

Liberty for America

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New Judicial Committee Rules

The LNC Judicial Committee has issued new Judicial Committee rules, as it is required to do. The new rules contain a seemingly minor change, saying that signatures on a petition for a Judicial Committee hearing have to be “verifiable”. This is language that we have heard before, for example it was language that was unsuccessfully invoked in attempts to block the JudComm hearings on the expulsion of Lee Wrights from the LNC. The claim was that email messages are not verifiable. The LNC should reject this change.

Katz Ends

Presidential Exploratory Committee

Katz writes: Dear friends and supporters:

I hope everyone is enjoying your Thanksgiving. This year, I am thankful for your support, advice, and help since I launched this committee. I am thankful for all the feedback I received, positive and negative, and for the activity this page saw. I am thankful for the volunteers who came forward to support this work.

I am also thankful that so many of us are committed to working for a free society, and for a better Libertarian Party.

That said, I have reached a decision regarding this campaign. I am saddened to report that I will not become a candidate and seek the Libertarian Party's nomination.

This decision was not reached lightly. Since launching this committee, I have had many serious discussions with various leaders in this party. In the last 2 weeks, I have spent hours each day on the phone with people I respect. In the end, this decision is mine and I take full ownership. I am sorry for the time you have invested; I did want to take any more of your time now that I have made this decision.

This decision was not based on specific criticisms or negative feedback; in fact, the feedback I received was largely positive from a wide variety of party members. It is based on my estimation of the success of both the nomination campaign and the general campaign.

I have decided that I wish to focus my attention on growing this party, building stronger organizations, placing more Libertarians into office, and building a stronger, more financially responsible Libertarian Party. I emphasized that my Presidential campaign would be used

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It's Time for Something Else

This will be the last regular issue, at least for a while, of Liberty for America. There will be occasional electronic issues. When scandals or scoundrels surface again, so will we. The smiting light of truth will again save Lady Liberty. Until then we are going into suspended animation.

Our Party faces major problems, but they are not the same problems we have faced in the last two decades. Different problems call for different solutions. We had needed an effective purgative, finally administered; we now need good curatives, to be prepared.

Purgatives? We were the first to reveal that the LNC had funded the parts of pre-nomination Harry Browne 2000 campaign, by letting the campaign use the national party mailing list repeatedly, at a special rate, and only pay much later. We regularly covered spending by major LP candidates, including Badnarik, Browne, Barr, Johnson, and Howell. We reported on marvelous LNC debates, for example when the Chair insisted on addressing Starchild as Mister Starchild. We covered the LNC staff members who gave an LNC member a five-digit no-bid-that-we-could-find consulting contract.

These issues needed purgatives, administered via a monthly newsletter. Some issues remain, but many are gone! Yes, the current LNC did refuse to give the new National Chair his choice of National Committee members, a show of hostility by a few members of the antique guard without recent precedent. In our opinion, the LNC would be better off if Messrs Lark, Lieberman, Redpath, and several Regional Alternates were replaced. However, for a change LNC debates are mostly constructive.

We discuss below some of our projects for the next years.

Forthcoming Projects

I have a number of major Libertarian projects that I would like to pursue. Each of these takes time, time that is not available if it is already spent bring out this newspaper every month.

My state libertarian group is attempting to implement Local Organization here in Massachusetts. I want these approaches to succeed, and need time to invest in that success. Impeach the Security Sixteen: Heads of CIA, TSA FBI, and many more. Run another conference on the future of the Libertarian Political movement. Three books: Funding Liberty II, the finances of the Badnarik Congressional, Barr Presidential, and Johnson Presidential campaigns. Stand against the surveillance state: The working title is 'The (Establishment) War on America'. The greatest living American Patriot, Edward Snowden, has already done the needed research. Third, how are large campaigns to be organized? We have an answer. Someone leaked the strategy and organization book for a major Democratic Senate campaign. Electronic subscribers (to subscribe: <http://lists.libertyforamerica.com/?p=subscribe&id=2>; it's free) will occasionally receive large documents on these matters.

We are watching. We take careful notes. When scandals and scoundrels arise, we will return to regular publication.

Katz for President? for this purpose. Through the exploratory process I decided that a Presidential run is not the best way I can work at this, nor is it the best way I can benefit this party.

