

# LIBERTY PLEDGE

## NEWSLETTER

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## The Libertarian Party Celebrates its Birthday

by Bill Redpath  
National Chairman, Libertarian National Committee

On Dec. 11, the Libertarian Party celebrated our 37th birthday. Even after 37 years, the Libertarian Party is still America's most viable alternative to Republicans and Democrats, and in times like these, our presence in American politics has never been more important.

If they haven't already, millions of Americans are losing faith in their elected officials. They're lost, and looking for the answers they now can't find in their old political parties. Republicans are supporting nationalization, and Democrats are supporting corporate welfare.

During this period of economic uncertainty, it is important to remember who is standing up for the taxpayers--not the lobbyists. And, while members of the GOP and the Democratic Party wonder where their parties went, I want to renew our economic promises to you, which haven't changed in the 37 years that we've been around:

- \* The Libertarian Party will never use your money to bailout private corporations.
- \* The Libertarian Party will promote free market alternatives to government action in the economy.
- \* The Libertarian Party will always fight for less government intervention in the market.
- \* The Libertarian Party will never raise your taxes, letting you keep the money that you earn.
- \* The Libertarian Party will ensure transparency is included in all government expenditures.
- \* The Libertarian Party will drastically cut the size of government.
- \* The Libertarian Party will protect a free and competitive market.
- \* The Libertarian Party will always oppose all government attempts to redistribute wealth.
- \* The Libertarian Party will work towards the repeal of the income tax, the abolishment of the Internal Revenue Service and all federal programs and services not required under the U.S. Constitution.
- \* The Libertarian Party will fight against govern-

ment debt, which burdens future generations without their consent.

- \* The Libertarian Party will oppose government subsidies to business, labor or any other special interest.
- \* The Libertarian Party will repeal of all laws that impede the ability of any person to find employment.
- \* The Libertarian Party will repeal all governmental impediments to free trade.
- \* The Libertarian Party will protect your rights as a taxpayer, businessman or consumer.

You will always know where we stand on the economy because we always stand for more liberty and less government.

This is our promise to you that we made 37 years ago, when our Party was founded by a group of people who were tired of the two-party system and were ready for a change.

That group has now grown to America's largest third party, and the only political party completely dedicated to maximizing freedom and minimizing government. And we're making these promises to you again now.

This is what we mean when we say we're the party of the taxpayer, the party of the businessman and the party of principle.

To celebrate our birthday, please consider a birthday gift of \$37, celebrating our 37 years as a political party. Your gift will help mark this special time for us, and will help to further what we do for liberty in the United States. Also, please consider a gift of \$50, \$100 or \$1,000 if you are able.

You can do this by going online to <https://www.lp.org/contribute>, or by mailing in your donation to the Libertarian Party at 2600 Virginia Ave. NW, Suite 200 in Washington, D.C. 20037.

Thank you for all that you have done for us in these last 37 years, and we look forward to serving you for at least the next 37 years.

*Bill Redpath*

# Responding to Negative Attacks

by Austin Petersen  
Volunteer Coordinator

**A**s a Libertarian, we are often subjected to barages of negative, and oftentimes inaccurate, information about our party and philosophy.

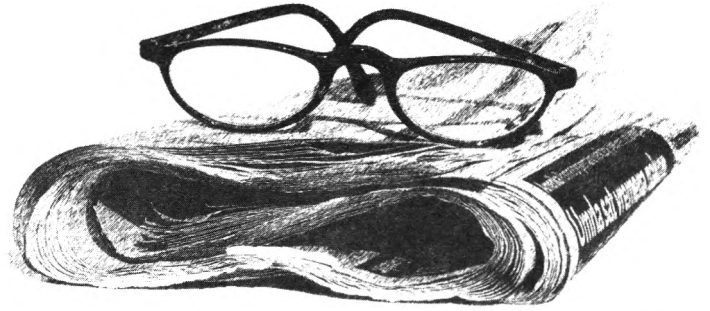
I am personally confronted by those who claim we are either one extreme or another—that we are “too far right” or “way too liberal.” A voter I spoke with on the phone in Georgia said that he used to like Bob Barr, but he didn’t anymore because, and I quote, “he’s gotten to be too Libertarian.”

Well, we won’t apologize for that, but here’s some things you can do as a candidate or coordinator to effectively combat negative information about you or your local party.

The first thing that you have to understand is that negative media is a fact of life. It will always be a part of campaigning, and we have to get used to it. That said, going out of your way to build positive relationships with the local media is a good first start to winning positive coverage. It’s important to remember that the media will not always be your friend, and it should be treated as a business acquaintance where you keep all correspondence professional and businesslike at all times. It is a good idea to build contact sheets of local media and reach out to them when you have events.

