

# Free NY



WORKING TO ACHIEVE LIBERTY IN OUR LIFETIME

THE OFFICIAL NEWSMAGAZINE OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF NEW YORK

VOL 4:ISSUE 3 - JUL 2006

## ET TU WELD-US?

THE NYS LIBERTARIAN PARTY NOMINATES ANOTHER RINGER, BUT AGAIN GETS RUNG OUT TO DRY

By Gary Treistman

Question submitted at the NYLP Annual Convention in Albany NY: "Mr. Weld, upon nomination by the Libertarian Party, if you fail to receive the Republican nomination for Governor, do you promise to continue your campaign with our nomination?"

"Yes, and Yes"

In short order Weld in fact did receive the nomination, and so began the brief love affair and honeymoon of [former MA] Gov. William Weld and the NYS Libertarian Party.

Some rejoiced, some raged, but it sure looked like the NYLP would have a real, proven politician

in its corner, and a fighting chance to reach the coveted 50K votes it would take to achieve Major Party status in New York State.

(Achieving Major Party Status in NY would put the NYLP on par with the legal recognition that Republicans and Democrats enjoy; such status grants automatic ballot status in NY without having to petition for the 15K signatures that bogs down the NYLP every election cycle, and would save the NYLP thousands of dollars every year.)

The giddiness was palpable, the tiny but passionate party actually had a figurehead, a respectable name to spearhead the gubernatorial race.

No longer was it presumptively the underdog party, a mostly ignored tag-along

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## IMAGINE IF: CONGRESS ACTUALLY READ THE LAWS IT PASSES . . .

By Jim Babka

Government grows every year. It's no accident. That's how the rules are written. The Constitution used to be the rulebook. The voters used to be the referees. But not anymore.

Congress now writes its own rules. And referees them too. They ignore the Constitution. And ballot access laws, gerrymandering, debate commissions, and campaign finance laws, combined with winner-takes-all elections, make the voters irrelevant. The result is re-election rates worthy of a third-world dictatorship, and ever-growing government.

That's why DownsizeDC.org was founded. To change the rules. Examples . . .

Americans can disagree with a lot of things about the libertarian agenda, but nearly everyone agrees that Congress ought to read the laws it passes.

That's why DownsizeDC.org created "The Read the Bills Act (RTBA)". If Congress had to read the laws it passes it wouldn't have time to pass so many. And gov-

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## LIBERTARIAN ACTIVISM IN THE FIELD

By Nic Leopold

One of my favorite libertarian activism techniques to win people over to libertarianism, sow doubt in the mind of the opposition, and throw a monkey wrench into the major parties, is to engage major party signature gatherers in friendly debate and dialogue when I see them in the streets. Ever notice those young kids wearing the royal blue t-shirts emblazoned with "DNC" on the front breast? Well, these are the kids that the Democratic machine snookers into doing their grunt work on the streets, registering people as Democrats and collecting signatures for various projects and races.

These kids are fertile ground to introduce to the ideas of libertarianism and to educate on the true reality about the major parties.

Think about it: These kids already care about politics and society, otherwise they wouldn't be volunteering to do political work outside in

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**\*To View the Full Publication of  
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Dec 4, 2003, the NYLP Committee voted to make all issues of FreeNY available to the public, w/o Membership or Subscription prerequisites, via the Internet. On August 27, the Committee voted to reduce the printed copy size of FreeNY from 24 pages to 8 pages.

**As the content of FreeNY often exceeds 8 pages, this hard copy is an abbreviated version of the full issue. To view the full publication (typically available 2 weeks prior to hard copy publication), please visit:**

**[www.FreeNY.info](http://www.FreeNY.info)**

The opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the official stance of the NYLP, and are otherwise the authors' responsibility. References made to the "NYLP" and "LPNY" are equivalent and stand for The Libertarian Party of New York.

*Our Party Matters*

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### NEW FACES AT THE NY STATE LP CONVENTION? HOW ABOUT NEW PRINCIPLES?