I will be focusing on my work as state chair, as an LNC member, as a member of several LNC committees, and, most of all, as an elected official. I will be working for a party that, without abandoning its principles, runs candidates successfully for elected office and moves public policy in a libertarian direction by winning elections.

I will be working, through the LNC, for a party that is run in a serious manner. This means one that behaves responsibly with donor funds, one that takes its own rules seriously, and one that focuses its efforts on the goal of a party - running candidates for public office, and winning those races. I will work hard to ensure that we do this without abandoning our principles - that we are placing people into office who will work tirelessly to move policy in a freedom direction, not people who will abandon their principles once elected.

I will also work with those elected officials who desire advice to ensure that our public officials not only remain committed to freedom principles, but also know how to be effective in their elected office. It is not enough for our candidates to believe in freedom; they must learn also to govern in a manner that makes strides towards a happier, more prosperous, and freer society. Governing requires more than beliefs; it requires action. I will work with the LNC to offer classes and group discussions on this topic. I already maintain a mailing list, together with Dr. Lieberman, for elected officials to share their experience and knowledge.

I have also decided that I will be endorsing a specific candidate as I exit the race. I am endorsing Tom Knapp's NOTA cam-

paign. NOTA is our strongest candidate - I say this considering the success we have attained with our most credible candidates in the past, our financial status, and our lack of a strong network of elected officials.

I am endorsing NOTA because I would like this party to focus its attention on electing local candidates - 90% of a person's interaction with government is with local government, and a strong network of local officials is a party's most important asset.

Running NOTA means not having a single standard-bearer for the moment other than our strong, principled Chair. It means not having a candidate who endorses policies requiring bakers to bake cakes for all potential customer. It means not running a pot-company owning former Republican. It means not expending precious resources paying off debt from a Republican campaign, or collecting donations on the promise of tv ads but paying 50% of those donations to a campaign manager. It means not worrying if one of our candidates will go defend Baby Doc in court, will endorse the prosecution of Chelsea Manning, or will refer to the police as our noble defenders in blue.

That said, while I am endorsing NOTA, I will respect the decision of the delegates and will work to support the campaign of any nominee, in keeping with the bylaws requiring the LNC to do so.

Thank you for your work for freedom. Please continue to work with me for freedom and for a stronger party.

Louisiana Party Doing Really Well

We read from Douglas Hayes some wonderful news. He also has ideas as to why his state party has succeeded.

Louisiana fielded its largest contingent of candidates ever for a single election date with 19 candidates qualifying (13 local and 6 Federal). In the November 4th, 2014 elections Louisiana elected more Libertarians to office than any other state in the country. (Tied with Arkansas at 3, Region 7 representing!).

Louisiana garnered its first ever run-off by Chad Perry of Vinton, La running for Calcasieu Parish Justice of the Peace, Ward 7, giving Louisiana the opportunity to become the outright leading state for most elected Libertarians to office in the November election. (not including fusion candidates). [Editor: Perry won!]

Louisiana scored its first ever head to head victory for a Libertarian against an opponent when William McBride defeated Republican Laura Budden to win the district 3 seat for Washington, La City Council.

Louisiana's Randall Lord garnered the largest vote percentage in the whole country by a Libertarian running for Federal Office with 26.6% of the vote. (Someone has suggested to me that this may be the largest percentage ever).

Louisiana has grown from 4600 official registered Libertarians at the beginning of 2012 to 10,723 registered Libertarians (with more likely in the pipeline due to the registration freeze before an election and the 25 completed registration forms waiting in my car to be dropped off.) We have some great upcoming out-

Libertarian Elections! reach opportunities on so focus issues that should drive our registration even faster.

Louisiana has formed more local affiliates in the last 2 years than any other state. From March 2013 to present Louisiana has formed 17 Parish Executive Committees with 2 more scheduled to come online in about a month. That's 26.6% of the state already organized at the local affiliate level with right under 30% set to be organized by January 2015. I think that might be the largest percentage of any state in the country organized at the local level.

We have begun to also get campus affiliates (College Libertarians) up and running and we are making great gains in registration on campus.

