

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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Monthly pledge hits record \$33,993

*By Wes Benedict
Executive Director
Libertarian National Committee*

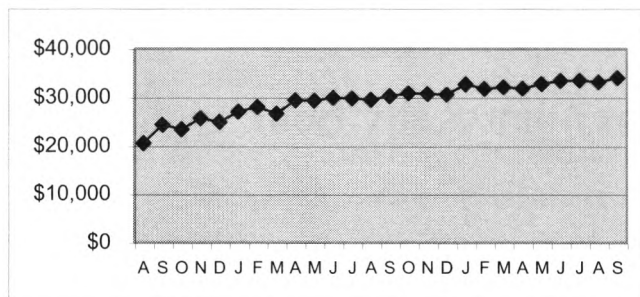
Once again our monthly pledge total hit a new record high. At \$33,993, the monthly pledge total is higher than it has been since at least 2005 and perhaps long before that.

A big thank you to all 1,283 donors who are part of the pledge program!

When I joined the national LP headquarters as executive director in July 2009, raising our monthly pledge total was one of my top priorities.

Of course we appreciate all contributions from our donors, whether they are one-time membership dues payments, contributions to ballot access, or for other projects. However, the monthly pledge contributions are especially important because they are a relatively stable funding source which facilitates planning.

Below is a chart showing the pledge amount going back to August 2009 when it was \$20,504 from 902 pledgers.



As reported in Liberty Pledge Newsletter last May, the Libertarian Party's 2011 budget called for an *average* of \$34,000 per month. At this

point, it's clear we won't hit that budget target. I think in hindsight that was a bit too aggressive.

Nevertheless, I'm proud that we've been able to grow the monthly pledge total by 66%.

Monthly pledges are about 31% of our total revenue. Our 2011 budget called for total revenue of \$1.32 million. While our revenue is on track to hit closer to \$1.26 million, lower than we had hoped, our overall financial position is stable and healthy. We're pretty much paying all of our bills as soon as they are due and we have maintained a higher cash reserve than throughout the history of the party.

We've maintained a healthy cash reserve by keeping our expenses low, but also partly at the expense of investing in membership growth.

I do expect we'll be investing additional funds this year to grow our membership count which has sagged recently from 15,320 to 13,879 over the past year.

For example, we recently sent a renewal letter to lapsed members and included a survey to tell us why they have chosen not to renew. We included such questions as are we too liberal or too conservative for your tastes, are you financially unable, supporting other parties, etc.

I've heard from quite a few people that they are supporting Ron Paul's campaign for president instead of the Libertarian Party at this time.

Ron Paul is a principled libertarian and if the Republican Party nominates him, he'd be vastly superior, from a libertarian perspective, to their 2008 nominee, John McCain.

By March or April it will become clearer who the Republican nominee will be, and I certainly expect President Obama to be the Democratic nominee again.

Presidential years have always been good for Libertarian Party membership growth and I'm expecting the same in 2012.

Thanks again for your continuing support.

Libertarian Party: On the Trail

State Committee Launches New Fund Drive

from the Massachusetts LP, September 25, 2011

Mindful of its responsibility under Chairman Blau's 12 in 2012 campaign to build a larger more effective party and field many more candidates than in recent years, our State Committee has launched two new direct mail fund drives.

The first mailing went out two weeks ago, to 500 libertarian activists across Massachusetts who are not current Association members, asking them to contribute and donate to LA-MA. "We're the only organization that supports Libertarian candidates in Massachusetts" was the observation from State Chair **David Blau**.

Early indicators are that the drive has been a resounding success. Association membership was at 107 last month; counting one donation in the mail, membership is now at 120. The financial return is close to break-even, with contributions and membership forms still rolling in.

The second drive is due out in a few weeks. The target will be supporters of marijuana activism. The message is very simple. "The people can pass referenda. The State Legislature can repeal them just as fast." On top of that, after the decriminalization referendum was passed, our Attorney General went out of her way to tell municipalities ways they could pass local ordinances that would frustrate the intent of the decriminalization vote.

Our message to these people is simple: "You need a Libertarian voice in the State House, to make sure that your voices are not trampled underfoot."

Report on Westchester candidates' lawsuit

from Mark Axinn, New York LP Chair, September 27, 2011

This morning, I appeared in Supreme Court, Westchester County, to support our Westchester Libertarian candidates for Town Supervisor and Town Councilmembers in North Castle (Armonk), New York.

Even though they submitted sufficient signatures to qualify for a Libertarian line, a challenge was filed to nullify the petition because one of the witnesses (**Howard Arden**) previously signed a Republican petition. While such action would have previously disqualified the signatures he witnessed, the relevant statute was changed in July 2009 such that now one only has to be a registered voter in NYS to witness signatures.

Nevertheless, on September 14, the Westchester Board of Elections disqualified 99 signatures Howard had obtained based on a law that was rescinded two years ago! As a result, Howard, Matt and Kerry were disqualified from the ballot....

Supreme Court Justice Joan Lefkowitz reserved judgment so that Matt and Howard would have an opportunity to submit opposition papers to the BOE's motion to dismiss....

It's rare that we see the tyranny of the Republican-Democratic duopoly manifest itself so blatantly as in this instance. I am advised that the members of the Westchester BOE answer directly to the leaders of the local political parties.

