

# LIBERTY PLEDGE

## NEWSLETTER

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www.LP.org

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## Statement from Gov. Gary Johnson

The following statement was released by Gov. Gary Johnson on the morning of Nov. 9, 2016:

**Albuquerque, N.M.** — “It is a rare privilege to play a part in shaping the future of a great nation. By offering Americans an honorable, principled choice in this election, and being joined by thousands of supporters and volunteers to make a credible third-party ticket part of the national conversation, we took significant steps toward reshaping the political landscape. For that, I am both proud and grateful.



*Libertarian Gov. Gary Johnson  
for president, 2016*

“This campaign was not about Bill Weld and me. It was not even about 2016. It was about a small government, greater freedom movement that I am confident will take hold and grow well beyond this election. It was about showing millennials, young people,

and all Americans that they do not have to blindly accept a two-party duopoly. We have hopefully set the stage for that movement to flourish and have real success at the polls.

“This is a great nation filled with great people. Bill Weld and I are honored to have provided a voice for millions of those great people, and deeply grateful to all those who made this historic effort possible.

“Today is a day to wish the president-elect our best wishes, and a sincere hope that, together, we can get about the business of addressing the challenges this great nation faces.

“Thank you!” •

*Gary E Johnson*

## Libertarian Party likely on N.H. ballots by 2018

by David Brooks

Excerpted from the *Concord Monitor*

Published on Nov. 11, 2016

Add this to the list of big changes resulting from Tuesday’s election: By next week, you might be able to register as a Libertarian in New Hampshire.

Although the final word depends on state certification of unofficial election results, it appears that Max Abramson received enough votes for governor to give the Libertarian Party of New Hampshire ballot status in 2018.



**LIBERTARIAN**  
PARTY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Abramson, a state representative from Seabrook, unofficially received slightly over 31,000 votes for governor, or 4.3 percent of the total — better than the 4 percent trigger required by state law for a party to have ballot access. If those results hold, it will be much easier for Libertarians to be put on the ballot starting with 2018 party primaries, or earlier if there is a special election for state office.

“The Libertarian [Party] will not have to petition to get any of their candidates on the ballot,” said Darryl Perry of Keene, chairman of the Libertarian Party of New Hampshire. “Candidates won’t have to go out and collect a large number of petitions in a short period of time. They’ll just pay that \$2 filing fee (as with) other parties.”

“This will ultimately save Libertarians thousands of dollars, hundreds of man hours, for getting on the ballot,” he said.

The Libertarian Party had ballot access in New Hampshire from 1990 to 1997, but lost it after the ballot-access threshold was raised from 3 percent to 4 percent.

Abramson did slightly better than the Libertarian Party candidate for president, Gary Johnson, who received 4 percent of total votes for that race. •

# Florida Senate candidate bears any burden for the Libertarian Party

Paul Stanton deals with debate disappointments and presidential ticket travails, and fights his way to tomorrow's electoral finish line.

by **Brian Doherty**

Excerpted from *Reason's "Hit & Run" Blog*

Published on Nov. 7, 2016

**P**aul Stanton is the Libertarian Party's candidate for federal senate in Florida, running against incumbent Republican Marco Rubio and Democratic challenger (and former Republican himself) Patrick Murphy. While Stanton hasn't been included in tons of polls, in a couple he hit very high numbers for a Libertarian running against two major-party candidates: 9 percent and 10 percent in two September Public Policy Polling (PPP) polls.

By one reasonable interpretation of the stated eligibility rules for a late-October senate candidate debate sponsored by Leadership Florida and the Florida Press Association, Stanton should have gotten in.

But after being asked to consider the matter formally, the debate hosts said, no, Stanton wasn't getting in, based on disagreements over the "independence" of PPP since an organization called VoteVets that had given services in support of rival Murphy had paid for the poll, and interpreting a contradiction in their stated margin of error against Stanton.

Stanton complained in strong terms, suggesting that it was possible they were violating a Federal Election Commission rule that prohibited mere major-partyhood from being the decisive "objective" criterion for a debate invitation. A different independent candidate, Steven Machat, did sue over his exclusion.

Stanton does admit, not too glumly, that the failure to get into the debate in October *was* a huge blow to his chances to break out and get noticed. Other debates he might have been in, his major-party challengers just refused to go to. They were not going to help legitimize the Libertarian Party [L.P.].

