

# 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 2010

### Membership Grows Three Months in a Row; Monthly Pledge Up; Staff Hired

*By Wes Benedict  
Executive Director  
Libertarian National Committee*

After nearly twelve months of a steady and scary membership decline that bottomed out in October at 14,170, dues-paying membership has now grown three months in a row. In January, it was 15,059.

While President Obama and the U.S. Congress certainly did their share to drive people towards the Libertarian Party, I think some of the improvements we've made at LP headquarters have made a significant difference.

We've worked to make our membership renewal mailings more inspiring. And as minor as it may sound to some, we re-designed the reply form to make it easier to fill out. (Don't you hate it when there's not enough room to comfortably write your address or your credit card number?)

I've found that it is really hard for organizations like ours to make progress toward their goals if they don't pay attention to getting a thousand details correct. Details are a priority for me.

We recently sent out an emergency fundraising appeal from Chairman William Redpath. We were down from six to four full-time staff members.

Enough people responded that we felt comfortable making Kyle Hartz a full-time employee. Kyle was a volunteer intern for the 2009 fall semester and graduated in December.

With the added staff, I'm expecting to be able to provide more assistance to the candidates we have been encouraging to run for office. We're

working on website templates to help candidates get a presence online.

Additionally, we put Kyle to work phoning people to sign up for monthly pledges or send in credit card updates. He often makes calls in the evening when it's easier to reach people. While our office is on the East Coast, many of our supporters are on the West Coast, and Kyle has been willing to work past 10 PM Eastern Time (which corresponds to 7 PM Pacific Time).

Results have been strong. For January we reached \$26,969 in monthly pledge revenue.

The table below shows our recent results.

		Pledgers	Amount
December	<b>2008</b>	1,045	\$24,468
August	2009	902	\$20,504
September	2009	940	\$24,301
October	2009	933	\$23,353
November	2009	1,035	\$25,623
December	2009	1,012	\$24,907
<b>Goal for December 2009</b>		<b>1,000</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>
January	2010	1,089	\$26,969

With some of our basic operations improved, I'm hoping to spend a little more time putting useful tools into the hands of our activists.

I recently put together an offer to buy huge bulk quantities of bumper stickers and distribute them at cost. I expected to get orders for maybe ten or twenty thousand stickers. At the time of writing, Libertarians have ordered over 65,000 bumper stickers!

I'm delighted so many people are willing to help build the Libertarian brand when we make it easier for them.

Next I'm hoping to get a good flyer into the hands of activists that they can bring to events, particularly the massive Tea Party protests, to recruit more people to the Libertarian Party.

More Libertarians = More Freedom and Less Government.

# Libertarian Party: On the Trail

---

## A personal message from Joe Kennedy

*from Massachusetts Liberty, January 2010*

I want to send a huge THANK YOU out to my supporters and congratulate Senator Brown on his new role in the U.S. Senate. Senator Brown ran a very aggressive campaign and was able to get the support and funds needed to pull a huge upset in Massachusetts. May he represent the people well.

As for me, I have already been asked by a large number of people What's Next? I have been asked to run for Auditor (I am backing Kamal Jain for Auditor), Governor (The field for Governor already is full with multimillionaires), to run against Brown in 2012, to run against Kerry in 2014, to run against Barney Frank and many other positions. All I can say is I am flattered and honored by this show of continued support. Before I run for other positions, I need to talk about this race, some of the lessons learned, and the steps necessary for me to consider running in the future.

This was a learning experience. We ran the best race for Senate possible given the limited fundraising budget of a meager \$18,000. With each step in the process, we learned and many times by trial and error. In addition, we faced obstacles never imagined. During the campaign, we faced sharp criticism and a change of heart from key supporters. Tea Party supporters turned their back on our campaign, despite my personal commitments in the past to numerous local events. Fellow Libertarians sent email after email asking me to drop out and support Brown. Members of the Independent party requested that we throw our support to Scott Brown. The negative email campaign from Tea Parties and Brown supporters from across the country impacted us greatly and we did not have the staff to compete against it. For those who are not aware, my unpaid campaign staff consisted of part-timers with limited campaign experience, and faced with the unmanageable task of coordinating campaign efforts across the state.

Here is my promise to you: I will do what needs to be done in Washington. I will go down there and file legislation to cut spending, hack jobs, useless departments and anything I find that is wasteful. I will fight lobbyists, cut my own salary and work to bring the Washington aristocracy back to earth. I will work to eliminate the FED, end any wars and ensure equal rights for all. I want to do this. And, I want your help.

Our biggest lesson learned is support and backing are essential. I will not run a losing campaign again. I need you to take an active role in mobilizing resources across the state while raising funds to pay for staff and advertising amongst other campaign costs. We can do this together. I will keep this site up, spread my own word, join organizations and sacrifice my own time. I ask of you, what are you willing to sacrifice for your country, your state, and your liberties?

If you want me to run again, I leave it up to you. Find me events, spread the word, and find a way to assist in funding my next campaign. When elected I will work harder for you and your wallet than anyone in government today. If you want me to run again we need to start today. Spread the word, get more people to join the site and keep the energy flowing. Let us together continue what we started and bring back a government of and for the people.

Thank you again.

