendly legislators help us get bills passed that lower ballot access requirements. Sometimes we have to undertake costly petition drives to overcome excessively high barriers. Sometimes we have candidates who cross thresholds that retain ballot access. Sometimes we sue.

Throughout the election cycle, there are Libertarians constantly working hard to improve our ballot access all across the country so that we can have Libertarian candidates on as many ballots as possible in the next election.

This is heroic work. We have the nation's ballot access experts on ballot access working for you, right now, to ensure your right to participate in the political process.

The Libertarian Party faces similar battles across the country, including ongoing efforts to combat the grossly unfair ballot access barriers in Ohio. We also hope to make headway in other particular difficult ballot access states like Tennessee and New York.

You can help these efforts succeed by donating to the Libertarian Party's Ballot Access Fund: [LP.org/2018ballotaccess](http://LP.org/2018ballotaccess)



# Call for nominations: 2018 Libertarian Party Awards

To be presented during the 2018 LP National Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana.

**THOMAS JEFFERSON Leadership Award** — will be presented to the LP member whose achievements merit our recognition of outstanding leadership, high character, and dedication to the principles and goals of the party.

**PATRICK HENRY Candidate Award** — will be presented to the LP member who has been a very effective candidate for public office at the state or federal level, while communicating Libertarian ideas, principles, and values. Nominees can be candidates in 2016 and thereafter.

**THOMAS PAINE Communication Award** — will be presented to the LP member who has been an outstanding communicator of Libertarian ideas, principles, and values through written, published, or spoken communications.

**SAMUEL ADAMS Activism Award** — will be presented to the LP member who has been a very effective activist by building party membership, organizing community outreach, or communicating Libertarian principles.

**HALL OF LIBERTY** — The Hall of Liberty, established in 2012, honors lifetime or significant achievement that has made a lasting impact on the Libertarian Party and/or libertarian movement. Induction into the Hall of Liberty requires a unanimous vote of the Awards Committee; at most three people can be inducted per national convention.

## Award Nominations

Nominees for the Jefferson, Henry, Paine, and Adams awards must be members of the Libertarian Party (i.e., they have signed the certification). Nominees for the Hall of Liberty need not be members of the Libertarian Party.

LP members should send nominations for these awards (along with supporting documentation) to the Awards Committee at [Awards@LP.org](mailto:Awards@LP.org). Nominations must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. EDT on Thursday, May 31, 2018. Your nominations should include the following information (please be concise):

Nominated for the \_\_\_\_\_ Award/Nominated for the Hall of Liberty

The full name of the nominee, along with the nominee's address and email address. If possible, please provide the nomi-



Awards ceremony at the 2016 Libertarian National Convention in Orlando, Fla.



nee's telephone number(s) and the number of years the nominee has been an LP member. (A photo of the nominee would be helpful.)

A general paragraph describing the nominee and (where appropriate) the nominee's positions in the party, how you came to know his or her achievements, etc.

A detailed list of the nominee's accomplishments that indicate the nominee is worthy of the award.

You are welcome to send us links to videos about the nominee.

You are welcome to include the name(s) of people who support this nomination.

You are welcome to suggest who should be considered to assist with the presentation of the award.

Please indicate whether you will attend

the 2018 LP national convention.

The previous award recipients and Hall of Liberty inductees are:

## 1996:

- **Samuel Adams Award:** Don Ernsberger
- **Thomas Paine Award:** Jacob Hornberger
- **Thomas Jefferson Award:** David Nolan

## 1998:

- **Samuel Adams Award:** Steve Dasbach
- **Thomas Paine Award:** Harry Browne
- **Thomas Jefferson Award:** David Bergland

## 2000:

- **Samuel Adams Award:** Richard Rider
- **Thomas Paine Award:** Michael Cloud
- **Thomas Jefferson Award:** Ed Clark

## 2002:

- **Samuel Adams Award:** Bruce Baechler
- **Thomas Paine Award:** Richard Pearl
- **Thomas Jefferson Award:** John Perry

