

# 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

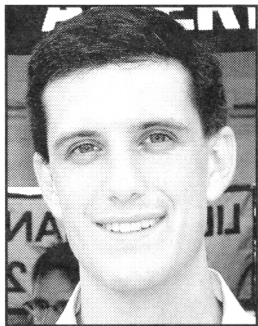
February 2009

## Pledgers Are Putting the LP on the Winning Path

By Donny Ferguson

*LNC Communications Director*

Have I thanked you yet for being a fellow monthly pledger?



Donny Ferguson  
Director of Communications

If not, thank you!

My name is Donny Ferguson, the new Director of Communications here at the Libertarian National Committee. I've spent the last 14 years as a winning campaign manager, fundraiser, media consultant and even a government chief of staff, and I've been a Libertarian Party

monthly pledger since 2002.

Having spent a lot of time and several million dollars helping "the other guys" win elections, I can tell you now is a great time to be a Libertarian.

For one, we have a Democrat administration that's blowing up government so large independent voters now oppose the president's proposals, and even 11 House Democrats couldn't go along with it.

And voters don't want to give their votes to Republicans, who've spent the last eight years exploding spending, busting open deficits and trampling on civil liberties.

Poll after poll after poll I look at, whether it's from Rasmussen, Opinion Dynamics, Gallup or even partisan pollsters like Greenberg or Luntz, show the same thing – voters are looking for another option in numbers unseen since Ross Perot's presidential race.

It's up to us to present the Libertarian Party as that reasonable alternative.

We're already winning. Libertarians won over 200 races in 2008, and hold hundreds more appointed offices. And we're coming off one of the most impressive presidential campaigns ever, with a ticket whose experience showed they can be

trusted with your vote and impressive national media coverage. The result was an increase in our presidential vote total, despite the late start to the campaign and predictions the Obama "phenomenon" would draw independent voters.

We've already begun winning this year. Inside the month's Pledge News our the Missouri LP reports they're going to automatically win at least three city council races this year when no one else wanted to run against one Libertarian, and the top two spots in the spring primary for two other seats went to Libertarians.

2009 presents an amazing opportunity like the ones presented to the Progressive Party in the 1920s and Ross Perot in the 1990s.

Voters are very worried about the economy, but those polls I mentioned show they overwhelmingly want tax cuts, oppose more spending, and a majority think both Republicans and Democrats will actually make the economy worse.

That's why I have to thank you. Monthly pledging provides your Libertarian Party a rock-solid, sound foundation to build on.

We're taking advantage of that to get our spokespersons out in the media, telling voters about our sensible, rational, proven plans to grow jobs and stabilize incomes.

We're fighting for better ballot access laws across the country (I've published one letter from an Oklahoma member thanking us, by which I mean you, for that.)

And we're hard at work recruiting candidates for this year's legislative races in Virginia and New Jersey and races across the country in 2010. If you want to run, call me at 202-333-0008, x.225.

So thank you so much for being a monthly pledger. Together we're building a Libertarian Party that wins elections.

**DONATE TO THE LP: [www.lp.org/contribute](http://www.lp.org/contribute)**  
**VOLUNTEER FOR THE LP: [www.lp.org/volunteer](http://www.lp.org/volunteer)**  
**RUN FOR OFFICE: [www.lp.org/run-for-office](http://www.lp.org/run-for-office)**



# Your Libertarian Party: In Office

## Indianapolis City-County Councilor switches to Libertarian

*Elected county-wide, former Republican represents 800,000 with 'principle'*

*By Donny Ferguson  
Director of Communications*

The Libertarian Party of Indiana got a high-profile new member – Indianapolis City-County Councilor Ed Coleman.

Coleman announced his party switch from Republican to Libertarian at a Feb. 17 press conference in Indianapolis' Columbia Club.

"Both of the old parties have forgotten their ties to the common man and instead focus on power and control as elitists," said Coleman. "I am a common man, I campaigned for the common man, I campaigned for the common people and I still represent the common people -- the voters and taxpayers."

Coleman, a Navy veteran and former Republican, was elected at-large in 2007. He beat out three incumbents for one of the four at-large seats decided upon by over 600,000 voters.

"I have found the direction of the Republican Party has changed, and it is not the same party I joined many years ago. Nor do I believe its current leaders truly represent the ideals the party markets and advertises to voters," said Coleman.

Republican still control the board with 15 seats. Democrats hold 13 seats and Coleman is the sole Libertarian.

Coleman told *The Indianapolis Star* he switched parties because the Republicans abuse their power, particularly when dealing with the city's Capital Improvement Board. The CIB is responsible for the construction of the city's multi-million dollar taxpayer-funded sports stadiums. Many allege the CIB operates in a secretive fashion.

