

# LIBERTY PLEDGE

## NEWSLETTER

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www.LP.org January 2011

## New goals, plans and LPHQ upgrades in 2011

By Wes Benedict  
Executive Director  
Libertarian National Committee

We're already moving forward with new plans and projects in 2011.

One of our important projects is upgrading our main computer servers here at the Libertarian Party Headquarters (LPHQ). Among other things, our servers hold our membership database and various programs and documents that we share here in the office.

While upgrading our servers and membership database should speed things up for us in the future and make us more efficient, this issue of Liberty Pledge News may arrive late due to working on the upgrades and temporary inaccessibility of the database.

The Libertarian National Committee passed five goals at the November 2010 meeting in New Orleans. An abbreviated list of the goals:

1. Increase to 20,000 sustaining members (from about 14,000).
2. Have operational affiliates in at least 48 states that meet a minimum set of criteria.
3. Raise \$1.4 million revenue in 2011.
4. Conduct several training seminars around the country.
5. For 2012, recruit 200 U.S. House candidates, increase our number of elected Libertarians to 200, and achieve ballot access in at least 45 states.

Our national committee and staff are developing strategies, tactics, and a budget to help meet these new goals.

While it may not be obvious from the brief descriptions, some of these goals are quite ambitious and will take a significant amount of staff time and resources.

Your continued support of our monthly pledge program is vital to helping us achieve these growth goals for the Libertarian Party.

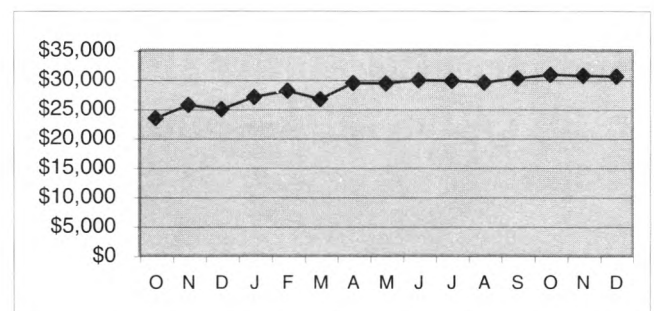
As I watch the news recently, I remain convinced that Republican and Democratic politicians just do not support smaller government and respect for individual rights.

I am so tired of hearing the Republicans talk and talk about how they're going to "cut government." We all know what's really going to happen.

And I'm saddened, but not surprised, that Obama and the Democrats have done nothing to end our foreign wars, close Guantanamo, or stop (or even de-escalate) the War on Drugs.

We've got a statist president, and a Congress made up of two statist political parties. I'm trying to help the Libertarian Party do everything we can to fight against statism and for liberty and individual rights.

I am pleased to report that our monthly pledge remains above the \$30,000 level.



Thanks again.

# Libertarian Party: On the Trail

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## Libertarian Party To Fight Red Light Cameras

*from the Florida LP, December 18, 2010*

WINTER PARK, FL - Through its Executive Committee, the Libertarian Party of Florida has voted to support future legislation to ban the use of red light cameras within the State of Florida....

The Libertarian Party of Florida has successfully lobbied the state legislature in past years to keep the state from approving their use and now seeks an all-out ban of the devices which create more problems than they solve....

Red light cameras have been banned in Connecticut, Nevada, New Hampshire, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Mississippi and Minnesota. Some have been banned due to safety concerns, others due to a state supreme court finding them illegal and unconstitutional....

The Libertarian Party of Florida encourages its membership and all Floridians to openly oppose red light cameras, and to fight citations they may receive through the court system. The LPF will also continue in its efforts to officially ban the use of red light cameras in the State of Florida. "After an exhaustive study of this issue, I thoroughly endorse the banning of Red Light Cameras in the State of Florida," said **Vicki Kirkland**, Chairperson of the Libertarian Party of Florida.

## Libertarian Party of Georgia Announces Legislative Priorities for 2011 General Assembly Session

*from the Georgia LP, January 4, 2011*

ATLANTA - The Libertarian Party of Georgia announced their focused priorities for the 2011 legislative session. With four major areas of focus, Tax Reform, Budget Process Reform,

Election Reform, and defeating the Prescription Monitoring Act, the third largest political party in Georgia lays out how they hope to influence the legislative session that begins January 10th. Available on the Party's website, LPGeorgia.com, a four page document outlines their focus for the session.

"Georgia faces serious problems in the areas of taxation and spending, and the people of Georgia deserve serious solutions," said the Party's Legislative Director, **Jeff Sexton**. "The Libertarian Party of Georgia is committed to offering those solutions, working to allow voters genuine choices at the ballot box including the recall of officials the voters deem are not living up to expectations."

With a heavy focus on reforming taxation and budgetary processes, the Libertarian Party of Georgia demonstrates their commitment to lowering taxes for Georgians and limiting the size and scope of government. Urging the elimination of the corporate income tax, reform of SPLOST regulations, and lower tax rates with fewer exemptions make up the bulk of their Tax Reform proposals.

As one might expect, the Party also advocates for greater access to the ballot for all candidates, noting the strictest ballot access laws in the nation status that Georgia has received in recent years. They propose a bill similar to one introduced last session by Alan Powell (R-Hartwell), Rusty Kidd (I-Milledgeville) and Mark Hatfield (R-Waycross), which eliminated the need to collect petition signatures in order appear on the ballot. Such a bill would allow independent and "third party" candidates the same access to the ballot as their Republican and Democratic counterparts.

"Our focus is to make Georgia a better state," said **Brett Bittner**, the Executive Director of the Libertarian Party of Georgia. "We see these areas as places to accomplish that. Lower taxes, more choices, and smaller government are issues from which every Georgian can benefit, and we're working to achieve those objectives in our focused efforts this legislative session."

