



TLP News



Communications Director named
PAGE 4

Quarter 2, 2021

THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY

Vol. 51, Issue 2

LP candidates score 54% win rate

13 of 24 candidates win their races, bringing total elected to 241

Cara Schulz

LPHQ Candidate Recruiter

Just in the month of May three more Libertarians were elected to office. This brings the total number of Libertarians currently serving in elected office to 241, with 98 of them winning partisan elections and 141 in non-partisan. For all of 2021, we have had 13 out of 24 candidates win their elections for a 54% win rate. We look forward to increasing those numbers with the programs and services we offer our affiliates and candidates.



Schulz

Valerie Stegemoller kicked May off to an exciting start on May first when she won her seat on the Evant, Texas City Council. Evant is a small town, population under 500, almost dead center in the state. Council Member-Elect Stegemoller could not have won her election without having first earned the trust and respect of her neighbors in such a tight knit community. This brings the number of currently serving Libertarians in Texas up to five.

James Cook took on a crowded field in his bid to sit on the one Rock Hall, Maryland city council. There were six candidates vying for two seats. Not only did James secure one of those seats, he was the top vote getter. Rock Hall has a population just un-

der 1500 and is a waterfront town located directly on the National Chesapeake Scenic Byway, right across from Baltimore. Council Member-Elect Cook joins two other Libertarian holding office in Maryland, Jason Kolligs who sits on Aberdeen City Council and Muir Boda who is on the Salisbury City Council.

Wade Hasty won his seat on the Williamstown Select Board in Massachusetts against a better known opponent in a special election. He is filling out the remaining year in a three year term on the five person board, which is similar to a city council. Williamstown has approximately 7,700 people and the hot topics of the election was institutional racism and police reform. Select Board Member-Elect Hasty joins David Blau Walpole, Walpole Town Meeting Precinct 6, as the state's second Libertarian in office.

We're still waiting on the outcome of the Morristown, Tennessee election for city council. Libertarian Rob Burke was short by only 4 votes and has asked for a recount.

The Libertarian Party has been increasing its assistance to both affiliates and candidates to bring in success at the ballot box. We are rolling out full weekend intensive training this summer and fall across the country. These trainings have two educational tracks, one to train activists in the fundamentals of political campaigns and the other trains

affiliate leadership in best practices so they can build and strengthen their state or county affiliate. The training is funded by donations and is free for attendees to attend. You may find out more, or register at [LP.news/512RT](#).

We're also continuing our online candidate training. This training is done every 2 weeks and we bring in a topic expert to do a short presentation and then have time for a live Q & A session. Some of the topics covered have been assembling your campaign team, digital communications, and crafting an appeal. Many of our winning candidates regularly attend these online sessions. In 2020 we had training on how to knock doors during COVID and one winning candidate told us he almost didn't knock doors, but changed his mind after watching. He says if he hadn't knocked doors, and done so the right way, he wouldn't have won his race. The training is recorded and archived on youtube with links sent out to candidates and campaign teams in our bi-weekly email. If you'd like to receive the email newsletter, you can sign up at [LP.news/512EN](#).

LP National also has brokered a deal with eCavasser to offer this field operations app to Libertarian Party candidates at a reduced rate. If you are ready to knock every door, please contact LNC Executive Director Tyler Harris at tyler.harris@lphq.org.

We look forward to the rest of 2021 and gearing up for the 2022 elections. #VoteGold!

From the Chair.....	2	CRM & Data Project Updates	6	Opinion: The Racism of Menthol Bans	13
Donor Appreciation.....	3	Special Section: Looking Back 50 Years.....	7	Affiliate Reports	14
LPTV Guide	3	Affiliate in a Box Winner	11	LP Contacts / Staff Roster	16
Meet Our New Communications Director	4	Obituary: Carolyn Treyner	11	LPTexas Lobby Day	16
Wyoming Legislative Update	5	Ballot Access Update	12		

FROM THE CHAIR

Finding our 'why', guiding others to theirs

Joe Bishop-Henchman
LNC Chair • chair@lp.org

“Government is not reason, it is not eloquence. It is force. Like fire, a dangerous servant and a fearful master.”

While that quotation has long been attributed to George Washington, the Internet tells me that is apocryphal. It's a shame as it is a vivid and concise illustration of the power and danger of big government. The closest I've come is what I said recently to a number of media outlets, that government pendulum swings from tragicomic incompetence to militaristic over-reaction, no in-between.

One of the great privileges of being national chair is having the opportunity to ask Libertarians how they came to join the Party. Every person has a proximate cause — one of our presidential candidates, a friend bringing them to a meeting, picking up literature at an outreach event — but there's usually also a deeper moment that primed the person to be ready for us. A moment when they saw government for what it really was, when the mask slipped a bit.

Here's mine, when I saw it with my own eyes. The date was June 26, 2015. My then-boyfriend (now husband) and I got up at 4:00 AM to head down to the U.S. Supreme Court building to line up so we could watch the opinions being handed down inside, in the courtroom, at 10:00 AM. The courtroom seats about 300 people, and it's still very old school: first come, first serve. When a case is argued, it's well-known in advance and people may camp out



Bishop-Henchman

overnight to be able to witness a key case. But only the justices and their clerks know when a decision is being handed down.

We were there (for the second day in a row) because I had guessed that it would be likely that the gay marriage decision would come down that day. It takes a bit of tea leaves reading, based on which justices still had opinions left to give (the justices generally try to divide their workload evenly between them). Others had made the same calculation. By the time Ethan, our friend Dalton, and I arrived at the Court building at about 5:00 AM, there was already a healthy line forming. As a lawyer and thus a monster, I left them in the public line and became the second person in the separate lawyers' line.

After standing in the dark and the dawn for a few hours, we got let into the building at about 9:00 AM. By that time both lines were very long, but our little group was seated in the courtroom. I and the other lawyers were put in the second row, dead center, while Ethan and Dalton were a couple of rows behind me. As we waited, more people were ushered into the room and it began filling to capacity. I noticed most of the LGBT bar and even some of the justices' families, which was unusual. And then retired Justice Stevens was taken to a seat in the audience, which told me something big would be happening. When Justice Kennedy emerged clutching a large pile of papers, I knew it would be good news.

And so there we sat as Justice Kennedy read out loud his opinion in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, holding that state governments had no role in stopping two people of the same sex from getting married. By the time he was done, there were not a lot of dry eyes from people who had worked so long for this.

I wish that's where the story ended. But it's not,

for a justice who disagrees with the Court's opinion has the privilege of explaining their dissent out loud in the courtroom after the majority opinion is read. I'm told Chief Justice Roberts rarely invokes that privilege for himself, wanting the Court to appear as unified as possible. But he invoked it that day. And so he explained why the state laws should be upheld and as he scanned the room while talking, he looked right in my direction (again, two rows away) as he hit his last sentence: “By all means, celebrate today's decision. But the Constitution had nothing to do with it.”

The hatred I felt, that I feel, for that callous disregard of my rights is indescribable. Tempered only by the fact that he lost. Had he won the day, Ethan and I would have been unable to marry. We would be a subcategory, entitled to fewer rights than everyone else has. We won the day, but so many people on so many issues haven't yet.

Chief Justice Roberts is not an evil man. He is an accomplished jurist, a great family man, and I frankly agree with him more often than I don't. I think his *Obergefell* dissent was a sincere one, not based on prejudice. But he plays his part in a system that has to, now and then, show its fangs.

You may have seen this mentality yourself. Anytime a bureaucrat taps the rules sign rather than help someone. When a politician is selectively outraged depending on whether doing the right thing helps or hurts their team. Even in our own midst, the person who quotes Robert's Rules of Order a little too enthusiastically. “Government is not reason, it is not eloquence. It is force. Like fire, a dangerous servant and a fearful master.”

See 'Chair' on page 12

LP News

Libertarian Party News (ISSN 8755-139X) is the official newspaper of the Libertarian Party of the United States. Opinions and articles published in this newspaper do not necessarily represent official party positions unless so indicated.

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.

NATIONAL CHAIR
Joe Bishop-Henchman

PUBLICATIONS EDITOR
Gideon Oakes

ADVERTISING & PUBLICATION REVIEW COMMITTEE
Whitney Bilyeu, David Sexton, Caryn Ann Harlos, Richard Longstreth, Steven Nekhaila

Send news, articles, essays, or photographs:

LPNews@LP.org
Address changes:
(202) 333-0008

Members@LP.org
1444 Duke St.
Alexandria, VA 22314
Phone: (800) ELECT-US

DONOR APPRECIATION FEB. 24, 2021 – MAY 18, 2021

Beacon of Liberty
William B. Redpath

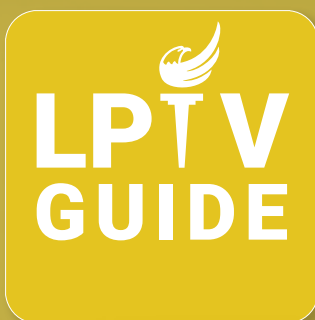
Pioneer of Freedom
Marc B. Franklin

Lifetime Member
Peter B. Anderson
Stephen T. Anderson
John Arnold
Steven P. Bankowitz
Brandon Bickler
Jonathan H. Bobbett
David A. Boscow
Christopher J. Campbell

