

# LIBERTY PLEDGE

## NEWSLETTER

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## Libertarian Party in the News

# How to shrink government power

From an interview with LP Executive Director Carla Howell

PressTV

Published on May 2, 2013

### **Government has become unaccountable**

Congress is not representing the people. It is representing, rather, the special interests that are profiting from big government.

The Democratic and Republican parties are essentially one party. They're sort of like football teams. They're wearing different colored jerseys — red and blue — but they're playing the same game. And that game is dishing out money to special interests in return for donations to their political campaigns and retention of their power.

The first thing we can do — besides downsizing government, which we must work to do at all times — is get rid of all the campaign finance laws. They're a joke. They're doing absolutely nothing to stop special interests from influencing Congress and the laws that they pass.

Instead, what we should do is require anyone who is a government employee or government contractor to sign a conflict-of-interest statement promising that they will not donate to any campaign as long as they are receiving funds from government. That is not a breach of their constitutional right because it's a voluntary exchange, just like when an employee signs a nondisclosure agreement with their boss in exchange for a job and a salary.

### **Politicians have a conflict of interests**

We applaud those who donate to campaigns who are trying to shrink government. That's their constitutional right. And it's the whole purpose of the Libertarian Party. We're not trying to make money from government. We don't want government jobs. We want there to be a lot fewer government jobs.

The problem is when you have people who are donating who have a financial interest in government. They support politicians who keep voting for higher taxes, higher spending, and programs where these special interests, in turn, profit. That is the problem, and that should be prohibited as a matter of law. It should be government's policy that anyone who gets

a contract or a job in government should be prohibited from donating to campaigns and influencing elections.

Just as a judge should be forbidden from ruling in a case where he has a financial interest in one of the parties, so should government profiteers. It's a conflict of interest. That is the problem.

Politicians and the media keep ignoring this heart of the issue matter and keep passing campaign finance regulations that do nothing except create more bureaucracy and waste and inhibit the voice of citizens and their First Amendment right — which is wrong.

So we need to completely trash our current campaign finance laws and get back to the fundamental issue, which is conflict of interest, and forbid anyone from donating to campaigns who is making money from government. That's the key to turning around and solving the problem of special interest politics in America.

### **Runaway military spending is a bipartisan game**

War is just another Big Government program driven by special interests, and money is certainly a very big factor. Politicians spread out the wealth and put defense contractors and military bases in all, if not very close to all, of the states. So just about every congressman and every senator has a stake in keeping defense spending high because they're bringing home the bacon, as they say, by funding contractors and military bases in their states.

That is certainly true in Massachusetts, where you have 100 percent Democrats in Congress and the U.S. Senate. Even the late U.S. Sen. Ted Kennedy, who voted against the Iraq war, was one of the first to lobby to keep all the U.S. military bases open in Massachusetts and to keep money flowing to the defense contractors in Massachusetts.

So there really is no difference between Democrats and Republicans when it comes to defense spending — or really any Big Government program. And that includes war. Both have consistently voted for war.

## Libertarian Party in the News

# Libertarian Party's Senate candidate smokes marijuana in Hamilton Park

By Mike Davis

From the *New Jersey Times*

Published on May 13, 2013

Staring off into Veterans Park, the Libertarian candidate slowly raised the marijuana cigarette to his lips and took a deep breath.

As photographers snapped pictures, his wife captured video of Don DeZarn on a cellphone and asked him "who" it was for.

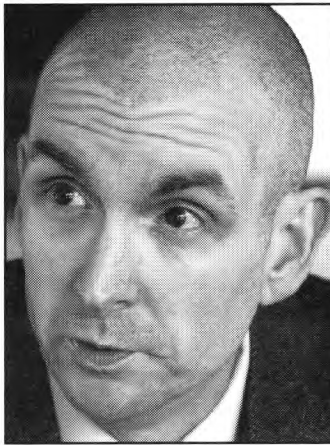
"Who is this for?" DeZarn said, exhaling a puff of smoke. "This is for all my brothers and sisters who are currently being held prisoners of war by our government as a result of the war on drugs."

Though no police were on the scene to arrest him, DeZarn, 46, of East Windsor, called the stunt a public statement for marijuana legalization, one of the chief tenets of his campaign for the state Senate seat in the 14th District.