Joseph L Kennedy

## Coleman's Proposal is about Self-Defense

*by Patrick Culley, an Indianapolis Libertarian*

The government that governs least, governs best. Take Libertarian City-County Councillor Ed Coleman's proposal to end the ban on firearms in city parks for example. Coleman's timely proposal addresses a glaring problem with our city's current laws. As it stands now, you have the right to defend your life from an armed assailant on the street, in a

# Libertarian Party: On the Trail

supermarket, in a department store, a state park, a federal park, just about everywhere except a city park. Are Indy's public parks such utopian safe zones that you don't need to worry about protecting yourself there? What makes a city park safer than a state or federal park where you are allowed the right to defend your life?

Let's be clear: this proposal is not about "gun rights". It's about the most fundamental of human rights; the right to self defense.

Coleman's proposal would finally allow law-abiding citizens to exercise their natural right to self-defense while on the grounds of a city park, rather than having to give up their safety at the park entrance. How does a firearm ban deter an armed criminal who is intent on breaking the law anyway? By the time they are caught (if they are caught) and the additional gun charge is tacked on to their sentence, they have already shattered the lives of their victims and their victims' families. While our law enforcement officers are fine men and women who risk their lives every day to protect us, they simply cannot be everywhere at once. We owe it to them, and to each other, to keep ourselves from becoming victims in the first place.

## New Liberty Pledgers

- |                      |                        |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| Adam Almog           | Matthew Kirchharr      |
| Stephen Anderson     | Todd Kopecki           |
| Mark Ayen            | Jonathan Krane         |
| James D. Blacic      | Daniel Krawiec         |
| Cathy Breiner        | Brian Kuzma            |
| Terri L. Burke       | Joyce E. Lucas-Clark   |
| Stanley D. Chambliss | Zach Martinez          |
| William D. Chance    | George Massey          |
| James Clark          | Eric S. Mast           |
| Richard S. Coleman   | Quincy Matthews        |
| Greg Colvin          | Sean McTiernan         |
| Mark Duckworth       | Donald Nakelski        |
| Steven Dussault      | Paul Osborn            |
| Glenn S. Eddy        | Kenneth J. Parmalee    |
| Patrick Fahey        | Michael P. Remington   |
| Eric Ferguson        | Ronald B. Rollins      |
| Nathan Frith         | David C. Shaffer       |
| Scott Gibson         | Michael S. Shields     |
| Anthony Glenn        | Garrod Sieveking       |
| Mark A. Goins        | Anthony N. Sileo       |
| Danny Gros           | Erica Sorkin           |
| Theodore Hagler, Jr. | Patrick Sukhu          |
| Donna Harmon         | Timothy J. Swenson     |
| Kenneth W. Harris    | Darren A. Thorneycroft |
| Joseph P. Hartman    | Patricia Tweedle       |
| Michael Hohertz      | James D. Van Sickle    |
| Bret Humphrey        | Richard W. Vanier      |
| Brett W. James       | Wendy Walker           |
| Richard Johnson      | Tim M. Warren          |
| David Jones          | Joseph Webb            |

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 political committees to report the name, address, occupation and the name of the employer for each individual whose contributions aggregate in excess of \$200 in a calendar year. Political contributions are not tax deductible.

## Libertarian Party in the News

---

### Hagerstown resident seeks House of Representatives nomination

*Winchester News-Gazette* (Indiana), January 25, 2010

**Rex Bell**, of Hagerstown, has announced his intention to seek the Libertarian Party nomination for the District 54 Indiana House of Representatives seat....

"I'm running because I don't believe enough is being done to straighten out the property tax mess," explained Bell. "We're also seeing so much government expansion coming from Washington that we need state legislators that aren't afraid to exercise our 9th and 10th Amendment rights. I also believe ethics and integrity are important in our elected officials, and I hope to get the chance to carry those qualities to Indianapolis."

### Ayres elected to fill vacant 62nd District state House slot

*Springfield News-Leader* (Missouri), February 3, 2010

Voters in Taney and Stone counties elected Nita Jane Ayres on Tuesday to serve out the remainder of former state Rep. Dennis Wood's term in the Missouri House.

Ayres got 77.8 percent of the vote in the 62nd District special election, defeating Libertarian **Patty Tweedle** 1,325 to 378....

"I'm delighted with the votes that I did get -- 22.2 percent is huge for the Libertarian Party," Tweedle said. "It shows me that there are many, many people in this district who are ready for another voice."

Tweedle said she was undecided on whether she'll run for the seat again in November.

### NMU political group formed

*The North Wind* (Northern Michigan Univ.), February 4, 2010

The newly formed student Libertarian group on campus offers students a new political perspective and opportunities to get involved.

Tuesday, Jan. 26 marked the first official meeting of the NMU College Libertarians. The new group doesn't have many members yet, but plans on actively participating on campus right away.

**Jessica Price**, a junior majoring in political science and international studies, is both the president and founder of the NMU College Libertarians. She said that while the Democrats and Republicans have dominated the political platforms on campus, the College Libertarians plan on bringing a contrasting political viewpoint to the table. Price said that there are many students at NMU who identify themselves as Libertarians.

"Libertarians definitely need a group to represent their voice," Price said. She said that once the College Libertarians become better known, more students will begin to participate in the group.

### Arizona Libertarian Party hoping to repeal Phoenix food tax

*abc15* (Arizona), February 9, 2010

PHOENIX -- Monday night, members of Arizona's Libertarian Party added the first of what they hope will eventually be thousands of signatures needed to potentially repeal the recently passed food tax in Phoenix.

"The city government simply said we need to grab this money," said **Joe Cobb**, Libertarian Party Treasurer. "We the people think we should rise up and say 'no.'"