Michael R. Carmany
Edward E. Clark
Jeremy Cohen
Tyler Danke
Sean Dempsey
Emerson Ellett
Brady A. Elliott
Fred D. Fernandes
Louis F. Fries
Daniel H. Fylstra
Gregory Hoyt
Richard E. James
Donald L. Johnston
Thomas Kastner
Michael G. Lewis
Daniel L. May
Caleb Mayeux

John K. Meadows
William G. Murphey
Treg Ogborn
John D. Palmer
John J. Passananti
Nicholas L. Pesa
James W. Schaeffer
Carl W. Schmidt
Danielle B. Siler
Dale M. Sipma
Alvin Starling
John A. Sturgeon
William P. Voegelé
Connor B. Voskuil
Scott J. Waguespack
William I. Wells
Penelope S. Yeoman

Thank
You!



www.youtube.com/LibertarianParty

8:00 EDT
5:00 PDT

9:00 EDT
6:00 PDT

10:00 EDT
7:00 PDT

11:00 EDT
8:00 PDT

Sunday

The Political Deep Dive
with David Valente

Monday

Candidates Corner with Pat Ford

Tuesday

Wednesday

Libertarios Hispanos
with Martha Bueno & Zac Foster

Thursday

Libertarians At-Large with
Laura Ebke, Valerie Sarwark, Erik Raudsep

Friday

Affiliate Spotlight with Pat Ford

For more information on LPTV, please contact Erik Raudsep at erik.raudsep@lp.org

Meet Laryssa Gaughen

The LP's new Director of Communications shares about her past, and her vision for the future

Laryssa Gaughen is a seasoned political operative with over a decade of experience in messaging, advocacy, and campaign management. Before coming to the LP, Laryssa served as Director of Grassroots Operation for Americans for Prosperity and as an adviser to the AFP Action Super PAC. We sat down with Laryssa to find out a little more about her, as well as her ideas for the future of LP messaging.



Gaughen

Where did you grow up? In which ways has that influenced your worldview?

I grew up outside of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Central PA has always been behind the times in current events, pop culture, fashion, music. I learned that if I wanted to be up on what's happening around the country and around the world, I had to look to national media outlets based in LA, NY, and DC for information.

Who have been the biggest influences in your life?

My parents were definitely my biggest influence. Both of them have a strong work ethic and are intrinsically motivated. They taught me that I can accomplish anything if I want it badly enough and work hard. My mother-in-law is also a positive influence in my life. I joke that she's my political stage mother, but she really is. She got me into politics years and years ago and taught me a lot about managing campaigns and political strategy.

Where did you go to school? What was your major? What degree(s) do you hold?

I hold a Bachelor's Degree in Philosophy from Millersville University. If you ever want to know the meaning of life or if a tree in a forest makes a sound when it falls (and no one is around to hear it), I'm your person. I'm also currently working toward a professional certificate in PR strategy from Cornell University.

How would friends describe you? How would colleagues describe you?

I would hope that my former coworkers would describe me as a servant leader. I never asked my team to do anything I wasn't willing to do.

Can you tell us specifically about how your professional life has intertwined with your passion for liberty and small government?

For the last few years, I've had the privilege of working within the liberty movement. I fought for freedom on the policy front with Americans for Prosperity and now I'm fighting for freedom on all fronts with the LP.

What achievements with AFP brought you the most satisfaction?

Winning elections is definitely up there, but I think I'm most proud of my policy wins. There were many times when I helped to either pass good legislation or block bad legislation. Moving the Overton window on libertarian policy is how you bring about lasting change.

What brought you into the liberty movement? Was there one single "aha" moment, or was it more of a series of realizations?

I think it was a series of realizations.

I strongly believe in our principles and in our vision. I've seen firsthand what refugees and immigrants can bring to the table when given the opportunity. I've seen what people can do when they are given a second chance. I've met people who have been permanently harmed by Democratic and Republican policies.

What are you most proud of in your time prior to being named Director of Communications?

In Pennsylvania, prior to 2019, it was very difficult for people to find meaningful second chance employment. Meaning, if they were incarcerated or had a criminal record, it was nearly impossible for them to find stable, meaningful work. In many cases, these people had been completely rehabilitated with no offenses for as long as 10 years and were still unable to find good jobs.

I joined forces with the ACLU, the ACU, MidPenn Legal Services and REFORM Alliance to lobby for the Clean Slate bill. The bill, once passed and signed into law, hid prior criminal convictions of most victimless crimes. Around the same time, I created and held the very first Welcome Home Expo, a job fair for people who were formerly incarcerated or had criminal records. I even drove a 15-passenger van to our local prison to pick up men and women who would be paroled in the next few weeks so they could find a job prior to release. Hundreds of people attended and most were hired on the spot or had interviews scheduled.

What, if anything, would you do differently in your career (life?) if you had a chance?

If I could do anything differently in my career, I would go back and do better in college. I barely graduated with a 2.3 (after being an honor student in high



Gaughen at her Welcome Home Expo, a job fair she created specifically for individuals with a criminal record. Submitted photo

school). I was fully immersed in the college experience. After I graduated, it was difficult for people to take me seriously. I had to work twice as hard to get ahead. Had I buckled down and studied in college, I could have launched my career 5-7 years earlier.

Would you paint us a picture of your vision for the party's strategic messaging in the coming months and years?

I think it's critical that we take control of the messaging. For years now, our key messages have been handed to us by the two big political parties. "You can't take the Libertarian Party seriously" and "Libertarians can't win." As we've seen though, you can take us seriously. We are a threat to the two-party system. We are serving in elected office across the coun-

try. Taking control of the messaging is vital to our party's success.

Equally important to regaining control of our brand is developing and implementing an aggressive PR plan. We need to make sure that our leaders and spokespeople are getting national, widespread media exposure.

At the same time, we need to dominate the conversation on social media. Are we leading on the issues? Are we a trusted partner for information? If people stop by our website for 30 seconds, are they getting an accurate, high-level picture of who we are and what we do? These are the things that I am working to perfect.

Laryssa Gaughen can be reached by emailing laryssa.gaughen@lphq.org



Gaughen addressing the media at the Clean Slate press conference. Submitted photo

Burt continues to make history in Wyoming

Mario Presutti

Libertarian Frontier Project

Seven months ago, Marshall Burt, a regular guy who works as a rail-roader in Green River, Wyoming, was elected to the Wyoming State House of Representatives and became the highest elected Libertarian official in the country. Since then, Rep. Burt has finished out the 2021 legislative session and returned home to Green River and to his wife, Theresa, and is back to participating in local community events there. During his time up in Cheyenne, however, Rep. Burt advanced liberty at every corner and was at the forefront of fiscal responsibility and social change.

Session kicked off in January for a week through remote Zoom calls. During this first week, Rep Burt was given the honor of being the first freshman legislator to introduce a bill to the floor. This bill, House Joint Resolution 0001, allowed new methods to be approved for use in treating PTSD and traumatic brain injuries. Rep. Burt, who himself served in the Marine Corps and who has seen what PTSD can do firsthand, made an

amazing case for the resolution and was able to convince many lawmakers to vote for the bill. It ended up passing and was the first victory for Rep. Burt in this legislative session.

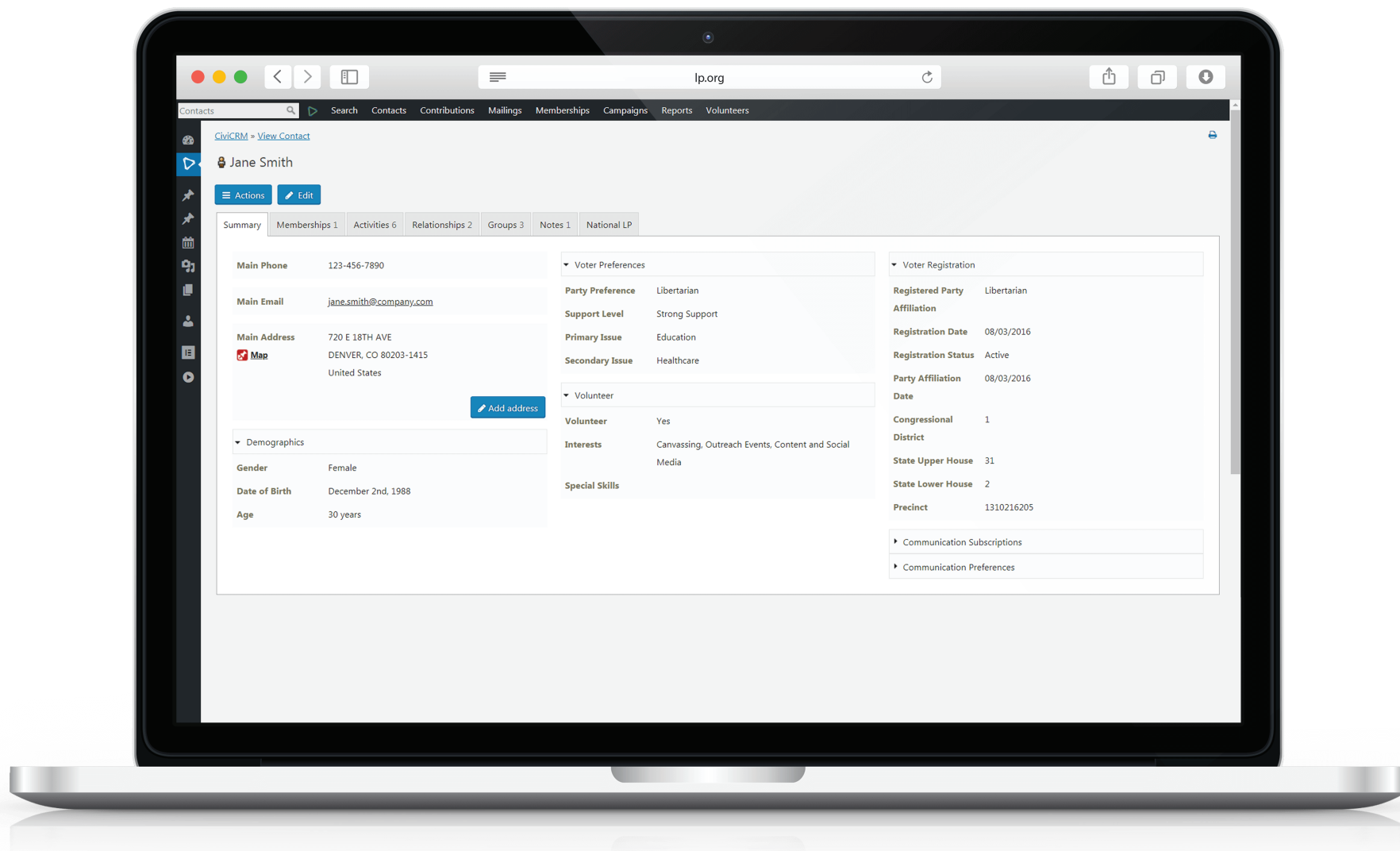
Once session restarted in-person on the first of March, it was full steam ahead for Rep. Burt and his team. We began first working on Rep. Burt's bills he was the prime sponsor on. He had three bills for this year: a repeal of a mandate that 1% of all new state-funded construction costs be put into art, a lottery revision that allowed scratch-off tickets to be sold in addition to the regular lottery tickets, and a ballot order bill that randomized the order of names and parties on the ballot to get rid of the ballot order effect. Out of these, Rep. Burt's ballot order bill made it to committee. It was assigned a hearing date almost immediately that was just one day away. This sent the whole team into a scramble to get fact sheets, witnesses, and information ready to go on it. However, by the hearing, we had assembled an all-star team of three experts in the field on the ballot order effect, all leading researchers at top universities in the country. They testi-