## 2004:

- **Samuel Adams Award:** Jim Lark
- **Thomas Paine Award:** Mary Ruwart
- **Thomas Jefferson Award:** Ron Crickenger

## 2006:

- **Samuel Adams Award:** Michael Badnarik
- **Thomas Paine Award:** John Stossel
- **Thomas Jefferson Award:** Harry Browne

## 2008:

- **Samuel Adams Award:** Bill Hall
- **Thomas Paine Award:** Mike Ferguson, Eric Schansberg
- **Thomas Jefferson Award:** Ruth Bennett, Jim Lark

## 2010:

- **Samuel Adams Award:** Michael Johnston, Kevin Knedler
- **Thomas Paine Award:** Rex Bell
- **Thomas Jefferson Award:** Bill Redpath

## 2012:

- **Patrick Henry Award:** Lex Green, Travis Irvine
- **Samuel Adams Award:** Clyde Garland
- **Thomas Paine Award:** Jim Lark
- **Thomas Jefferson Award:** Sharon Harris
- **Hall of Liberty:** Ed Clark, John Hospers, Roger MacBride, Tonie Nathan, David Nolan

## 2014:

- **Patrick Henry Award:** Rupert Boneham, Robert Sarvis
- **Samuel Adams Award:** Hardy Macia
- **Thomas Paine Award:** Sharon Harris
- **Thomas Jefferson Award:** Patrick Dixon
- **Hall of Liberty:** Harry Browne, Richard Winger

## 2016:

- **Patrick Henry Award:** Will Hammer
- **Samuel Adams Award:** Wendy Adams
- **Thomas Paine Award:** Jason Scheurer
- **Thomas Jefferson Award:** BetteRose Ryan
- **Hall of Liberty:** Ron Paul, Bill Redpath



## AFFILIATE

## Updates

## Colorado

*Gun control debate rages on in Boulder*

Months after the Parkland school shooting in Florida, the gun control debate continues to rage on in Boulder, Colo. On April 5, the City Council held a special meeting to hear the public weigh in on a newly proposed ordinance that would ban the AR-15 rifle and many other semi-automatic weapons, including the .22-caliber rifle.

Several crowds of people totaling in the hundreds poured into the council chamber and stood in line to sign up for speaking slots in which they were able to address the City Council directly.

Despite being in the heart of the “People’s Republic” of Boulder, a typically heavy-handed leftist demographic, pro-Second Amendment supporters were in full attendance and appeared to outnumber those who advocated the proposed ordinance. With the meeting in full-swing over 140 citizens from Boulder, Boulder County, and beyond were eventually listed and called to the podium for two- to four-minute speaking slots. Speakers ranged from moms demanding action to local high school students to local gun shop owners, and even members from the Lib-

ertarian Party.

As the speeches began to unfold, the appeal of each side became obviously apparent. The pro-Second Amendment speakers spoke over and over again with common sense, about their basic right as individuals to protect themselves, and citing multiple statistics from various sources about the number of casualties of Americans, as the following public testimonies exemplify:

- “11 children died each day from texting and driving. That’s 200 times more likely to die from texting and driving than getting shot by a gun.” — Marvin Clyncke
- “The disturbing problem with the proposal is that taking guns from the 99 percent gives the 1 percent the power, 100 percent of the time.” — Jason Hartgrave, member of the Libertarian Party of Colorado
- “As the chairmen of the Libertarian Party of Boulder County I simply ask the council to leave people alone.” — Ralph Shnelvar, chair of the Libertarian Party of Boulder County
- “You can’t legislate against evil, you can only take people’s rights way. You guys won’t even reach across the aisle. My friends at the liberal gun club even invited you to come shooting and you didn’t



Ralph Shnelvar with the Libertarian Party of Colorado speaks in favor of gun rights before the Boulder City Council on April 5.

