

# 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 February 2014

## Are Libertarians becoming a third key player in Ohio's statewide elections? Party again filed a full slate of candidates

By Robert Higgs  
From the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*  
Published on February 9, 2014

COLUMBUS, Ohio -- Elections in Ohio are traditionally two-party affairs, with the alternative parties putting up candidates for a smattering of races.

But has Ohio moved toward having three regular participants in its statewide contests? Two political scientists told Northeast Ohio Media Group this week that the the Libertarian Party of Ohio might become a credible third party because of divisions among Republicans.

Libertarians this week filed a full slate of candidates for the partisan statewide contests that are up for election in November. Charlie Earl, a former Republican state representative, and Sherry Clark topped that ticket as candidates for governor and lieutenant governor.

The party also put up candidates for auditor of state, attorney general, secretary of state and treasurer.

Four years ago, in 2010, the Libertarians also ran candidates in all of those races. That was the first time in decades that a third party had fielded such a full slate of candidates.

It remains to be seen whether all of this year's candidates will get on the ballot. Boards of elections across Ohio will need another week to finish verifying signatures



Charlie Earl  
LP Ohio Candidate for Governor

on nominating petitions to determine which candidates actually met the filing requirements. Regardless, says Paul Beck, a political scientist at Ohio State University, the Libertarian Party may well be here to stay as a participant in state elections.

The party has reached a point where it can mobilize to get the signatures necessary to get names on the ballot, he said, and has enough recognition that "they don't have to start from scratch."

The party also has its own brand of ideology that can draw people as an alternative to Republicans and Democrats. That ideology, said Kevin Knedler, chairman of the Libertarian Party of Ohio, blends fiscal conservative views on government spending with tolerance for individual choice and lifestyle.

"It's not the government's business who loves who," he said.

Thomas Suddes, a longtime statehouse correspondent who now is an assistant professor at Ohio University, suggests divisions among Republicans could bolster the Libertarians.

"I'm no good at predicting the future, but I do think that the Republican Party has some pretty serious splits in it nationally and in the state," said Suddes, who writes a political column for *The Plain Dealer* and *Cleveland.com*.

Those splits were apparent this past year when Gov. John Kasich sought expansion of Medicaid in Ohio. The governor had trouble gaining approval in the General Assembly despite his party having overwhelming majorities in both houses and despite traditional allies, such as small businesses and the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, voicing their support.

Medicaid expansion ultimately was approved through the Controlling Board in October.

Those kinds of divisions could help a third party emerge.

"Long range, I think Americans in general like choice

## Libertarian Party in the News

# Lots of disillusioned voters are natural Libertarians

By Jim Maas, LP Wisconsin Secretary

From the *Wausau Daily Herald*

Published on February 17, 2014

Daily Herald Media recently urged citizens to “get involved” to overcome partisan gridlock.

Unfortunately, Gannett Wisconsin Media is pretty much “bipartisan;” that is, it only pays attention to the two old political parties, no matter how many parties exist or overcome all the obstacles to get candidates on the ballot. To learn about the Libertarian response to the State of the

Union or the Wisconsin State of the State, for example, you will have to do an online search; you didn’t read about it in this newspaper.

Therefore, potential voters are often led to believe they have only two choices and neither one may match their principles very well. These “disengaged” voters are not lazy or indifferent; on the contrary, they care enough to withhold their support from candidates they can’t believe in. As P.J. O’Rourke wrote, “Don’t vote: it just encourages the bastards.”

*continued on page 3*

---

## Libertarian Party leader reaching out to groups, students

From WTAQ radio 1360 AM / 97.5 FM, Wisconsin

Published on February 18, 2014

RHINELANDER, Wis. -- A Rhinelander man is the state Libertarian Party chairman. Paul Ehlers says they launched a [candidate recruitment] campaign yesterday in Madison to provide a political alternative.

Ehlers ran in 2012 for the state 12th District Senate seat. In the role as state Libertarian Party chair he says they’re reaching out to many groups who have felt, what he describes as the heavy hand of government with their group called the “Liberty Coalition.” “What we’re trying to do is find people whose pursuit of happiness is being regulated, prohibited or restricted and get them to realize we have one thing in common.”



