

# LIBERTY PLEDGE

## NEWSLETTER

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www.LP.org March 2011

## Republicans in Congress failing to reduce government

By Wes Benedict  
Executive Director  
Libertarian National Committee

It probably comes as no surprise to most Libertarians that the new majority Republican House is failing to shrink government, despite all the hype and rhetoric.

We sent a press release in February: "Tea Party betrayed by tiny Republican budget cuts."

What's frustrating is, Democrats and much of the mainstream media are making lots of noise accusing Republicans of proposing "deep cuts" to government.

"Deep cuts"? What a ridiculous way of describing the Republican proposals. But I've actually seen those words in a lot of headlines recently.

The Republicans are allowing most of the federal government to keep growing fast. Federal spending this year is projected to be 7% higher than last year, even if all the Republican "cuts" are enacted. The deficit will still be \$1.5 trillion or so.

Even "discretionary" spending is projected to be higher this year than last year!

Republicans obviously won't admit it, because they want people to think their cuts are huge. And Democrats won't admit it, because they also want their supporters to think the cuts are huge and "draconian."

And unfortunately, we can't trust the media to let the public know what's really going on. Headlines about "deep cuts" are more exciting and sensational than honestly saying, "Republicans deliver the same old same old."

It's up to the Libertarian Party (and other libertarian groups like the Cato Institute) to get the word out: Republicans haven't changed a bit. They want to talk and talk about smaller government, while delivering bigger government.

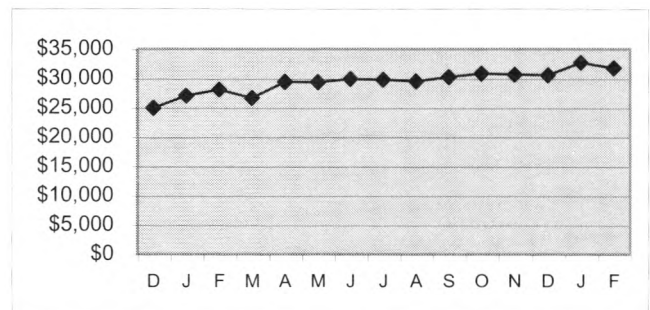
We use press releases, our website, Facebook, and our email list of over 90,000 to help spread the word about things like this.

I wish we could also buy TV commercials and full-page ads in major newspapers, but we just don't have that kind of money.

I'm focusing on Republicans because their "cuts" are such a big news item right now. Democrats aren't any better. I just read today that President Obama is going to re-start a system of military trials at Guantanamo Bay. That includes more endless detention without charges. How can anyone, *especially* liberals, believe anything he says anymore?

We will continue doing what we can to point out the limitless hypocrisy of Republicans and Democrats, and your financial support helps give us the means to do that.

Our monthly pledge dropped a bit from \$32,655 in January to \$31,703 in February. I think part of that drop is due to getting the mail reminders out a bit late, so I am expecting a rebound in March.



Thanks again to our monthly pledgers for continued support of the Libertarian Party.

# Libertarian Party: On the Trail

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## Karin Vermillion for Mahomet Library Board

*from the Illinois LP, February 1, 2011*

In the past year, the LP-Illinois has been enthusiastically encouraging members to run for local office. Mere days after returning from an inspiring state convention, Karin received an email from a friend on the library board asking her to consider filling a possible vacancy. She took this to be a sign saying it is time to get involved. Fortunately, no other new candidates chose to file. Therefore Karin will be running unopposed.

Karin is looking forward to contributing another voice of reason to the board who has recently passed a bloated budget with only two "no" votes and a referendum to raise library taxes for the second time in three years, with only one "no" vote. Karin urges other Illinois Libertarians to keep an eye out for uncontested local races. It is a great way to get a foot in the door while pushing local government in a libertarian direction.

## LPC Responds to Gov. Brown's State of the State Address

*from the California LP, February 1, 2011*

Governor Jerry Brown delivered his State of the State address Monday evening, January 31, in Sacramento and this is our reply.

The Governor asked that the Legislature check in with people, and we take this opportunity to remind him that California's voters have been doing this every year in special election after special election. If those who we elect are unwilling to make productive decisions, then there's all the more reason to have a part-time Legislature to reduce the amount of damage they might cause.

Governor Brown called California's crisis unique, but Libertarians offer solutions that are basic common sense, even though Democrats and

Republicans have not tried them: cut government spending and reduce bureaucratic regulations, thereby freeing Californians to innovate.

The governor joked about his "ambiguous" statement about pension reform, but there is no ambiguity about the growing liability that threatens to devour the California General Fund. It's no joking matter.

## Republicans and Democrats Seek To Add Discrimination to the Constitution

*from the Indiana LP, February 11, 2010*

Despite the Governor's call to avoid wading in to divisive issues, The Indiana Republican Party has ignored the head of their party by trying to make discrimination a permanent part of the Indiana Constitution. HJR-6 is a bill that will define marriage between one man and one woman. It is co-authored by two Republicans and two Democrats.

The Libertarian Party of Indiana affirms that personal relationships are an individual's choice and government has no authority to define, license or restrict marriage. This Constitutional amendment increases the power of the government over the lives of all Hoosiers, and is designed to discriminate against homosexual couples.

"The very first section of the Indiana Constitution states that all people are created equal," said **Sam Goldstein**, Chair of the Libertarian Party of Indiana. "All consenting adults should have equal protections under Indiana law when making a personal and private decision to share their life with someone. Its mind boggling that Republicans would campaign on personal liberty, and then seek to add discrimination to the Constitution. Democrats should also be upset that their legislators are co-sponsoring this bill, and the Indiana Democratic Party has been silent through this process. Where are their principles?"