Louisiana sent the 9th largest delegation to the National Convention in 2014 (Tied with 3 or 4 other states). We had someone in all 12 of our delegate seats. Yes, lots of other states candidates were busy campaigning. Randall Lord, remember him? The largest percentage vote getter for a Federal candidate? He was part of our delegation along with Rufus Craig, another of our Federal candidates.

The Libertarian Party of Louisiana has one of the most successful donor bases having brought in over \$27,000 and on pace to bring in over \$30,000 for the year and we have This does not include money raised by our local affiliates.

Louisiana is 1 of about 7 states that have a paid staffer, with ours being a full time Executive Director. This has been our key to success. Our Executive Director, Wendy Adams, has been invaluable to our growth. Most of us in our state party would not be here were it not for her ceaseless efforts. She says she works 70 hours a week, but I know that to be untrue, it's more like 90 hours.

We were very possibly the first state to start accepting Bitcoin Donations in early 2014. You Bitcoiners reading this please feel free to donate. We won't be offended, not in the least.

Growth always brings challenges as more people with different ideas jockey for position, but that's ok, it's part of the process. People are going to disagree. Learning how to cope with it and still move forward is a sign of leadership. We have had our interpersonal struggles in Louisiana, probably not the most in the country, but probably more than average. It's a function of growth, those growing pains. In spite of all of these struggles we have moved forward and moved forward well. Some people see the glass as half empty, some see it as half full. I see that my glass is more than half empty and it's leaking but I am plugging the holes and refilling the glass. It's ok to have struggles, it builds character, it prepares us for the future fights ahead. The only thing that isn't ok is to quit. If your strategy didn't work, reevaluate realistically. Map out a plan, recognize your glass won't become full overnight and without work. Look to those that had more success than you and find those elements that work with your own unique situation.

Republicans Support Party Loyalty

Giving credit where it is due, here is a fine public statement from the Watertown (MA) Republican Town Committee about Republican backstabbers who endorsed Democrats. It shows exactly what we should do in the same circumstances. The profound sentiments in this most excellent message should be repeated by all good Libertarians at any faux Libertarians who propose that we should not run a Presidential candidate if Paul father or son is in the race:

Watertown Republican Town Committee A Resolution of Censure

Whereas; prior to the November 4th election, the GOP controlled roughly 15% of the State Legislature, and no Statewide Constitutional Office...

And Whereas; it was therefore incumbent upon all Republican office-holders and high-profile, celebrated former officer-holders, to actively support faithful Republicans seeking office, or at the very least not cause divisions by endorsing their Liberal Democrat opponents...

And whereas; in spite of the fact that former Governor William Weld endorsed Barack Obama for President in 2008, the MA-GOP Leadership embraced him upon his return to Massachusetts, welcoming him back into the inner circle of decision-makers and party strategists, further celebrating the former Governor as a great Party Patriarch by honoring him with the Prestigious Lincoln-Reagan Award, and then showcasing him at the 2014 State Convention...

And whereas; Former Governor William Weld endorsed Michael Day, an extremely Progressive Democrat, who was also endorsed by the Uber-liberal "Mass Alliance" group, over Caroline Colarusso, a well qualified conservative Republican running for State Representative in the Republican friendly 31st Middlesex District, in which the Weld endorsed Democrat, Michael Day, went on to win by 1%...

And whereas; Former Governor William Weld endorsed Richard Moore, another very Progressive Democrat and entrenched incumbent over Ryan Fattman another well qualified and conservative Republican rising-star in the Worcester/Norfolk State Senate District race...

And whereas; Republican Essex County Sheriff endorsed the radical agenda-driven Uber-Liberal Maura Healey over the well-qualified Republican candidate John Miller for Attorney General...

And whereas; former MA-GOP Chair and current Chair of

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the MA Republican State Senate PAC, Brian Cresta endorsed Theodore (Ted) Speliotis, a Progressive Democrat who holds a 10% (f-) rating from Mass Fiscal Alliance and a similar grade from Citizens for Limited Taxation, over Republican Tom Lyons in a race for 13th Essex State Representative, in which Speliotis went on to win by 2%...

And whereas; Lawrence Republican (Former) Mayor Michael J Sullivan and Republican City Councilor Marc Laplante endorsed Progressive Democrat Marcos Devers over Republican Roger Twomey in the 16th Essex race for State Representatives...