Alongside Assembly candidates Sean O'Connor and Steven Uccio, both of East Windsor, DeZarn represents the Libertarian Party, running on a platform that focuses on cutting property taxes, increasing government transparency and "legalizing, regulating and taxing marijuana in New Jersey."

"The fact that our state freely regulates [and sells] alcohol — while prosecuting people who use marijuana in the privacy of their own home — is insanity to me," DeZarn said. "It's completely insanity that we spend that type of money when there's far worse things out there."

Calling himself a "lightweight," DeZarn said the drug should be regulated similar to alcohol — no smoking in public or behind the wheel of a car — in order to [save] on



Don DeZarn

the costs of pursuing drug charges against marijuana users, including police time, prosecutions and incarceration.

"It wouldn't be a free-for all," DeZarn said. "You should be held to the same standards as anyone under the influence of alcohol or any other drug," DeZarn said.

The Colorado and Washington legislatures have already approved legalization.

Speaking to reporters, DeZarn admitted that the campaign might be a "long shot," but said the campaign answers the call of residents who are dissatisfied with the Democratic and Republican candidates.

Those candidates carry thick résumés and election results to the polls in November.

The incumbent, Sen. Linda Greenstein (D-Plainsboro), has handily defeated two Republican candidates in the last two elections.

Republican challenger Peter Inverso, president and CEO of Roma Bank, is fighting for the seat he held from 1992 until 2007.

"The best I can do is be the loudest voice possible," DeZarn said.

A veteran of the U.S. Army, DeZarn said his image goes against the grain of a typical marijuana user.

"One of the big things that will help with the legalization effort is just people coming out of the closet," he said. "Most of the public has the image of the pothead who sits on the couch all day smoking, watching TV and eating Cheetos. We need to show people that it's all right to say, 'I smoke marijuana.'"

***"The fact that our state freely regulates [and sells] alcohol — while prosecuting people who use marijuana in the privacy of their own home — is insanity to me."***

***— Don DeZarn***

# Idaho sheriff leaves GOP, joins Libertarian Party

By Laurie Welch

From the *Times-News*

Published on May 13, 2013

Minidoka County Sheriff Kevin Halverson has changed his political affiliation from the Republican Party to the Libertarian Party.

“I felt like it would serve both my job and my beliefs best if I switched to Libertarian,” said Halverson.

Halverson said despite recent rumors, he has “no intentions” of resigning from office.

Halverson said the tenets of Libertarianism, which embraces maximum freedom and minimal government intervention, appeals to him.

He officially changed his political affiliation earlier this week.

Nearly 70 percent of Minidoka County voters re-elected Halverson to a third term on the GOP ticket in November.

Halverson said after a statewide redistricting effort designed to even out populations in legislative and congressional districts, he found himself no longer within the boundaries of his Minidoka County Republican Central Committee district, where he served on the committee.

“I have no ill feelings toward the Republican Party. I just felt Libertarianism fits my style better. I feel like I’ll serve my constituents best by being a Libertarian,” Halverson said.

## New and renewing Liberty Pledgers

Jordan Adams	Richard T. Hoffman Sr.
Steve W. Adams	Michael R. Houze
Mark Andrews	Christopher Ihara
Robby Aultman	John Jameson
Justin C. Beavers	Mary Jervis
Maurice Belden	Paul Kaiser
Keith N. Binam	Ronald Kanagy
Andrew W. Binsley	Zaeem A. Khan
Jill R. Binsley	Barry Kruse
Bob Blevins	Timothy J. Kummer
Mark Borner	Timothy A. Lau
Diane Bostow	Roger L. Luna
Jessica E. Bowen	Daniel C. Milito
Elinor A. Brandt	Oleksandr Moskalyuk
Gary Brunner	Robert T. Murphy
Philippe R. Cadorette	Brady Nemeyer
Sean F. Carroll	Eric Ohmert
Mark Chapman	Richard L. Partridge
William C. Collins	Jesse Phillips
Frank Combs	Maxim A. Pruger
Michael W. Cook	Richey Richardson
James Cory	John Robinson
David G. Cruse	Timothy Rockwell
Edgar Davis	Daniel Rocque
Gary Decker	Gordon C. Rogers
Scott Deranleau	Philip D. Ryals
D. Allen Donahue	Steven Schmidt
Richard Donnelly	Michael Schramke
Joe Dyleski	Ray Smith
Claudia I. Eccles	Erica Sorkin
Paul D. Eccles	William A. Spalding
Andrew Ehret	Gary Strebel
Cynthia E. Everson	Jay Taylor
Gregory M. Fahy	Eric Tilton
Jeremy D. Fay	Greg Tlapek
Heinrich Foltz	Jason Turner
Bernard R. Gans	Ryan N. Verling
Joseph J. Gramc	Ronnie Virissimo
Mark A. Grannis	Steven G. Wainio
Rusty Hart	Jordan White
Monica Hartman	William Whorton
John F. Hathaway	Matthew M. Willis
Keithen Hayenga	Eric M. Witcher
George Hays	Bo Zimmerman
Steven A. Hoffman	