Paul Ehlers  
LP Wisconsin Chair

***“What we’re trying to do is find people whose pursuit of happiness is being regulated, prohibited or restricted and get them to realize we have one thing in common.”***

***— Paul Ehlers, LP Wisconsin Chair***

He mentions groups such as the raw milk producers, people active in the organization NORML, gun owners, people interested in renewable energy, [and] Ehlers says students are heavily in debt due to government changes in education financing. “Students that maybe have massive student debt that are in default. They are not part of the problem. They are victims of the problem.”

He says the Liberty Coalition goal is to have candidates in every major race in Wisconsin this year. Ehlers says he wants those interested to run. “We’re going to ask people to self-refer themselves and we’re going to ask their friends and neighbors. Regular people to take the government back.”

The Libertarian Party is the third largest political party in the nation.

## Disillusioned voters natural Libertarians

*continued from page 2*

Between 9 percent and 13 percent of voters surveyed by Gallup held libertarian views, 14 percent in the Pew Research Center Typology Survey and 13 percent in the American National Election Studies, according to a 2006 report by the Cato Institute.

Interesting. So, some voters may have held their nose to vote for the “lesser of two evils,” or maybe not voted at all. Rarely do Libertarians get 10 percent to 20 percent of the vote. Libertarian candidate Ed Thompson got more than 10 percent around here in his campaign for governor but we haven’t seen the likes of that since 2002.

The GOP often is said to campaign like Libertarians but govern like Democrats. Republicans with a Libertarian leaning are becoming disillusioned with Republicans’ excessive spending, social intolerance, civil liberty violations and unnecessary and wasteful wars.

Democrats also are disillusioned with civil liberty infringements, the war on drugs, the never-ending war on Afghanistan and the growth of an overseas empire. Too bad there isn’t a political party that is both fiscally conservative and socially liberal.

Actually, there is.

The Daily Herald concludes, “It is up to all of us to get involved, pay attention and demand that our leaders work together for the common good, not the good of a single political party.” I agree! To get their attention, may I suggest muting the upcoming incessant barrage of campaign commercials and going to the polls in November and voting for third party candidates -- or, as O’Rourke suggests, by not voting at all.

## New and renewing Liberty Pledgers

Ray S. Acosta	Sergei Kostenko
Robert E. Anderson	Eric Lineback
Aaron Anthonson	Chad Losee
Mark Ayen	John Lovejoy
George Ballow	Robert B. Lurate
Colin Barber	Zahra Makoui
Arthur C. Barker	Kenneth Maltby
David J. Bauer	Thomas L. Marzec
Richard Berger	Douglas B. Mayhew
Ronda R. Birr	Lewis McCarthy
John P. Blair	Matt McDougald
Brandon L. Brison	Franz X. Meier
Gregory A. Brown	Peter A. Meister
Steve Brown	Rick Miller
Paul T. Burcher	Frederick K. Millward
Jason Burke	Ellen Monforte
Philippe R. Cadorette	Joseph C. Moore
Teddy Chaconas	Edward L. Morgan
Gary Chafin	Marshall Neal
Robert Chester	Kate O'Brien
Michael Cloar	Christopher O'Connor
Eric R. Colburn	Todd Overstreet
Katherinee Conrad	Brian Paramski
Carl Cooper	John G. Parks
Michael I. Couture	Arjen Peirce
Michael Crow	Matthew Perez
Upton Dabney	Andrew Peterson
Gordon Dunlap	David Pickering
Preston Duprie	Robert J. Pierce
Vincent Dyer	Richard C. Randall
Paul Ehlers	Brian Reasoner
Andrew Ehret	John R. Reid
William Ely	Daniel Robinson
Leigh Ennis	Dylan Robinson
P. Jacob Erbes	Stephen Sallee
Michael Feudale	John M. Sanders
Michael C. Fewster	Wendy D. Saunders
Lamar Gill	T. J. Scott
Ginny Godfrey	Anthony N. Sileo
John Godfrey	Erica Sorokin
Theresa M. Gonos	Ryan Stuart
Ashley Goodrich	Amanda Swafford
Stephen K. Gray	Timothy J. Swenson
Evan Haas	Jason M. Talmage
Wayne E. Harley	James J. Van Dress
Rusty Hart	Gregory Venters
Travis Hayes	Susan L. Waddell
Michael Heslin	Mariana Wagner
Richard J. Hoffner	Steven G. Wainio
Scott Holcomb	Kermit C. Wallace
Geoffrey R. Hurd	Wade A. Wallinger
Vickie Huwe	Howard L. Wilson
Maxwell Hyman	Emil R. Wolanski
Steven Jansma	Stephen Worden
William F. Johnson	Adrian Wyllie
Shayne Jones	Aaron D. Yeargan
Paul F. Kelley	Robert E. Yenne
Charles Kewin	Alexander Yuill-Thornton
John E. Kite	Nathan A. Zastrow
Chris Kosko	

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.



