

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 2012

More Exciting Speakers for 2012 Convention: Register Today at LP.org!

David Bergland

David Bergland received the United States Libertarian Party's nomination for the 1984 presidential election. Bergland and his running mate Jim Lewis received 228,111 (0.3%). He received the party's vice-presidential nomination in the 1976 presidential election, sharing the ticket with Roger MacBride. The MacBride/Bergland ticket received 172,553 votes (0.2%). He served as the party's national chair from 1977 to 1981 and from 1998 to 2000.

Tonie Nathan

Tonie Nathan is a woman of many "firsts." In 1972 she won the nomination as the first VP candidate of the LP and then went on to receive the first Electoral College vote ever awarded a woman in the history of the United States.

In 1973, she founded and became the first president of the Association of Libertarian Feminists. In 1975, she became the first Libertarian on national television (The Today Show) and in 1976 was the first Libertarian to be featured in an international magazine (*Oui Magazine*). In 1989, Tonie became the first media relations director of the LP and succeeded in generating national interest in the party. Tonie Nathan has run for public office six times.

Ed Clark

Ed Clark was the first state chair of the New York Free Libertarian Party. Upon relocating, he was elected the state chair of the LP of California. He was elected vice chair of the national party at the 1972 National Convention.

In 1978, Clark received some 400,000 votes (5%) in a race for governor of California. In 1980, he won the LP nomination for the presidency. Clark received 921,299 votes and over 1% of the total nationwide; the highest number and percentage of popular votes a Libertarian candidate has ever received in a presidential race.

Judge Jim Gray

James Gray was the presiding judge of the Superior Court of Orange County, California and the 2004

Libertarian candidate for the United States Senate in California challenging incumbent U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer. Judge Gray is the author of *Why Our Drug Laws Have Failed and What We Can Do About It - A Judicial Indictment of the War on Drugs* (2001) and has argued for legalization of marijuana.

Robert Poole

Robert Poole co-founded the Reason Foundation with Manny Klausner and Tibor Machan in 1978, and served as its president and CEO from then until the end of 2000. Over the years, he has advised multiple presidential administrations on privatization and transportation policy.

Poole has written hundreds of articles, papers, and policy studies on privatization and transportation issues. His writings have appeared in numerous national newspapers. He has also been a guest on major network television programs. Poole writes a monthly column on transportation issues for Public Works Financing.

Norma Jean Almodovar

Norma Jean Almodovar - the author of the best-selling book, *Cop to Call Girl* - is now the Founder and President of The International Sex Worker Foundation for Art, Culture and Education (ISWFACE). She has been active in prostitutes' rights groups since leaving the LAPD in 1982 and has been interviewed by over 300 radio, print and television outlets.



From top left: Bergland, Nathan, Clark, Gray, Poole, and Almodovar.

Recent Libertarian Press Releases

If We Want Better Health Insurance for All, Why Are We Making It Illegal?

While President Obama and the Republicans in Congress spend time debating whether religious groups must provide their employees free contraceptives, a far more fundamental issue is being ignored: if we want better health insurance for all, why are we making it illegal?

ObamaCare, known in Massachusetts as RomneyCare, effectively outlaws true health insurance. Insurance, if you think about it, should exist to protect you against catastrophic expenditures. For example, car insurance doesn't cover the cost of gas and oil, as it would be outrageously expensive due to the incentive for increased driving. Similarly, health insurance should not cover ordinary and predictable costs, yet remains outrageously expensive because it does.

Then why do consumers continue to buy overpriced insurance that covers predictable costs? Government. First, the senseless connection of health insurance to employment is the result of a system that taxes cash wages but not health benefits, punishing employees who would rather have higher cash wages while making their own personal choice of health coverage. Second, special interests in every state have lobbied legislators to mandate coverage for their particular product or service. Finally, regulation not only drives up the cost of healthcare, but also restricts entry into the field, leading to even higher prices.

The result is this: if you want inexpensive health insurance, but don't want coverage for alcoholism, weight loss programs and baldness treatments, and would prefer a deductible based on your personal finances: TOUGH. Even if you're not stuck with your employer's choices, the type of individually tailored coverage you want is illegal.

Instead of ObamaRomneyCare, we need to decriminalize good health insurance. Eliminate the coverage mandates, the laws against purchasing health insurance across state lines, and the unfavorable tax treatment of personal insurance policies. Remove the regulations that block entry of new insurers, including charitable organizations which could provide catastrophic protection for the poor and the club-based insurance policies that were once popular before the insurance industry and American Medical Association both pushed to make them illegal.

