

# 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 March 2010

## Membership and Pledges Continue to Grow; Focusing on Candidates

*By Wes Benedict  
Executive Director  
Libertarian National Committee*

I'm pleased to report that our dues-paying membership count continues to grow. In February, it increased from 15,059 to 15,216. Our monthly pledges also increased. (See the table at right.)

I'm relieved that we have been able to turn around the serious financial declines that we were facing. I'm not complacent, though. I intend to keep working hard to increase our party's membership and income.

My other main focus right now is recruiting and supporting Libertarian candidates. At the latest count, we had 347 Libertarian candidates for 2010 elections listed at LP.org. (The number will probably be higher by the time you get this.)

I think running candidates is one of the most important things our party can do. I'm interested in all kinds of candidates: active candidates, paper candidates, experienced candidates, and inexperienced candidates.

When I worked as the Executive Director of the Texas LP, I found that candidates automatically generate media coverage. A Libertarian can write numerous letters to the editor, and some of them may get published. But when a Libertarian becomes a candidate, the press will often seek that person out, ask for comments, and print those comments on the front page.

I think there are a lot of other advantages to running many candidates as well, but I don't have space to list them all here.

In order to convince Libertarians to become candidates, I want to make the process as

welcoming and simple as possible. Every state has different procedures, and I certainly don't know them all. So, we ask interested Libertarians to fill out an online form at LP.org, and we send that information to the appropriate LP state chair. The state chairs then contact the potential candidates with more details.

In many states, becoming a Libertarian candidate on the ballot is as simple as filling out a couple of forms. There are no fees or petitioning required. In some states, it's more difficult.

You might be a candidate yourself. If so, thank you! If not, please take a few minutes to consider becoming one. Visit [LP.org/run-for-office](http://LP.org/run-for-office) to fill out the form.

OK, enough about candidates. Here is the latest monthly pledge table:

		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
<i>Goal for December 2009</i>		<i>1,000</i>	<i>\$25,000</i>
January	2010	1,089	\$26,969
<b>February</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>1,120</b>	<b>\$28,019</b>

If you have the resources to increase your monthly pledge to the LP, please use the form on page 3. I want to thank all of you for your continuing commitment to supporting the Libertarian Party.

Liberty faces a lot of challenges in America today. Right now, the big story is the "end game" of the Obama healthcare plan drama. I don't know what's going to happen with that, but I do know that America desperately needs a political party that stands firm for less government and more freedom.

# Libertarian Party: On the Trail

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## A Big Election Season Lies Ahead for LPNOVA!

*from Matt Cholko, LP Virginia Vice-Chairman, March 9*

Libertarians,

As you may know, the Libertarian Party of Virginia's biennial convention was held this past weekend. Libertarians from around the state came together to work to elect new leadership, select delegates to the national convention, and tend to other party business. It was great to see so many libertarian activists in one place, and the whole thing left me feeling energized and ready to work hard in the coming months.

Several Libertarian Congressional candidates were at the convention, and I'm happy to report that LNC Chairman Bill Redpath kicked off his 10th district Congressional campaign over the weekend. You can find more information about his campaign at [www.redpath2010.com](http://www.redpath2010.com).

While we're talking about campaigns - I've been told that a candidate will enter the 11th district race very soon. I've also heard of a likely candidate in the 8th. This is great news for the Libertarian Party of Northern Virginia, as the 8th, 10th and 11th districts all fall within our territory. 2010 is shaping up to be a tremendous year for the liberty movement in our area, and the Libertarian Party in particular.

In order to help provide our candidates with the support they need, LPNOVA has started a Monthly Pledge program. As you know, the success of any political movement depends on money. Our monthly pledge program is designed to make it easy and affordable for you donate automatically, on a monthly basis. That's why, just minutes ago, I signed up to make monthly donations to LPNOVA myself.

Please join me, and help the LP succeed in 2010. Make a monthly pledge to LPNOVA.

In order to ensure that our candidates are able to put the Libertarian message in front of the

voters, and to promote the LP in general, we have put together an ambitious 2010 outreach plan. We're planning to have booths at many community events, including Celebrate Fairfax (which was a big hit last year), and we'll need to add even more to the schedule if we're to give our candidates the visibility that they need. We're also working on other outreach ideas, to further increase the public's awareness of libertarianism, the LP, and our candidates.

## Libertarian Party Comments to Granholm's State of the State

*from March 2010 Michigan Libertarian*

Tonight, Governor Jennifer Granholm will deliver her final State of the State address. In anticipation of her speech, the Libertarian Party of Michigan is sharing its own views of the sorry state of our State.

"Governor Granholm will make appealing promises to cut spending and reform government, something that we and many Michigan voters strongly support," began Emily Salvette, Chair of the Libertarian Party of Michigan. "Just as she did last year, and every year since she become Governor. Unfortunately, we know from bitter experience that the chance Governor Granholm will actually keep these promises is virtually nil."

"As in the past, she will also promise to pursue many policies that will harm Michigan's economy, and its people. And unfortunately, she will keep those promises. More bailouts for favored industries. More "incentives" for jobs promised, but never delivered. More handouts for the special interests who helped elect her."

Salvette continued: "The State of the State is dire, and the Libertarian Party of Michigan has a plan to turn it around. We Libertarians propose, for a change, that our government be fair, open and honest. Fair, as in no bail outs. No hand outs. No special deals for businesses, unions or individuals. Instead, cut spending now by eliminating all incentives, benefits, and programs that don't benefit

# Libertarian Party: On the Trail

the average voter or business, and cut the tax rates paid by all."