# ***The Motley Fool* asserts there are 5 reasons why Libertarians oppose Federal Reserve**

By Patrick Morris

Excerpted from the *Motley Fool*

Published on February 9, 2014

## **1. The true end of the gold standard**

The Libertarian Party was founded in 1971 by MIT Graduate David Nolan after the Nixon Administration announced it would no longer convert dollars to gold at their official exchange rate, ending the partial gold standard which the U.S. had been on since 1933, allowing the dollar to begin its floating rate which we now know as standard today. From that day forward the Libertarian Party has [advocated] for the end of the Federal Reserve as we know it today.

## **2. Unmet mission**

Created in 1913, The Federal Reserve was established by Woodrow Wilson to conduct the monetary policy (overseeing the supply of money) of the US, supervise and regulate banks, contain systemic risks to ensure the financial system is stable, and provide financial support and services to the US government and financial institutions.

Harry Browne, a Libertarian who ran for President in 1996 and 2000 was quoted as saying, “the Federal Reserve has been an absolute disaster,” and believed that the various financial crises since then have shown that the Federal Reserve has been unable to “provide the nation with a safer, more flexible, and more stable monetary and financial system,” which is its intended purpose.

## **3. The “too big to fail” reality**

During the most recent financial crisis, the Federal Reserve was instrumental in providing the necessary backstops and support of various banks, financial institutions, and even some auto manufacturers in the form of government bailouts. This helps explain why it has gotten so large. Yet the Libertarian Party stands against such actions because the bailouts are pictures of the government involving itself in private affairs, which it staunchly stands against.

## **4. A vivid example of big government**

The Libertarian Party notes it is “The Party of Principle,” and it supports “Minimum Government, Maximum Freedom.” When you consider the Federal Reserve sets interest rates which [affect] every consumer and has assets of north of \$4 trillion, it is largely the antithesis of “minimum government.”

## **5. The privatization of the money supply**

Although the Federal Reserve is a part of the government, it does act separately from the three primary branches of government -- the legislative, judicial, and executive branches. The Libertarian Party takes issue with this, and believes that the control of money should be given back to Congress, which [it asserts is a] Constitutional mandate.

As with all political parties, there are always two sides of every argument and reasons both for and against certain things, but there is no denying the Libertarian Party is not a fan of the Federal Reserve.

---

## **LP player in Ohio politics**

*continued from page 1*

in lots of things, whether it's personal products or choices in how we live or in personal arrangements,” Suddes said. And since Sept. 11, 2001, he said, “it [seems] like there have been heightened concerns about personal liberty and personal autonomy.”

Ultimately, the success of a third party will depend on whether it can do more than just influence elections. Suddes notes that in the 1912 presidential race, Woodrow Wilson became the first Democrat in six decades to win Ohio, in part because

of Theodore Roosevelt's Bull Moose Party candidacy. At some point, third party candidates will have to actually win.

“It's been almost 100 years since we had a third party member of the General Assembly,” Suddes said.

Knedler, the party chairman, views new young members as key to growth of the Libertarians' success. Younger voters, disenchanted with the traditional Democratic and Republican parties, are a strong part of new membership.

“These young people coming up, they're interested in our party and in our platform,” he said. “At some

point, you're going to see Libertarians elected. The average American is fed up.”

And in the meantime, he expects the party will play a role in the outcome of Ohio elections.

“Where we used to get 1 or 2 percent, now we're getting 3 or 4,” he said. The party drew about 2.4 percent of the vote for governor in 2010, but nearly 3 percent for attorney general and nearly 5 percent for auditor, secretary of state and treasurer.

“If we start getting in the polls in the 15 to 20 percent range, that's not necessarily going to win anything, but that's historic.”