Find out what the media is saying about you. You can do this by signing up for Google Alerts. Use keywords such as your name, your city, and “Libertarian.” Google will send you all the articles that day that cross those words. You will get a list of all articles in your email about news that fits those keywords, keeping you up to date about libertarian events in your area, as well as news that may impact your campaign. It’s also good to monitor the newspapers, which is easily done by accessing their online editions.

You should also communicate with your activists and have them report back to you about any negative information that they might hear or see on the ground or in the media. Have them keep track of who said it, and where. Just the other day, the AP released an article with the wrong information about a previous LP candidate for president. Our Director of Communications was easily able to track down the author and have the information corrected. Don’t let mistakes about your campaign or the Party go without correction—especially if it is bad information.



There are several tactics you can use when confronted with a direct attack piece. You can choose to ignore the attack, which is sometimes the best solution though the most difficult. Don’t allow your pride to take over because you feel the need to always set the record straight. Sometimes your resources are better spent planning a better offense, and not engaging in defensive action.

A great diversionary tactic is simply to change the subject. You can simply ignore attacks, and move on to another subject. Nixon diverted attention from illegal campaign donations by promoting how his dog “Checkers” was a contribution and how it would be heartless for the public to not allow his children to keep the dog. There was such a public outcry in his favor after that event, he was allowed to remain on the ticket for vice president.

Another step you can take if you know something will go public is to disclose the information yourself publicly before anyone else shapes the story. If, for example, you are given a DWI while running for a local office, it might be best for you to come out with a statement, and do the damage control on your own before an opponent seizes the opportunity. Admitting wrongdoing shows integrity, but it also allows you to have the first chance to spin the story to your advantage.

Smears and attacks on Libertarians are commonplace. In fact they are so common that we often tend to respond with one extreme or the other. By adding these tools and knowledge to your campaigns, you can choose the right response for the right situation.

**Welcome to the Liberty Pledge Club!**

*Thank you for your generous contributions*

**Ralph C. Edwards**

**Paul Langford**

**Richard Skyba**

**Rachel Hawkridge**

# A Message to President-Elect Barack Obama

by Andrew Davis  
Director of Communications

The election of Barack Obama brought about an atmosphere of fear among everybody other than big-government, nanny-state Democrats. Obama, who had not yet been tempered by years in Congress, ran on a campaign of unbridled idealism wrapped up in a single word: “Change.” What exactly does he mean by change? Will it be the change we want? How far is he willing to take his promises of universal healthcare, hawkish foreign policy, and a national public service program?

Though the Bush administration, which has undoubtedly been one of the worst in American history, will be leaving office on Jan. 20, there is little room for celebration as Obama looks to take over as commander-in-chief. His attitude towards wealth, the marketplace and the economy are enough to cause great concern about his administration in this extremely fragile economy. But, there are other areas where Obama must tread with care if he wishes to follow the Constitution and foster an environment of liberty that has been lacking these last eight years.

Therefore, the Libertarian Party wishes Obama the best of luck, and offers him the following suggestions for his presidency.

**Civil Liberties:** This is one area where we thought Obama could bring real change to the table following the Bush administration, which held the protection of civil liberties about as high as they regarded things like the flu and traffic jams. However, when the fat was in the fire, Obama sold out and capitulated to the enemies of freedom during the reauthorization of the Amendments to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA).

We are justified to be skeptical of Obama when it comes to upholding civil liberties.

If Obama looks to separate himself from the Bush administration, he should—and must—work to undo the legislation of the last eight years that have left Americans incredibly vulnerable to government surveillance and spying. We must have our liberty restored and the despotic surveillance tactics of the “War on Terror” abolished.

Secondly, Obama must not use the Department of Justice as a tool to bend and break the law as he sees fit as the Bush administration frequently did. The DOJ has much work to do to rebuild its reputation with the American public, and it can start with the Obama

administration.

**Economic Freedom:** The necessity to defend and protect the marketplace from regulation and interference by the government is key to the long-term prosperity of the nation.

This point cannot be stressed enough.

The Bush administration believed it had a right and duty to get involved in the economy when they thought it wasn’t working to their standards. Instead of letting the market work out its problems, Bush got involved and turned a bad situation into a worse one.

Obama should take a hands-off approach to the economy, stepping in only to protect property rights, adjudicate disputes, and provide a legal framework in which voluntary trade is protected. Any attempt to “redistribute” the wealth through regulation or taxation should be avoided at all costs. If this is attempted, it will have dire consequences for the economy.

**Social Freedom:** Usually you don’t have to jump on Democrats about protecting social freedom, but as of late, Democrats have increasingly become more heavy-handed when it comes to personal choice in people’s lives.

