

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

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Data shows Libertarian proposals have broad appeal

From the FreeVirginia blog by Marc Montoni, Jan. 2, 2013

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In the thirty years I've been involved in the LP, I have heard literally hundreds of "Libertarians" swear that there was "no constituency" for our "more radical" positions.

By the time these nervous nellies got finished listing all the things we shouldn't talk about, there would be nothing left for us to say at all.

But in many ways, the public is already light-years ahead of where we think they are. Carla Howell and Michael Cloud proved that with the 2002 ballot initiative to repeal the Massachusetts state income tax.

Despite being out-spent and out-volunteered by a factor of hundreds to one — the main opposition consisted of government employees terrified the measure meant the cooking of their stolen golden goose — the initiative won 45% of the vote.

Forty-five percent!

Forty-five percent despite the fact that a large fraction of the half-million government employees (250,000 local government, another 250,000 state government) actively campaigned against it, often while on taxpayer time (teachers, for instance, sent children home with anti-repeal flyers).

Despite the efforts of the tax-funded opposition, 45% of Massachusetts voters pulled the "Yes" lever.

Had there been an equal amount of money & volunteers available to the repeal effort, there is a very real possibility that the measure would have passed.

Another issue some Libertarians have screamed for their colleagues to avoid mentioning is repealing drug prohibition. I know of people who were sitting officers of the LP, or already-endorsed candidates for public office, who were loudly and rudely dressed-down in front of *LIBERTARIAN* audiences for mentioning the repeal of marijuana prohi-

bition. JUST marijuana — they mentioned no other drugs.

Yet here it is 2012, and a bunch of cracks in the wall of prohibition have suddenly appeared in Colorado and Washington, where recreational use of marijuana is now legal and another 17 states where it is decriminalized or medical marijuana is legal. Libertarians were involved — except for the naysayers.

Now let's talk about one of those unspeakables in our idea set: Secession.

There were so many "Libertarians" who wet their pants over that long-standing libertarian principle being in our platform, that in 2008 it was removed and replaced by a nebulous, "self determination" plank that doesn't even mention the right to secede. But is secession one of those third rails we should never talk about?

Hardly.

In an article on LewRockwell.com, Kirkpatrick Sale reviews some recent polling data by Public Policy Polling, of Raleigh, NC.

Among the more interesting finds: Secession is viewed positively/sympathetically by major fractions of various demographic groups. Here are a few examples:

By race: 46% (14 million) of Hispanics; 31% (49 million) of whites.

By ideology: 50% of conservatives (41 million); 19% (14 million) of liberals.

By sex: 35% of women and only 29% of men.

By age: 50% of 18-29 year olds.

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Libertarian Party in the News

Not Being Drone Murdered Is an Individual Right

By Nicholas Sarwark

Excerpted from Examiner.com

published on Feb. 8, 2013

According to a memo obtained by NBC, the Obama Administration has decided that they can kill anyone overseas with a drone strike, including American citizens, with no trial, charge, or any due process protections at all. The Democrats don't have a problem with this, since it's a Democrat making this unilateral decision to kill people. Oddly, the Republicans don't have a problem with it either, possibly because they want to have that power in 2016.

Libertarians are the only ones who have a problem with it. The Fifth Amendment to the Constitution clearly states, "nor shall any person be ... deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law." There is no more stark and frightening example of "the cult of the omnipotent state" than the idea that it's okay to murder people with drone missiles as long as it's the President doing it and he's pretty sure you're a bad guy.

I'm a Libertarian and I defend the rights of the individual, and that most certainly includes the right to not be murdered by the government with no due process at all.

"These strikes are legal, they are ethical and they are wise."

—White House Press Secretary Jay Carney

LP NC Breaks Voter Registration Record

By Matthew Reece

published on Examiner.com on Feb. 2, 2013

On Sunday, Ballot Access News reported that the latest North Carolina voter registration tally shows that 0.31% of the state's voters are registered as Libertarian. This is the highest percentage of registered voters that a third party has ever had in North Carolina since statistics began to be kept in 1966.