fied on behalf of the bill and answered the barrage of questions the committee had regarding the bill and the ballot order effect. The chairman of the committee even commented how he had studied one of the expert's work in college and he was humbled to have him in his committee hearing. The bill passed committee 6-3 that day. It then passed two more readings in the house before being killed in the third and final reading.

Rep. Burt was also extremely successful in his work co-sponsoring legislation. He was the co-sponsor to 27 pieces of legislation, much of which was either successful, record-breaking, or both. For example, Rep. Burt co-sponsored a piece of legislation that drastically cut down on expungement times for both felonies and misdemeanors. By joining this bill, he made it tripartisan and was able to help convince others of it just with this fact alone. This bill passed the house with his help and made it to the senate. Another bill that Rep. Burt was an influential co-sponsor on was concealed carry. This bill allowed for full constitutional carry, ensuring any citizen of the United States could carry

without a government-issued license. Rep. Burt helped to lobby this bill and get it passed into law. Lastly, another bill Rep. Burt was a key co-sponsor on was medical marijuana. Rep. Burt and the team helped to pack the committee room with influential voices of liberty such as Judge Jim Gray and former governor Lincoln Chafee, as well as the voices of patients who needed this medicine more than ever. These witnesses helped sway members, and the legislation passed committee, marking the first time ever that cannabis legalization had made it to the house floor in Wyoming's history.

Overall, this session was one of many triumphs for liberty. Rep. Burt was able to make real changes for the people of Wyoming, saving them from burdensome taxes and providing for greater freedoms in their daily lives. Seeing the work firsthand that Rep. Burt and his team put into making this session a successful one was humbling, but also just reiterated that the fight for liberty is never over. It is a constant battle that needs fighters who will work tirelessly to elect good candidates to office, and once there, will never give up.



CRM & data project updates

Andy Burns

LPHQ State Affiliate Development

The National party has been providing a CRM service to multiple state parties. While state party adoption continues to increase, the National party has recently merged and updated all of their known contacts with the known contacts from the Jorgensen 2020 campaign and the data provided by state parties.

The State CRM Service is a Customer Relationship Management database of our constituents. This database collects and provides the information that state and local parties need to connect with other Libertarians to grow the party, find volunteers, and assemble campaigns to elect candidates locally.

As county parties spin up in states around the country, leaders and volunteers in our state and local parties now have access to the latest contact information about hundreds of thousands of potential leads across the country who

have some sort of affiliation with the party.

Prior to this recent upgrade, the National party has made information about new signups to be automatically and immediately provided to our state parties, providing the means for faster outreach to new supporters by local leaders.

In addition to these upgrades, work has been ongoing to continue to increase the performance and reliability of the system as we continue to grow. Our database has doubled in the past year while we have maintained and increased the speed.

We have also made a concerted effort to clean up the data. As there were multiple sources of data combined into one single database, we regularly found the same person on multiple lists. This work continues and will be an ongoing task as we continue to add more data to the system.

We have also improved our training processes and will continue to improve our training based on feedback from state leadership and our users.



Welcome to this very special section of the LP News! As we gear up to celebrate 50 years of the Libertarian Party, we are turning back the clock. Please enjoy with us some of David Nolan's writings and selections from the first year of this publication, made possible through the work of the Historical Preservation Committee.

Anarchism vs. Limited Government -- Let's Stop Fighting

Reprinted from *Reason*
September, 1970

In the past two years or so, I have seen an increasing amount of space in various libertarian publications devoted to an escalating "debate" over the relative merits of a limited-government system versus an "anarchist" system. Having patiently sat through this verbal brouhaha for all this time, I would now like to suggest that a cease-fire is in order, for two very compelling reasons.

And, just to get my biases out in the open, I will state that I personally am inclined toward the limited-government side of the controversy—but I will hasten to add that my devotion to this position is far from wholehearted, and that in relation to the points I will herewith attempt to make, it is not important.

Having done this, I will now turn to the substance of my plea for peace. In essence, it rests on two points—one fairly simple, and one rather complex.

To begin with the simpler—and, in my mind, more important—of the two points, I will merely state that as I see it, the whole debate is almost entirely irrelevant to the problems we face in the real world. This, I believe, is evidenced by the fact that almost all of the arguments—pro and con—which have been presented to date have had to fall back on desert-island or ideal-society situations.

Like it or not, let's face it: whatever system we might like to have, the system we actually do have is very, very far removed from the ideal. And, judging from present trends, it is getting worse, not better. Thus, for any foreseeable span of time, the problem we face is not one of deciding between two fairly similar libertarian systems, but rather one of reversing present trends toward an increasingly statist system.

In today's context, even the relatively "mild" Liberty Amendment (proposed Constitutional amendment to eliminate income tax and get government out of business-type ventures) is considered "far out" by 90% of the population, and of the political leaders in this

country. This proposal, which is considered "soft" even by Objectivists—let alone anarchists—has been approved by only seven state legislatures, despite over ten years of efforts by the Amendment's supporters. At best, it might get ratified in another ten years, if everyone who favors reduction or elimination of government (and I mean *everyone*, from Bill Buckley to Karl Hess) were to make it his sole concern for that period of time.

Our battle, today, is with the ADA, the Kennedys and Rockefellers, and others who seek to expand the state—and any time spent arguing amongst ourselves over relatively fine points is simply wasteful and enervating.

To make an analogy, we are on a train that is heading in the wrong direction, at an ever-increasing speed. When there are so many people working in an organized and active manner to increase its speed, it is foolish for us to waste time and energy fighting over how far we want to take it in the opposite direction. First it must be slowed down, stopped, and turned around. After we do this, and have moved an appreciable distance in the right direction, then we can sanely concern ourselves with just how far we want to go.

Enough on this point. My second reason for urging an indefinite suspension of the debate on limited-government versus anarchy is that I believe that there is no black-and-white, clear-cut case to be made in favor of either alternative. Both have their advantages; both have their disadvantages. In many respects, it is simply a case of "you pays your money, and you takes your choice."

I say this for a number of reasons, the primary among them being that no society can be perfect, because people aren't perfect. If everyone were infallible, any political-economic system would work; if everyone were totally evil, society would be hellish regardless of its form. To elaborate briefly, I think it can be reasonably postulated that if all men were

perfectly moral, they would act in a moral manner regardless of what type of system they were ostensibly operating under; even if they had a nominally Communist system, they would all act as if they were in a free society, and the net effect would be the same as if they had formally decided to have a free society. Conversely, if everyone resorted to coercion at the drop of a hat—killing, stealing, etc. every time it suited their whims—no system would be truly satisfactory. The net effect would be gang-rule, whether you called it Naziism or anarcho-capitalism.

Which brings us to the key point regarding the essentially futile nature of "the great debate"—namely, that as long as there are people who will resort to coercion (initiation of force or threat thereof), you cannot have a "society without coercion." At best, you can have a society which *minimizes* coercion.

This being the case, the question at hand then becomes "Which form of social organization—limited government or anarchism—will result in the greatest reduction of coercion?" And the answer, as far as I can determine, is that it is pretty much of a trade-off. Each will reduce coercion to a certain level—that level being primarily dependent on the nature of the people in the society—and the main difference between the two is in the *nature* of that coercion, not in the amount.

