

LIBERTY PLEDGE

NEWSLETTER

Libertarian National Committee, Inc. ♦ 2600 Virginia Ave, NW, Suite 200 ♦ Washington, DC 20037 ♦ Phone: (202) 333-0008 ♦ Fax: (202) 333-0072
www.LP.org June 2013

Libertarianism is in vogue. Again.

By Chris Cillizza

From the *Washington Post*

Published on June 9, 2013

Looking for the hot new(ish) thing in American politics? Try libertarianism.

Yes, that long-dismissed political philosophy that eschews government intervention in favor of individual liberty is again coming into vogue, particularly among young voters.

Two issues highlight the growing libertarian strain in the country.

The first is legalizing marijuana. For the first time in more than four decades of polling on the subject, a Pew Research Center survey found in April that a majority of Americans (52 percent) favored legalizing it. Among millennials — those born after 1980 — the numbers were significantly higher, with 65 percent supporting legalization.

The second is same-sex marriage. In a March Washington Post-ABC News poll, 58 percent of all respondents said that gay marriage should be legal, including a whopping 81 percent of those ages 18 to 29.

Polls aside, an analysis of actual votes in the 2012 presidential election also suggests that libertarianism is on the rise. Gary Johnson, the **Libertarian Party's** 2012 presidential nominee and the former Republican governor of New Mexico, received nearly 1.3 million votes on Election Day — the first time the party's

nominee had ever taken more than a million votes. (Johnson won 0.99 percent of the overall votes cast, the all-time second highest for a Libertarian candidate, behind Ed Clark in 1980, who took 1.06 percent.)

More telling, however, was then-Rep. Ron Paul's showing in the 2012 Republican presidential primary. Paul, who was the Libertarian Party's 1988 presidential nominee and continued to espouse the party principles in 2008 and 2012 despite running as a Republican, was the fourth-highest vote-getter in last year's primary process, winning more than 2 million votes in a campaign fueled by the active support of young voters. Perhaps as important, the Texas congressman raised \$41 million for his campaign, the vast majority of that total coming from online donations.

Now, consider all of those data points in light of the still-breaking news of the widespread collection of phone records and Internet data by the National Security Agency, a series of programs that President Obama and his top advisers have described as a necessity to combat terrorism. Combine the growing libertarian strain in the country with the controversy over the government's encroachment into all aspects of our lives and you begin to see the potency of the message heading into 2016.

Focused campaigns win elections, grow party

By Tracy X. Miguel

From *Naples Daily News*

Published on May 25, 2013

Roger Stone, a former Republican turned Libertarian, spoke during the **Libertarian Party of Florida's** annual conference at the Hilton Naples. The three-day convention which concludes Sunday featured about a half-dozen speakers. Organizers expected more than 250 attendees over the weekend.

For more than an hour, Stone gave tips on effective fundraising
continued on page 3

"People are disappointed with the two major parties and are looking for another option, an option that protects the Constitution and protects individual rights. We find both Republicans and Democrats wanting to come aboard because the message of liberty is a unifying message."
— Jared Grifoni, Collier County, FL, LP Chair

Libertarian Party in the News

Appeals court rules Va. law barring out-of-state petition circulators unconstitutional

By Larry O'Dell

From the *Associated Press*

Published on May 29, 2013

Virginia's law prohibiting out-of-state residents from circulating petitions for third-party presidential candidates is unconstitutional, a federal appeals court ruled Wednesday.

The unanimous decision by a three-judge panel of the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld U.S. District Judge John A. Gibney's ruling last year that the residency requirement is an impermissible restraint on political speech.

The **Libertarian Party of Virginia** challenged the provision, which is part of a state law that says any political party that fails to get 10 percent of the vote cast in either of the last two statewide elections must submit

petitions containing at least 10,000 signatures to get a presidential candidate on the general election ballot. At least 400 signatures must be from each of the state's 11 congressional districts.

Lawyers for the state Board of Elections argued that without the law, it would be too difficult to prosecute nonresident petition circulators who commit election fraud.

The plaintiffs did not dispute that the state has a compelling interest in combatting voter fraud but said it was required to impose the least restrictive alternative. One such solution, they said, would be requiring out-of-state circulators to sign an agreement to comply with any civil or criminal subpoena.