Marion County Libertarian Party Chairman Tim Maguire welcomed Coleman into the party.

"Very few politicians have had the courage to stand up to the old ways, mostly fearing retaliation for daring to speak out against the elite and entrenched Republican and Democratic party leaders," said Maguire. "Ed Coleman had the courage to speak up and do what is right."

"I predict his courage, vision and leadership will allow others to find their voice as well, and help others oppose failed status quo politics and find

their voice as well, and help others oppose failed status quo politics and find their way to the Libertarian Party."

"I commend Ed Coleman on his courage and his recognition that the Libertarian Party is the only political party in Indiana and the United States that truly stands for limited, fiscally responsible government and real respect for civil liberties. I gratefully welcome him, as I hope to do with other elected officials who are tired of the now clearly unaffordable politics as usual, and who yearn to join 'The Party of Principle,'" said Redpath.

As an elected official representing a combined city and county of around 800,000, Coleman is one of the nation's highest-ranking Libertarian officials.

Coleman is not the only Libertarian affiliated with the city-county council. The council re-appointed two Libertarians, Maguire and Indiana Licensed Beverage Association executive director Brad Klopfenstein, to additional terms on the Metropolitan Board of Zoning Appeals in January.

*To read the statements of Councilor Ed Coleman,  
National Chairman William Redpath and  
County Chairman Tim Maguire, go to  
<http://www.lpin.org>.*

### **LETTERS FROM YOU, THE MEMBERS: LP member grateful for Oklahoma ballot access push**

This issue is very important to me, as I was unable to vote LP in the last presidential election. I plan to donate around \$200 when my paycheck comes in, but I would also like to be of more help.

This seems like the sort of legislation that will be hard to pass if most the people voting on it are Dems and Reps. But if I remember, the last initiative didn't fail by too much, so I think we have a decent enough shot if we can get the word out.

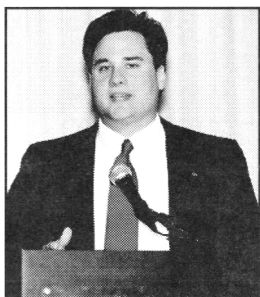
I plan to call early and often, and get my friends to do the same, to get this done. So any phone numbers you can give me would be great.  
-- D.B., Oklahoma



# Your Libertarian Party: On The Trail

## Libertarians Win Two More Seats in MO

**SPRINGFIELD, MO.** -- Missouri is already assured of two local election victories in April, state chair Glenn Neilsen reports.



Incoming Grandview City Councilman Mike Ferguson (L)

Mike Ferguson is running unopposed for a seat on the Grandview City Council, assuring the LP of yet another elected official.

In Missouri's third largest city, Tom Martz and Robert Stephens were the top two finishers in a primary runoff for a seat on the Springfield City Council Tuesday. The two libertarians will face off in the non-partisan April municipal election to join Libertarian Doug Burlison on the Council. Burlison was elected in 2007.

## Indy C-C Council Reappoints Two Libertarians

**INDIANAPOLIS, IN** -- The Indianapolis City-County Council has voted to reappoint two Indianapolis Libertarians to the Metropolitan Board of Zoning Appeals in Indianapolis for a one-year term. Timothy J. Maguire was confirmed in a 29-0 vote on January 12, 2009 to the Zoning Board of Appeals, Division I, of which he is currently the Chairman.

Maguire is a former candidate for City County Council at Large; and was elected as the Chairman of the Libertarian Party of Marion County Party on January 13, 2009.

The Indianapolis City-County Council also voted Monday night to affirm Bradley A. Klopfenstein's reappointment to the Division II Zoning Board of Appeals. Klopfenstein received 17 total votes. Both were sponsored by Councilor Lincoln Plowman.

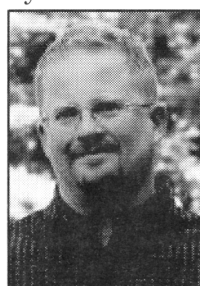
"I'd like to thank the Council for reappointing me to the Board of Zoning Appeals," said Klopfenstein. "Throughout my tenure, my goal has always been non-partisan good government for the citizens of Indianapolis. I look forward to serving for another year. "

Brad Klopfenstein is executive director of the Indiana Licensed Beverage Association. He was formerly executive director of the Libertarian Party of Indiana. He currently sits on the Commu-

nity Heights Neighborhood Board, and formerly sat on the board of directors of the Indianapolis Press Club.

## Sundwall Launches U.S. House Campaign Seeks Gillibrand seat in special election

**ALBANY, NY** -- Libertarian Party of New York chairman and small businessman, Eric Sundwall announced on February 10, 2009, he will seek the 20th Congressional District seat vacated by Senator Kirsten Gillibrand.