And whereas; the Republican Party unity is necessary to End to One Party Rule in Commonwealth....

And whereas; the aforementioned actions, by the aforementioned High Profile Republicans caused deep wounds to party unity, furthermore they may well have had serious negative impact on the outcomes of the aforementioned races...

Therefore be it resolved; that on this day, December 3rd, in the year of Our Lord 2014, at a regularly scheduled meeting, we the duly elected members of The Watertown Republican Town Committee condemn in the strongest possible manner, the aforementioned endorsements of Democrats by the aforementioned high profile Republicans.... And further vote to censure Former Governor William Weld, Sheriff Frank Cousins, Former MA-GOP Chair & current Chair of the MA Republican State Senate PAC Brian Cresta, Former Lawrence Mayor Michael J Sullivan, and Lawrence City Councilor Marc Laplante.

Be it further resolved; that The Watertown Republican Town Committee, instructs our State Committee members from the Second Suffolk & Middlesex District, Steve Aylward and Elizabeth Mahoney, and our Regional Chair Brad Williams of the 4th MA-GOP State Committee Region, to propose and or vote for a similar measure at the next MA-GOP State Committee meeting....

Be it further resolved; that The Watertown Republican Town Committee calls upon MA-GOP Chair Kirsten Hughes to publicly announce that the MA-GOP will strip former Governor William Weld of the Prestigious Lincoln-Reagan Award, that he shall no-longer be invited to speak or have any place of honor at MA-GOP functions, that he be stripped of any and all other MA-GOP awards or recognition, and that he no longer be allowed to serve as an Ex-Officio Delegate at State Conventions...

Be it further resolved; that The Watertown Republican Town Committee holds that the aforementioned Republican office holders or High Profile Republicans who endorsed Democrats, should never be given any support by the MA-GOP in any future election....

Be it further resolved; that the Watertown Republican Town Committee suggest the MA Republican State Senate PAC replace the current Chair Brian Cresta, with a faithful Republican.

Be it further resolved; that The Watertown Republican Town Committee authorizes and instructs the Chair of the Committee to release this resolution to the Media and to send copies the following: MA-GOP Chair Kirsten Hughes, RNC-National Committeeman Ron Kaufman, RNC-National Committeewoman Chanel Prunier, State Committeeman Steven Aylward, State Committeewoman Elizabeth Mahoney, Region 4 Chair Brad Williams, Signed this day Dec. 3rd 2014

John DiMascio Chairman Watertown RTC

LNC Considers 2015 Budget

From the Party Leadership: \$15,000 was budgeted for Affiliate support. We budgeted \$5000 for candidate training such as the Who's driving educational program. The Campus Support fund has \$3287 in it, so we budgeted \$3000 for campus support. We budgeted \$5000 for Initiatives Campaign support. The number of LP News issues is back to four per year, which is the same as the last two off years. Each LP New issues costs \$8600. Per the Policy Manual, \$60,000 is to be raised for the Building Fund to pay down the principle on the office mortgage. Capital expenses gets \$15,000, which includes IT.

At the end of November, National Party membership was down to 12,947.

Mattson's Excellent Spoiler Party Motion

National Secretary Mattson has offered a proposal on the notion of identifying our people as spoiler candidates. Her message for the LNC reads: "Attached is another policy proposal I would like added to the agenda for the December meeting. My sense is that this will generate more debate than the previous one, so I'll ask for 15 minutes.

This new policy would require that our public communications portray our candidates as people seeking to change public policy by getting themselves elected, not as spoilers who get their kicks by just being monkey wrenches in some other candidate's election plans.

Over the past few years, a large number of state chairs have

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complained repeatedly about spoiler talk in national party communications. In the 2012 election cycle, one state chair repeatedly asked that one of their candidates not be portrayed that way, yet it continued. Half of the front page of the most recent LP News edition was a table of which candidates might be spoilers.

First is the obvious philosophical point that other parties don't "own" anyone's vote, therefore we're not "stealing" votes from anyone. Second, I don't think it's true that the presence of our candidates frequently changes the outcome, as exit polls suggest that if our candidates had not been on the ballot, those votes would have been fairly evenly divided between Democrats and Republicans, or those people wouldn't have voted at all. Third, I think we just shoot ourselves in the foot for ballot access fights. The reason the GOP tries so hard to kick us off the ballot after we have qualified is because they believe we play the spoiler role for their candidates. Why would we perpetuate that idea, when we see how many hundreds of thousands of dollars it has cost over the years to defend ballot access challenges? Fourth, it tells the world that we don't even see ourselves as serious candidates." So wrote Alicia Mattson.