First, under either system, you will have problems regarding the establishment of "rules of conduct"—law-making, as it were. In an anarchist society, there are *no* laws, technically speaking—simply commonly accepted rules of conduct, if that much. Each individual is bound only by those rules he wishes to be bound by. If Mr. Smith doesn't like what Mr. Jones is doing, he has no authority to fall back on, other than community sentiment, and, if he can afford one, his hired "protective" agency. Although moral right and wrong still exist, there is no final arbiter regarding the moral rightness or wrongness of any position.

Under a limited government, the

problem is different, but no less thorny. It is fairly easy to pass laws—but no guarantee that those laws will be moral. Depending on the ease with which laws can be passed, and the degree of irrationality and immorality present in society, you *might* get a good bunch of laws, but then again, you might not. Thus, your choice between the two systems is likely to boil down to one of organized, legalized coercion versus unorganized, unpredictable coercion.

Under a limited-government arrangement, the root problem, in fact, is that of keeping it "limited." As many people have noted, constitutions can be amended or circumvented (and a constitution which *couldn't* be amended wouldn't be desirable, anyhow); usually, such amendment takes the form of loosening the restrictions on government power. Thus, in the long run, a constitution is no guarantee against despotism. Another way to try to keep a "limited" government under control is to make provisions for secession by dissatisfied parties. Unfortunately, there is nothing to guarantee that this provision will be adhered to, and even if it is, you run the risk of simply creating a lot of little totalitarian mini-states.

The other big problem with a limited government is—how do you finance its operation? Taxation is simply legalized theft, voluntary contributions probably wouldn't provide the necessary revenues, government enterprises are rarely profitable, even under to today's system where they are given special privileges, and pay-as-you-use-the-services is impractical for things like defense. At best, you will have some coercion—perhaps a combination of pay-as-you-use and death taxes (if you must tax anyone, it is better to tax the dead than the living; inheritance taxes also have the not-wholly-undesirable effect of preventing the accumulation of unearned wealth).

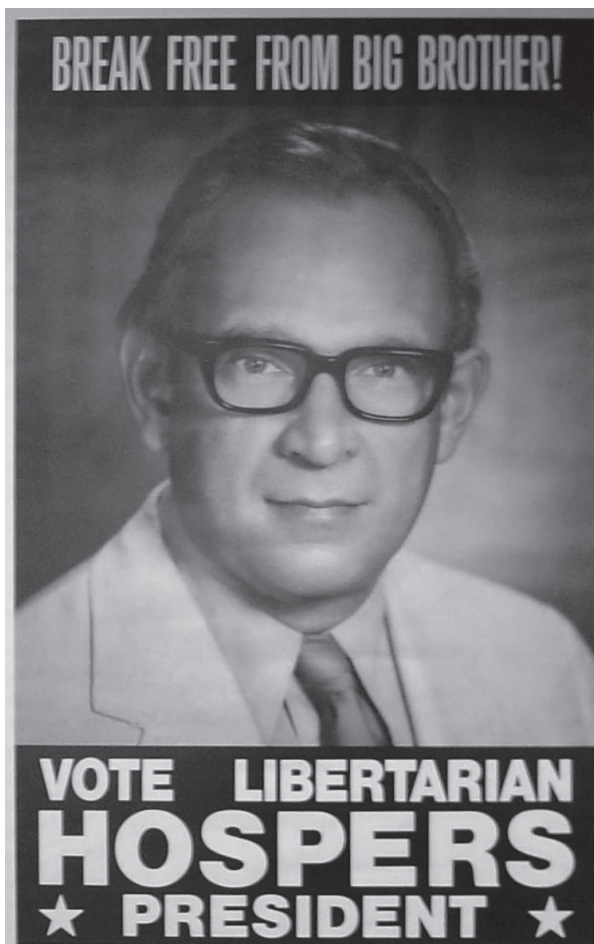
So much for limited government; it obviously has its faults. Anarchy has its drawbacks, too, however. The primary one is enforcing the "laws."

even if you can get everyone to agree what they are. Another problem under an anarchic system is—how do you protect those people unwilling or unable to protect themselves? A man has the right to his own life and property even if he can't or won't defend them, and any system which does not make sure that *his* rights are protected has a gaping flaw in it. Thus, the question comes down to "Are we going to force other folks to pay for this man's protection, or are we going to let anyone who wants to violate his rights get away with it, just because he can't (or won't) defend himself?"

Anarchic societies are at a disadvantage when it comes to defense against outside aggressors, too—a group which can draw on only some of its members for support against an invader is obviously less likely to stave off conquest than one which can draw on everyone's resources. And what do you do about enemy sympathizers in an anarchistic society? If they want to sell guns or give aid to the enemy, what's to stop them? I realize that to draw on the support of unwilling citizens by force is immoral, and so is restraint of trade—but then again, being conquered by a totalitarian enemy results in coercion, too. Sure, you can *hope* that everyone in your society will realize that it is in best interests to support the cause, but if you can't count on it, you may have real problems. So, once again, the choice is between different forms and degrees of coercion, and the best we can hope for is minimization of that coercion.

Enough. I believe I have made my point—namely that both systems leave something to be desired, although either is better than what we have now. Perhaps the best arrangement is a sort of semi-government (corporate society or "covenant" arrangement). But again, this is immaterial. The important thing is to stop fighting over abstract concepts, and spend our energies working for the diminution of the state here and now.

David F. Nolan



3 Ways to get an attractive Libersign Pin



Display your commitment to libertarianism; set yourself apart from the collectivist herd by wearing a solid 14K gold Libersign Pin! You can get one by any of the three following methods ...

- 1) BUY ONE -- for only \$4.95, from Fran-tonia Specialties, Warren, R.I. 02885
- 2) BECOME A LIFETIME MEMBER of the LP, and we'll send you one in appreciation, or
- 3) ACCUMULATE 10 MEMBERSHIP POINTS, and rip off a freebie!

Act today; supply is unlimited! No well-dressed libertarian should be without one of these attractive 3/8" doohickies; may be used as a tie-tac, lapel pin, scarf pin, thumbtack, or secret weapon (supply your own curare)! Such a deal!

Clockwise from top left: John Hospers for POTUS ad; Page 1 of the 1971 official newsletter of the Committee to Form a Libertarian Party, which would later evolve into LP News; pin commemorating the first LP national convention; headline from the first LP News after party formation (Issue 2); Libersign ad from Issue 4.

COMMITTEE TO ORGANIZE
A LIBERTARIAN PARTY
7748 LOWELL BOULEVARD
WESTMINSTER, COLO. 80030

NEWSLETTER #1

NOVEMBER, 1971

As of the date this Newsletter went to press (November 15th), the Committee had 63 members; this represents a doubling of membership in the last month. We expect to continue doubling in size every month for several months, and may do even better during the next few weeks, as a major feature article on the libertarian party concept will be appearing in the INDIVIDUALIST shortly.

Based on the responses received on our preliminary questionnaire, we now have a good idea of who we will be appealing to, and have been able to make certain basic decisions. Our findings, and the conclusions we have drawn from them, are as follows ...

First, this will be a young party; the average age of those who have returned their questionnaires to date is 28, with one-fourth of the respondents being over 30, one-fourth under 20, and half in their 20's.

Our support is overwhelmingly drawn from people who have in the past supported the GOP; over 75% are Republicans or ex-Republicans, with most of the others having no party affiliation at the moment.

Philosophically, the breakdown is: Objectivist 36%, Miseist 23%, Anarchist 17%, Heinleinist 16%, with the remainder scattered.

A substantial majority of the respondents indicated that they felt that \$5 or \$6 was the most reasonable amount for annual membership dues; a number also indicated that there should be a graduated dues system, to permit students to join without undue financial strain. We have therefore adopted the following dues structure: Student Membership \$4, Regular Membership \$6, Sustaining Membership \$12. In addition, we have created two categories of membership to recognize the contributions of major financial supporters: Life Membership (\$100), and Life Sustaining Membership (\$250). In order to encourage prompt enrollment, it was also decided that anyone who pays his or her dues for 1972 on or before December 15th may deduct from his dues the \$2 he paid to join the Organizing Committee.

Regarding preferences for a name for our new party, there was an overwhelming margin in favor of Liberty Party, among the four choices given. However, there were many write-ins for Libertarian Party as well. For this reason, we are asking you to give us your preference between these two names; please use the attached form.

"Libertarian Party" is name choice;

Convention to meet in Denver, June 4-7

In response to the questionnaire sent out with Newsletter #1, the members of the Committee to Organize a Libertarian Party chose the name Libertarian Party, by a vote of 111 to 87 (weighted voting; see page 2). In an even more decisive vote (95 to 59), they selected the first week in June as the best time for the new party to hold its first national convention.



Regarding convention time, there was also a dichotomy; preferences were divided evenly between late March and early June. We therefore ask that you give us additional data on this question (use form). Both times have their strong and weak points; an early convention gives us more time to get on the ballot and promote our platform and candidates, but a late convention will give us more time to prepare, to locate candidates, and to build up membership. Incidentally, over 80% of those responding have indicated that they would be interested in attending!

Seventy-five percent indicated that we should run candidates for President and VP; sixty percent favor running candidates for lower offices. Therefore, if possible, we will do both. Suggestions for candidates were numerous (over 40, altogether), but less than 1/3 were mentioned by more than three people. Those most often suggested were the following; please give us your thoughts on these people, using the form.