I thank those who have contributed generously of their money (Howard Arden, **Willie Aponte**, **Carl Svenson**, **Michael McCarthy** and one other) and especially **Matt Rice** for all his time and effort in this fight against those who will do anything to remain in power.

Brendan Kelly Book Signing

from the New Hampshire LP, September 29, 2011

Fresh off one of the highest vote totals for any third party candidate in state history, **Brendan Kelly** will be holding his first book signing before kicking off a campaign of radio and newspaper interviews to discuss "Enough is Enough: The Truth Will Set Us Free."

Libertarian Party: On the Trail

Our national debt is expanding, and many Americans are beginning to wonder if this country has a future. Brendan takes on the topics of rising medical costs, federal reserve, litigation, the erosion of our Constitutional rights, and our broken public schools.

Texas Libertarians stop candidate filing rule change

from the Texas LP, October 2, 2011

The Secretary of State (SOS) in Austin attempted to change the Texas Administrative Code to require Convention Parties such as the LP, to file nominating petitions during the same time period as the primary parties (Republicans and Democrats) thereby reducing the number of days when such petitions could be obtained....

The Texas LP submitted comments pointing out that there was in this instance no reason for the SOS to use its extraordinary power to maintain uniformity in the election law and to adopt rules necessary to implement election statutes....

The SOS withdrew the proposed rule citing the comments submitted by the Texas LP.

New and renewing Liberty Pledgers

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Karlos E. Abel | Diane M. McFarland |
| Raymond F. Agnew | David M. McGrew |
| Jon Barnhill | Lisa C. Miller |
| Donald W. Bergemann | Luis A. Montenegro |
| Benjamin M. Birney | Joseph C. Moore |
| Bryan Bishop | Chuck Moulton |
| Mark G. Brown | Stan L. O'Dell |
| Matthew Butler | Carole V. Oglesbee |
| Sheri Callaghan | Joseph Ordner |
| James Cantrell | Scott C. Pettigrew |
| John T. Dunlap | Deborah L. Pivar |
| Katherine E. Florentine | Ronald Reale |
| William J. Forte | James F. Redmond |
| Daniel C. Goldberg | Dean W. Schottky |
| Glen R. Halbman | Jeffrey M. Scoville |
| Phil Hoaglund | Rebecca S. Sink-Burris |
| Jeremiah Hodgkin | William J. Smith |
| Dustin Ho-Gland | Peter P. Stearns |
| William F. Johnson | Albert Stem |
| Paul Kaiser | Randy Szabla |
| Margaret Kantz | Ron J. Theriault |
| E. L. Kiel | Daniel W. Underkofler |
| Shawn S. Levasseur | Laura Valle |
| Gregory J. Lindmark | Ryan J. Voiss |
| Dan Littman | Wesley Warren |
| Robin D. Maddock | Bonney T. Wikkering |
| Michael D. Martinez | Matthew M. Willis |
| Juliana M. McCalpin | Andrew Wyatt |
| Michael McCalpin | |

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 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

On Constitution Day, tea party and foes duel over our founding document

Christian Science Monitor, September 17, 2011

It's Constitution Day in the US, but that doesn't mean it's a day for the nation to unite around its founding document amid peace, love, and flowers....

"The value of a constitution is that it binds government and prevents pure majority rule," **Wes Benedict**, Libertarian Party executive director, said in a statement heading into this weekend. "Unfortunately, over the last 224 years, all three branches of government, and most of the American people, have often decided that the Constitution can be ignored if it's too inconvenient."

Atlanta increases surveillance of city

Atlanta Journal-Constitution, September 19, 2011

Plans to put Atlanta's public spaces under camera surveillance will move forward this week with the opening of a state-of-the-art video monitoring center.

Whether it's good that Atlanta is joining other big cities in the video surveillance race depends on your comfort level with being watched more often by police.

The planned spread of surveillance—both from installing new cameras and connecting with existing systems at, say, Coca-Cola and Cousins Properties—chills privacy advocates.

"I should hope the public is not okay with it," said **Brett Bittner**, executive director of the Libertarian Party of Georgia. "We're talking about filming every aspect of people's lives once they step out of the house."

Carpentersville trustee wants to give voters more power

Daily Herald (Illinois), September 19, 2011

Carpentersville village board members should not have the authority to establish or raise fees, increase the tax levy or create tax increment financing districts without voter approval, one village trustee says....

Trustee **Doug Marks** has drafted an ordinance that, if approved, would repeal that aspect of home rule and give voters the ability to decide taxing matters through a ballot question. Trustees will discuss his proposal Tuesday night.

This was an issue that Marks, a Libertarian, and Trustee Paul Humpfer wanted to take on after they were elected.

Libertarian has day in court over driver's license requirements

St. Petersburg Times, October 6, 2011

Adrian Wyllie, chairman of Libertarian Party of Florida, finally got his day in court Wednesday, challenging the law on driver's license renewals by challenging the validity of his traffic ticket....

Wyllie is challenging the federal "Real ID" law, passed by Congress in 2005 in response to the 9/11 attacks. The law requires anyone renewing a driver's license or identification card to provide a host of documents, which can include birth certificates, Social Security cards and obscure papers such as old divorce files.

He contends those requirements—plus the fact that the information is scanned into a national database searchable by law enforcement—violates the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution, which prohibits unreasonable searches and seizures. He says it also violates the Florida Constitution.