

# LIBERTY PLEDGE

## NEWSLETTER

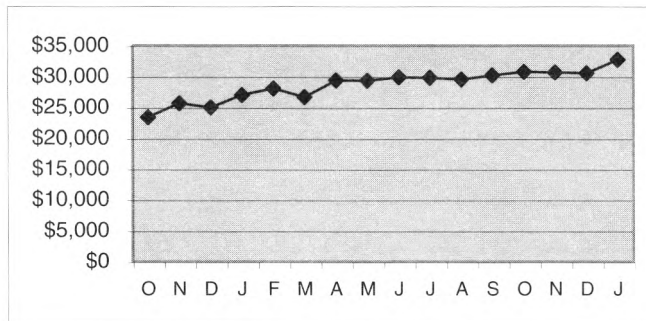
Libertarian National Committee, Inc. ♦ 2600 Virginia Ave, NW, Suite 200 ♦ Washington, DC 20037 ♦ Phone: (202) 333-0008 ♦ Fax: (202) 333-0072  
www.LP.org February 2011

## Monthly Pledge surpasses \$32,000!

By Wes Benedict  
Executive Director  
Libertarian National Committee

Thanks largely to another major donor, our monthly pledge total reached \$32,655 for January. That's a level not seen for many years.

We are especially proud of this achievement—it's something we focused heavily on for the past eighteen months.



But even though our monthly pledge total is up, I'd be misleading you if I told you I thought everything was going well.

I remain pleased with our 2010 candidate recruitment and election results. As we continue to analyze the results, we see that more voters chose Libertarian candidates in 2010 than in recent election cycles. That's great, and our candidates are important.

However, our biggest weakness remains our dues-paying membership levels.

We seem to have stagnated around the 15,000 level for the past few years.

Obviously, that's not your fault because as a monthly pledger, your membership does not expire.

In fact, your monthly pledge helps us afford

to do things that should help drive up our membership.

Dues-paying members are important for many reasons. Not only do they help fund our efforts, but members are most likely to be volunteers, candidates, and serve as officers in our party.

To grow our party, elect more Libertarians, and have more of an influence on public policy, we have to get our membership up.

I hope it doesn't sound like I'm complaining—on the contrary, it's my job to get membership up.

We've worked hard to grow our membership. We've improved our database, reached out to lapsed members, and more.

Our candidates have gotten lots of press to help publicize the party. Some of our state and national party leaders routinely appear on television, radio, and in print.

I don't have a magic bullet solution to growing our membership.

I'm just letting you know it's on my mind and the minds of others in leadership.

We will continue trying various approaches, including mail, advertising, providing better tools to our volunteers, and more.

We recently hired a videographer to help publicize our activities online and to help generate interest with younger voters.

We'll continue working hard for you, and I welcome your suggestions and comments as well. I'm often easy to reach by phone in the office, and I welcome the calls of loyal supporters like you anytime at 202-333-0008 extension 222.

Your monthly pledge remains a vital source of funds and I can't thank you enough for your support.

## Libertarian Party in the News

---

### Libertarians, Privacy Advocates Unite To Fight Body Scanners

*National Journal*, January 6, 2010

A wide swath of civil rights activists, consumer advocates, Libertarians and security analysts blasted the now-infamous airport body scanners at a conference organized by the Electronic Privacy Information Center Thursday....

Well-known consumer advocate and former presidential candidate Ralph Nader called the Transportation Security Administration's decision to use the body scanners a "fundamentally irrational strategy" based on reactionary tendencies and fueled by corporate and political pressures....

Other panelists agreed, calling on Congress to cut funding for the scanners that "see" through passengers' clothing and produce images of their bodies.

"When Libertarians and Ralph Nader agree that a program is bad, it's time for the government to listen up," said **Wes Benedict**, executive director of the Libertarian Party's National Committee. "Government is supposed to protect our rights, not take them away. When is enough enough?"

### Libertarian Governor Candidate Announces for Topeka Council

WIBW (Kansas), January 7, 2010

**Andrew Gray**, a former candidate for Kansas Governor, announced his candidacy for Topeka City Council Friday, in a bid to represent the 8th District including southwest Topeka. Gray is a lifelong Topekan, works for AT&T, and has two children.

Gray stated that he was recruited to run for Topeka City Council by voters who identified with his passionate commitment to fiscal responsibility and personal liberty during the recent campaign.

"I'm running for Topeka City Council because Topeka is my home," Gray said. "Topeka was my parent's home and, God willing, it will someday be my grandchildren's home. I owe it to my parents, my children, and my grandchildren to do the hard work necessary to assure that Topeka remains a great place to raise children, watch them succeed in life and grow old."

Gray is running on a platform of Regaining Fiscal Responsibility, Creating a Business Friendly Community, and Maintaining Property Rights.

### Columbus council hopefuls face petition hurdle

*Columbus Dispatch* (Ohio), January 24, 2011

...On Saturday morning, **Mark Noble**, who is leading a slate of three Libertarian Party candidates [for Columbus City Council] that includes **Bob Bridges** and **Andrew Ullman**, set out in 15-degree weather to seek signatures door to door in Clintonville.

His team was already close.

"I'm two signatures away from collecting 900 signatures just by myself," Noble said Wednesday. "I've been working on it since November."

Noble is a software engineer for the Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow, an online charter school. His office is on the South Side, so he knocks on doors there after work. He lives in Clintonville, so like Garcia, he likes to collect signatures outside the Whetstone library.

The city's 1,000-signature requirement is a high hurdle designed to hinder independents and third-party candidates, Noble said.

He needed just 25 signatures to run for state representative a few years ago: "I got the signatures in one afternoon."