ON 29 APRIL 2006 I attended my first NY State Libertarian Party convention, and was rewarded with probably one of the most exciting and interesting sets of candidate endorsements that the state party has recently known. My friends, who knew I had not been personally involved in elections before, were amused to see me jumping into my car at 9pm that Friday night for the four hour trip from Suffolk County, Long Island to Albany. I explained that a couple of cross-party candidacies had attracted my attention. When I returned home the next day and my friends asked how it went, though, I rolled my eyes and told them, "The Libertarians were too stupid to vote for the Green Party candidate."

I love the effect that this has. I have numerous friends who already think that Libertarians must be stupid, but they hardly expected or understood that particular assessment from me! And as I write this, I imagine two-thirds of voting LP members who also don't know what I might mean by that remark. Who am I, that they would want to understand my opinion, anyway? A card-carrying Libertarian for more than ten years, I am also a physicist employed at a national laboratory. I will excuse my friends as apolitical engineering professionals who feel clever when physical problems are solved, not when politicians have mulched the place with purple prose. I can sympathize with that. I understand analysis and theorists, too. Libertarians' ongoing debate between practical versus principled policy is valid, with inherent difficulties in resolution and compromise. But I also know the excitement of a new experiment and the value of real data. It was this which drew me to this year's convention.

Steve Greenfield had proposed to run for US Senate, against incumbent Hilary Clinton, jointly on both Libertarian and Green party tickets. Two unique opportunities stemmed from this proposal. First, Greenfield stated that minor parties are not permitted by NY state election law to share a line. Of the many laws obstructing minor parties from competing effectively in elections, this one would now have been possible to challenge, with probable success. Second, the publicity would have been terrific. The simpliminded media characterization of Libertarians and Greens sets them at the opposite ends of the earth; what would they have made of a joint candidacy? That the Iraq war, Bush presidency, Patriot Act and Homeland Security Department are so egregious that the Libertarians and Greens agree? This would make a story in and of itself, but more could also be made of the progressiveness inherent in both parties, despite the obvious differences.

By our vote we've missed these opportunities, and are unlikely to get them back. (We will never get the data!) Working across parties is costly and strains credibility, a sacrifice any one person is not likely to attempt again after failure. Another potential problem is the NY LP's endorsement of longstanding Republican Bill Weld for Governor. Weld intends to run on both Republican and Libertarian tickets. At our convention, this decision was more divisive than the Greenfield one, but despite the extensive time devoted to discussion, I believe we neglected to sufficiently consider the Weld and Greenfield candidacies in reference to each other. Nominating both would have sent the message that LP candidates belong in this game: that an incredibly broad spectrum of voters can identify with fundamentally Libertarian issues. With Weld only, Libertarians look like a supporting cast member for conservatives. Indistinguishable in fact from four or five other tiny conservative lines in NY that borrow Republication candidates routinely. This is the last message the Libertarians should want to send. To me this feels worse than a failed experiment does, it feels like a mistake where some equipment has been damaged or a project has been set back a year. I believe that we belong with the other minor parties, especially progressive and well-defined parties like the Greens.

Libertarians seem to love to quote the Founding Fathers. Didn't one of those make the famous recommendation to all hang together, or assuredly all hang separately? We have committed ourselves to hanging separately again this year, just like every other election year. Instead, this year could have been different. When one misses an opportunity and can't perform the experiment or cast the vote again, one may say at least that one has tried as hard as they could have done. Or, that there will come another chance (if a competitor doesn't scoop you first). No doubt, the election laws prohibiting minor parties from sharing a line will remain in place for years, as will the blind-eye habits of the media. But maybe someday two minor parties will get the credit for working together to knock them down. The Libertarians could still be one of those parties. In principle. We'll see Steve on November 7th. Good luck Steve, and from maybe one-third of us Libertarians, say hello to the other Greens!

Elaine DiMasi  
Miller Place, NY  
April 29, 2006

### OPPORTUNITIES MISSED

To start, it is wonderful to congratulate Mr. Russell on his nomination for US Senate. To wish him well to launch his campaign out to the voters at large.

To comment, I do feel the LPNY missed an important opportunity. The membership found plenty of reason to accept Weld despite reservations. They did not find the same for Greenfield although it was somewhat close. Greenfield did about as well as Silberger, which is an example of hard he campaigned. Steve's timing this year was to challenge perhaps the most loyal and solid Libertarian in the party.