Congressional candidate Eric Sundwall (L)

Sundwall stated: " We will have 12 days to collect over 3500 signatures to get on the ballot. We accept this challenge because the people of the 20th District are tired of the machine politics of a smoke filled room. Jim Tedisco is a career tax and spend politician and Scott Murphy is a self-funded candidate reminiscent of Sandy Treadwell. This special election gives us much better odds than an ordinary general election."

Sundwall plans to utilize the four point model introduced by Ron Paul and used by other third party candidates for President. Foreign policy, privacy rights, the national debt and the Federal Reserve were the key points of that plan. The campaign hopes to attract a coalition of independents and main party voters unhappy with the current financial bailouts.

<http://sundwall4congress.org>

Phone (518) 595-4098.

Press release from LP of New York

For more information contact: Richard Cooper, Campaign Manager (516) 220-0964

## WELCOME TO THE LIBERTY PLEDGE CLUB!

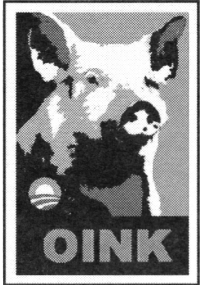
- |                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Girish Altekhar  | Michael Dudley     |
| Rex Bell         | Michael Hohertz    |
| Donald Bergemann | Dr. Lillian Somner |
| Michael Burris   | Dr. Fred Storm     |
| Martin Coalson   | Wesley Tackett     |
| H. Cole          |                    |



# Your Libertarian Party: In The Media

## Libertarians stand with voters against Sen. plan

(Feb. 6) WASHINGTON, D.C. -- America's third largest party urged Senate Republicans and Democrats to scrap their joint plans for a \$780 billion package of wealth transfers and expanded government spending.



"Poll after poll shows voters agree with the Libertarian Party. Employers and families need tax relief to create jobs and save," said William Redpath, Libertarian National Committee Chairman.

"What they don't need is politicians exploiting their fears to explode the size of government and burden our children with billions in new debt."

Recent polls show only 37 percent of voters support such a plan, with opposition rising fastest among independent voters. A Wednesday report by the Congressional Budget Office shows such a plan would cause long-term damage to the economy. With interest on the borrowed funds, the total cost to future generations of taxpayers would be around \$1.1 trillion dollars.

"With both Republicans and Democrats siding against voters to explode the national debt and expand the government, it has become clear the Libertarian Party is the only party with a fiscally responsible plan to revive our economy," said Redpath.

Libertarians support replacing the wealth transfers and expanded spending with billions of dollars in tax relief for employers and families. Recent polling by the Rasmussen firm finds 54 percent of voters support the Libertarian approach of tax relief over the Republican/Democrat approach of drastically increased government spending.

## Libertarian Party urges 'no' vote on Holder

(Jan. 28) WASHINGTON, D.C. -- America's third-largest political party urged the Senate Wednesday to reject the nomination of Eric Holder to be Attorney General, citing his record of hostility to Second Amendment rights.

"The Attorney General is expected to defend our Constitutional rights, not infringe them," said Libertarian Party spokesman Donny Ferguson,

"Americans value the precious rights protected by the Second Amendment, and they demand the Senate reject this nomination."

Nominated by President Barack Obama to lead the Justice Department, Holder earned the ire of gun rights groups while Deputy Attorney General then-President Bill Clinton, from 1997 to 2000.

Holder supported mandatory licensing and registration of gun owners, banning certain types of legal ammunition, waiting periods for handgun purchases, restricting law-abiding gun owners to purchase only one gun a month and regulations intended to drive gun shows out of existence.

Holder also sided against gun rights in the Supreme Court's 2008 *District of Columbia v. Heller* case seeking to overturn Washington, D.C.'s gun control laws.

In a brief, Holder argued the Second Amendment confers collective rights on the government and does not protect individual rights of Americans. The Court ruled otherwise, declaring gun ownership to be an individual right.

## LP: Give everyone a "Tim Geithner tax break"

(Jan. 26) WASHINGTON, D. C. -- Congress should give all taxpayers a "Tim Geithner tax break" by significantly simplifying the Internal Revenue Code, Libertarian National Committee chairman Bill Redpath said Monday.



"Congress should make sure what happened to Mr. Geithner, a finance professional, won't continue to happen to millions of average folks," said Redpath.

"If the man running the IRS can't understand the tax code with a computer helping him, how can the average taxpayer hope to do his taxes without breaking the law?" asked Redpath.

"This should be a clear signal the Internal Revenue Code is broken beyond repair and must be repealed. Millions of taxpayers hope this new administration will bring meaningful change to federal tax laws" said Redpath.

Redpath asked Congress to scrap the Internal Revenue Code and replace it with a fair, simple system that doesn't require professional accountants or complex software.