MARTIN ANDERSON -- author of The Federal Bulldozer.

REP. PHILIP M. CRANE (R-Ill) -- sponsor of H.R. 1258, a bill to legalize gold ownership; generally a Buckley-style conservative, but much more "hard-line" than Buckley.

SEN. SAM ERVIN (D-N.C.) -- the Senate's leading authority on Constitutional law; an economic conservative, and the leading opponent of wiretapping, no-knock, etc.

A. ERNEST FITZGERALD -- head of the National Taxpayers Union, and the man who exposed massive waste in Pentagon spending.

MILTON FRIEDMAN -- noted Chicago-school economist, opponent of the draft, originator of the "guaranteed income" plan.

REP. H.R. GROSS (R-Iowa) -- the House's number-one opponent of government spending; votes "no" on everything. Strong isolationist.

SEN. MARK HATFIELD (R-Ore) -- a sometime opponent of the draft, and of military spending; bad on domestic spending (pro-freeze), and very religion-oriented.

ROBERT HEINLEIN -- libertarian science-fiction author (Stranger in a Strange Land, Moon is a Harsh Mistress, Glory Road, etc.)

KARL HESS -- once a speechwriter for Barry Goldwater, now a self-styled "new left anarchist."

VIVIEN KELLEMS -- one-woman scourge of the I.R.S., currently engaged in a battle to reduce taxes for single taxpayers. Recently led the successful battle to repeal the Connecticut state income tax.

HENRY MANNE -- Stanford Law professor who has battled Ralph Nader over "consumer protection" laws; has written for Barron's, and The Freeman.

SEN. WILLIAM PROXMIRE (D-Wis) -- strong proponent of economy in government, although his record on non-defense spending is mediocre. Uncompromisingly against the Vietnam war and the draft.

The Libertarian Party Newsletter is published on the 15th of each month, by the national office of the Libertarian Party. Items of interest to political activists in the libertarian movement are welcome. Editor: David F. Nolan.

MEMBERSHIP GOALS
1,000 by Convention Time
10,000 by Election Day

1972 EDITION
 \$4.95 HARDCOVER
 \$2.50 PAPERBACK

KEY INFLUENCES

IN THE

AMERICAN RIGHT

FERDINAND V. SOLARA



COMMITTEE TO ORGANIZE A LIBERTARIAN PARTY

7748 Lowell Blvd., Westminster, Colorado 80030

Description: *Ad Hoc* group organized to establish a libertarian political party

Chairman: David F. Nolan Vice-Chairman: Pipp Boyls

Primary Designation (theirs): Libertarian

Secondary Designations (theirs): Free-Enterprise, Individualist

Classification: Political Position Index: 8½

By the time this book is published, the **Committee to Organize a Libertarian Party** will be defunct; in its place, there will be a fledgeling political party of a few hundred members, operating under the name *Libertarian Party*. Annual dues for membership in the party have already been announced: \$4 for students, \$6 for non-students.

According to the material issued by the **Committee**, the new party will serve as the "political arm of the libertarian movement"—enabling libertarians to take advantage of the opportunities for publicity available to political candidates, and providing a permanent organizational "home" for politically-inclined libertarians.

The new party will hold a national convention in the spring or early summer of 1972, to choose its nominees for the Presidency and Vice-Presidency, and to formulate a platform. The people it is considering as possible nominees range from Reps. Phillip M. Crane (R-Ill.) and H. R. Gross (R-Iowa) to Murray Rothbard and Karl Hess; its temporary platform calls for abolition of the draft, legalization of gold ownership, and immediate withdrawal from Vietnam and the United Nations, among other things.

Clockwise from top left: Page 2 of the 1971 newsletter of the Committee to Form a Libertarian Party, which would later evolve into LP News; Key Influences in the American Right which included the Committee to Organize a Libertarian Party; masthead of the original LP News.

Libertarian Party

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS:
7748 LOWELL BOULEVARD
WESTMINSTER, COLO. 80030
PHONE (303) 429-0400

Newsletter

NUMBER 5
APRIL, 1972

National Conference re-set for June 15 - 18; 150 LP Members expected to attend

Imagine: the leading activists in the libertarian movement all getting together to plan the first concerted large-scale attack on the bankrupt statist ideology that has stultified social and economic progress in America for the past 60 years.

Imagine: the synthesis of the best elements of the "left" and "right," into a single political movement.

Imagine: the first truly new social and political movement in over a century, emerging from its cocoon and bursting forth like a jewel-bright butterfly in a world of grays and browns.

It is going to happen. In Denver, Colorado, on June 15-18, 1972. At the First National Conference of Libertarian Political Activists. And you can be part of it.

There will be those who will say that we cannot change the world -- that surrender, or retreat, or "boycotting" the real world is more rational and honorable than taking action against our oppressors. These are the neutralizers, who mouth freedom-words while promoting servility and copout-ism.

And there will be others who will say that it is too late for political action, urging us towards revolution and sabotage. These people only serve to give the rulers an excuse to clamp down even harder.

Ignore them. We can act -- peacefully, within the political system -- to save our freedom. And we will.

The First National Conference of Libertarian Political Activists will last four days. In those four days, we will draft a platform, draw up strategies, choose candidates, and re-inforce each other's enthusiasm for the biggest undertaking in the history of the libertarian movement -- an undertaking which will enable us to carry our message to more people than we have ever reached before.

If it is humanly possible for you to be there, you should be. The Registration Fee has been set at \$25, with a \$5 discount if you pre-register by May 31. This fee covers the cost of the Conference facilities, plus two large brunch-style breakfasts. Another \$50 will cover your remaining meals and room expenses. Total: \$75, to be part of the most important and exciting libertarian event of the year ... perhaps of the decade.

The Conference will be open to all members of all LP organizations -- local, state and national. So recruit a couple of libertarian

friends, and make it to Denver. A group of four can drive here for less than \$25 each, from anywhere in the United States.

Make it for the whole four days, if possible. If you can't do that, at least be here for the Friday evening Liberation Libation, and the Saturday and Sunday sessions. But make it.

A complete Conference Schedule, information on accommodations, and reservation forms are enclosed. The rest is up to you.

John Zeigler, Inc. to handle LP's advertising campaign

It is our extreme good fortune to announce that John Zeigler, president of John Zeigler, Inc. has offered his agency's services to the Libertarian Party for the coming campaign.

John Zeigler, Inc. specializes in "cause" and environmental advertising, and their ads have appeared in numerous national publications. You may have seen their ads urging repeal of the draft and abortion laws, or others promoting organizations dedicated to protecting the environment.

Mr. Zeigler is a staunch libertarian, and, as such, turned down opportunities to handle the ad campaigns of two of this year's Presidential aspirants. His creative ability, extensive contacts with persons of influence in the national media, and firm dedication to the ideals of individual liberty make him an invaluable ally, and all libertarians owe him a tremendous vote of thanks.

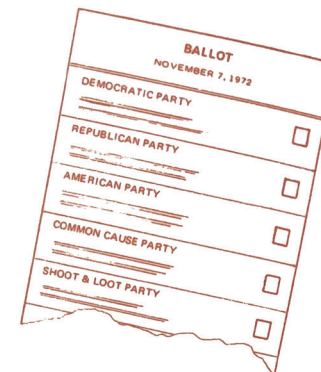
PROGRESS REPORT

As of the time this Newsletter reaches you, LP membership should have reached the 500 mark, counting both state and national members. We now have members in 38 states, plus the District of Columbia, and have State Chairmen in 10 states.

Over 15,000 pieces of LP literature have been distributed, including 3,500 copies of the Temporary Platform. Ads will appear in five publications in the next 30 days; the combined circulation of these five is 14,000, so we should get at least 300 to 400 new members from these ads alone.

The UPI story we mentioned two issues ago went out to papers all over the country on April 2nd; we're still getting phone calls two weeks later. We now expect to have 1,200 members by June.

laugh about it,
shout about it,
when it's time
to choose,
any way you
look at it ...
you lose



Simon and Garfunkel had a good point; the more you "sit upon your sofa on a Sunday afternoon, listening to the candidates debate," the grimmer it looks. No matter which way you slice it, the choice between the major-party candidates this year isn't going to offer much for libertarians; they're all going to be collectivists of one sort or another.

There is an alternative, though. We can run candidates of our own ... and that's exactly what quite a few libertarians have decided we ought to do.

If you'd like to help -- in choosing and promoting those candidates, and in formulating the platform they'll run on -- we'd like to hear from you.

Who are we? We're a new and rapidly-growing libertarian political party (several hundred members to date). To learn more about our plans -- and to become part of them -- send us \$1.00 (no freebies). We'll send you a copy of our temporary platform, our latest newsletter, and a membership application. Do it today; November is getting closer every minute.

Libertarian Party

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS:
7748 LOWELL BOULEVARD
WESTMINSTER, COLO. 80030
PHONE (303) 429-0400



ATTEND THE FIRST NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF LIBERTARIAN POLITICAL
ACTIVISTS, JUNE 4-7, DENVER, COLORADO. WRITE FOR DETAILS

BREAK
FREE!

Clockwise from top left: Front page of LP News Issue 5; one of the first national ads for the Libertarian Party; Hospers-Nathan 1972 ad.

We hope you enjoyed this look back at the first few issues of LP News as much as we did. All images were taken from LPedia.com, and we extend a massive shout out to the Historical Preservation Committee. We look forward to serving the membership for the next 50 years. See you at the 50th anniversary celebration!