I would like to acknowledge the events this past weekend in Albany. It was encouraging to see candidates of the Libertarian and Green parties speaking against eminent domain abuse.

In addition, peace activists held an enthusiastic rally Friday evening (4/28/06). At this rally to challenge Hillary and her supporters, Greenfield passionately explained the LP's stance for peace and his hopes for a united front against Hillary's underwriting of the war state.

A shining moment signaling what could have been.

As it is, the LP now has in Mr. Russell a candidate who can articulate the LP position with his full heart and mind on any given issue. I hope he finds a way to get that message to many more voters than the LP has in the past. My cautious optimism allows me to believe that the pro-peace candidates will repeatedly speak out against continued occupation. Over, and over, and over again. And, that Mr. Russell might convince more voters to pull the Liberty & Peace lever than we have ever seen in the past.

Thomas Ruks  
Queens, NY  
April 30, 2006

### LOSE A CANDIDATE, GAIN A LIBERTARIAN, THE PRO'S AND THE CONNED

Regarding Weld's stepping down from the election, and our replacement candidates - any 'in-house' candidate will be subject to the typical obscurity that the myopic media chooses to render on any given day. The fickle public is a tad worse.

That being said we might have only a brief opportunity for one last decent press play before they move on into hagiographic sputtering about the Knight in Shining Armor and my neighbor John Faso. Spitzer's got a joint in Columbia County too btw.

# OUR PARTY MATTERS

## LP CONVENTION NEWS

### NEW YORK LIBERTARIAN PARTY CONVENTION OF 2006

The NYLP Annual Convention took place on Saturday, April 29, 2006 at the Best Western on Wolf Road, in Colonie, near the Albany airport.

Significant highlights of the Convention:

• A proposed Amendment to the NYLP ByLaws regarding the updating of the membership rules (in part to reflect the dues financing changes cause by National LP's dismantling of the Unified Membership Payments) was submitted to the NYLP membership present, but did not reach the necessary 2/3 quorum.

• Former Governor William Weld sought for and received the NYLP nomination endorsement to be its candidate for NYS Governor; Weld spoke initially and took questions in his nomination appeal speech, and again in his acceptance speech, to the NYLP membership present at the convention.

• Donald Silberger and Sam Sloan also sought the NYLP nomination for Gubernatorial candidate, but lost to Weld.

• Other nominees seeking & winning LPNY endorsement were:

Chris Garvey - Attorney General

John Cain - Comptroller

(visit [ny.lp.org/news/2006raisecain.html](http://ny.lp.org/news/2006raisecain.html))

Jeff Russell - US Senate

(visit [RussellForSenate.org](http://RussellForSenate.org))

Kim D'Souza - 41st District, State Senate

(visit [www.dsouza-vote.com](http://www.dsouza-vote.com))

Chris Edes - 131st District, State Assembly

(visit [ChisForAssembly.com](http://ChisForAssembly.com))

Max Kessler - 133rd District, State Assembly

(visit [MaxKessler.org](http://MaxKessler.org))

(Note: Other Libertarian candidates are also running for office in NYS, but were not present at the Convention for explicit endorsement. See elsewhere in this issue for a full NYS Libertarian candidate list)

• A new NYLP State Committee was elected, with John Clifton, former Chair and Werner Hetzner, former Treasurer, voluntarily not running for a subsequent term:

Chair: Richard Cooper

Vice Chair(s): Joseph Dobrian, M Carling

Treasurer: Gary Popkin

Secretary: Blay Tarnoff

At Large: Eric Sundwall, Don Silberger,  
Audrey Capozzi, Gary Donoyan,  
Chris Garvey

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## PETITIONING FORM & INSTRUCTIONS

In preparation for the election ballot LPNY's 2006 petitioning season drive this year, **starting on July 12**, the **filing deadline being August 23**; don't wait to file your petitions late as unforeseen things always pop up.

Please read the following and take into consideration these rules and suggestions; the goals are: The quantity of signatures, The rate of signature gathering, and The quality of signatures received.

