

# 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 January 2012

## Libertarian Party welcomes new Executive Director Carla Howell

The month of December brought change to Libertarian Party Headquarters in Washington, DC. Wes Benedict wrapped up his two-and-a-half years as Executive Director and prepared to ring in 2012 in his home state of Louisiana with his new wife.



Carla Howell, long-time Libertarian activist, joined the staff at LPHQ as Executive Director on Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. She brings with her years of business and political experience:

- 308,860 votes - 12% of the vote - as Libertarian U.S. Senate candidate against Ted Kennedy and a Republican candidate in 2000. The highest % in party's history for a Libertarian U.S. Senate candidate in a 3-way race (against both a Republican and Democrat). Her campaign raised over \$821,000 for that race-an amount unheard of for most Libertarian campaigns.
- Two-term Massachusetts Libertarian Party State Chair (1997-1999)
- Organized and ran the most successful regional Libertarian Presidential campaign fund-raiser in party history (Harry Browne, 1996); filled Faneuil Hall and Parker House to capacity in Boston (where John Kennedy announced his 1960 presidential campaign).
- Successfully fund-raised for and ran 5 Libertarian candidate statewide petition

- drives in 1998, 2000, and 2002 with 100% success rate in making ballot.
- Organized and managed two statewide libertarian ballot initiatives to End the Income Tax in Massachusetts in 2002 and 2008. Endorsements from Wall Street Journal, Steve Forbes and National Taxpayers Union. Almost one million votes each time.
- Featured stand-alone guest on O'Reilly Factor, Neil Cavuto, Glenn Beck, and Fox Business News Happy Hour as well as hundreds of TV interviews and debates during the last 12 years.
- Covered by Wall Street Journal, New York Times, LA Times, The Economist, and USA Today.
- Co-founded Center For Small Government which advocates for specific proposals to shrink Big Government.
- Spearheaded 2010 statewide ballot initiative to roll back the sales tax garnering 966,973 votes - in liberal Massachusetts!
- Ran against Presidential candidate Mitt Romney for governor in 2002.

She also brings twenty years of experience in product/project management, marketing, and software development. She holds an MBA in Marketing and Entrepreneurship from Babson College in Wellesley, Massachusetts.

### **Mark Your Calendar for the 2012 Convention!**

May 2-6, 2012  
Red Rock Hotel and Casino  
Las Vegas, Nevada

Visit LP.org for more information and  
convention registration.

## Libertarian Party in the News

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### More Roads Lead to Third Party Bids

*From The Wall Street Journal, December 28, 2011*

The prospects for a significant third-party presidential bid in 2012 are gathering steam, potentially complicating things for the eventual Republican nominee.

The **Libertarian Party** could have a candidate with some name recognition, with former New Mexico **Gov. Gary Johnson** expected to announce Wednesday he will leave the GOP and seek the Libertarian nomination.

And the spot is not necessarily Johnson's for the taking. Should **Rep. Ron Paul** fail in his bid for the Republican nomination, he would have until May 5, the date of the Libertarian nominating convention, to declare a candidacy for that party. Paul, who ran for president as a Libertarian in 1988, has said he has no plans to pursue a third-party bid, but he has not definitively ruled one out.

**Both Republican and Democratic pollsters have suggested that an electorate buffeted by the prolonged economic downturn and angry with both parties could be open to the appeal of a third-party candidate, much as Ross Perot caught the imagination of voters in the 1990s.**

As a GOP candidate, Johnson proposed eliminating the Internal Revenue Service and the Department of Education. He said he could cut 43 percent of federal spending and would institute a national sales tax of about 23 percent. He also backs gay marriage and supports legalizing marijuana.

**Carla Howell**, executive director of the Libertarian Party, said Johnson would compete with about half a dozen other candidates at the nominating convention. Americans Elect, meanwhile, will have completed paperwork to get on 30 state ballots by the end of this week. The group's process will let registered voters pick independent candidates via internet voting and an online convention in June.

### The Ron Paul Effect and Altering Primary Calculus

*From The Christian Science Monitor, January 6, 2012*

Ron Paul's strong third-place finish in Iowa and second-place showing in New Hampshire polls have galvanized a movement that's increasingly difficult for establishment Republicans to dismiss as "fringe." The former Texas congressman is exciting young voters, attracting independents to the ballot box, and bringing in the money – \$13 million in the past quarter.

Whether or not he can ultimately win the nomination – which most political commentators and even some of his own supporters say is highly unlikely – Representative Paul clearly has the staying power to needle his opponents with attention-grabbing ads and bring his Constitution-centric message to the masses.

So what, ultimately, might be The Ron Paul Effect? For one, he's already changed the conversation to a degree – in Republican debates and beyond.

Paul has campaigned on cutting \$1 trillion in federal spending – something that has perhaps upped the ante on how aggressively other candidates say they'll cut.

Several polls have asked about whether likely GOP primary voters have a favorable view of returning the US monetary system to the gold standard – a reflection of how much Paul has championed this idea. He's also brought to the fore more scrutiny of the Federal Reserve.

In the long run, the question is whether those Republican voters who support his views leave the party, or "does the party have a way to accommodate them?" Richie says. **The Republican Party should be careful not to alienate Paul and his supporters, because "in a unique way he's attracting new people to vote in Republican primaries or caucuses that otherwise wouldn't ... or might go to a third party," or not participate at all,** says Wayne Lesperance Jr., a

# Libertarian Party in the News

political science professor at New England College in Henniker, N.H.

**Another dynamic down the road could be Paul throwing his support to a Libertarian candidate.** He has dismissed suggestions that he himself might mount a third-party campaign, though speculation on that front still abounds. But if he were to support Gary Johnson, who left the Republican race in December to contend for the Libertarian nomination, that could potentially influence the outcome of the general election, Richie of FairVote says.

