

THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF NEW YORK

# FREE NEW YORK

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## Libertarian Party on the Rise in New York

The 2009 election cycle was inspiring and successful for the LPNY. Our party demonstrated broad appeal and strong performance across the State, in both rural and urban districts. I hope when you read about this year's campaigns in the articles below, you will share my excitement and optimism for the future.

In addition to a successful campaign season, I'm pleased to note progress in building a strong Central NY chapter in the Syracuse area, which will link the Greater Rochester and Capital District regions currently served by our local affiliates, and create a continuous upstate region for future political development. Temporary Chair Charlie Shaw deserves our gratitude for his tireless efforts.

Another positive trend is the increasing ranks of young, energetic citizens joining our party, and taking the lead as candidates and officers. This mirrors a national trend, where a new generation of young adults are rejecting the alarming growth of government, and embracing the love of Liberty in ever-increasing numbers.

As we head into 2010 and prepare our statewide campaign, I hope you will join me in taking an active role, by renewing your membership, recruiting others, volunteering, and supporting our statewide petition effort with your donations.

New York has reached a fiscal crisis and can no longer support its bloated bureaucracy on the backs of taxpaying citizens. As the tired arguments for big government grow increasingly hollow and unconvincing, the weak and decaying edifice of an out-of-control government is ever more vulnerable to a disabling blow.

I urge all freedom-loving people of New York to stand up, and unite in the cause of our Free Republic. Now is the time to take the offensive. Now is the time for boldness. Now is the time for Liberty!

Carpe Diem,

Chris Edes  
State Chair

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## Dan Halloran elected to New York City Council

Libertarian candidate Dan Halloran won election this year, to New York City Council in the 19<sup>th</sup> District. Halloran also ran on the Republican, Conservative and Independence lines. New York is one of eight states which allow "fusion" candidacies. Dan is a thoughtful and principled Libertarian who ran a strong campaign, in a district where party enrollment favored his opponent. He received 52.5% of the vote.

New York City is not only the largest city in the United States, its population exceeds that of 39 states. Consequently, not only is NYC the most populous city in which a candidate on the ballot as a Libertarian has won office, it also has a larger population than any state in which a Libertarian has been elected to the state legislature. The 19th City Council District (population 154,959) is also larger than the corresponding state legislative districts. This is a milestone in the history of the Libertarian Party.

## Libertarian Party gets 27.5%, beats Democrat in North Castle

Frank Benish, Libertarian candidate for Town Supervisor of North Castle, received 27.5% of the vote in this year's election. The Democrat came in third with 26.8%, while the Republican candidate received 45.7%. Frank Benish ran a tremendous campaign that excited the whole town.

While not a victory, the Benish campaign showed that in small towns, where money is less of a factor, the Libertarian Party can compete with the major parties on even terms. North Castle has a population of 12,148.

If you don't like your local government, don't just grin and bear it, run for office! The Libertarian Party of New York will need good candidates in 2011, the next year for local elections. Don't believe it when people say third parties can't compete. You don't need to compromise your principles to win.

## Libertarian Party quadruples vote in Rochester

Chris Edes, Libertarian candidate for Commissioner of Schools in the City of Rochester, won 4.4% of the vote, more than quadrupling the 2007 result of 1% earned by Edes and Max Kessler.

Edes received the third highest vote total by percent in New York State, of all Libertarian candidates. Demonstrating our party's growing upstate strength, Edes also received more votes, in total (1,615) and by percent, than any previous Libertarian candidate in Western NY.

In addition to the Libertarian nomination, Edes received the endorsement of the Green Party and the Republican Liberty Caucus, illustrating the broad appeal of the Libertarian Party across the political spectrum.

## Libertarian Party helps overturn curfew law in Rochester

In 2006, the City of Rochester passed a curfew, confining minors to their homes between the hours of 11pm and 5am. The Greater Rochester Libertarian Party partnered with the New York Civil Liberties Union and a number of local citizens, in a lawsuit seeking to overturn the curfew on Constitutional grounds. After a prolonged legal battle, on June 9, 2009 the New York State Court of Appeals ruled that Rochester's curfew law violated the New York State and U.S. Constitutions.

In particular, the Greater Rochester LP maintained a website, [stopcurfew.com](http://stopcurfew.com), which mobilized public opposition, published the "14 Reasons" why curfews are a bad idea, and documented the process in which citizen concerns went unaddressed. The website also became legal evidence, when the City of Rochester claimed that reports on enforcement of the curfew, paid for with taxpayer dollars, were not public documents and so were inadmissible in court. The Greater Rochester LP obtained copies of these documents and published them on the [stopcurfew.com](http://stopcurfew.com) website. The court ruled that documents published on a website are by nature public documents, allowing them to be used as evidence.

## 2010 election a great opportunity for the Libertarian Party

New York's 2010 elections provide our party with a great opportunity. Six statewide offices will be chosen: both of New York's Senators will be on the ballot, which is unusual, as well as the offices of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Comptroller and Attorney General. In addition, all State Senate and Assembly offices are up for election, as well as all of New York's Congressional seats.

If you're dissatisfied with the way New York is run, 2010 is your opportunity to stand up for Liberty! If you're interested in running for office, please go to <http://www.lp.org/run-for-office> and fill out the online form. Make sure you indicate that you live in New York State.

Our candidates will need your volunteer and financial support. Please consider volunteering your time, or making a donation to the Libertarian Party of New York to ensure our candidates get on the ballot.

## Renew your membership

If you haven't renewed your membership this year, please do so. You must renew by December 31<sup>st</sup> if you wish to vote as a delegate at our 2010 State Convention. If you renew now, your membership will be good through December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010. If you've already renewed, please consider giving an additional donation, or joining our monthly pledge club.

**You can renew or donate using the form at the end of this newsletter, or online using Click and Pledge at: <http://ny.lp.org/donate>**

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