

# 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 March 2009

## What is Obama ashamed of?

By Donny Ferguson

*LNC Director of Communications*

WASHINGTON – On March 11 America’s third largest party asked why President Obama enacted the \$490 billion FY09 omnibus spending and its over 8,500 earmarks behind closed doors, and despite campaign promises to end earmark abuse.

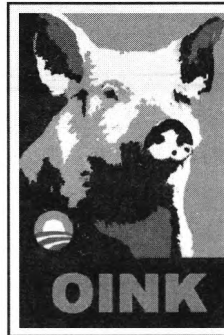
“President Obama’s decision to hide from the media while signing this bill isn’t just a violation of his promise of transparency, it’s an attempt to avoid questions about breaking another promise to end earmark abuse,” said Libertarian National Committee Communications Director Donny Ferguson.

“He promised to end earmarks. He promised transparency. He promised fiscal responsibility. He didn’t mean a word of it. More and more Americans realize his crippling taxes and crushing debt are prescriptions for prolonged economic suffering. Now he has to hide behind closed doors to sign his pork-stuffed plan to explode wasteful spending,” said Ferguson.

Libertarians support an economic renewal plan centered on tax and regulatory relief for employers, preserving the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts that blunted previous recessions and greatly simplifying the tax code for employers and taxpayers. Polls such as Rasmussen show voters prefer the Libertarian approach over the Republican and Democrat plans to increase government spending.

You can find more information on the Libertarian Party by visiting [www.LP.org](http://www.LP.org). The Libertarian Party proudly stands for smaller government, lower taxes and more freedom.

### LIBERTARIAN ISSUES: IN FOCUS



Taxpayers for Common Sense released a database of the 8,570 earmarks, totaling \$7.7 billion, in the FY09 omnibus spending bill.

Remember all that talk last week about Republicans “learning the error of their ways” and promising to embrace fiscal responsibility? Well, it seems six of the ten biggest recipients of earmarks

just happen to be Republicans.

Perhaps a Republican will insert an earmark using taxpayer money to build a “Museum of Empty Promises.” They could enshrine “we’ll cut spending if you just put us back in power” next to Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton’s “she meant nothing, it’ll never happen again.”

| SENATOR          | EARMARK \$\$  |
|------------------|---------------|
| Byrd (D-WV)      | \$122,804,900 |
| Shelby (R-AL)    | \$114,484,250 |
| Bond (R-MO)      | \$85,691,491  |
| Feinstein (D-CA) | \$76,899,425  |
| Cochran (R-MS)   | \$75,908,475  |
| Murkowski (R-AK) | \$74,000,750  |
| Harkin (D-IA)    | \$66,860,000  |
| Inhofe (R-OK)    | \$53,133,500  |
| McConnell (R-KY) | \$51,186,000  |
| Inouye (D-HI)    | \$46,380,205  |

### Thank you for being a Pledger!

You keep the LP going.  
Here are other ways you and your friends can help win liberty!

**DONATE TO THE LP:** [www.lp.org/contribute](http://www.lp.org/contribute)  
**VOLUNTEER FOR THE LP:** [www.lp.org/volunteer](http://www.lp.org/volunteer)  
**RUN FOR OFFICE:** [www.lp.org/run-for-office](http://www.lp.org/run-for-office)



# Your Libertarian Party: Your Views

## Rejoining the newly focused LP

The message I received from you yesterday March 9 at 4:45 p.m. about the purpose of the Libertarian Party is one of the most professional and effective sounding messages I've received from the LP in years.

Some folks think the LP enters elections just to "spread the word". I've always felt that is the wrong approach.

Due to your message I have joined the Party again after several years absence.

I regret I am unable to offer more money to the cause and that at age 65 lack the energy to lead any campaign in CT. But where I see signs of hope for the party I will chip in what I can.

Your message was such a sign. I hope it represents the attitude of all LP leaders at the national level.

-- T.A., Connecticut

## Lifelong Republican now committed LPer

I saw your letter.

I have come over to the LP from the dark side of being a lifelong Republican since 1972.

My disgust with the GOP hit critical mass in 2004 when I voted Libertarian for President and LP where I could find it down ballot.

Last month I took the plunge and re-registered LP. I have been an active Republican serving on Central Committees and President of multiple GOP clubs. But I could no longer stand the madness of Big Government and the lies told by Republicans.

I plan to become a dues paying member and active in the party. Thank you all in the LP for keeping this alternative alive for freedom loving Americans.

-- G.J., California

*Opinions expressed are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect those of the Libertarian Party or the Libertarian National Committee or its employees.*

## Keep pounding

As an LP member and supporter, I'm very happy to see this consistent drumbeat of press releases in response to current events. The ability to share these via Facebook is very convenient as well.

Please keep it up !

-- S.H., Illinois

## Doesn't like name

1. "Libertarian" has the same (LIBER) first five letters as "liberal." Not good.

2. "Libertarian" means absolutely nothing to the uninformed.

3. WHY not the "Constitution Party" or "Party of the CONSTITUTION."

4. With a simple name change you would receive more interest and many new members.

THE NAME HAS GOT TO GO!

-- J.O., No state given

## Texas Independence Day moves Virginian

Thank you very much for your email and the story about Texas Independence Day. I really enjoyed it and it was a message of hope to me that I haven't heard in a while. I just made a small donation (wish I could do more) to thank you for the inspirational story and all your work for Liberty.

-- A.S., Virginia

*You may contact Pledge News with your opinion at [media@lp.org](mailto:media@lp.org).*

## Welcome to the Liberty Pledge Club!

Lyle C. Arthur

Kemet R. Babcock

Roger V. Gary

Evan Haas

Jamie Jenks

Andrew E. Loveless

Thomas P. O'Reilly

Adam Rust

Edward W. Sudduth



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# Your Libertarian Party: On The Trail

## Sundwall to debate Republican, Democrat

**TROY, N.Y.** -- Eric Sundwall, the Libertarian nominee for U.S. House in the March 31 special election to replace New York Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, will debate Republican nominee State Assembly Minority Leader Jim Tedisco and Democrat nominee Scott Murphy.