The “global warming” hysteria and push for more regulation of Americans’ diets has put Democrats in the same corner as those who seek to institute moral standards through government regulation.

Obama must buck this new trend by Democrats and work to protect individual choice—even if it seems like the government needs to help people make these decisions. Obama can also take this opportunity to reform national laws that make victimless crimes a federal matter.

**The War:** This has to be one of the most obvious areas for improvement, yet one area that Democrats have consistently failed in since regaining control of Congress in 2006.

The power to end the war in Iraq is now in the hands of Obama. He also has a power to finally end what we began in Afghanistan long before we began military action in Iraq. What he must do is avoid moving troops from one theater to the other instead of simply bringing the troops home.

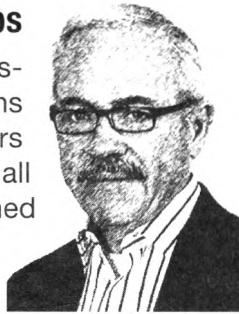
In all likelihood, we will see improvements over the Bush administration in some areas, and setbacks in others. This is why it is paramount that the Libertarian Party be a strong, shining beacon of liberty in America.

# This Month in the Media

by Andrew Davis  
Director of Communications

## Barr Condemns Plans for Troops

*Dec. 3* - Former Georgia Congressman Bob Barr says government plans to deploy 20,000 uniformed soldiers inside the United States “ignores all the tragic lessons we have learned from using the U.S. military in domestic crises.”



“When combat troops are used for domestic law enforcement, rights are inevitably violated and tragedies occur, such as when the military was improperly activated to assist in the tragedy at Waco, Texas in 1993. This domestic use of the military resulted in the loss of some 80 men, women and children,” says Barr, the Libertarian Party’s 2008 presidential nominee. “The government’s plan to deploy initially 20,000 uniformed military personnel inside the United States goes against everything we have learned about using soldiers as police officers. Not only do these plans appear to be a violation of the Posse Comitatus Act—which forbids the use of the military in law enforcement on non-federal property—but it also opens up the American public to dangerous Constitutional violations.”

Barr says his concerns are greatly heightened by the conclusion reached by the current Bush Administration in a classified 2001 Department of Justice memo. The memo stated that the Fourth Amendment, which protects citizens against unreasonable searches and seizures, does not apply to the U.S. military when it engages in “domestic” operations.

## Bailout “Insanity”

*Dec. 10* - “It’s insanity,” says Libertarian Party spokesperson Andrew Davis, referring to a proposal backed by the White House to bail-out Detroit automakers. “It’s insane that we keep going back to the taxpayers to bail-out struggling corporations who, for lack of good management and sound business practices, have become unprofitable. Who in Congress is standing up for the taxpayers? Where are the Republicans, who claim they stand for the free market? Where are the Democrats, who claim they oppose corporate welfare?”

The bailout plan sought to initially give Detroit automakers a \$15 billion, taxpayer-backed loan with a deadline of March 31 to develop a plan for profit-

ability. If, by the deadline, automakers failed to reach what the White House had established as “viability,” the loans would be recalled—something Davis says is “already written in the stars.”

“We all know what’s going to happen, and it’s not going to be the outcome proponents of the bailout want us all to believe,” says Davis. “Automakers will get \$15 billion of taxpayer money, and when April rolls around, they’ll be asking for more time and more money. There are absolutely no provisions in the bailout bill that require any type of change to management, union contracts or company structure before receiving taxpayer money. All taxpayers have is a promise that the same CEOs who put their companies in this mess will get it right the second time.”

Davis said the end-goal of restructuring should be the removal of the CEOs and management who rejected clear signs of new trends in the auto industry, entered into destructive union contracts and refused to make necessary changes when it was clear profitability began shrinking. Davis stressed these changes will not be made if automakers are kept alive by taxpayer money.

## The Libertarian Party Turns 37

*Dec. 11* - The Libertarian Party, America’s third-largest political party, is celebrating its 37th birthday.

“Since we began in 1971, we’ve elected hundreds of Libertarians to public office across the country,” says Libertarian Party National Chairman William Redpath. “These Libertarians make a significant impact on their community, and serve as a testament to the values of the Libertarian Party. As more and more Americans look for an alternative to Republicans and Democrats, our numbers continue to grow. Until Republicans and Democrats significantly reduce the size and power of government, the Libertarian Party will be there fighting for smaller government, lower taxes and more individual freedom.”

The party was founded Dec. 11, 1971 in Colorado Springs, CO as an alternative to Republicans and Democrats. The Libertarian Party seeks to restore the vision of government held by our Founding Fathers, and divest government of the powers not granted to it by the Constitution.