# Libertarian Party: On the Trail

---

## Libertarians Unveil Legislative Agenda for 2011

*from the Texas LP, January 10, 2011*

AUSTIN—The Libertarian Party of Texas has released its Legislative Agenda for the 2011 session. Libertarians have been effective in introducing and blocking legislation even without elected legislators from their party through their lobbying efforts and grassroots organization.

Taxes and spending, election reform, immigration, state sovereignty, and the protection of personal freedoms top the Libertarian agenda. Libertarians also have a nonpartisan redistricting plan.

"We have demonstrated our ability in the past to influence legislation and promote smaller government with fiscal responsibility and social tolerance. We hope to find common ground on these principles with legislators this session," said LPT Chair **Patrick Dixon**.

Constitutional expert **Jon Roland** and Libertarian political consultant **Robert Butler** have been appointed Legislative Advisors to the LPT. **John Jay Myers**, a recent Congressional candidate and party leader, has posted a video discussing the party's legislative activity.

"Many voters believe that Libertarian activism ends after the election season, but we're really just getting started," said Butler. "We have been very effective at changing the legislative debate by introducing, supporting, and opposing legislation. We shine a light on the process from our unique perspective."

## Alex Massa to Run for State Representative

*from the Massachusetts LP, January 23, 2011*

Libertarian Party member **Alexander Massa** has announced his plans to run for State

Representative in Springfield.

He writes of himself:

I am a seventeen year old senior at South Hadley High School, in So. Hadley, MA. I plan on attending Western New England College this fall to study law. I have been, since my early childhood, a fan of politics, and have always had an undeniable libertarian viewpoint, and I decided to get involved in the political process as early as possible.

Last year, I was able to assist several Libertarian candidates for office, including Massachusetts' own **Jon Loya**, as well as **Alexander Snitker** in Florida and **Rob McNealy** in Colorado, writing press releases, fundraising letters, and helping campaign online.

Now, as I transition into adulthood, I have decided to take it upon myself to be as active a citizen as possible in this great Republic of ours, which is why I have proudly started filing the appropriate paperwork in order to run for State Representative next year.

If I am not mistaken, I am the youngest resident of the Commonwealth currently running for State Representative, and I say that with pride.

## Nebraska after November 2nd



*from Randy Eshelman,  
Nebraska LP  
Communications Director,  
November 12, 2010*

November 2nd came and went with exciting news from all over the country. The electorate rejected overt, big government, nanny-state policies. Nebraska Libertarians are not however, going to hold our breath in the hope that the GOP will magically adhere to minimum government, maximum freedom principles. They certainly didn't do that under the Bush administration and have shown themselves to be just as susceptible to the "Washington bennies" as their Democratic cronies.

# Libertarian Party: On the Trail

In Nebraska, our candidate for Auditor, **Ms. Michele Sallach-Grace**, did not win. That's the bad news. The good news is, she quadrupled the vote totals needed to keep Libertarians recognized as a political party here.

The great news? Michele won 31 districts (unofficially) across the state. Very positive results indeed, considering the LPNE's late entry into the process. We've come a long way as a Party and couldn't have done it without the great support from believers in principled and representative government.

And now, since we don't have to expend the time, money, and energy petitioning over the next election cycle, we can concentrate on party building and candidate support for a change! Our intent is to aggressively pursue all three congressional seats, the senate seat, and numerous local offices in 2012. (And by the way, if you're considering running for office in Nebraska, don't hesitate to contact us at [www.lpne.org](http://www.lpne.org)!)

I would like to thank Nebraskans (and others) for their continued support to the ideals of "Smaller Government, Lower Taxes, and More Freedom." There IS another choice. A principled choice. A choice for Liberty!

## New and renewing Liberty Pledgers

- |                     |                          |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Adam Almog          | Stephen House            |
| George H. Amberg    | Kevin Hutchinson         |
| Nicola Aversa       | Leonard Karpinski        |
| Dwight E. Baker     | Grant Kerksiek           |
| Dennis E. Bamford   | Andra R. Liemandt        |
| Craig R. Beachler   | Walter M. Littleton      |
| Cory Benton         | Warren L. Loschky        |
| John M. Bills Jr.   | Joseph J. Maschak        |
| Andrew Bolin        | J. Thomas May            |
| Allan K. Briney     | George A. Meyers         |
| Pete Carpenter      | Chuck Morton             |
| Richard J. Chapel   | Winford Nettles          |
| Andrew Cohen        | Kevin Chad Norris        |
| Cyril Crume         | Carole V. Oglesbee       |
| Michael De Mello    | Peter J. Orvetti         |
| Jonathan Demontegre | Pamela P. Potter         |
| David Eckhardt      | Charles H. Reed          |
| Ashley Edwards      | John R. Reid             |
| Glenn F. Ellis      | David Roberts            |
| John Emerich        | James B. Roberts         |
| Michael Fein        | David K. Schrader        |
| John Findlay        | Carina Sewell            |
| Ronald M. Fisher    | John R. Thompson         |
| Melanie Fresch      | Steven Turley            |
| Michael L. Frichol  | Steven G. Wainio         |
| John Friedel        | Brian K. Waters          |
| Evan T. Garrison    | Brad Watson              |
| Christopher Guimond | Bill Wayne               |
| DeWayne Guimond     | Thomas E. Wendoll        |
| Michael L. Guin     | Beverly J. Wilcox        |
| Karen Hofferber     | Matthew M. Willis        |
| John W. Holcombe    | Jamie L. Wilson          |
| Sam E. Holloman     | Alexander Yuill-Thornton |
| Duane F. Horton     |                          |

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

- \$5,000
- \$1,000
- \$500
- \$250

\_\_\_\_\_ Other

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

- \$2,500
- \$1,000
- \$500
- \$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: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

\* 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.