— LP Communications Department

VOTE LIBERTARIAN
HOSPERS · NATHAN
PRESIDENT VICE PRES.

Affiliate in a Box winner selected

Valerie Sarwark
LNC At-Large Representative
valerie.sarwark@lp.org

The Affiliate Support Committee for the 2020-2022 LNC term has hit the ground running! After chatting with state chairs, state executive directors and other affiliate leaders, we decided to work on an important project: "Affiliate in a Box".

What exactly is an "Affiliate in a Box"? Simply put, it is the collection of the most effective tools, resources, best practices and guidance that have shown proven results and success when put to use. Gathering the tools in one practical manner and streamlining the ease of access is one of the first steps in helping a new (and existing!) affiliate reach its greatest potential of success.

The Affiliate Support Committee began working on this contest in January to outsource and collaborate with state, county and local-level affiliates to curate the best, most impactful and cost-effective toolbox that would work for every affiliate in the Libertarian Party. We secured a \$1000 cash prize from generous donations and launched the nationwide

contest on February 1. The rules were simple: give us the best box (effective, innovative and practical) for \$250 or less. When the contest ended on April 15, we received seven amazing entries. The committee spent a week weighing the value of each of the submissions, which was not an easy task.

Morgan County, Indiana (www.morganlpin.org), scored the highest of the seven not only due to the practicality of the items but also the priceless addition of a detailed outline that lays out best practices for affiliates. Morgan County was able to capitalize on their own internal "outreach kit" and expand that into the national level by tapping into items available in our own LP store!

Morgan County chair, Danny Lundy, who helped affiliate the county in 2016 and has served as chair since 2019, spearheaded the winning submission. Danny is excited to see how this contest will benefit the up-and-coming and newly formed affiliates in Indiana, and of course, nationally.

We were blown away by the entries we received from the other affiliates, as well. The committee is now working on curating the final box by using the "best of the best". The next step in this big project will



be Affiliate in a Box scholarships for the newest and most-deserving affiliates throughout the country.

The Affiliate Support Committee would like to thank everyone who entered the contest, helped promote the contest and, of course, those that helped fund the contest. If you'd like to support this mission, we'd love for you to sponsor a box for one of our new affiliates for \$250. Please consider a donation in any size at LP.news/512AS.

OBITUARY



Carolyn Smith Treynor Kingwood, Texas

Carolyn Treynor, 80, died on February 20, 2021. She is survived by her husband, George Samuel Treynor; children, James Delta Smith, Julie Holleman, and Lori Allen Hochman (Mike); three grandchildren, Samuel Allen, Brandon Allen, and Spencer Holleman; and three great-grandchildren, Cambria Schindler, Brady Campbell, and Everett Campbell.

She was born in Norfolk, Virginia on April 21, 1940 to Elza Cecil Self and Jessie Thelma Howard Self. She married James Delta Smith III in 1958 and had three children.

In 1973 she married George Samuel Treynor, moving with him to Chicago, Illinois, where she supported the family while he attended graduate school. She began a career in real estate management while working for the Institute of Real Estate Management. She moved from there to a position as Director of Education for the National Association of Realtors.

In 1979 she accepted an offer from the California Association of Realtors to be their Vice President of Education and the family moved to Southern California, where she and Sam enjoyed living in Manhat-

tan Beach. A downturn in the real estate market led her to a second career in contracts management with Hughes Aircraft Company.

When Sam was offered the opportunity to buy Bayou City Ford Truck Sales in Houston in 1992 she retired and they moved to Kingwood, Texas, where they have lived for the last 29 years. She was a talented singer, well known in Kingwood for her church solos, her participation in the Kingwood Chorale, and her service on the Board of Directors of the Kingwood Musical Arts Society (now the Lake Houston Musical Arts Society).

She suffered a stroke in 2011 which severely curtailed her lifestyle, but she took great joy in the births of her great-grandchildren and the opportunity to get to know them.

A memorial service was held March 20, 2021, at Kingwood United Methodist Church, and may be viewed at LP.news/512CT. In remembrance of Carolyn, please consider donations to any of the organizations below. The GoFundMe Account is for Carolyn's niece, Kelly, who has been undergoing cancer treatment.

<https://gofund.me/9babc864>

<http://www.missionne.org/donate>

<https://haaministries.org/donate>

Help needed in ballot access priority states

Matthew Bughman
LNC Region 6 Alternate
matthew.bughman@lp.org

Libertarians across the country celebrated achieving 50 state ballot access in 2020 and they had every right to do so. Petitioning and successfully running a ballot access campaign amid a nationwide shutdown was a huge accomplishment. Hundreds of activists worked day and night to ensure voters would see our candidates on the ballot in November. Our success was no doubt a testament to the resolve of our activists and the support of our donors.

While it seems the pandemic is mostly behind us, 2021 is a new year with a new set of challenges. This year it will take thousands of activist hours and over \$200,000.00 just to meet the states' exclusionary petitioning requirements, all of which we'll have to exceed. On top of that, we know we will have to file suit against state governments that impose additional ballot access restrictions. Knowing this, the ballot access committee is developing and refining a strategy to get us through 2022. Here is a quick update on what's happening around the country:

Iowa: In February of this year, Iowa's state legislature rammed through a controversial election reform bill that made it harder for third-party candidates to get on the ballot. SF413 raised the number of signatures required for third-party presidential candidates from 1,500 to 3,500 and quadrupled the number of signatures required for third-party U.S. House candidates (from 375 to 1,500). However, soon after the measure passed and the bill was signed into law, news

outlets started to cite the 1969 Moore v. Ogilvie, a case wherein the Supreme Court ruled Iowa's ballot access laws to be discriminatory and arbitrary. With this existing case law on their side, the Libertarian Party has filed suit against the State of Iowa.

Minnesota: The Libertarian Party of Minnesota filed suit against Minnesota Secretary of State Steve Simon. LPMN argued in court documents that the state's restrictive ballot access laws encroached on Minnesotans' First and Fourteenth Amendment rights. A lower court ruled in favor of the state, but LPMN filed an appeal with the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals. A hearing is scheduled for June 16, 2021.

Illinois: With 25,000 signatures required to get a statewide candidate on the ballot, Illinois is a state that will need a lot of help. According to the ballot access statute, the petitioning period for next year's election opens in March of 2022 and runs only until June. That's only 90 days to obtain 25,000 signatures.

Arkansas and Alabama: Our primary focus is on these two states and for good reason: they have some of the most restrictive ballot access requirements in the country. Alabama requires an extraordinary 50,000 signatures to get a statewide candidate on the ballot. Arkansas requires 10,000 signatures to get a third-party candidate on the ballot, but the time in which those signatures have to be collected is much shorter. In Arkansas, once the total number of signatures have been collected and certified, the candidate must earn 3% of the vote in the general election for the party to maintain that ballot access. For Alabama, the threshold is much higher. Alabama will only recognize a political party if one of their state-

wide candidates pulls more than 20% of the vote. As of right now, the state only recognizes the Democratic and Republican parties.

As you can see, we have quite the road ahead of us. In order to be successful, we need your help. First and foremost, we are in urgent need of three things to regain ballot access in Arkansas.

We need Libertarian activists to volunteer to deploy to Arkansas to obtain petition signatures.

We need Libertarians to help with housing volunteers. Do you live in Arkansas and have an extra room in your house? Do you have a vacant rental property? How about a couple hundred dollars you could spend on a hotel room for volunteers?

We need Libertarians to help with deployment costs. Would you be willing to sponsor a petitioner's trip to Arkansas for a week for \$3,000?

If you are interested in volunteering as a petitioner, or if you have space to temporarily house a petitioner, please contact our national activism coordinator, Michelle MacCutcheon at michelle@lphq.org

If you are interested in donating toward travel and lodging expenses for petitioners, or if you can help with legal expenses in Minnesota or Iowa, please go to lp.org/ballotaccess to make your donation.

Any help you can provide gets us one step closer to advancing our candidates and our message of liberty. Please consider helping us achieve ballot access today.

Matthew Bughman has served as chair of the ballot access committee since April of 2021. He is also the former state chair of the Libertarian Party of Wisconsin.

Chair (continued from page 2)

I have a figurine in my office of the White Witch from the *Narnia* series by C.S. Lewis. It's an out-of-place item and I often get asked about why I have it. She's there to remind me that evil is rarely horns and fire. It's sexy. It's seductive. It's cheerful slogans, rallies of happy people, good people not rocking the boat. It's getting you so outraged about "the other side" that they can use that energy for nefarious ends.

Despite my hatred for Chief Justice Roberts that day, I still file legal briefs with him. I say "Mr. Chief Justice." I carry on, working and living my life. I use my anger and my outrage for constructive purposes.

You may at times be angry and outraged. I live in DC and know full well how hard the Democrats and Republicans work to stoke that in you, because while you're fighting on Twitter, they're safe. They win when we have a lack of empathy towards each other.

Most of the country is repulsed by keeping everyone outraged by misinformation, but that's fine for them because the name of the game is to gin up the base to get them to vote against the other side.

We must be different. We give people something to vote *for*. We want to take away the power of one person to decide whether I can marry, whether students can get an education, whether someone can build a new home, whether a small business lives or dies.

To win, we must be persuasive. If we are to have 10,000 elected Libertarians — and I believe we can — we must talk to people on the issues they care about. We must work harder and face odds many times greater than our opponents. We must respect each other. And we must have fun. See you August 27-28 in Colorado, www.LP.org/50.