# Libertarian Party: On the Trail

## Ohio LP welcomes ballot access decision

from the Ohio LP, January 6, 2011

COLUMBUS—The Libertarian Party of Ohio (LPO) Thursday welcomes a decision by Ohio Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner that will allow the state’s third-largest political party ballot access in 2011 for an unprecedented fourth consecutive year.

Brunner issued directive 2011-01 because the general assembly has yet to pass a ballot access law since Ohio’s old law was struck down by the Ohio Supreme Court in the 2006 case of LPO v. Blackwell, said **Michael Johnston**, vice chair and political director for the LPO....

“Today’s decision means we are able to continue running candidates in partisan races with the LPO label, giving voters a small-government alternative to the two big-government parties,” Johnston said....

The fourth-largest state affiliate of the national Libertarian Party, the LPO fielded 46 candidates across the state—including a full slate of

candidates for statewide executive races—in the 2010 general election, garnering more than one million votes.

New and renewing Liberty Pledgers		
Steve Adams	Jim Henriques	James J. Sewell
David Ameringer	Rich Hutchins	Dick Shaw
Norm Balog	Jimmy Janow	Richard Skyba
Wayne Barger	Edward W. Karpinski	James Smith
Christopher Beard	Gregory D. Kelper	Clifford B. Sondock
Jay L. Brand	Charles Knisley	Benjamin Soule
Brian D. Bravo	Barry Kruse	Harry Spilman
Curtis A. Brookover	Keith F. Kuhnsman	Aaron Starr
William L. Brooks	Jason Mauricio	Chris Stevenson
Jerome B. Brown	Michael McGuire	Tony D. Stuntz
Ronald W. Brown	John McIntyre	Richard Sutton
Sheri Callaghan	Thomas P. Merrill	Joe S. Swick
Carl Case	Timothy Millar	Curry B. Taylor
Roger J. Cooper	Carl Minie	James B. Thorpe
Mark R. Fitzgerald	David Misisco	Richard C. Thurber
Glen Gade	Lawrence Moss	Lorence W. Trick
Condit L. Garstang	Chuck Moulton	K. Drew Tucker
Lelon Ginn	Michael C. Neviasser	Daniel W. Underkofler
Robert C. Goen	Bryan Nowotarski	Stephen P. Victor
David Gottlieb	Raymond L. Reeves	Richard Wendt
Stephen F. Grande	Keane E. Richardson	Benjamin Williamsz
Jules L. Greenberg	John Rogers	Tracey Young
Jeffrey C. Greenwell	Thomas Rose	E. William Yund
Joshua C. Harvey	Brian Schnack	William B. Ziebertz
Marty Hatley	Troy L. Schultz	Lawrence E. Zimble
Ken Heinemann	Jeffrey M. Scoville	

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

- \$5,000
- \$1,000
- \$500
- \$250
- \$100
- \$50
- \$25

\_\_\_\_\_ Other

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

- \$2,500
- \$1,000
- \$500
- \$250
- \$100
- \$50
- \$30

\_\_\_\_\_ 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.

# Libertarian Party in the News

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## Meltdown 2011: Unstable Markets and What It Means For You

*Hawaii Filipino Chronicle*, December 11, 2010

...**Wes Benedict**, executive director of the Libertarian Party believes that big banks and government have teamed up to put taxpayers on the hook for risky business.

"Miniature crises are always made worse when the government decides to throw good money after bad. Politicians and bankers swindled the public with the false metaphor that free market forces were driving our economy off a cliff. It was government backing of risky investments followed by wasteful stimulus spending that drug our economy downhill."

When asked about the growing national debt, Benedict warned that "The debt represents seniors living off the backs of younger generations. At some point, younger generations will have to pull the plug on seniors – otherwise the entire system will collapse."

## Red light camera fight isn't over

WDBO (Florida), December 21, 2010

Orange County may be planning to install 10 red light cameras at the beginning of next year, but the fight over their legality isn't over.

The Libertarian Party of Florida says the red light cameras are unconstitutional, and it wants them banned across the state.

"Every time we find out about a board meeting that a city council is going to have, we are going to go there, voice our protest, we are going to inform the citizenry," says **Alex Snitker**, party spokesman and former Libertarian candidate for the U.S. Senate.

But Orange County has already approved the red light cameras which will be installed at the beginning of next year.

The Libertarian Party worries that once city and county governments install red light cameras, they will continue to add more cameras to other intersections.

## Libertarians seeking candidates

*Hatford Courant* (Connecticut), January 3, 2011

The Libertarian Party of Connecticut is seeking people to run for five legislative seats soon to be vacated by lawmakers tapped to serve in the Malloy administration.

"This is an excellent opportunity to put candidates in office who will go above and beyond, candidates who will be nominated under a party committed to liberty and true fiscal responsibility," **Dan Reale**, chairman of the Libertarian Party of Connecticut, said in an email

## MIT's Libertarians

*MIT Tech* (Massachusetts), January 5, 2011

Last October, The Tech surveyed the undergraduate and graduate population about their political views....

Interestingly, we found that MIT has a surprisingly strong libertarian streak — 498 people, or about 23 percent of respondents, said that they did consider themselves to be a libertarian. Of those, 35 percent said the Libertarian Party best reflects their views, and 23 percent said the Democratic Party best reflects their views. Only 30 self-identified libertarians, a mere six percent, felt the Tea Party best represented their views. That was only slightly less than the Republican Party, which captured 9 percent of self-identified Libertarians.