LNC Debates

As an approach to changing membership numbers National Director Benedict has proposed: "Dear LNC,

I'd like to offer some type of student membership for \$10 with appropriate benefits TBD. These memberships would not be considered "bylaws Sustaining Members." First, I'd like feedback from the LNC on the concept, before I get into suggestions on programs. Second, I'd like the bylaws and Policy Manual aficionados to advise on what would have to happen for the technical implementation if that were decided upon."

LNC Member Scott Lieberman has attacked the use of Lawn Signs in political campaigns, claiming that the signs are politically ineffective. Ken Moellman explained slowly and carefully why Lieberman is wrong. Carla Howell emphasized how lawn signs keep supporters fired up and interested in the campaign. Lieberman then argued in favor of door to door campaigning. Lieberman then attacked state parties for running candidates for state legislature.

LP Nevada Attacks National Staff

The last few days have an extended and sometimes vitriolic attack on the national party staff by lead officers of LP Nevada. The level of criticism seems out of proportion to the activities of the national committee. Thus, for example, the LNC Executive Director issued a report listing the number of Libertarian Congressional candidates who ran in each state and their average vote percentage. The response from the LPNV State Chair went

"Is the only task of HQ to run numbers of losing candidates? This information is not relevant nor is it useful unless you are trying to demonstrate that we are losers and you would like to scare people away from the party.

The report should say, "We are excited that we continually see increased vote totals for Libertarian Congressional candidates.

We are preparing for the 2016 elections and hope this trend should continue. The best way people can help is by donating to the Libertarian Party which will give us additional resources."

Otherwise I can sum up all the work... Libertarians lost, actually got killed in all real races in 2014.

We need to find leadership that will help build a strong foundation for each state party as well as National.

What is the National office doing other than acting as statisticians? Nevada would love to see more people coming in from our national data dump, please focus on that.

Brett H. Pojunis Chairman of the Libertarian Party of Nevada"

Joshua Katz gave the sensible response "This is not a press release. It is information we have reason not to be happy about, but is still worth knowing for internal purposes. That's why it was sent to state chairs, not the NYT.

I fail to see how our performance record as a party isn't relevant information for our leadership. If we're failing at our mission, we need to know exactly how, look for correlated factors, and fix it.

As for what else national does, I would note the large amount of legal offense we've helped with, and the chairs visibility on key issues. There is a meme circulating on the Internet with our party name on it, and the words of our chair.

Joshua Katz"

To which the State Chair answered "My concern is that the election results WAS to be used for LP News, the blog and some other method of communication. This information will be useful when we are close to actually winning. If we were 49% or 40% in a 2 way then yes, lets discuss what is working and what we could do better. However, we are so far away from being a serious contender that it is 100% irrelevant what the numbers show because we need to improve in ALL areas. The same people who want to know this information are the same people who want to discuss bylaws and want more meetings. Best, Brett H. Pojunis"

To which the LPNV Outreach Director answered "Timely statements do not require a 6 person staff. For what it's worth, I haven't seen anything from National out here in Nevada that wasn't sent exclusively to Libertarian Party members (and little enough of that), so I'm not even sure what "hitting back" National has done, or what they've done to "discourage future attacks."

The LP should focus on winning local offices, but instead of recruiting candidates for the next 14 months (or doing absolutely nothing), they need to focus on building the party. I would add that National doesn't have much if anything to do with local office, so this goes doubly for them. When it's not Presidential campaign time (important because of its own high profile), National needs to be doing real things. That means fundraising, developing relationships in the press and with national politicians, community outreach, one off initiatives, events or programs to attract media/attention for the LP, recruiting volun-

teers to expand the scope of their potential operations, fixing the website, and so on and so forth.