# Libertarian Party: On the Trail

## Candidate Will Costa Receives the George Washington Honest Government Award

*from the Georgia LP, February 16, 2010*

Gwinnett County Commission Chair hopeful **Will Costa** is honored for his life-long commitment to honest government by the State of Georgia Tea Party, LLC. The award is given to candidates that best embrace an understanding of our Founding Father principles of limited and honest government.

"The only legitimate function of government is to protect the Freedom and Liberty of the People. This is especially true of state and county governments, because these political entities are the most important to guarantee our Freedom and individual Liberty. Most citizens focus on the federal government apparatus, but county government touches the citizen far more intimately than the federal government. Gwinnett County is a large taxing authority that maintains dominion over your health and welfare in your home. We must control the growth of county government and nurture Freedom and Liberty at the grassroots level to truly achieve Freedom and Liberty," Costa said.

### New and renewing Liberty Pledgers

- |                       |                     |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Robert Alexander      | Peter Meister       |
| Kanjai Aungkhab       | Austin Melton       |
| Jonathan Baker        | David Merrick       |
| Thomas Burket         | Leona Merrick       |
| Paul Clement          | Scott Michaud       |
| Wanda Corrales-Madrid | Russ Monchill       |
| Michael Couture       | Bessie Moore        |
| Mark Deal             | Christopher Morales |
| Christopher Eaton     | Edmond Muhlenberg   |
| Michael Fewster       | William Overstreet  |
| Robert Fugiel         | Michael Pakko       |
| John Gilmore          | Chuck Patel         |
| John Gossage          | Bryan Pizzuti       |
| Mark Grannis          | Richard Putnam      |
| James Gray            | Carole Rand         |
| Giovanni Guillemette  | Kevin Reheiser      |
| Russ Haddad           | Angela Ross         |
| Robert Hammock        | Joe Royce           |
| Brad Henry            | Jeffrey Russell     |
| Charles Hoffman       | Stephen Sallee      |
| Scott Holston         | Shawn Shafai        |
| Thomas Kern           | Roy Shelton         |
| Brad Klopfenstein     | Patrick Shockey     |
| Louis Krasovic        | Gary Smith          |
| Jon Kueny             | Michael Smith       |
| Rebecca Kurk          | William Smith       |
| Timothy Lane          | William Swan        |
| David Lee             | Dayl Thomas         |
| Jascha Lee            | James Thomas        |
| David MacDonald       | Glen Thor           |
| Patrick Madden        | Kevin Tucker        |
| Lewis McCarthy        | Gene Warren         |
| Vicki McFee           | Dallas Wrege        |
| Jason McWhorter       |                     |

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

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## Inside the Beltway

*Washington Times*, February 6, 2011

Political alliances grow mighty intense as presidential races loom. Now it's the Libertarians' turn to woo the tea party.

"The Congressional Budget Office just told us that federal spending was expected to be about \$3.7 trillion this year. After the Republican cuts, it will still be about \$3.7 trillion. The Republican cuts are so tiny, they disappear in the rounding error," points out **Mark Hinkle**, chairman of the Libertarian Party. "The tea party supporters have been betrayed. These cuts are so small, you need a microscope to find them.

"Oh, I'm sure we'll hear Republicans say they're just getting started, and more cuts are coming - just not yet. But I hope the tea party supporters and other fiscal conservatives wake up and smell the deficits," Mr. Hinkle adds. "Libertarians would make dramatic cuts in spending, and if angry Republicans and Democrats threatened to shut down the government instead, Libertarians would say 'Fine.' "

## Libertarian Party chairman applauds Maynard's ballot access bill

*Norwich Bulletin* (Connecticut), February 7, 2011

Libertarian Party of Connecticut Chair **Dan Reale** is applauding a bill introduced by state Sen. Andrew Maynard, D-Stonington, that would enable candidates to get on election ballots with fewer signatures....

Reale said he plans to testify in support of the bill when it comes up for public hearing and is encouraging others to do the same. Reale ran for Eastern Connecticut's 2nd District seat in Congress in 2008 and 2010 as the Libertarian Party candidate but had to wage write-in campaigns both times

because of difficulties with collecting signatures and getting them tabulated by the secretary of the state's office. Reale has announced he's running for Congress again in 2012.

## Database would track prescriptions

*Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, February 18, 2011

Doctors and pharmacists who suspect a patient seeking medications is an addict or a drug dealer could track the patient's 2-year prescription history under a statewide database being considered by the Georgia General Assembly....

"Our biggest concern is about the privacy of Georgia citizens and making sure their medical data is secure and safe," said **Brett Bittner**, the executive director of the Libertarian Party of Georgia. The party opposes the bill.

## Steve Kubby, Prop 215 Author, Drafts New initiative to Decriminalize Marijuana

*SF Weekly* (California), February 28, 2011

**Steve Kubby** has earned his stripes: Before he was a Libertarian Party candidate for governor of California and President of the United States (and South Lake Tahoe City Council), Kubby was a model activist and poster child for the medical cannabis movement. The latter because he has lived with a rare form of adrenal cancer for over 40 years, thanks to medical marijuana, and the former for co-authoring Proposition 215.

Now, Kubby, 64, is circulating a proposed ballot initiative for 2012 that, he told *SF Weekly* on Monday, can not only succeed where Proposition 19 failed last November, but could lead toward a changed federal policy on marijuana.