

LIBERTY PLEDGE

NEWSLETTER

Libertarian National Committee, Inc. ♦ 2600 Virginia Ave, NW, Suite 200 ♦ Washington, DC 20037 ♦ Phone: (202) 333-0008 ♦ Fax: (202) 333-0072
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Libertarians fighting tough battles

*By Wes Benedict
Executive Director
Libertarian National Committee*

I've been impressed by some of the tough battles Libertarians have waged recently.

Brendan Kelly, who is already an elected official in New Hampshire (Seabrook Selectman), recently ran for a special election to an open seat in the New Hampshire legislature. He was in a race against both a Republican and Democrat and ended up getting 17%. While 17% may not sound like much, historically it's very high: in the 2010 elections for state legislatures, only one Libertarian in a three-way race against both a D and R got more than that.

The Libertarian Party of Ohio was recently kicked off the ballot due to recent legislation. The LPO filed a lawsuit in return. Shortly after, a U.S. District Court said the new Ohio ballot access law is probably unconstitutional, and issued an injunction to put Libertarians back on the 2012 ballot.

Former LP Kentucky Chair Ken Moellman recently conducted a petition drive to run for the statewide office of Treasurer. Two Republicans threatened a lawsuit to kick him off the ballot, but later backed off.

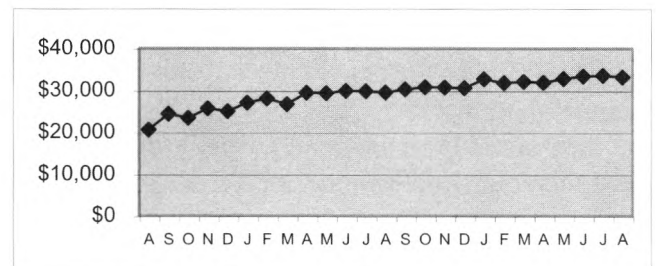
The Libertarian National Committee is helping an attorney fight to overturn the "Top Two" election method in California. That method usually means only Republicans and Democrats can be on the ballot in November elections.

Libertarians often suggest backing a single candidate financially rather than spreading funds thinly across all of our candidates. Ed Coleman was elected to the Indianapolis City Council as a Republican, but subsequently changed his affiliation

to the Libertarian Party. While he's currently considered the highest partisan elected Libertarian in the U.S. based on the size of the city he represents, this November he's up for re-election. He's running as a Libertarian this time. The LNC contributed \$50,000 to his re-election campaign effort so he can compete with resources near the same level his opponent will have. This will be a serious and hard-fought battle.

The LP Florida Chair, Adrian Wylie, is challenging the Real I.D. Act through the courts in Florida. See the related story on the next page.

Our monthly pledge total was down a few hundred to \$33,092 last month, but remains very strong compared to a couple of years ago.



The Libertarian Party continues to set the gold standard for freedom.

While we can easily measure how many local elections we win, it's not always easy to tell how much impact we have at the national level. However, I am confident that people are hearing our message, and many of them understand and agree with it. I think Republicans and Democrats are starting to talk like Libertarians on some issues—it's mostly empty rhetoric now, but as time goes on I think they will have no choice but to start adopting our policies.

I want to thank monthly pledgers like you again for being such reliable supporters of our efforts. You are vital to allowing the Libertarian Party to continue to lead the way towards freedom.

Libertarian Party: On the Trail

LPO files injunction in case against Husted

from the Ohio LP, August 18, 2011

Earlier this month, The Libertarian Party of Ohio (LPO) sued Ohio Secretary of State Husted in response to the passage of H.B. 194 that goes into effect on September 1, 2011. That bill puts unconstitutional barriers between non-Republican or Democrat candidates and ballot access. In support of that lawsuit, today the LPO has filed a Motion for Preliminary Injunction and Expedited Proceedings and a Memorandum in Support. The motion itself asks that the court allow LPO candidates be allowed on the ballot and that the LPO remain a legal political party in order to protect the its First and Fourteenth Amendment rights to freedom of political speech and equal protection under the law. This lawsuit and today's motion demonstrate how H.B. 194 contains language already deemed by the Ohio Supreme Court to be unconstitutional based on its rulings in similar cases over the past few years.