As for contraception? Women shouldn't need a permission slip from their doctor to have safe sex.

Removing the prescription requirement would massively reduce the cost of contraceptives, making it far more affordable. In turn, this would ease the burden on groups such as Planned Parenthood that have long provided free contraceptives to those in need.

End Dangerous Sanctions Now; Peace Through Free Trade

As relations with Iran deteriorate, President Barack Obama and the Bipartisan Senate Committee are making things worse: inciting yet another war in the Middle East through economic sanctions. On February 2nd, 2012, the Senate Banking Committee unanimously approved increased sanctions against Iran.

Not willing to wait for a full Senate vote, President Obama increased sanctions by executive order on February 6th.

The United States must stop meddling and return to our traditional libertarian foreign policy of free trade in order to give peace a chance in the Middle East.

Trade sanctions are proven failures. In the 1990s, Presidents George H. W. Bush and Bill Clinton enforced trade sanctions against Iraq which led to the deaths of more than 100,000 innocent men, women and children.

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, in an appearance on 60 Minutes in 1996, was asked about the child deaths from sanctions, and replied 'I think this a very hard choice, but the price – we think the price is worth it.' Albright's willingness to sacrifice Arab children to achieve US policy goals was broadcast throughout the Arab world and was cited by Osama Bin Laden as a key motivation for the 9/11 attacks.

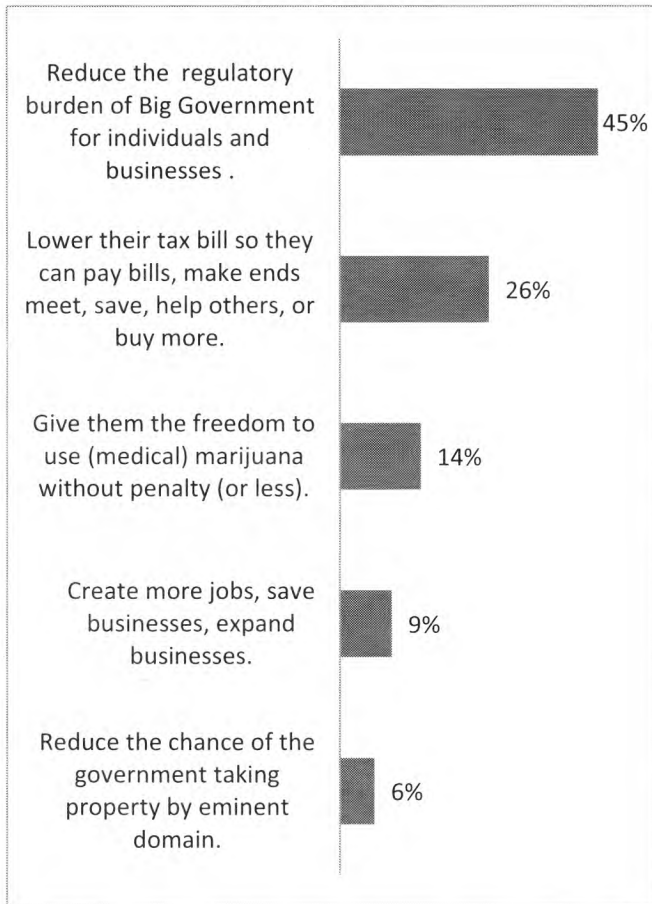
The U.S. government is doing the same thing to Iran, a country that not only has never attacked the U.S., but has attacked no other country in over 200 years.

Sanctions don't work. They unite the people of a country behind their political leaders, no matter how bad that leader may be. By meddling in foreign affairs, U.S. politicians turn supportive foreign citizens against us.

Rather than repeat failed policies of past presidents, we must use the successful policies of those who kept us out of war. Presidents George Washington and Thomas Jefferson kept the United States out of the bloody French Revolution and allowed us to make peace with our archenemy, the British, by pursuing Free Trade and a noninterventionist foreign policy.

Thanks to Less Antman for his work on these press releases.

LP.org Poll: What Is the #1 Benefit That Local Libertarian Candidates Can Offer If Elected?