The 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed a North Dakota provision similar to Virginia's, but other federal courts have endorsed measures like the one proposed by the Virginia plaintiffs. The Richmond-based appeals court also liked the idea.

"Simply stated, the Board has produced no concrete evidence of persuasive force explaining why the plaintiffs' proposed solution, manifestly less restrictive of their First Amendment rights, would be unworkable or impracticable," appeals court Judge Robert King wrote.

ACLU of Virginia attorney Rebecca Glenberg, who represented

the plaintiffs, said she was pleased that the appeals court "recognized that the petition process is an important form of free speech and that people from out of state have a right to contribute to the political dialogue in Virginia."

The state could appeal the panel's decision to the full appeals court or the U.S. Supreme Court. Brian

Gottstein, a spokesman for Attorney General Kenneth Cuccinelli, said the office is working with the electoral board to evaluate the options.

"The attorney general feels

the commonwealth has a compelling state interest in preventing election law violations, and limiting petition circulators to Virginia residents serves that interest," he said. "If fraud or other violations occur in the petition process, Virginia circulators would be under the commonwealth's jurisdiction."

In his opinion, King acknowledged the state's concern that consent to Virginia's jurisdiction would not guarantee access because signature collectors would still have to be located and brought to the state.

"There are no guarantees in life, however, and it is hardly an iron-clad proposition that a similarly situated resident witness will be amenable to service and comply with a lawfully issued subpoena," he wrote.

In a similar case last year, Texas Gov. Rick Perry challenged a related Virginia law that imposes the residency requirement for petition circulators in primary elections. Perry filed the lawsuit after failing to submit enough signatures to get on Virginia's Republican presidential primary ballot. Gibney said in that case that the residency mandate was probably unconstitutional, but ruled that Perry filed the lawsuit too late to allow for a remedy that would not disrupt the election.



Focused campaigns win elections

continued from page 1

and campaigning, including using robocalls, traditional mail and email. He recommended that candidates strategically choose communication mediums and not spend campaign money in too many areas.

“I urge you to use one communication medium right,” he told the more than 60 attendees at Saturday’s “Lunch & Learn.”

Stone advised candidates not to spread their campaign resources too thin, but to instead narrow the length and focus of their campaigns depending on the cash they have available. He talked about the importance of keeping a campaign message simple, bold and interesting, and noted the effectiveness of a personal touch in politics — door-to-door campaigning and visits to malls — particularly in local races.

“It’s crucial to have that human element in your campaign,” Stone said.

According to the Florida Division of Elections, there were just shy of 20,000 registered Libertarians in the state as of October, compared to about 4.8 million Democrats and about 4.2 million Republicans. But Jared Grifoni, chairman of the Libertarian Party of Collier County, said the party is seeing a lot of interest and growth.

“People are disappointed with the two major parties and are looking for another option, an option that protects the Constitution and protects individual rights,” Grifoni said. “We find both Republicans and Democrats wanting to come aboard because the message of liberty is a unifying message.”

They plan to run state party chair Adrian Wyllie for governor in 2014. [Libertarian John Wayne Smith is also running for the Libertarian nomination.] And Marco Island resident Ray Netherwood announced he plans to challenge U.S. Congressman Trey Radel for his District 19 seat.

“We are here to lead,” Stone said. “We are here to forge a new direction.”

New and renewing Liberty Pledgers

Stephen Argent	Edward W. Laigle
Joseph Austin	Robert B. Lapham
Gordon J. Bakken	Ann S. Livingston
Dina Bales	Gregory Long
Mark P. Bartoli	Mark Manning
Chris Batchelor	Lisa W. Mavrotheris
Donald W. Bergemann	Susannah Maye
Shane Braden	Jay Mc Intyre
Brian J. Brewer	Lewis McCarthy
Marc Bruyere	Bryan J. McCormick
Harry Bryan	Charles McLaughlin
Stuart Burt	Geoffrey J. Neale
Frank Cansella	Byron K. Nichols
Nathaniel Cerda	Christopher Norbury
Dennis Clark	Jawuan O’Craven
Lennie R. Cloud	Egil Oftedal
Woodworth Clum	Paul A. Panichelli
James V. Fornabai	Carly Pickens
James G. Foster	Jason Pohlman
Nathan Frith	William Proctor
Jonathan F. Gentsch	Joe E. Retford
Josiah Goodwin	Chris Roberts
James Graves	Heather Roberts
Joel Gregory	Scott Schrader
Carl C. Hagen	Steven Shaplin
Robert L. Hall	Johnny Smythers
Jonathan Hedges	Jonathan G. Sparks
Dean S. Hodge	Mark Spikes
Eric Hollingsworth	David Stamper
Zachary Hunt	Philip Sullivan
Geoffrey H. Hunter	Charles A. Temm
Kevin Hutchinson	Jefferson Thigpen
Lee S. Jackson	Jon Thirkield
Linda J. Janca-Braatz	Marilyn Thompson
Jeffrey N. Jones	Steven D. Turley
Kip Raymond Karl	Roy C. Turnbull
Christopher Keever	David Wheat
Brian F. Kelly	Terrill A. Young
Ryan Kohler	Jeffrey Zweber
Harold Kyriazi	

