

# LIBERTY PLEDGE

## NEWSLETTER

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April 2013

## Libertarian Party in the News

### Libertarian Party vows to challenge CT lawmakers that backed gun law

By James Mosher

Excerpted from the **Norwich Bulletin**  
Published on April 8, 2013

The Libertarian Party of Connecticut is opposing Connecticut's new gun law and says elected representatives that voted for it can expect Libertarian challengers in the next election.

"The bill imposes substantial limitations on the right to keep and bear arms as well as imposing large costs on law-abiding citizens who wish to buy and sell weapons peacefully," said Joshua Katz, a Westbrook resident who is the party's secretary. "It punishes those who seek mental health counseling, which, far from keeping us safer, will simply discourage people who need help from getting it."

The Libertarian Party is known for its small-government philosophy. It has run candidates in Connecticut with limited success.

"The party says that politicians who voted for the law have abandoned their commitment to transparent, accountable government, and should expect to face challenges from Libertarian opponents in their next election," the party said in an April 5 press release.

### Stewartstown council abolishes ban on guns on borough premises

By Lauren McLane

Excerpted from the **York Daily Record**

Published on Feb. 5, 2013

After a lengthy presentation by its solicitor, Stewartstown Borough Council voted unanimously Monday night to repeal its long-standing ban of firearms in its building.

The borough's ban, which dates back several years, forbids guns in the municipal building.

At January's mid-month workshop meeting, several members of the Libertarian Party challenged the ban's constitutionality under Pennsylvania's consolidated statutes section 18.

Members of the party asserted that the ban violated the law and pointed to recent action in York City that repealed a similar ban.

Solicitor Craig Sharnetzka told council that his research indicated that the claims were correct, but that the situation in Stewartstown was "not black and white."

The law allows banning firearms in judicial centers, and goes on to define those areas to include places such as police holding cells and witness rooms, both of which the borough's municipal building includes as part of the police department.

Sharnetzka told council he felt it could probably justify banning firearms on the grounds that the municipal building shares space with and adjoins through corridors areas where weapons are banned.

At the end of his presentation, council member Kenton Kurtz made the motion to lift the ban except where prohibited by law, and council unanimously voted to do so.

Manuel Gomez, a Libertarian Party member who addressed council last month, thanked them.

## Libertarian Party in the News

# Libertarians stand up for property rights in lawsuit forcing florist to patronize gay wedding

By Steven Nelson

Excerpted from U.S. News & World Report

Published on April 10, 2013

Washington state Attorney General Bob Ferguson announced Tuesday a lawsuit against an eastern Washington florist who refused to provide flowers for a same-sex marriage ceremony. Some conservative and libertarian supporters of same-sex marriage say it's a bad move.

According to a press release from Ferguson's office, Barronelle Stutzman, the owner of Arlene's Flowers, violated the state's Consumer Protection Act in March when she informed a longtime client she would not provide flowers for his ceremony.

"As Attorney General, it is my job to enforce the laws of the state of Washington," Ferguson said in a released statement. "Under the Consumer Protection Act, it is unlawful to discriminate against customers on the basis of sexual orientation. If a business provides a



Michael Pickens  
Executive Director, Washington LP

product or service to opposite-sex couples for their weddings, then it must provide same-sex couples the same product or service."

Ferguson is seeking a permanent injunction requiring the shop to serve customers without regard to sexual orientation and a \$2,000 fine for each violation of the law, according to the release.

Michael Pickens, executive director of the Libertarian Party of Washington State, told U.S. News that he supports legalizing same-sex marriage, but opposes Ferguson's lawsuit.

***"As a private business the florist should be able to choose who they sell their services to."***

***— Michael Pickens***

***Executive Director, Washington LP***

"As a private business the florist should be able to choose who they sell their services to," said Pickens, who described his gay uncles as "two of the most awesome people I know."

The state government "shouldn't be forcing businesses to sell

products to someone," Pickens said.



## LP Executive Director Carla Howell interviewed for Korean broadcast about American political parties

“The Republicans pretend to be for cutting spending, for being fiscally conservative, for being against high taxes, but in reality they vote pretty much the same way the Democrats do. They vote for high spending, they vote for high taxes, they vote for enormous government debt, deficit spending. The Libertarian Party opposes government debt and deficit spending and we oppose the large size of government. Libertarian candidates propose to actually shrink government.”

### New and renewing Liberty Pledgers

- |                        |                       |
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## Libertarian Party in the News

# Libertarians and Republicans team up to teach youth Austrian economics

By Pierre-Alexandre Crevaux

Excerpted from Examiner.com

Published on March 23, 2013

Economics is probably one of the most dreaded courses for high school and college students. Graphs that cross each other, equations that make no sense, a terrible mixture of mathematics and empirical science are among the features of Economics 101, and it only gets worse from that point on.

But there is one group in Miami trying to change this view. The Rothbardian Circle, a group named after the late political economist Murray Rothbard (who advocated an end of coercive government and full privatization of all public services) isn't interested in those equations and empirical data. Meeting once a month in the Brickell neighborhood of Miami since its founding earlier this year, the Circle discusses and debates the Austrian School of Economics.

The Austrian School goes back to the mid-19th century when economists from Austria-Hungary began refuting the separation between economics and the study of human action (praxeology).

Since then, the Austrian School has offered great contributions to modern economics. The relationship between price rises and inflation, the socialist calculation problem, the time-interest theory of credit, the business cycle theory, and many others are all contributions made by scholars such as Ludwig von Mises, Nobel laureate F. A. Hayek, and Rothbard.

Today, its greatest audience is the younger generation of libertarians who promote free markets.

Politically, the gathering was diverse, with an audience of independents, Republicans, and Libertarians.

Luis Rivera, credited for starting the movement in South Florida, is the District 19 Committeeman in the local GOP. Often dissenting from mainstream Republican views, Rivera has no fear in expressing his views and attends local Libertarian Party meetings more often than Republican gatherings.

Two high-ranking members of the Libertarian Party attended the Rothbardian Circle's second meeting. Don

*From the rise of the local Libertarian Party [...] to the activities of the Rothbardian Circle, a wave of liberty-minded events is bound to turn the fate of the southern Sunshine State around.*

Sheldon, self-made entrepreneur from Pompano Beach, is the current chairman of the Libertarian Party of Broward County. He dissented from the rest of the Rothbardian Circle by opposing the gold standard and holding a monetarist point of view on the Federal Reserve.

Eric Faden, the other Libertarian at the meeting, is the vice-chairman of the Libertarian Party of Miami-Dade County. He recently made the news for confronting the Hialeah Police Department on First Amendment issues. Faden, a staunch Austrian, is now considering a run for a local office.

The next Rothbardian Circle meeting will be held in May. A larger audience is expected to attend at the third gathering, and the future for the organization is more than promising.

"I try to let it flow organically. I'm the founder but no one has titles," texted Luis Rivera to the Examiner. This leaderless status sends a concrete message to the thousands of young South Florida men and women who dislike the current status quo: Come and be part of the discussion.

Regardless of political party, social views, and profession, a large new sub-culture is appearing in South Florida. From the rise of the local Libertarian Party [...] to the activities of the Rothbardian Circle, a wave of liberty-minded events is bound to turn the fate of the southern Sunshine State around.