"Open, as in promote transparency by promptly posting budgets, finances, proceedings, legislation and documents for all levels of government on line."

"Honest, as in recognize that the cause of the tidal wave of political corruption washing over our nation and government is the broad scope and power of government itself. Only by restricting the scope and power of government to grant special benefits to a few can we minimize the incentive for power-hungry individuals to seek public office and special interests seeking favors to corrupt our representatives. Cutting government spending, regulations and agencies, returning to part-time legislatures and demanding ethical behavior of our representatives are key to creating a good place to live, work and raise our families."

"Together, we can make a better Michigan. Together, we can repair the damage caused by years of bipartisan control and neglect of our once-free State."

## New Liberty Pledgers

- |                          |                     |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| William M. Anderson      | Rick W. Jensen      |
| Donald R. Baker          | Ronald Joyce        |
| Wayne Barger             | Denise P. Kalm      |
| Mark P. Bartoli          | Tina L. Kelly       |
| Howard Beatty            | George Khoury       |
| Ryan Bilikam             | Susan L. Martin     |
| Benjamin M. Birney       | Robert B. Matthews  |
| Morgan Bondurant         | Micah Millet        |
| Eric Boughner            | Robert Moore        |
| Charles Brady            | Richard Olson       |
| George T. Braun          | Jason Pancoast      |
| John Brendel             | Gary L. Pelfrey     |
| George A. Browder        | Kirk Petersen       |
| Emberlea Bruce-McCulligh | Pamela P. Potter    |
| James Cantrell           | Stephen K. Pratt    |
| David Cardosi            | Donavon Prom        |
| Matthew Charles          | Mark D. Ratner      |
| Daniel Church            | William A. Ringrose |
| Dick Coffee              | Jeff Rodriguez      |
| Jonathan Corriere        | David H. Scott      |
| Matthew P. Drew          | Jason Talmage       |
| Brian W. Firth           | Charles D. Test     |
| Damion Fragoso           | Greg Tidd           |
| Nuray Gercek             | Victor Vedovato     |
| Jeffrey Greening         | Martin D. Verdoorn  |
| James E. Grimes          | Rex C. Wade         |
| David C. Hall            | Shawn M. Warswick   |
| Mark W. Hinkle           | John R. Wilson      |
| Daniel Hogan             | John W. Yeomans     |
| George Horsley           |                     |

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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Please bill my  Visa  MasterCard  AmEx  Discover

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

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

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

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

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### Libertarians eye full slate for 2010 races

*Post-Tribune* (Indiana), February 28, 2010

Local officials of the Libertarian Party were pleased with a room-filling turnout for a two-hour town hall meeting Saturday afternoon at the Valparaiso branch of the Porter County Public Library....

[**Dan Drizzler**] said the Libertarian Party, founded in 1971, has been working on issues only recently brought to the front by the two major parties.

"We've been talking about property tax reform, gerrymandering, health care reform, township government and other issues for 20 years. We feel like we're coming of age," Drizzler said.

### Travis County Libertarians nominate 18 for general election

*Austin American-Statesman*, March 14, 2010

The Travis County Libertarian Party nominated 18 candidates for the November general election.

The party nominated candidates for most county offices, six state representative districts, and state senator in District 14, party officials said. The nominees include: **Kent Phillips**, state senator, District 14; **Kris Bailey**, state representative, District 47; **Nathan Kleffman**, state representative, District 49; **Mark Tippetts**, Travis County Judge; **George E. Emery**, state representative, District 46; **Ben Easton**, state representative, District 48; **Emily Cowan**, state representative, District 50; **Arthur DiBianca**, state representative, District 51; **Arlo J. Pignotti**, district clerk; **Gillian Dreesen**, county clerk; and **Mike Burris**, county treasurer.

Also nominated were: **Matthew Finkel**, county commissioner, Precinct 2; **David Dreesen**,

county commissioner, Precinct 4; **Adam Sparks**, justice of the peace, Precinct 1; **Jaclyn Finkel**, justice of the peace, Precinct 2; **Matthew Rafacz**, justice of the peace, Precinct 3; **John Burton**, justice of the peace, Precinct 4; and **Michael Holt**, justice of the peace, Precinct 5.

### San Mateo-Foster City schools parcel tax squeaks by

*San Jose Mercury News*, February 24, 2010

The San Mateo-Foster City School District's parcel-tax renewal measure seems to have just eked out a victory.

Measure A — an annual tax of \$181 per parcel for seven years — garnered a solid 67 percent of the votes following Wednesday's completed ballot count, according to semiofficial results from the San Mateo County elections office. That percentage was up from the 66.7 percent Tuesday night....

But the measure's critics, such as the Libertarian Party of San Mateo County, argued that the public is taxed more than enough while government spends too much and spends it irresponsibly.

### As the smoke clears

*Salina Journal* (Kansas), March 16, 2010

Aan Jilka describes his 2002 vote in favor of a partial ban on smoking in restaurants as the single most controversial vote in his 12 years on the Salina City Commission....

Salinan **Mike Wilson**, coordinator for the Libertarian Party for the 1st Congressional District, stood with the protesters.

Libertarians strongly believe in business rights, in personal rights and small government," Wilson said. "Here's an example of the government telling business owners what they can do in their own business. That's not proper."