“Limiting ballot access is something that we would expect from Third World dictators and despots, not freely elected officials in the State of Ohio,” said LPO Vice Chair **Michael Johnston**. “The LPO is certainly not as large as the Republican or Democrat parties, and they want to keep it that way by rigging the game. It's one thing to disagree with us on the issues—that's part of politics—but restricting ballot access through unconstitutional laws is not the American way.”

The main issue is what constitutes reasonable ballot access. The LPO believes that Ohio should use reasonable, attainable standards to determine who can and cannot be on a ballot. While there should be some minimal threshold to get a candidate on the ballot, we should err on the side of easier access rather than limiting it to a well funded and well connected few.

Libertarian Chairman to Challenge REAL ID in Court Wednesday

from the Florida LP, September 6, 2011

The State of Florida will be facing a legal challenge to the new driver's license requirements as mandated by the Department of Homeland Security under the REAL ID Act. Libertarian Party of Florida Chairman and syndicated radio talk host **Adrian Wyllie** was cited for driving without a license, and will argue that the new DL requirements force citizens to waive their Fourth Amendment rights in order to be granted the “privilege” of driving.

Wyllie surrendered his driver's license on May 17, 2011, on the grounds that he refused to provide the personal documents required by REAL ID without a warrant. Wyllie then called several law enforcement agencies to report he was driving without a license. Despite his efforts, police ignored the violation.

That was until July 15, when Wyllie issued a challenge to Pinellas County Sheriff Jim Coats on his radio program to “Man up and pull me over.” Within four hours, Wyllie's vehicle was stopped by Pinellas deputies and he was ticketed.

“This case is a first step in nullifying REAL ID, and determining whether the Fourth Amendment is still applicable in America,” said Wyllie.

One of the components of the REAL ID Act is that States must acquire digital facial image captures which are compatible with facial recognition software, and upload them to a national database. Wyllie says he has subpoenaed the administrator of the PCSO's facial recognition network, and will dig deep into how driver's license data is being used for covert surveillance of Floridians. “We will reveal how the new data and facial recognition images collected are being unlawfully used by law enforcement,” said Wyllie.

Libertarian Party: On the Trail

Another Thank You To Our 2011 Municipal Candidates

from the Georgia LP, September 6, 2011

This fall, many municipalities will hold elections for district and citywide offices. Because these races are non-partisan, there are NO PETITIONING requirements to appear on the ballot.

We would like to recognize the Libertarians who will represent our Party in the upcoming municipal elections across the state.

Amanda Swafford - Flowery Branch City Council; Amanda won this seat in September of last year, and this year she is running for re-election this fall.

Lance Lamberton - Austell City Council; Lance is the President of the Cobb Taxpayers Association and spoke at the 2011 convention about getting involved at the local level.

Doug Craig - Griffin City Commission; Doug has served for several years as our Political Director, as well as representing our Region on the Libertarian National Committee.