# Independent Nominating Petition

I, the undersigned, do hereby state that I am a registered voter of the political unit for which a nomination for public office is hereby being made, that my present place of residence is truly stated opposite my signature hereto, and that I do hereby nominate the following named persons as candidates for election to public offices to be voted for at the election to be held on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2006, and that I select the name Libertarian Party as the name of the independent body making the nominations and the image to the right as the emblem of such body.



Name of Candidate	Public Office	Place of Residence
John Clifton	Governor of the State of New York	168-32 127 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, Jamaica, NY 11434
Donald Silberger	Lt. Governor of the State of New York	44 Church Street, New Paltz, NY 12561
John J. Cain	Comptroller of the State of New York	27 Waters Edge, Congers, NY 10920
Christopher B. Garvey	Attorney General of the State of New York	16 Nicoll Ave., Amityville, NY 11701
Jeffrey T. Russell	Member of the United States Senate from the State of New York	55 Via DaVinci, Clifton Park, NY 12065

I hereby appoint Audrey Pappaeliou, residing at 7 Wigtel Lane, (PO Box 613), Bellport, NY 11713; Richard A. Cooper, residing at 2115 Valentines Road, Westbury, NY 11590; and Gary S. Popkin, residing at 849 President Street, Brooklyn, NY 11215 as a committee to fill vacancies in accordance with the provisions of the election law.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, the day and year placed opposite my signature.

	Date	Name of Signer (signature required) (printed name may be added)	Residence	Town or City (except in NYC, the County)
<b>1</b>	/ /06	<b>X</b>		
	Printed name:			
<b>2</b>	/ /06	<b>X</b>		
	Printed name:			
<b>3</b>	/ /06	<b>X</b>		
	Printed name:			
<b>4</b>	/ /06	<b>X</b>		
	Printed name:			
<b>5</b>	/ /06	<b>X</b>		
	Printed name:			
<b>6</b>	/ /06	<b>X</b>		
	Printed name:			
<b>7</b>	/ /06	<b>X</b>		
	Printed name:			
<b>8</b>	/ /06	<b>X</b>		
	Printed name:			
<b>9</b>	/ /06	<b>X</b>		
	Printed name:			
<b>10</b>	/ /06	<b>X</b>		
	Printed name:			

**Complete the following**

**STATEMENT OF WITNESS**

I, (name of witness) \_\_\_\_\_ state: I am a duly qualified voter of the State of New York and I am also duly qualified to sign the petition. I now reside at (residence address) \_\_\_\_\_. Each of the individuals whose names are subscribed to this petition sheet containing (fill in number) \_\_\_\_\_ signatures, subscribed the same in my presence on the dates above indicated and identified himself to be the individual who signed this sheet. I understand that this statement will be accepted for purposes as the equivalent of an affidavit and, if it contains a material false statement, shall subject me to the same penalties as if I had been duly sworn.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Witness

**WITNESS IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION:** The following must be completed prior to filing with the board of election in order for this petition sheet to be valid.

Town or City: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

**C.D. :** \_\_\_\_\_ **Sheet No.:** \_\_\_\_\_

# PETITION SIGNATURE GATHERING RULES, METHODS, TIPS AND SUGGESTIONS

## What to bring:

- Two or more clipboards with large rubberbands to hold the petitions and pens in.
- It is recommended that lightweight foamboard be used instead of clipboards if you can find them.
- Literature about the party and the candidates. (see below)
- These signature gathering Instructions
- Some friends to help out with the petitioning, and to keep each other energized, empathized.
- Liberal amounts of coffee available, but be careful not to spill on any forms, or people.