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

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 \$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)

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

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

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

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

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

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

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\* 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

# Libertarians push into Norwich, CT

Third party candidate to run for mayor, City Council candidates promised

By Adam Benson

From the *Norwich Bulletin*

Published on April 12, 2013

A self-described “light-bulb salesman” wants to become the next mayor of Norwich. To do so, he would need to make some state history.

William Russell is a member of the Libertarian Party, which according to Connecticut voting records has fielded 11 candidates for top municipal offices since 1999, with no victories.

Dan Reale of Plainfield, the former state party chairman and candidate for Congress, hand-picked Russell as part of an aggressive push into city politics. Russell will be at the top of what Reale said will be a full slate of party candidates, as officials search for nominees for each of the six open City Council seats.

“Norwich is just perfect to get the ball rolling and actually show what we can do,” he said. “Norwich is crying out for Libertarian intervention.”

Russell becomes the third resident to officially declare a candidacy for mayor, joining Democrats and council members Charlie Jaskiewicz and Deb Hinchey. Incumbent Mayor Peter Nystrom, a Republican, has yet to announce whether he’ll seek another term.

On Thursday, Russell filed a nominating petition to be placed on the ballot for the city’s top political office. Party leaders next month are expected to form a Libertarian Town Committee as well. To get on the Nov. 5 ballot, by Aug. 7, Russell must gather 47 signatures, equal to 1 percent of the total number of people who voted for mayor in 2009.

Russell hopes his candidacy will break new ground for the nation’s third-largest political party.

“I’m looking for Norwich to be a stepping stone for the party and for me. I’m looking for a win in November,” Russell, 59, said. He joined the Libertarian Party in 1995.

Russell said his primary goals as mayor would be to reduce the tax burden for residents while making Norwich more business friendly.

When he purchased his Laurel Hill Avenue home in 1985, Russell said his annual property tax bill was about \$1,800. In 2012, he paid more than \$4,300.

“The politicians and people in government need to start controlling their spending like I have to control my spending,” he said.

Norwich resident Thomas Keaney said he welcomes having more choice at the polls, and would consider a third-party candidate for top city leadership posts.

“I think it’s a good idea to have another party, that’s for sure.

***“Norwich is just perfect to get the ball rolling and actually show what we can do. Norwich is crying out for Libertarian intervention.”***

***— William Russell, LP Connecticut***

The Republicans and Democrats have been running back and forth so long that it’s kind of out of balance. I could certainly like to see what they (the Libertarian candidates) have to say,” Keaney said.

In the coming fiscal year, property taxes will account for about \$67.5 million of general fund revenues if aldermen approve City Manager Alan Bergren’s proposed budget. That’s up from about \$45 million in property tax revenue from fiscal year 2004-05.

Reale said state party leaders have spent months putting together a strategy that will lead to strong Libertarian representation at the local level.

With a donor list of about 14,000 people, Reale said he’s confident Connecticut candidates can keep pace financially with larger party nominees.

That could be an important factor, because Hinchey and Jaskiewicz already have significant campaign cash. As of March 31, Hinchey has raised \$13,330 and recently surpassed the \$15,000 mark, according to campaign finance disclosures.

Contributors to her campaign include City Council President Pro Tempore Peter Desaulniers, Democratic Town Committee Chairman Frank Manfredi and Republican Arthur Lathrop, a former Norwich mayor. Jaskiewicz, meanwhile, has \$8,550 on hand. His contributors include former state Sen. Edith Prague, Alderman Mark Bettencourt and Norwich Branch NAACP President Jacqueline Owens.

Reale said the key to success for Russell and other Libertarians is voter turnout.

“For years and years we were always, ‘let’s just get the 1 percent, because that way we have ballot access,’” Reale said. “But if you don’t shoot for a win, you’re not going to get ballot access.”