even respond.” — Dominic Small

- “In this country we can’t even keep drugs out of prison. How do you expect to keep guns out of Boulder? Millions of people have been murdered by their government because they didn’t have these rights.” — Robert Albino
- “What I get in teaching the kids is a zen-like concentration when they are shooting, not this spraying of bullets that you are all suggesting.” — Earl Perry, former shooting coach at Boulder High
- “When you try to enact bans, the bans on magazines, certain weapons, you’re essentially assuming that a person will abide by the law but criminals by definition do not follow the law.” — Adam Selby
- “The idea that this problem (mass shootings) can be solved with a few lines of

legislation is absurd.” — Joseph Ho

- “Most murders by gun are committed by handguns, not AR-15s or the described supposed ‘assault weapons’ defined by this ordinance. More people are murdered by knives, blunt objects, and personal weapons such as hands and feet (1,595 knives, 446 blunt, and 682 hands and feet compared with rifles 258).” — Jasmine Carter
- “Sixty-six percent of mass shootings occur from pistols, not rifles.” — Josh Straight
- “I joined the NRA before I even owned a gun. You cannot legislate morality.” — Jerry Kraus
- “‘Never again’ means something very different to me than it does to the students. By the year I was born, 1942, over four million Jews were murdered. To me, ‘never again’ means the Jewish people will never go unarmed; that’s why I won’t give up my arms.” — Paul Danish
- “Our central problem is our school system. The common thread is public schools.” — Richard S. Hlasnicek
- “This ban is going to accomplish just as little as throwing the homeless or drug addicts in jail.” — John Phillip, former advisor to President Barack Obama

On the other hand, those in favor of the new ordinance seemed to use a fear-based emotional plea for the passing of the ordinance, as the following public testimonies exemplify:

- “In order to take away someone’s right, they first must have that right (the right to own guns).” — Shawn Rodda
- “We allow civilians easy access to weapons of war.” — Vince Duran
- “I would point out that the positive impact that this ordinance would have at attracting new talent into the city.” — Tim Howard



Jason Hartgrave with the Libertarian Party of Colorado speaks in favor of gun rights before the Boulder City Council on April 5.

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## AFFILIATE

## Updates

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- “I am someone who thinks that it’s too easy to own a gun in this country.” — Kristopher Nuttycombe
- “Banning these guns in Boulder is an important first step in helping thousands across America not suffer the tragedy that I did.” — Fred Cook, Virginia Tech shooting survivor
- “Do you fully understand how threatened we feel?” — Eva Cursly, senior at Fairview High School
- “If the statistic of one person being too afraid to go to school isn’t enough of a statistic to pass this ordinance (gun ban) then what is?” — Jaden Rosard, organizer for March for Our Lives, Denver
- “People who get assault rifles are generally mentally disturbed.” — Miriam Paisner
- “If you kill an animal it’s the same as killing a child.” — Miriam Paisner
- “Let’s repeal the Second Amendment all together.” (cheers from crowd) — Andrew O’Connor
- “Our main right is the right to life, not to own guns.” — Terry Crook
- “I’ve heard a lot of stats here tonight but even if we stop one death this ban will all be worth it.” — Melissa Pickering
- “We need to raise the bar on access and training in order to get these weapons.” — Josh Ritzer

The City Council of Boulder’s next steps are to consider the public’s testimonies during the unknown consideration period, and they are open to further discussion and input from concerned citizens both for and against the measure. They can be reached at [council@bouldercolorado.gov](mailto:council@bouldercolorado.gov).

Recording of the special City Council meeting: [youtu.be/I1RGhF8kjc](https://youtu.be/I1RGhF8kjc)

## Illinois

### LPIL selects new candidates for 2018

The Libertarian Party of Illinois met in Bloomington on March 3 to select candidates for the 2018 general election. After three rounds of voting, Kash Jackson of Antioch won a three-candidate contested governor race.

In an overwhelming victory, Sanj Mohip of Skokie received 72 percent of the

vote to represent the Libertarian Party of Illinois as lieutenant governor nominee and Kash Jackson’s running mate.