Upcoming State Conventions

Jun. 5
Jun. 18-20
Sep. 17-18
Nov. 13

Delaware
No. Carolina
Montana
So. Carolina

List was current as of press time, but is subject to change/errors. Please check with your state affiliate's leadership directly to verify.



Wahrhaftig: Where there's smoke there's racism

Stephen Wahrhaftig

LP Chester Co., Pennsylvania, Chair

A fundamental tenet of freedom is the ability of an individual to take full responsibility for their own life decisions. Whether good decisions or poor ones, they are made by the individual. Libertarians believe any adult has the right to follow their own path, providing that those decisions harm no one else. That includes where you travel, how you shop, what you ingest—and, yes, even what you smoke.

Plans to begin banning the sale of some tobacco products have us thinking about another recent example of government overreach under the guise of protecting us from ourselves. In Chester County, Pa., some municipalities have determined that certain plastic materials may not be legally used within their borders. Setting aside the arguments that this view may be unscientific, pretends to solve problems that do not exist, or may even be environmentally harmful, the Libertarian view is that business owners and individuals can make their own determination about whether to use a plastic straw or grocery bag. We would argue that the mere fact that political action was even necessary proves that most constituents do not support these bans. With enough community support for discontinuation

of the use of these plastics, a law forcing people to bring their own bags would not be needed.

Prohibiting plastic straws may be a stupid idea, and it is certainly an inconvenience, but a much more insidious proposal is currently being considered on a national level, again under the guise of protecting us from ourselves. This proposal concerns the banning of some tobacco products—a curious play after four decades of CDC-reported declines in cigarette use across the country.

It gets worse, however. The FDA does not plan to prohibit cigarettes or cigars as a whole; rather, it plans to make it illegal to sell just one flavor: menthol. Why single this minty version of the cigarette? Incredibly, the FDA has a racial rationalization. As it happens, the FDA believes people of color may prefer a mint flavor when they choose to smoke. The statement by acting Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Janet Woodcock is unbelievable: “FDA will help significantly reduce youth initiation, increase the chances of smoking cessation among current smokers and address health disparities experienced by communities of color, low-income populations and LGBTQ+ individuals, all of whom are far more likely to use these tobacco products.”

In other words, the government must protect

minority populations because they are incapable of making good life decisions. This idea is abhorrent to Libertarians. The Libertarian Party has supported the rights of minority individuals for longer, and more consistently, than any other political party. The idea that people of color require government intervention to make decisions for them is an outrageously racist interference in personal rights.

Government prohibitions constantly fail to achieve their intended result, but these laws happen to be excellent at creating something else: criminals. Prohibition was responsible for the rise of organized crime, and the war on drugs continues to make criminals out of thousands of users, leading to the incarceration of an outsized number of people of color.

The truth is, with this new ban, we can look forward to the unintended but predictable consequences of bad government, this time in the form of minty black-market cigarettes and—if the FDA's stereotypes hold true—an increase in racial minorities in prison populations.

The views and opinions expressed by opinion authors are theirs and do not necessarily reflect the official policy, position, or platform of the Libertarian Party or the Libertarian National Committee.

Updates from our local affiliates

ARIZONA

Emily Goldberg
Arizona LP Chair

Arizona has chartered three new county parties this spring and launched a development plan, including a fundraising plan, that will allow us to charter all remaining unchartered counties within a year.

Cochise County elected a youth activist instrumental in writing the state's emancipated minor legislation as its inaugural Chair; we are very proud to see the freedom activists in generation Z are ours! AZLP launched a Twitter channel that has gotten more than 1000 new subscribers in the first eight weeks. Communications director and AZLP 1st Vice-Chair Lauren Marie Snyder has crafted excellent messaging that goes viral.

Maricopa County Chair Brandon Slayton was appointed by former Secretary of State Ken Bennett to serve as Bennett's special assistant and liaison during the widely publicized 2020 election audit underway at the state fairgrounds. The audit runs 13 hours each day, seven days per week, and will continue for at least two more months. MCLP had previously sued the Maricopa Board of Supervisors for failing to invite representatives of the LP to observe the election "mini audit" the BOS put on in February. MCLP filed an amicus brief on behalf of the current state audit when the Democratic Party sought to shut it down. Audit Elections, USA (John Brakey) has been overwhelmingly supportive of the LP's election transparency position and filed its own amicus brief in support of ours.

Pima County chair Dru Heaton has tirelessly organized concerned parents and taxpayers to protest school board decisions to perpetuate unnecessary COVID-related closures and "mitigation" measures impeding student learning.

AZLP's First Nations Caucus (Chaired by Navajo County Chair Alex Flores) is developing LP working groups in tribal communities to support members who seek home rule in healthcare, education, and land use, and to end Title 25 government entrepreneurial suppression.

Submit affiliate news
to lpnews@lp.org.

GEORGIA

Ryan Graham
LP Georgia Chair

Coalition for Good Governance (CGG) today filed a lawsuit against Georgia's Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger and the State Election Board to stop enforcement of several of the most dangerous provisions of Senate Bill 202, Georgia's recently enacted election legislation. The lawsuit also asks the U.S. District Court in Atlanta to declare the challenged provisions unconstitutional. The lawsuit seeks to ensure that Georgia's elections are conducted under the active control of its citizens and their local governments in a completely transparent and accountable manner.

SB202, enacted on March 25, attacks the most fundamental American electoral values embedded in our society for almost 250 years, guiding the conduct of our country's elections. The Georgia State Election Board was granted the power to rapidly remove entire boards of elections and boards of registration of counties with little notice or meaningful chance to defend themselves against unfair removal, while the State Board appoints one partisan official to have the full authority over all election activities.

"The 'Takeover Provisions' are so egregious and dangerous to every concept of free and fair elections that they must be stricken from the law before they undermine Georgia's elections," said Marilyn Marks, CGG's Executive Director. "The Takeover Provisions, together with the unconscionable new statutes that criminalize long-standing practices of citizen and press oversight of elections, compelled us to organize this lawsuit. The voter intimidation and attacks on Freedom of the Press and Freedom of Speech embodied in SB202 are abhorrent to modern democratic societies. We are resolute as we work together with 13 co-plaintiffs in this fight to protect voters from the assault on democracy embodied in SB202. The lawsuit defends three pillars of liberty.

These pillars of liberty are explained in the introduction of the complaint:

Liberty requires at least three essential things—an unfettered right to vote, freedom of speech, and the meaningful separation of powers. This lawsuit is necessary to preserve individual constitutional rights, and constitutional government, against the attacks that SB202 makes on these three pillars of liberty."

The lawsuit challenges the following provisions of SB202:

Takeover Provision — permits the State Election Board to remove entire boards of elections and registration, appointed by county political parties, local officials and Superior Courts, and substitute the State Board's appointee essentially permanently. (Separation of Powers)

Elector Observation Felony — makes it a felony to "intentionally observe" other citizens' votes displayed on the large touchscreen voting machines in the polling place. The law is ripe for the arbitrary and capricious abuse of false allegations and enforcement, for a "crime" that is hard to avoid, because of the flawed design of the machines. (See photos in the complaint.) (Right to Vote)

Gag Rule — criminalizes the public's, party-appointed monitors' and the press's reporting of absentee mail ballot processing or tabulation problems or progress. (Freedom of Speech)

Estimating Ban — prohibits the press or monitors from estimating the absentee tallies they are monitoring as ballots are processed. (Freedom of Speech)

Photography Ban — criminalizes photography of voted ballots or of the touchscreen while in use by a voter, despite the century-long history of routine press photography and videography of such election activities. (Freedom of Speech)

Relaxed Voter ID Rule — degrades mail ballot security by removing the "gold standard" verifiable signature requirement, substituting easily stolen ID numbers and dates of birth, inviting widespread identity theft and mail ballot fraud. (Right to Vote)

Impractical Application Deadline — narrowing the window for absentee ballot applications so restrictively that absentee voting is impossible in some runoff elections, and for voters with unforeseen hardship conditions, preventing their presence at the polls. (Right to Vote)

"The right to vote cannot be protected without the separation of powers and free speech. These principles know no party lines but are basic to our democracy," said Bruce P. Brown, lead attorney for the plaintiffs. "The Plaintiffs are asking the Court to strike down the Georgia General Assembly's misguided efforts to concentrate the power over the elections into a handful of party bosses and to pull the people's elections behind closed doors." Mr. Brown has represented Coalition for Good Governance in several election integrity cases, including the ongoing *Curling v. Raffensperger* challenge to the Georgia BMD touchscreen voting system.

"The provisions allowing for takeover of local government elections boards and the requirements for birthdates and driver's license numbers for certain absentee ballots are thinly veiled political tools threat-

ening Georgians' constitutional rights. The potential for the political takeover of these boards without real due process of law and the potential for identity theft are grave burdens on the right to vote which must be stopped," stated former State Senator and State Representative Greg Hecht, and former Chair of the Elections Subcommittee in the Georgia House. He is also a co-counsel in the case.

Shea Roberts, co-counsel for the plaintiffs, and House District 52 Representative (Fulton County) said, "Being new to the legislature, I was shocked by the last-minute merging of bad bills that ultimately grew into the 98 page Senate Bill 202. There are so many deeply damaging provisions in the bill, but when the sponsors added county takeover provisions, that's when I became very afraid for Georgia voters," said Rep. Roberts. "As an attorney, I knew it would require powerful litigation to address this assault on the fundamental principles of our democracy. I am proud to represent the plaintiffs in defending democracy's core values."