Hearing Stanton discuss some of what an outsider might consider the ups and downs of his senate run was a curious experience: so much of what he said struck me as such a heap of annoyance and unpleasantness [that] my own sense of disappointment overwhelmed me on his behalf.

But I wasn't getting that bad attitude from *him*. Stanton's still very pleased with what polling data he has, though he credits how well he seems to be doing to the "political environment" of unhappiness with Rubio and Murphy. "I'm not pretending I'm some great hero everyone wants to rally behind."

Stanton entered the primary [as] a fresh convert, brought in via Gary Johnson's 2012 presidential run. "I ran because no one was representing libertarian principles," Stanton says.

Stanton has been working a more than full-time job as a computer programmer and data analyzer for Frontier Communications, navigat-

## New and renewing Liberty Pledgers

Paul Aljets	Pierre Monette
Elliot Antokas	Edward Monson
Marel K. Bates	Timothy L. Reeves
Robert W. Behr	John Reid
Salvadore Bertolone	Mark Reynolds
Timothy Black	Paul Rhynard
Frank J. Bowman	Matthew Riell
Kane Britton	William Risko
Patsy Choat	John Roberts
Martin H. Coalson	Leonardo Robinson
David Cohen	Christy Salinas
David Crance	Christopher Sanders
Jacob Dalton	Brett Schaffter
Jennifer D'Eath	Brett Schlichtemeier
Damon Z. Dillon	Christopher V. Schmidt
Jamie Dunning	Marshall E. Schwartz
John Emerich	Brett Seright
Joseph Eskenas	Clarence Shelton
James Farrington	Preston Shepherd
Francis L. Findley	Dallas Shon
Bernard R. Gans	Katlyn Smith
Laurence Gillis	Cisse Spragins
Damien Goodman	Scott Stein
Daniel Gray	Nicholas Surface
Peter Hahnstadt	Graham Sutton
James Harrelson	Carolyn Swanson
Amara Hildebrand	John Swanson
Matthew Jeffers	Jon Thirkield
David Johnson	Margaret C. Thomson
Richard K. Judt	James Tucker
Howard L. Kearney	John R. Velez
John Kelly	Sara-Amanda Venegas
Jay Linn	Wade A. Wallinger
John Marshall	David L. Whalen
Nicholas McRae	Nathan Wiehoff
Robert McWilliams	Cody Wolfe
Robert R. Meigs	Cade Wooten
Joseph Milano	Michael Zoes

ing an \$11 billion acquisition for the company, while also running for senate.

He did all the things: "traveled around the state, pretty much all the state except Jacksonville, almost every weekend went out to...different political rallies, meet people and whatnot." An old army buddy, Jon Warburton, came from Idaho, as a volunteer, to manage the campaign. He asked lots of people face to face for money, and drew around \$20,000, though he hated asking. Half went to the

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### Stanton for U.S. Senate in Florida

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primary [election] filing fee, though the state’s rules involve kicking back some of it to the party itself, which kicked its approximately \$3,000 portion back to [the] campaign.

His messaging front-and-centers such perceived “left” libertarian issues as peace, the drug war, and poverty. As he explains himself on his web site:

*As Senator, he will advance the principle of non-aggression, seeking to end the United States involvements in the Middle East and mitigating the harm we have already caused. Additionally, he advocates for an end to the “War on Drugs” and incarceration of users. He demands an overhaul of the federal tax system, where even those who are poor are still overburdened with taxes on the fruits of their labors through a “War on the Poor.”*

He is enough of a data hound that getting voter lists from the state and crunching data to get good mailing lists for begging Libertarians for money and informing them of his campaign was easy.

He’s never done an illicit drug, ever, insists this veteran of stints in Iraq in the mid-’00s, working in the “triangle of death” as personal security for a bomb squad with the 101st Airborne. He did once have to rescue a friend trapped by debt and violence in a “drug house,” unable to seek any official help because of the whole drug angle. That experience helped make the drug war a very big issue to Stanton.

But mostly this combat veteran cares about peace. His vet status “makes it harder for people to call me a whiny, scared hippie,” though he says he’s the kind of veteran who does not like to “use war-vet status as an armor.”

Nor does he want to talk that much about the presidential

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ticket, except to insist he is certainly voting for Johnson, far and away the best choice, he makes sure I understand. Still, Stanton was a bit let down that the presidential campaign stonewalled any attempt on his part to speak to the crowds at Johnson’s and/or Weld’s Florida events.