Claire Ball of Addison, Steve Dutner of Elgin, Mike Leheney of Bourbonnais, and Bubba Harsy of DuQuoin ran in uncontested races for the candidacy for remaining state positions. Ball received nomination for Illinois comptroller, Dutner for secretary of state, Leheney for treasurer, and Harsy for attorney general.

Signature collection for statewide candidates is under way, and party leaders believe statewide candidates will need up to 45,000 signatures to survive a challenge from the Republicans and Democrats.

The convention, which saw record attendance, also featured LNC Chair Nick Sarwark giving a keynote address and helping LP Illinois with the annual convention auction. Convention workshops also highlighted the weekend, offering Libertarians in attendance lessons in petitioning, working with the press, and growing local chapter affiliates. Videos of each workshop are available on YouTube.

## Iowa

### First convention with major-party status

State convention news out of Iowa: The Libertarian Party of Iowa held its state



Libertarian National Committee Chair Nicholas Sarwark addresses the LP Illinois state convention in April alongside Claire Ball, the Libertarian candidate for Illinois comptroller.

convention on March 24, with events featuring Adam Kokesh, C. Michael Pickens, and Jordan Page. This year was particularly exciting, as this was our first convention in which the LPIA had major-party status in Iowa.

State delegates were chosen through the Iowa caucus to convention process, a first for our state party. Gubernatorial candidates Marco Battaglia and Jake Porter debated, with Pickens as the moderator. These candidates will face off in the LPIA’s first

ever primary election with the winner as our nominee for governor.

In addition, LNC delegates and state central committee elections were held. We look forward to their contribution to the liberty movement in Iowa.

## Nevada

### Moving policy in a libertarian direction

The Libertarian Party of Nevada just became the fourth Libertarian state affiliate to reach 1 percent of total voter registration, joining Alaska, Colorado, and Nebraska. In addition to guaranteeing automatic ballot access for LP Nevada, this threshold demonstrates that we are an up-and-coming force in Nevada politics.

The LP Nevada committed itself in 2013 to two goals: 1) Get Libertarians elected to partisan office, and 2) Move policy in a libertarian direction. The second has been a resounding success in the last legislative session, as the LP Nevada team has lobbied and worked across both aisles to make suggested changes and amendments to proposed bills.

These bills, among other things, eliminated “blue card” gun registration; reduced onerous regulation on newly legal recreational cannabis; allowed Uber, Lyft, and other ride-sharing businesses to avoid stifling regulation; and completely eliminated a whole section of the Nevada Revised Statutes that maintained a state gov-

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Las Vegas Weekly, a free alternative newspaper with a circulation of more than 60,000 included a prominent photo of LP Nevada candidate Gregg Luckner, who is running for the U.S. House of Representatives in District 4.



## AFFILIATE

## Updates

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ernment committee on the regulation of garlic and onion growers in Nevada.

Yes, without even an elected Libertarian in the state legislature, LP Nevada has taken an eraser to the huge list of state laws, and prevented many more from being written.

But that is only one goal. Now comes the exciting part, to get Libertarians elected. The 1 percent threshold was our objective to make this goal attainable, and the 2018 campaign season has seen the LP jump right into the fight for public offices.

We have state and national treasurer Tim Hagan running for Nevada Senate in the highest-profile election in the country this year (Dean Heller's Senate seat is widely considered to be the most vulnerable race in the 50/50 Senate). Hagan is not only a fantastic person, treasurer, and representative of our vision and values, but the perfect candidate to demonstrate where the Republicans and Democrats are failing to address the two-party corruption and big spending habits. We are excited to see this race in the national spotlight.

Along with Hagan, we have candidates running for governor, U.S. House of Representatives, state legislature, and County Commission. All of these candidates are outstanding members of our state party, and exemplify our commitment to offering the voters of Nevada a real choice for Libertarian values and principles.

## South Dakota

### *Bill allows electing offices at convention*

At the end of March, Gov. Dennis Daugaard signed H.B. 1286, which now allows both the Libertarian Party and the Constitution Party to elect certain office seats at state conventions. In addition to allowing constitutional offices to be elected at convention, we can now elect people for U.S. Senate, U.S. House, governor, and any state legislative seat by convention or primary.