For any number of reasons, starting with people are often more interested in national politics than local politics, the National party could easily be more visible than any state affiliate could possibly be within any state. Instead, they have done literally nothing, as far as I can determine, other than post the same embarrassing and irrelevant (even at 49% as far as I can tell) statistics, both on the front page of LP News, and internally, over and over in different formats, and push out content (and not terribly impressive content at that) to hardcore subscribers (LP News being the most obvious example). I'm not really worried with embarrassing stats on the front page of LP News, because it only goes to people who are either already active within the Party, or who are pretty rabid political junkies.

But maybe I just don't watch enough TV political commentary? What am I missing? What does National do?

Jason Weinman
Outreach Director, Libertarian Party of Nevada"

And the LPNV Vice Chair chimed in with "what if we practiced what we preached...decentralized and returned national money proportionately to the states and the states were able to utilize the resources to better grow the party. Some of the state parties are so poorly funded it is difficult even acquiring good data on members, or mailing information out...hell, I get monthly idiotic mailers from National and I throw them away without opening them...it's usually the same stupid "We are desperate and need your help...send money as we waste more and more of it". Bullocks. I don't even think I'm a national dues payer anymore...it is pointless. What does Nat'l do, anyways? Seriously...I'm genuinely interested to know if Nat'l does anything worthwhile. (upkeep and housekeeping duties of our "David Nolan Building" office notwithstanding). Anyhow... if State officers of the party think this...what do you think members who aren't plugged in think when all they see from the party is whining mailers every month. I think everyone is tired of being BS'd and scared all the time, and now it is time to wait and see results before donating anything more. Hell, most of the people with any money are probably waiting to see if Rand will be the libertarian republican nominee...then give money to him...what real choice do they have from the LP. I love Gary Johnson...but if he says Pot cures Ebola again, I'm gonna lose my mind.

anyway...my two cents.

Jason Smith
Vice Chair LP Nevada"

Not to mention from LNC Alternate Daniel Hayes, which we quote in part:

"If people in the LP want to be taken seriously they have got to stop living outside their means. If a candidate won't get out and knock doors months in advance they are not a serious candidate. Here's a wake up call..you are not a unique snowflake

that if everyone just listen to the golden tones of your voice and the extreme wisdom of your positions during a debate a light will shine down from the heavens upon them and the masses and they will all vote for you. Your ideas are not that special, you're just like that guy at the water cooler that always has some "scheme" to fix the world. There is NO EASY way for a Libertarian to win the election. It's going to take SERIOUS work. If you knock somebody's door...NOT someone working for your campaign..YOU the candidate...I bet that person answering the door is 10 to 25 times more likely to vote for you than if someone else knocks the door for you. The actual person ASKING to represent THEM is pretty powerful. It shows commitment. Stand apart. Do it outside election season. Start January 1st even if the campaign is late 2015. Keep records follow up. Promote the party. If you hold a county or state seat within the party, get a state LP branded business card NOT a campaign card to start this far out. That forces the LP conversation Talk realistically with people. They appreciate honesty. If you say to this.."Well there is NO WAY I can knock enough doors to talk to enough people to win an election."

I think you just ascertained a very important fact for the office you are running for. It's too big. If you can't knock doors and talk to enough people between when you decide and when the election is you need to find a smaller seat to run for. Look what Aaron Star did. He spent a competitive amount of cash AND knocked doors and did he win? NO, but was he competitive? Looking at the numbers, I say yes he was. I think people that voted for him are not going to think..."GEEZ what was I thinking"... they are thinking..."shucks..So close..maybe next time." Most of those people will vote for Aaron again. Lets take my guy Troy Broussard. We didn't have the cash or preparation, but what was Troy out doing every chance he got? Knocking doors. He told all kinds of people, I am running on the Libertarian ticket. He promoted the party with his campaign more than I did. I will support him for ANYTHING he runs for again as a Libertarian. Why? Because he's not too proud to get out and work himself and he didn't just make it about HIM. I think he helped put up every large sign he had."

He went on this way at very great length. LNC Regional Alternate Windeler then launched into a tirade on the topic of running candidates, which we quote at length: "Einstein famously defined insanity as doing the same thing over and over again, but expecting different results this time. The majority of the activists in our party, including most of the members of LNC, are insane by his definition. For 43 years, you have insisted that the main purpose of our party should be to elect a majority of libertarians to office, and then change the world for the better.