That’s even though, Stanton notes, they had no problem appearing on stages with Republicans there and elsewhere. All he kept being told was they didn’t have time to properly vet the downticket L.P. candidates and thus couldn’t take any chances.

None of this is delivered like he’s *complaining*; it’s just the facts. I asked him about all the details of his senate race, and he told me. It sounds like the sort of needless stress and strain that might break a man, but he’s not at all discouraged, near as I could tell. It helps that he believes in this cause; he can’t see whatever troubles it involved as needless. Peace and liberty are important, and someone has to step up for them.

I ask him a question, meant to be about his vision of the party’s near future, about how the next few years will be affected by what might happen tomorrow, what the [L.P.’s] situation in 2020 might be like, depending on if Trump or Clinton won.

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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.**)

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

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City, State, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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*\* 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 looks towards 2018

by **Melanie Metzman**

Excerpted from the *Indiana Daily Student*  
(a publication of Indiana University Bloomington)

Published on Nov. 30, 2016

The Indiana Libertarian Party is already looking to build momentum for the 2018 elections.

Because there are no elections in 2017 in Indiana, the party will have an off-season to reorganize, said Rodney Benker, vice chair of the Libertarian Party of Indiana.

“This gives us the opportunity to do some major retooling and work on national outreach,” Benker said.

Though the Indiana Libertarian Party did not win any major statewide races, there is hope for the future, said Margaret Fette, secretary for the Monroe County Libertarian Party and outreach director for the Indiana Libertarian Party.

Libertarian presidential candidate Gov. Gary Johnson—R NM received 4.9 percent of the vote in Indiana, or about 130,000 votes. This is about an 80,000-vote increase from 2012, the first year Johnson ran for president.

“Everyone who supported him should feel really proud of this,” Fette said.

The governor’s race was more contentious than the Libertarian Party had expected, Fette said.

Governor-elect Lt. Gov. Eric Holcomb—R won with 52.93 percent of the vote, or about 957,000 votes. Libertarian gubernatorial candidate Rex Bell obtained 1.34 percent of the vote, or about 25,000 votes.

The Libertarian Party continues to appeal to many Americans because of [its] focus on the individual, Benker said.

Despite not winning a major election, the Libertarian Party continues to appeal to many Americans because of [its] focus on the individual, Benker said.

Fette said Democrats want to tax everyone. She added,

## Stanton for U.S. Senate

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He interprets the question, rightly enough, as about his Senate race.

“Are you asking me if I’m going to run for re-election? Well, I have not de-

ecided yet. I’ll have to ask my family.”

Regardless, that ability to either hotly believe in victory or dryly accept loss is the beating heart of the modern Libertarian candidate. No matter what happens, Stanton’s not done.

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the Republicans “aren’t too bad,” but they want to make religion a part of government and control what Americans are doing with their personal lives.

“Republicans...want to make religion a part of government and control what Americans are doing with their personal lives. It isn’t necessary, and I wish they’d knock it off.”

—Margaret Fette, LP Indiana outreach director

“It isn’t necessary, and I wish they’d knock it off,” Fette said. “I think there are a lot of people out there that are looking for something outside of what the two parties have to offer.”

Fette said the Monroe County Libertarian Party is “low key” because it faces two primary struggles. First is overcoming the two-party system, and second is finding strong Libertarian candidates to run for office.

It is unlikely the Libertarians would win in a three-way race because so many people vote straight ticket [Indiana ballots give voters the option to vote for all candidates on a party’s ticket at once by simply indicating “Democrat” or “Republican”]. The state Libertarian Party will look for races in which either one of the major parties has given up hope of winning, said IU senior Brandon Lavy, youth outreach director for the Bell campaign.

“This presents a real opportunity for Libertarians’ candidates,” Lavy said, on Libertarians running in 2018 or 2020.

Most of the members of the local party are also small-business owners working long hours and putting most of their energy into their business, so they do not have time to actively participate with the party or run for office, Fette said.

She added, Rex Bell, owner of Bell Contracting, proved it could be done, but he had a large team of people working alongside him, which allowed him to balance owning a business while running for office. •

“I plan, since I do data for a living, to help the Party with voter data, and I’m treasurer of the Volusia County [branch of the L.P.] and will focus more on local issues.” If he can’t do foreign policy, he likes local issues more. But he’s sticking around, no matter what.

“It’s my party, and my movement. It’s not like I own it, but I’m part of it, and why would I want to surrender the ideas of antiviolenace and peace and civil liberties?” •