Since the passing of the bill, we've had a number of people step up to run for various seats. This bill will definitely help with getting more people to run for office in the state of South Dakota. We are also at a record high for number of registered Libertarians in the state of South Dakota.

## Tennessee

### *LPTN runs 22 candidates for governor*

Members of the Libertarian Party of Tennessee are taking drastic measures to show the public the absurdity of ballot access laws in the state. With 25 signatures required to run as a Republican, Democrat, or independent, and 33,844 required to run as a third party, Libertarians across the state have decided to seek the office of governor running on a shared platform: "make elections free and equal."

In Article 1, Section 5, the Tennessee Constitution declares that elections should be free and equal. Yet only two parties have access to the ballot, and they rely on state-funded primaries for their nomination process. In order to be recognized on the ballot, the Libertarian Party is up against a threshold of 2.5 percent of the voters in the previous governor's race or 33,844 signatures.

"We attempted to have that number lowered to 5,000 through legislation, to make the ballots more free and equal," said Cole Ebel, chairman of LPTN. "We even made a commitment to rely on privately funded caucuses, not state-funded primaries, to nominate our candidates. That effort was killed by legislative committee."

With the prospect of a legislative fix unlikely before the midterms, LPTN members have turned to alternative means to inform the public of the absurdity of Tennessee state law. With free and equal ballot access as their primary platform, 22 Tennessee Libertarians (pending signature approval)



Caryn Ann Harlos, Libertarian National Committee representative for Region 1, and LP Washington Vice Chair Tiffany Diaz De Leon attend the LP Washington state convention in February.

have announced their independent candidacy for governor. These candidates are motivated to not only inform the public, but to win their race for governor.

"We're running as independents because the state of Tennessee won't recognize us as a party," said David Sexton, candidate for governor and vice chair of LPTN. "If we're relegated to being independents, then we're all forced to run independently."

## Washington

### *Accomplishing many state party goals*

The first short year of our administration team's term is behind us, and it has been

anything but business as usual! With the help of our outstanding leaders in the state Executive Committee, we have been able to come together and accomplish a lot of goals for the state party.

Christopher Rohloff has built up an effective communications team that is getting the attention of local media and making Libertarians part of the conversations for pundits, politicians, and voters. Our social media outreach has led to the influx of a new generation of voters and future Libertarians.

James Blair has taken on the hard work of getting out the new member packets and initial outreach to new members. Now that we are caught up, he has been focusing on member retention so that we are staying engaged and keeping our membership up.

Tiffany Diaz De Leon has been the face of LPWA for our county parties all over the state. Her outreach to the local organizations has been critical in building relationships throughout the state organization and fostering cohesiveness that will bring greater success to the party.

Our regional reps are already working on building more local organizations to grow our numbers and to continue to spread the word of liberty. We are seeing huge potential in the growth of Eastern Washington counties, thanks to Region 8



Attendees of the LP Tennessee state convention in April.

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## Upcoming LP conventions

May 4–6:	Indiana	May 18–20:	North Carolina
May 5:	Nebraska	May 19:	Montana
May 12:	Alaska	June 23:	Idaho
May 12:	Maine	June 30–July 3:	National LP
May 18–20:	Ohio		

For updates, visit: [LP.org/events](http://LP.org/events)

## Affiliate News

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Representative Mike Leimon and Benton County Chair Ryan Cooper.

Also not being business as usual, we had a rather irregular state convention this year. Even though we did not review and amend our bylaws this year, that doesn't mean it wasn't a successful convention. On the contrary, it was a great showing of Libertarians with guests coming in from all over the country and state to attend and speak. We also took time to recognize great Libertarians in our organization who have been putting in the long hours and hard work to build success. You may find more information on our website about the awards. If you missed the convention, below is a recap of our award winners:

- **Gadsden Award:** Jacob Lamont, for his tireless efforts working to influence Olympia.
- **Liberty Bell Award:** James Holcomb, for his desire and work to spread the LP message.
- **Torchlight Award:** Anthony Welty, for exemplary leadership abilities that have shown proven results.
- **Patriot Award:** James Blair, for his substantial efforts to assist with the goals and efforts of the Libertarian Party.
- **Porcupine Award:** Raylene Scott, for distinguishing herself by example of LP values and principles.