New and renewing Liberty Pledgers

Stephen Anderson	Howard Horowitz	William E. Morris
R. W. Baruth	Kevin Hutchinson	Dan Myers
James A. Berns	Kyle Irrgang	Julie Nordquist
Daniel H. Bernstein	Stephen H. Jaouen	Wurzel Parsons-Keir
Douglas Brede	Christine L. Jordan	Sherrina O. Peters
Mark R. Burris	Kip Raymond Karl	Stephen J. Pilling
Carl Castellano	Kari Kercher	Ed Pongracz-Bartha
Allen E. Chantelois	Greg J. Kerkow	Keane E. Richardson
Daniel Church	Thomas Kilroy	Robert E. Roten
Lisa M. Clearwater	Angie M. Knoll	Robert R. Schenke
Geoffrey Costner	Alberto Krimer	Marshall E.
Michael I. Couture	Joel Leininger	Schwartz
Jason Creel	Mark Leising	Michael Sessoms
Andrew J. Crisanti	Amy Lindhorst	Harlen E. Shasteen
Bradford Cummings	Douglas J. Loudon	Jason Sipe
Bruce R. DeMyer	Jillian A. Mack	Bob Smither
Chad Dilday	Tanya L. Magnon	John C. Snow
David A. Eckhardt	Andrew Makrides	John S. Stewart
Steven Evavold	George E. Malone	Dianne Szabla
Spencer C. Flag	Chris Martin	David A. Talley
Kara R. Gaines	Kenneth Mathieu	Gwen A. Thomas
Stephanie H.	Arthur C.	Frederic A. Triplett
Gatewood	McCartney	James S. Voris
Elden Gebaroff	Sheldon W. McGraw	Timothy H. Wells
June R. Genis	Jason McWhorter	Nicholas Willard
J. James Gholston	Henry Mendenhall	John C. Williams
Stephen K. Gray	John M. Miller	Robert A. Williams
Thomas C. Hanson	Ronald G. Moore	Suzanne E. Yeager

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)

(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

Libertarians mark 40th anniversary of Nixon speech that led to party founding

Northwest Indiana Times, August 14, 2011

Forty years ago today, President Richard Nixon froze all wages and prices for three months and permanently ended the convertibility of dollars to gold to cope with an economic crisis.

Watching in Colorado, a handful of Americans, disturbed by Nixon's actions, took one of their own and established the Libertarian Party—vowing to restore the nation's founding principle of individual liberty....

As the nation copes with another economic crisis, Indiana Libertarian Party Chairman **Sam Goldstein** said the issues that prompted creation of the Libertarian Party remain just as relevant today as they were 40 years ago.

"We now have the government printing trillions of dollars with nothing standing behind it," said Goldstein, of Indianapolis....

In Lake County, district leaders **Jeff and Beth Duensing** routinely attract dozens of region residents to Libertarian Party meetings. The party also is popular in LaPorte County, which hosted the Libertarian state convention this spring.

No Northwest Indiana elected officials belong to the Libertarian Party, but Goldstein believes that's bound to change as Democrats and Republicans repeatedly show through corruption or indifference they're not up to the task of governing.

Riders take The Tide for historic first run

WVEC (Virginia), August 19, 2011

Hundreds of people woke up early Friday and made their way to the Newtown Road light rail station to be on among the first passengers on The Tide, Norfolk's light rail system....

In the crowd that gathered at the station Friday morning were political activists carrying signs protesting the project's cost.

"90-percent of the operating expenses are going to be paid by the people who do not ride it so that's what we have a problem with," said **Robert Dean** with the Tidewater Libertarian Party.

Libertarian Kelly makes bid for House in District 14

Seacoast Online (New Hampshire), August 21, 2011

Five years ago, **Brendan Kelly** said "enough was enough" and he decided to run for a seat on the Seabrook Board of Selectmen. After losing in his first attempt, he won on his second attempt in 2007 and was re-elected last year to a second three-year term.

Kelly is also making a third bid for a District 14 seat in the state House of Representatives. He is running as a Libertarian Party candidate in the Sept. 6 special election to fill a vacant seat. In 2008, he garnered 721 votes and improved to 820 votes in 2010 while finishing behind the Republican and Democratic candidates for the four-seat district....

There are too many things (government) is doing that it shouldn't be involved with at all," he said. Kelly would like to see the state get out of the gay marriage debate altogether because it "has no business being involved. Marriage should be between two people." He doesn't believe in criminalizing drugs because "prohibition doesn't work" and wants to remove the state from all aspects of education policy and funding except for one.

"The state involvement in running education and getting involved in local school systems is an abomination," he said. "The only involvement they should have is to divide up the lottery money on a per-pupil basis and send the checks to the schools. Other than that, the state should have zero involvement."