## Ground Rules for Petitioning:

- Instruct the person signing not to use a titles such as Dr., Mr., Ms., etc.
- Instruct the person signing to give his/her street address only, no P.O. Box addresses.
- Be careful about dates and signatures:
- Do not alter a signature. If the signer must alter or move his/her signature, he/she must initial the change. If you change a date, you must initial the change. You need not initial changes to addresses or town data. You do not have to be a member of the LPNY to collect or witness signatures.
- Never argue with or try to convert anyone when working to get his/her signature. Smile, be friendly, and get his/her signature. Remember the 20 second rule: if a person doesn't agree to sign within 20 seconds, move on to someone else! Don't sacrifice the many for the few.
- Always check that a signature, name and address are legible before the person leaves.
- Carefully fill out the witness statement at the bottom. Any errors or omissions will invalidate the entire sheet. If your post office address is in a different town than your residence, or if you have a P.O. Box, you must put down both addresses!
- Do not fill in the Sheet Number. We will add that when collating the sheets.
- If you have signed another independent nominating petition, you cannot sign or witness signatures!
- You can't witness your own signature. Have a friend witness your signature on a separate sheet. Always check that a signature, name and address are legible before the person leaves.
- Carry the signature sheets with you during your daily activities, you never know when you might have an opportunity to collect a signature or two! Make as many copies of the blank petitions as you feel you need. Always save one blank one in case you need to photocopy more.
- DO NOT photocopy these instructions onto the back of your petition sheets. You must be registered to vote in New York State to collect/witness signatures.

## Good lines to use when asking for signatures:

Use a non-threatening opener like "Excuse me, are you registered to vote in New York?" (That also filters out unqualified people.)

"Anybody should have the opportunity to be on the ballot, don't you agree?"

"Sign on the dotted line."

## Signature Gathering Methods, Tips & Suggestions

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Sometimes, just saying “Would you sign my petition”, will be enough and they grab the pen. Only say enough to get them to sign the petition.

If they seem reluctant, tell them that “Signing the petition doesn’t mean you have to vote for the Libertarian Party, and you are not voting now -- it just gives Libertarian candidates an equal chance to be on the ballot and run for office, so that people can have a choice to vote for who they want.”

Another great line to try: “We need 15,000 signatures to get our candidate on the ballot, but we only need one from you.”

If they do ask about the party, be ready to whip out a postcard-sized version of “The World’s Smallest Political Quiz”, and also write our 800 number: 1-800-ELECT-US. Prepare to have a few universally appealing one liners to describe libertarianism. (Often mentioned is Harry Browne’s race for President, a few years ago, to end the income tax and make the Federal government \*much\* smaller (and less intrusive).

After signing, if they’re sympathetic (or not, sometimes), remind them to look for our emblem [pointing] and our candidate [mention the names] on the ballot.

If you can get the board or pen into the signer’s hands, chances improve.

When the crowd is responsive, you can get one per minute. Two clipboards -  
- no waiting, but watch both signers. You are after all, a witness.

### Be Aware of Saboteurs:

“Don’t let anyone ‘sign for my friend/relative.’ or any person other than themselves. Such people are likely major party agents, looking to create an election fraud case against you, and to invalidate all your signatures. Give hir a blank sheet on which S/HE can witness their friend’s signature and tell hir to send it to Jeff Russell, see below. He’s listed on the petition on the committee on vacancies.”

### Where to petition:

Try local parks, downtown in the largest city near you, and in Wal\*Mart, supermarket, mall parking lots. (Ask permission, but they usually grant it if you stress that it is for ballot access. It helps to have voter registration forms, too.) Local festivals, fairs, and other outdoor events. It’s a lot tougher in less populated areas, so it can be worth it to get a CD of the voter info for your county and go door-to-door, just targeting registered voters. The DMV’s are a great option for finding a ton of registered voters in one place, not doing too much but waiting around!

Look for public places where there are a lot of people are hanging around. Malls and other private property may require permits before you can petition.

### NYC metropolitan-area Libertarians:

Find crowds to ask for signatures in the subways, at Metro North stops, and LIRR stations. Metro-North Info If you’re in the area, contact the Manhattan LP for a partner to work with, or just print out your own forms and pick a busy station near you. Focus on the 6AM to 9AM rush-hour crowd, and then come back for the 4PM to 7PM rush hour. If you can stay even longer, Grand Central and Penn Station should be prime locations for your effort.

Besides the train and subway stations, other good places to approach people for signatures are Jones Beach, outside of Yankee Stadium, and Central Park. The “Summer Stage” Concert Series in Central Park and around the Brooklyn Cyclones’ Coney Island stadium are great when there are events and games. New York LED has a list of NYC Summer Street Fairs, which are other great opportunities to petition and find New York City voters.

As soon as possible, give all completed signature sheets to your local coordinator by Aug. 20th, The earlier, the better!  
And above all - Have fun!

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