Five plaintiffs serve on their home counties' boards of elections and seek to represent the interests of their peers across the state in ensuring that decision-makers in elections continue to operate in the sunshine with public scrutiny, a core principle that will be abandoned in a county board takeover. The board member plaintiffs are Antwan Lang (Chatham County), Judy McNichols (Jackson County), Patricia Pullar (Clayton County), Adam Shirley (Athens-Clarke County), and Ernestine Thomas-Clarke (Coffee County).

Georgia Advancing Progress Political Action Committee ("GAPPAC"), a non-profit organization representing the interests of Asian-American and Pacific Islander voters, and the Jackson County Democratic Committee join CGG as membership organizations advancing this lawsuit on behalf of its members.

Individual Georgia voter plaintiffs joining the lawsuit include Jeanne Dufort (Morgan County), Ryan Graham (Fulton County), Rhonda Martin (Fulton County), Aileen Nakamura (Fulton County), and Elizabeth Throop (DeKalb County). Broadcaster and journalist, Brad Friedman joins as a plaintiff to challenge SB202's infringements on Freedom of the Press.

Ryan Graham, a plaintiff and the Chair of the Libertarian Party of Georgia said, "The State Election Board and the partisan Secretary of State appear to want to control election outcomes, and they believe the best way to do that is to expand top-down election authority at the expense of transparency and the sovereignty of the people. We will not allow SB202 to be used to bully local officials, nor to exclude election observers. If 2020's election has proven anything to Georgians, it should be that we need more transparency, more accountability, more visibility to the people. Not more power for career partisans and back-room deals."

CGG's purpose is to preserve and advance the

constitutional liberties and individual civil rights of United States citizens, with an emphasis on preserving and protecting the civil rights of its members that are exercised through their participation in public elections and oversight of government activities.

KANSAS

Allison Ross

LP Kansas Communications Director

The Libertarian Party of Kansas has seen explosive growth in this quarter of 2021! There are now over 20,000 registered Libertarians in Kansas, many of whom have been inspired to step into roles within the state party. We welcomed new leadership onboard at our State Convention May 1st, and now incorporate the efforts of an Operations Team to implement the LPKS' goals. We offer live events around the state to socialize among ourselves as well as draw in new faces. Within the leadership structure, we propose platform amendments, streamline our political endeavors, and continue to update the workings of the organization so we can more efficiently live out our freedom in both rural and metro areas. The LPKS intends to propel this momentum forward in coming months, and is excited to discover the extent to which we can grow!

MARYLAND

Eric Blitz

LP Maryland Chair

On May 1, Libertarian James Cook was elected to the City Council of Rock Hall, Maryland. James received the most votes of any of the six candidates vying for two positions, in a non-partisan race.

James was helped by many volunteers of the LPMD, who knocked on doors, put up signs, did sign waves and helped distribute literature.

NEW MEXICO

Elizabeth Hanes

LP New Mexico 2nd Vice-Chair

Longtime party activist Ranota Banks has been hired as the first-ever paid staff person for the Libertarian Party of New Mexico. Banks will fill the role of Interim Field Director, pending a national search for a candidate.

"I'm honored to be selected to lead the LPNM's field operations as the first-ever paid staff person for the party," Banks said. "I intend to bring my passion for Libertarianism to all New Mexicans to mobilize more support for our rapidly growing party."

Banks primarily will lead efforts to organize county affiliate operations throughout the state. In her role as field director, she will teach Libertarians how to set up a party affiliate in their county and grow their membership base.

Five Libertarians currently hold elected positions in New Mexico, and in 2020 the party fielded a record 24 candidates for statewide and federal office. Currently, Libertarian Chris Manning is campaigning for the U.S. House of Representatives seat vacated by Deb Haaland.

"New Mexicans have demonstrated their support for Libertarian principles not only by registering and voting Libertarian but through their generous financial support of the party," said LPNM Chair Chris Luchini. "Getting into a position to hire a field director solidifies our standing in New Mexico politics, and the public can expect to see many more Libertarians on the ballot and, ultimately, in the Roundhouse in the coming years."

Luchini says the search for a permanent field director is ongoing.

In other news, Libertarian Chris Manning's strong performance in a May 4 special election debate, hosted by KOB 4, cemented his standing as a true contender in the race to replace U.S. Representative Deb Haaland.

Manning skillfully addressed all of the questions asked by the debate moderators, offering fresh perspectives to voters on issues ranging from the border wall to clean energy. By the end of the hour, it was clear Manning had differentiated himself as a well-informed candidate who eschews special interest donations and has a solid plan to improve New Mexico's economy, crime rate, education, and healthcare.

"I really believe New Mexicans are tired of the partisan bickering in Congress that causes our citizens to suffer due to lawmaking gridlock," Manning said. "As a Libertarian, I pledge to work with both Democrats and Republicans to break the gridlock and bring practical solutions to New Mexico's most pressing problems to move our state forward."

Clearly, New Mexico voters were impressed with Manning's performance, as campaign donations surged in the hours following the debate.

"The fact that voters are choosing to support Mr. Manning with their dollars shows how much they want real reform in Congress. They know he can bring that to them," said LPNM party Chair Chris Luchini.

For more information on Chris Manning, voters can visit <https://manning4nm.com>.

To watch the KOB4 debate in full, visit LPnews/512NM.

LP CONTACTS

HEADQUARTERS

1444 Duke St.
Alexandria, VA 22314
Phone: (202) 333-0008
Fax: (202) 333-0072

NATIONAL CHAIR

Joe Bishop-Henchman

STAFF

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Tyler Harris

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

Laryssa Gaughen

DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Tara DeSisto

OPERATIONS DIRECTOR

Robert Kraus

PUBLICATIONS EDITOR

Gideon Oakes

CAMPAIGNS ADVISOR

Apollo Pazell

CANDIDATE RECRUITMENT

Cara Schulz

DEVELOPMENT

Bekah Congdon

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Matthew Thexton

MEMBERSHIP

Michelle MacCutcheon

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Nick Dunbar

STATE AFFILIATE DEVELOPMENT

Andy Burns

STATE AFFILIATE PROJECTS

David Aitken

STEWARDSHIP

Christopher Clemence

LIBERTARIAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE:

LP.org/lnc-leadership



LPTexas heads to state capitol for lobby day

Christopher Clemence

LPHQ Stewardship Associate

A crew of LPTexas officers and activists descended upon the Texas Legislature in April and May to speak the voice of Liberty to elected officials mulling issues including cannabis deregulation, the right to bear firearms, and ballot access.

LPTexas Political Action Director Eric Guerra led the team into the Texas State Capitol as they navigated the sunset red granite corridors between offices and committee hearing rooms. The day began with skirmishers arriving early to be heard on HB 1812, which would impose a filing fee for all third-party candidates seeking elected office, not just those who win the party's nomination.

The chair of the Elections Committee Briscoe Cain (R-Deer Park) recessed the committee hearing for the morning prior to addressing the odious bill, moving the action to the floor of the House of Representatives for several subsequent hours. LPTexas's volunteer staff and activists suffered through an afternoon of gorge-rising objections to HB 1927, a bill that would roll back infringements on firearms possession by enacting permitless constitutional carry. Objections over the prospect

of firearms-wielding panderers at local chicken sandwich establishments notwithstanding, the bill cleared the House and the action in the chambers ended.

After a rapid supper at a nearby watering hole, LPTexas activists resumed the charge against ballot access restrictions in Texas. Chaired by an attorney who filed a last-minute suit in August to keep Libertarians off the ballot for the 2020 general election, the committee finally reached the bill late in the evening. Speaking out against the bill was Guerra, LPTexas's Coalition Coordinator Rene Perez, Treasurer Kate Prather, executive board member Joe Burnes, and 2020 candidate for Harris County Treasurer Billy Pierce. Vote Texas Gold's Judith Ruder sought to be recognized for testimony but was disallowed from speaking due to a purported technical glitch. LPTexas's speakers eloquently defended the right of ballot access to friend and foe alike, reminding the legislators that our conventions are wholly self-funded, and that such a scheme will continue to amount to Libertarians' filing fees going to fund the duopoly's expensive primary elections.

The Texas Legislature's session will continue through the month of May, and Texas Libertarians have

been on the Capitol grounds nearly every day of the biennial event. Two weeks after LPTexas's lobby day Ruder spoke to legislators on behalf of the constitutional carry bill above, holding the line as the party's sole witness at the special mid-week committee hearing.

In May, cannabis activist and attorney Elizabeth Miller offered compelling testimony in favor of HB 2593, a bill to reduce penalties for THC possession. Miller painted a picture of her struggle with hypermobile Ehlers-Danlos syndrome, which is a rare genetic connective tissue disorder that causes life-altering pain and joint injuries. Because her system can only tolerate THC extract and not smoking or vaping of the flower itself, current Texas laws make it a felony to possess it in a manner that offers her relief. No decision on the bill had been made at the time of this writing, but Miller's testimony was very well received by the listening legislators.

LPTexas's lobbying efforts are at an all-time high during the 87th Legislative Session, highlighted by the lobbying event in April. Thanks to intrepid activists and faithful donors, the Lone Star affiliate is making the biggest impact yet toward the ultimate goal of Liberty in Texas in our lifetime.

Thinking about running for office?

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.