"We're very happy to be included in the process. Obviously, it will depend on whether or not we are challenged for our petition signatures. If the democratic process is allowed to play out, we expect to offer the voters a distinct voice and choice," said Sundwall.

The forum, sponsored by the League of Women Voters, will take place at the Holiday Inn Express in Latham, N.Y. at 7 p.m. and will be moderated by WROW's Sherman Baldwin.

The forum gives Sundwall an opportunity to share Libertarian policies with not only the voters of the 20th congressional district, but to a national audience as well with the election attracting attention from observers around the country.

## Still time to file for office in N.J., Va.

**RICHMOND, VA & TRENTON, N.J.** -- In New Jersey and Virginia, it's always an election year. Unlike other states, they hold state legislative elections in odd-numbered years, and there is still time to file.

Libertarians hoping to run for Virginia's House of Delegates have until June 9 to turn in the required form and 125 valid signatures from registered voters in the district. No State Senate seats are up for election in 2009.

Libertarians looking to run for New Jersey's General Assembly or Senate must turn in 100 signatures by June 2.

Anyone interested in running for office, either in 2009 or 2010, should contact Donny Ferguson at [Donny.Ferguson@lp.org](mailto:Donny.Ferguson@lp.org).



Supporters of Libertarian congressional candidate Eric Sundwall are campaigning hard in the March 31 special election in New York's 20th District.

## Sundwall collects 7,000 signatures

**SCHENECTADY, N.Y.** -- Libertarian Eric Sundwall has more than twice the signatures needed to get on the ballot, his campaign told *The Schenectady Gazette* March 6.

"To finish a petition drive is a good feeling," Sundwall told the *Gazette's* Lee Coleman. "It's the first time I have been home at this time [in the evening] in two weeks."

Sundwall, an information technology consultant and chairman of the state Libertarian Party, submitted more than 7,000 signatures to election officials March 9.

John Norris, a spokesman for Sundwall, said Sundwall has more than enough valid signatures to qualify for the March 31 special U.S. House election to replace newly confirmed New York Senator Kirsten Gillibrand in the 20th House District.

"The only issue is how many GOP attorneys will attack us this time," Norris said. Sundwall ran for Congress in 2006 against Kirsten Gillibrand and then-incumbent John Sweeney, but was prevented from getting on the ballot after election lawyers from the Republican Party scoured his list for errors.

Sundwall needs 3,500 valid signatures to qualify for the ballot. He hopes submitting 7,000 will overcome expected legal obstacles thrown up by opponents.

Sundwall's campaign website may be found at [www.sundwall4congress.org](http://www.sundwall4congress.org).





# Your Libertarian Party: In the Media

## **White House: Focus on Limbaugh was 'counterproductive'**

The Washington Times

March 4, 2009

By John Ward

WASHINGTON -- The White House on Wednesday admitted that their public comments about conservative radio personality Rush Limbaugh and cable news personalities in recent days has been "counterproductive."

White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said that he has been guilty of "feeding" a public debate about the Obama administration's economic agenda that both the president and his top officials, as well as Mr. Gibbs himself, have been dismissive of.

Both President Obama and Mr. Gibbs on Wednesday derided what they have come regularly to refer to as "cable chatter."

"I certainly criticize it, and I even occasionally watch it," Mr. Gibbs said. "I certainly believe that feeding it, undoubtedly, I'll plead guilty to counterproductivity..."

...The Libertarian Party also criticized the White House for their focus on Mr. Limbaugh, who has said he wants Mr. Obama's economic policies to fail.

"With polls showing more and more Americans oppose his agenda, Barack Obama needs a distraction. He gets it by having his operatives pick a fight with a colorful radio personality," said Libertarian National Committee Spokesman Donny Ferguson.

## **Glen Beck: "I'm more and more libertarian"**

Libertarian Party Blog (from The Miami Herald)

February 3, 2009

MIAMI -- Popular conservative talk radio personality and Fox News Channel host Glenn Beck is bringing more than his trademark wit to cable news. He's bringing an evolving philosophy.

"Every day that goes by, I'm more and more libertarian," Beck told *The Miami Herald*.

"I've always been a conservative. But every day I find myself believing more and more in states' rights, individual rights -- let people alone, get the government out of everybody's lives, let everybody rule themselves," Beck said of why he finds himself agreeing more often with libertarians.

In fact, during the 2008 election Beck hosted Libertarian presidential candidate Bob Barr and eventual vice-presidential nominee Wayne Root. In his first week hosting FNC's Glenn Beck from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. ET weekdays his guests included Congressman Ron Paul, a libertarian and the party's 1988 presidential nominee and libertarian thinkers Steve Moore of the Club for Growth and ABC's John Stossel.

## **Search for economic fix misses best example**

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

March 4, 2009

By Congressman Bob Barr (Excerpted)

ATLANTA -- ...For much of our nation's history, America set the standard for economic development in the world. Our nation's leaders - at least most of them - recognized that private businesses and individuals were better able than government to make economic decisions that in the aggregate would lead to economic progress.

We led. We prospered. Other nations followed us. They who emulated our economic freedom model also prospered.

Instead of timidly searching the world for a government-based economic model to rescue our economy, Geithner and the rest of the crew in Washington ought to take crash courses in American history and in Adam Smith; both taught by Steve Forbes...

Read all of Bob Barr's weekly columns for  
*The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* at:  
[www.AJC.com](http://www.AJC.com)