The old record for third party voter registration in North Carolina was set in October 1972 by the American Party, with a 0.30% share. The American Party gained ballot access in 1968 but lost ballot access after the 1972 election. When a party loses ballot access in North Carolina, the state converts the registered voters of that party to unaffiliated (independent) voters, thereby making a third party start all over again if it regains ballot access.

The Libertarian Party has lost ballot access in North Carolina twice, after the 1984 and 2004 elections. It was on continuously from 1976 to 1984, from 1996 to 2004, and from 2008 to present. Registration under the Libertarian banner has been rising steadily since 2008.

LIBERTARIAN PARTY FACEBOOK MEME

**CORN SUBSIDIES.
MONSANTO SUBSIDIES.**

80% of corn and 90% of soybeans grown in the U.S. come from Monsanto. Government subsidies on these products are essentially corporate welfare for Monsanto. Let's end crony capitalism.

Crony corporatists like Monsanto love the special privileges they get from the government. That's why they hate Libertarians. The Libertarian Party wants to remove all special privileges and end all corporate welfare.

Find out more about the LP and its values of Liberty and Unity at www.lp.org



Big L Libertarian

By Nicholas Sarwark

Excerpted from Examiner.com

published on Feb. 8, 2013

You can be sure of succeeding in your attacks if you only attack places which are undefended. You can ensure the safety of your defense if you only hold positions that cannot be attacked.

— Sun Tzu, *The Art of War*

[Libertarian Party Vice Chair] Lee Wrights once said, “We can make a difference by being different.” I believe that. The Libertarian Party is still much smaller than the two legacy parties. We cannot beat them by playing the game on their terms and by their rules.

This is not to say that our candidates should not be professional in appearance, nor that we can ignore the mechanics of running political campaigns. If all we offer is a slightly better version of a legacy party, most voters won't risk their vote for something slightly better when the legacy party candidate could, you know, win.

We can win by being the only party that supports actual freedom. Social freedom. Economic freedom. All of your freedoms. All of the time. Without exception.

New and renewing Liberty Pledgers

Joseph Barbuto	William H. MacElroy
Wayne Barger	Jordan Mahaney
Philip Baron	Michael R. Marston
Virginia Bonvicini	Dawn Matthews
Mathew J. Bradford	Bill Monreal
Miller C. Arthur	Alison Murphy
Paul M. Carlson	Margaret A. Murphy
Timothy Cochran	Joel Nadel
Dick Coffee	Andrew W. Nester
Andrew Cohen	Robert Odden
Shawn Collins	Ronnie O'Dell
Timothy Cook	Donald Otherwise
Brian Davis	John P. Pate
Jamieson K. Deuel	Richard Perkins
Timothy J. Doubledee	Daniel Picariello
David Easterly	Darren Pope
Clifford Erickson	Mark Prescott
Eric Feyder	James H. Pritchard
Oscar Fierro	William Ringroe
Jacob Frasier	Thomas Ruks
Duane Gregoire	Kerry Ruth
Robert J. Haag	Thibault Serlet
Wade Hering	Bill W. Shaw
Eric Hise	Chad Smith
Jeremiah Hodgkin	Pamela Smith
Marylyn Holland	Jason D. Stoute
Steven Hollensteiner	Lorence W. Trick
Stephen House	Glenn Tuttle
Matthew Ison	Matthew Uphoff
Michael K. Jacobs	Scott W. Vorrath
William Johnson	Alex G. Vuchnich
Matt Johnston	Anthony D. Ward
David H. King	Brian K. Waters
Gary L. Kirkland	Michael Watts
Jolie M. LaChance	Bonney T. Wikkering
Bruce K. Lagasse	Joshua Williams
Spencer Lambert	Bernhard Wolf
Fred E. Landerman	Adam Wright
Karen A. Lee	Aaron D. Yeorgan