I would like to make a one-time donation to the LP:

- \$5,000 \$100
 \$1,000 \$50
 \$500 \$25
 \$250 _____ Other

I would like to increase my **monthly pledge to this level:**

- \$2,500** **\$100**
 \$1,000 **\$50**
 \$500 **\$30**
 \$250 _____ Other
 (minimum \$10)

(Please make checks payable to **Libertarian Party**.)

Please bill my Visa MasterCard AmEx Discover

Card number: _____ Exp: _____

Name on card: _____

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Occupation*: _____

Employer*: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____

* Federal law requires us to use our best efforts to collect and report the name, mailing address, occupation and name of employer of individuals whose contributions exceed \$200 in a calendar year. Political contributions are not tax deductible.

Libertarian Party in the News

Marijuana legalization in Portland poised to hit November ballot

By Craig Lyons

From the *Portland Daily Sun*

Published on May 30, 2013

An initiative to let Portland residents decide if marijuana should be legal in the city came one step closer to the November ballot on Thursday.

Citizens for a Safer Portland — a coalition made up of volunteers, the Maine Green Independent Party, the **Libertarian Party of Maine**, the American Civil Liberties Union of Maine and the Marijuana Policy Project — submitted 3,229 signatures to the city clerk's office for verification to place a referendum on the November ballot asking if Portland residents want to decriminalize the use and possession of up to 2.5 ounces of marijuana and accessory paraphernalia for adults who are 21 years or older.

The group needed to turn in 1,500 signatures that will be verified by the clerk's staff to qualify for being placed on the ballot.

The proposed ordinance, if enacted by voters, would decriminalize the possession and act of acquiring 2.5 ounces of marijuana for people 21 years of age or older, according to MacMillan, and prohibit the recreational use of the substance in public spaces. Secondary to the ordinance is a resolution that advocates for the state and federal governments to pursue the legalization of the possession and sale of marijuana.

"I think it's really important that our laws don't have a more negative impact on people's lives than the substance themselves," said City Councilor David Marshall.

Possession charges, in some jurisdictions, can be classified as a federal crime, said Marshall, and marijuana is considered a schedule one drug along with heroin. He said people can be blocked from attaining financial aid as students, housing assistance and a litany of other federal federal programs because of a conviction for marijuana possession.

Marshall said he signed on with the citizens initiative because he didn't think that the City Council would approve

"I think it's really important that our laws don't have a more negative impact on people's lives than the substance themselves."

— *Portland, ME, City Councilor David Marshall*

an ordinance like the one being proposed. He said most of the progress that has been made on marijuana has come from the voters.

"I don't think that the council's going to adopt this ordinance," he said. "... I am confident that the voters of Portland will adopt this ordinance."

Marijuana is safer than alcohol for both the consumer and the community, said David Boyer, Maine political director with the Marijuana Policy Project, and is less toxic and addictive than alcohol and tobacco. Most adults use marijuana for the same reasons they use alcohol, he said, and smoking marijuana doesn't make anyone any worse than a person who drinks a glass of wine.

Boyer said the campaign to get the ordinance passed will focus attention on making the public aware that marijuana is safer than alcohol and other substances, and that it's illogical to punish adults who use it recreationally.

The Portland referendum initiative, which launched in March, came on the heels of Rep. Diane Russell's bill in the Maine Legislature that aimed to create a taxation and regulatory structure around the decriminalization of marijuana. Russell's bill would have left it up to Maine voters to make the final decision on the legalization of marijuana through a state-wide referendum.

Russell's bill was voted down in committee by an 8-3 vote.