New and renewing Liberty Pledgers

Adam Almog	Joseph D. McDaniel
R. W. Baruth	Phil A. Miller
Howard Beatty	Warren L. Miller
Terry Bonds	Sam L. Neill
Frank J. Bowman	Patricia R. Norcom
Wallace H. Burton	Aaron J. O'Brien
Allen E. Chantelois	Melissa E. Olmstead
Michael W. Cook	Paul A. Panichelli
John Downs	Albert J. Pappas
Joseph M. Ducato	Gunnar P. Paulsen
Ray Elliott	Mark Peters
Bernhard Gaider	Lance K. Rawlinson
Allyn K. Gerard	Troy L. Robinson
Mikael Gleghorn	George Saad
Harold J. Gooch	Brian Schnack
John Gorman	Jerry T. Searcy
Ronald B. Gostomski	Tim C. Shelford
David C. Gustman	Matthew M. Shorb
Peter Hahnstadt	Richard Siegel
David R. Haslam	George T. Skipper
Scott Holston	Joseph F. Specht
Tom L. Howe	Richard Waller
Piper Keairnes	Emil R. Wolanski
Gregory D. Kelter	Aaron D. Yeargan
Louis F. Lo Bue	

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: _____

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* 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

Libertarian Aspirations

From Las Vegas Review Journal, March 2012

The day before the "Super Tuesday" Republican presidential contests in 10 states last week, Libertarian White House candidate **Gary Johnson** was hanging out in Las Vegas.

He was raising money and touring the Red Rock Resort, site of the National Libertarian Convention on May 2-6 where he hopes to win the Libertarian presidential nomination.

The former two-term New Mexico governor became a Libertarian (candidate) after he switched parties and dropped out of the GOP presidential race last year.

Johnson said he continued his White House bid to give voters fed up with the two main political parties an alternative choice besides the GOP nominee or Obama, a Democrat.

"The agenda that I'm trying to promote is really along the same lines as Ron Paul for the most part," Johnson said in an interview, referring to the Texas congressman.

Both Paul and Johnson want to slash federal spending, legalize drugs, pull back U.S. military forces for a noninterventionist foreign policy, reform immigration and promote civil liberties.

The American Civil Liberties Union's recent report card on presidential candidates gave Johnson the highest rating, 21 "liberty torches," compared with Paul's 18. Obama got 16, while Newt Gingrich got four. Both former U.S. Sen. Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania and Mitt Romney, a former Massachusetts governor, got a zero ACLU rating.

Johnson dismisses the idea that he could be a spoiler in the presidential race, drawing more votes from the Republican nominee than Obama and helping the president's re-election bid.

"I think I take from both parties," Johnson said, adding that Democrats and Republicans are fed up with the status quo. "I happen to believe the Libertarian Party embodies the best of both parties."

The Libertarian Party is said to be the fastest-growing alternative political party in the U.S., about 225,000 registered Libertarians nationwide.

Joe Silvestri, chairman of the Nevada Libertarian Party, said his goal is to get enough candidates to run to maintain legal presence on the ballot by gaining at least 1 percent of the vote statewide.

Silvestri plans to run for Congress, pursuing the new 4th Congressional District, for example.

The state Libertarian party held its convention at the end of February and endorsed Johnson.

"We're absolutely committed to electing Libertarians to office," Silvestri said, adding he has few illusions given limited funds and support. "I'm realistic about what our candidates can do. But we want to give people a true third party."

New American Magazine Quotes LP Executive Director Attacking Mitt Romney's Spending Record in Massachusetts

Libertarian Party Executive Director **Carla Howell** is quoted in the current issue of the New American Magazine which suggests that many Tea Party members remain unaware of Republican Mitt Romney's voting record (as well as that of Rick Santorum and Newt Gingrich) - all Big Government:

Carla Howell pointed out, "The Massachusetts state budget was \$22.7 billion a year when (Romney) took office in January of 2003. When he left office four years later, it was over \$25.7 billion — plus another \$2.2 billion in spending that the legislature took 'off budget.' (Romney never reminds us of this fact.) The net effect of budgets proposed and signed into law by Mitt Romney? An additional \$5.2 billion in state spending — and a similar increase in new taxes. Every year."

2012 Libertarian candidates for federal office, and especially the eventual Libertarian presidential nominee, have a huge opportunity to inform voters of how Republicans and Democrats are equally guilty of reckless, dangerous high government spending. Libertarian candidates will offer Tea Party enthusiasts and voters everywhere a real choice for much lower government spending, lower taxes and a more stable dollar - all conditions that promote private sector job growth.

Register Today for the Convention!

May 2-6, 2012

Las Vegas Red Rock Hotel and Casino

**Visit LP.org to register. The deadline
for early registration at the hotel is 4/10!**