Planning is already starting for next year's convention. Now that we will have a full year to plan and prepare I can only imagine our next convention will be one not to miss!

And a convention isn't the only thing in the works. This year, LPWA will be launching a new fundraising event with exciting guest speakers that will draw not only Libertarians, but outsiders from all over the state to hear about Libertarian ideas. Not to mention a chance to rub elbows and have a good time! It's called the Madison Jam-

boree, and you'll be hearing more about it this spring.

Looking forward, LPWA will focus on areas where we had great electoral success in the last presidential election. There are a number of Libertarian hotbeds in our state that we need to make sure are getting engaged and getting involved in their communities. Clallam County is starting up in Region 3, and we anticipate the Clarkston area this spring or summer.

We are excited for what we have in store for 2018, and hope you share that enthusiasm as we gear up for mid-term election season and support our state candidates. Money always helps, but the greater gift that you can provide is your time. Please consider donating at least a few hours every week. Every person helping in door-knocking and calling voters, or even sign-waving, is that step closer to electoral success.

## Washington, D.C.

*D.C. Libertarians gear up for June primary*

In a recent item from *Ballot Access News*, Richard Winger summed up the strong position of LP D.C. before our Libertarian primary election in June.

"The District of Columbia holds partisan primaries for the Democratic, Republican, Green, and Libertarian Parties on June 19," Winger wrote. "The deadline for a candidate to file for those primaries is March 21. Each candidate needs a petition. So far, there are candidates who have filed in three of the party primaries, but so far no one has filed for a citywide partisan office in the Republican Party. ... The citywide offices are: Delegate to the U.S. House, Mayor, Chairman of the city council, at-large member of the city council, shadow U.S. Senator, shadow U.S. House member."

For the record, D.C. Libertarians have filed for D.C. Council member at-large, delegate to Congress, mayor and LP D.C. chair (which we'll elect by a vote of the 1,049 registered D.C. Libertarian voters in the primary).

Further, a candidate has let us know he'll be a write-in for the nomination for D.C. "shadow" U.S. representative on the June LP D.C. primary ballot.

## Media Buzz

"The Utah Libertarian Party held its annual state convention April 14 and nominated Daniel Holloway of Ivins as the party's nominee for Utah House District 74.

"I see the goodness in mankind,' Holloway said in his speech to state delegates in attendance. 'I see the charity and love that people generally have for each other. I know that the natural tendencies of mankind are not bad, and it is safest to permit them to be free.'"

*The Independent, 4/18/2018*

"A Libertarian, a Trump supporter and a Democrat walk into Sanford.

"It sounds like the beginning of a joke, but it's not. They sat down with students and talked about activism at an event Tuesday sponsored by the political science department and the Center for Political Leadership, Innovation and Service (POLIS).

"The panel featured Jillian Johnson, Trinity '03 and Durham mayor pro tempore, Susan Hogarth, chair of the Libertarian Party of North Carolina, and Mitch Meyers, a former organizer at North Carolina for Donald Trump. ...

"Being a Libertarian is like being unable to swim and told you have to cross an ocean without a boat,' Hogarth said."

*The Chronicle, 4/18/2018*

"Missoula County commissioners approved changes to the by-laws governing the Election Advisory Committee on Wednesday, though the newly created positions will have to wait for a vacancy.

"The seven-member committee, currently comprised of several at-large members and one representative from both the Democratic and Republican parties, will be joined by a member of the Libertarian Party and a student representative from higher education."

*Missoula Current, 4/4/18*

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

Go to [LP.org/run](http://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.