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

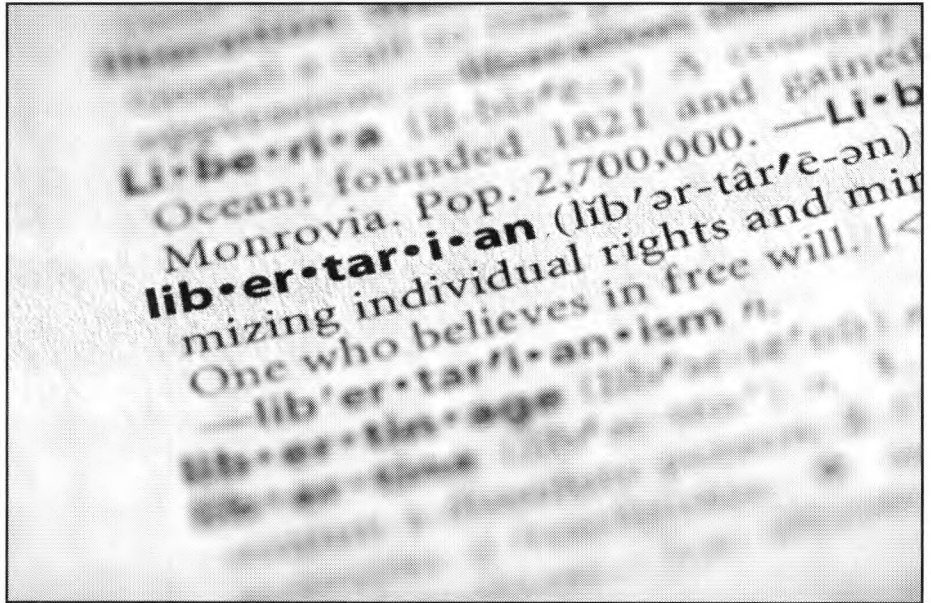
Libertarians Now Listed on D.C. Voter Registration Form

By Benjamin R. Freed; published on DCist.com on March 8, 2013

Sick of the government meddling in every last detail of your life? Wish that D.C. took a more isolationist stance toward the rest of the country? Do restaurant health inspections feel like an arbitrary burden?

Well, now you can let the D.C. Board of Elections know, because the newest revision to the District's voter registration form includes the Libertarian Party as one of the printed choices. Though they have never held elected office in the District, the Libertarians finally achieved major-party status last year when Bruce Majors, a challenger to Democratic Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton, carried enough votes to secure formal recognition for their party organization.

Majors needed 7,500 votes to make the Libertarians a major party. Last November 6, he got that and plenty more, eventually racking up more than twice the threshold. While Norton, who was never in danger of losing, collected about 15 times as many votes, Majors still outpolled his party's presidential candidate, former New



Mexico Gov. Gary Johnson, by a 10-to-one margin.

Now a major party, the Libertarians will be listed on voter registration forms, be permitted to hold party primaries, and are required to submit their bylaws to the Board of Elections.

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The point is this: Secession is not an idea that only libertarians have entertained. As the above survey results show, there is a substantial cohort of Americans out there who not only feel secession is appropriate in some cases, but who are right now in favor of it.

Do we jump out in front of this parade, or tiptoe into the line behind everyone else once it becomes popular, as some "Libertarians" would have us believe?

Whenever there is a market for an idea we long since staked out as our own, we don't need to hide from it and worry about whether Americans will find the idea palatable. All we have to do is speak to them like they are adults who are capable of discuss-

ing ideas with a level head.

But we have to speak to them! We can't speak to them if we're cowering behind them in the parade.

Let's speak loudly and clearly about the kind of free society we seek. In doing so, we will find these people. Once we find them, they can be invited to join our coalition!

There is **NO** limit to how large the Libertarian movement (and Party) can grow. As shown above, on just one issue, there are 50 to 60 million people who are receptive to the "extremist" idea of secession. There are millions more (with some amount of overlap) on every other issue in our toolbox.

Don't be **afraid** to seek them out!