**Paul is playing an important role in the election cycle because “he’s giving American voters a choice – for much smaller government, much lower taxes, eliminating government debt, bringing our troops home – choices the Republican and Democratic Party have refused to give them,”** says Carla Howell, executive director of the Libertarian Party.

**Not only is he inspiring voters, she says, but he’s also inspiring people with libertarian views to run for office.**

## New and renewing Liberty Pledgers

- |                      |                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Douglas S. Adams     | Robert Lempke         |
| Sebastian Aguilar    | Ann S. Livingston     |
| Scott E. Alpert      | Cooper Long           |
| Kenneth O. Archbold  | Tyson C. Marshall     |
| David J. Bauer       | Glenn McGuire         |
| Rex Bell             | Jason McWhorter       |
| Larry A. Bever       | Darren C. Murphy      |
| Michael Blum         | Lemuel M. Nash        |
| Jason P. Busby       | Winford Nettles       |
| Paul Carlson         | Justin R. Niceswanger |
| Adam B. Childress    | Justin Nusunginya     |
| Fredric D. Cohen     | Eric C. Odem          |
| Jason Dalichau       | Austin Petersen       |
| Edgar Davis          | Jeff D. Pizanti       |
| Deborah Dean         | Paul A. Rainbow       |
| Mark Eads            | Kevin Redding         |
| Christopher A. Eaton | Philip Ripley         |
| William Ely          | Charles M. Rolison    |
| James Ferrero        | John J. Romano        |
| Brett Gladish        | Mark A. Selfridge     |
| Dennis Glover        | Jeffrey S. Skinner    |
| Michael L. Guin      | Gilbert H. Snow       |
| Andrew Gunderman     | Charles J. Sommer     |
| Mark Hackman         | Byron Steinman        |
| F. W. Hayes          | Tamela L. Supchak     |
| Brent M. Heist       | Timothy J. Swenson    |
| Paul Herbert         | Timur Tabi            |
| Michael J. Herzberg  | David F. Teacher      |
| Ken D. Holpp         | Richard H. Timberlake |
| Stanley G. Howard    | Doris A. Tusch        |
| Stephen Hutchens     | Brad Watson           |
| Benjamin C. Jarvis   | Joy Waymire           |
| Matthew Juszczak     | Heidi M. Wellman      |
| Paul F. Kelley       | Bruce A. West         |
| Jon Kines            | Charles W. West       |
| Louis J. Krasovic    | James A. Wilson       |
| Bruce A. Landers     | Lawrence E. Zimblar   |

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

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

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

- \$2,500**     **\$100**  
 **\$1,000**     **\$50**  
 **\$500**         **\$30**  
 **\$250**          \_\_\_\_\_ Other  
(minimum \$10)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation\*: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer\*: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Work: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

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

(Please make checks payable to **Libertarian Party.**)

Please bill my  Visa  MasterCard  AmEx  Discover

Card number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on card: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

\* 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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## Libertarian Candidate R. Lee Wrights Attracts International Attention

R. Lee Wrights, a candidate for the Libertarian nomination for president, has taken the libertarian message international. He was featured in an article on Al Jazeera "The 'other' political parties of the US" as well as other international media.

"The interviewer was impressed with my 'stop all war' stand, as well as my long-running libertarian blog, Liberty For All," Wrights commented. "Libertarians have an immense reach these days. I've received e-mails from young people overseas who want to learn more after reading the press releases, my blog or information on my campaign website.

R. Lee Wrights, editor of [www.LibertyforAll.net](http://www.LibertyforAll.net), is one of several candidates vying for the Libertarian Party presidential nomination, which will be determined in convention on May 2-6, 2012 in Las Vegas, NV.

## Norman, Oklahoma Man Seeks LP's Presidential Nomination

*Taken from NewsOK, October 1, 2011*

The time is right for a third-party candidate to occupy the White House, an Oklahoman seeking the **Libertarian Party's** presidential nomination says.

Many Americans are frustrated with federal spending and are looking for someone with common sense to save the country from economic turmoil, **R.J. Harris** said.

"The republic is in one of the most dire straits it's been in since before its founding," he

said. "We've got a Washington, D.C., full of career politicians and that doesn't seem to help."

Voters are "totally fed up" with Democrats and Republicans, he said.

Also, by using social media venues on the Internet, such as Facebook and Twitter, candidates can recruit and stay in touch with supporters at relatively little cost compared with earlier times when contenders needed money for travel and advertising to get their views known, said Harris, of Norman.

U.S. Rep. James Lankford, R-Oklahoma City, a political newcomer elected last year in a crowded field for Oklahoma's 5th Congressional District seat, pulled out a surprise victory as the GOP nominee after a relatively low-budget campaign that relied heavily on social media, such as Facebook and Twitter.

Social media programs make it possible "for individual citizen statesmen to get out there and compete in the arena of ideas," he said.

"This is definitely a David and Goliath story, but it can be done," Harris said.

Harris, 38, a 20-year Oklahoma Army National Guard officer, faces a struggle just getting his name on Oklahoma's ballot for the November 2012 general election.

The Libertarian Party needs to get 51,739 signatures of registered voters, which amounts to at least 5 percent of the total votes cast in the last general election. The deadline is March 1.

Signature collection efforts have been under way since May. About 20,000 signatures have been collected so far, Harris said; he expects they will be gathered at a faster clip now that cooler weather is here and more people will be attending events, such as football games.

### **LP Presidential Candidates (as of January 20<sup>th</sup>)**

Roger Gary  
R. J. Harris  
Gary Johnson  
Carl Person  
Bill Still  
Lee Wrights