And, for 43 years, we have run more and more candidates for more and more offices. Over and over again, we say "this time it will be different" because we will be more professional, or we have published a new pamphlet, or we have a training program for candidates, or we have a new national headquarters office, or.... This time, many of our hundreds of candidates campaigned really hard, a lot of people were exposed to a lot of good ideas about liberty, and, together, they may have received more than a million votes.

But Scott gave us a reality check: all that effort, money, and time produced one minor office won by a decision of the voters. Not exactly an indication of overwhelming success. Remember that the Republican Party elected Lincoln as President less than six years after they formed.

So, let's put our thinking caps on and figure out what we can do differently next time to ensure that we will win a majority. (remember, there are local elections in many places next spring) We've got to do that, because nobody else is crazy enough to do it for us. Besides, we have a reputation to uphold. Or, would any of you be willing to consider, even briefly, a more rational paradigm?

What if we chose our main purpose as making the world better NOW by promoting liberty NOW and influencing the people who are in office NOW and who will get elected next time? (thank you Sharon Harris) This would not abandon running candidates for office, because that is an effective way to promote liberty and influence politicians. But winning should not be our main goal, changing the world for the better NOW should be.

Ron Paul and Gary Johnson showed us that the most effective way for libertarians to get votes is to run as a Republican or Democrat. They both got elected to high offices by running as Republicans. It is a legal, moral, and sensible thing to do. You just fill out a form for the government, there is no statement of principles or pledge of non-violence. The platforms of both parties contain many positions that are similar to ours. I personally have gone to many state and one national convention as a delegate for the Republicans while holding true to my libertarian principles. I helped rewrite their platforms with a more libertarian bent.

Here's an approach I have been promoting for many years. Its just one of many things that we can do to promote liberty NOW. Wherever it is permissible, state Libertarian parties should arrange to choose their candidates in conventions held after the primaries, but before the deadline for the general election. The Libertarian party would not participate in the primary, but many of their candidates would run as Democrats or Republicans.

In our nominating conventions, we would place our best demonstrated vote getters into the most important close races where they would be a spoiler threat. We would also nominate a candidate (even if they are only a placeholder) in races where one of the major parties is missing. (If one of our candidates accidentally won another party's nomination, we would leave them in place and not run a candidate against them) Our candidates would approach both of their opponents with this negotiation:

"You have my sympathies. (I feel your pain) It looks like you are facing a really tough race, with the polls, or the primary results showing you in a dead heat (or whatever) with so and so. As the Libertarian candidate, I am unlikely to win this three way race, but I don't need to. I just need to receive three percent of the votes to maintain our ballot access, or I just want to

get my ideas about liberty before the voters (or whatever motivation they have)

I demonstrated that I could draw seven percent of the total votes in the primaries, but I don't care whether my three percent in the general comes from Republican or Democratic voters. My libertarian platform contains all the good issues from the Republican and the Democrats. I could target my campaign to focus on out gunning the Republicans on the Second amendment or out smoking the Democrats on legalization (substitute other issues as appropriate) I could get what I need by emphasizing either side of my platform.

You can help me choose my campaign focus by looking at this list, and see if you can help my party. By the way, in fairness, I will make the same offer to your opponent. Whichever one of you offers the most cooperation with us will receive the most cooperation from me. Whatever my choice, I will not ignore the other issues, just downplay them."

The wish list should contain 6-10 items, with the first ones extremely easy to go along with and even the strongest ones should not expect either side to go against their principles. They would include things like helping our candidates be included in debates, easing the rules for ballot access by third parties, and appointing libertarians to advisory boards and minor position. None of them should even hint at being unethical.

At first, we may not have much control over where our votes come from, because what we say in our campaigns gets so little attention, but it is not effect, rather the perception of effect that we are striving for. No matter who wins, tell both sides afterwards that we helped them to win or lose by the way we slanted our campaign. Even if the winner said "no" to our whole list, tell them that they said "no" politely, while the loser said "Hell, no!!!" Obviously, we shouldn't tell either side what our decision was (or even if we actually made one). Even if our choice to slant in favor of the loser is known, we can claim that they would have lost by more points without our help.

If many of our candidates practice this approach, after a few elections, we will be able to get both sides offering to sponsor libertarian bills to earn our cooperation. The winners will still be Republicans and Democrats, but freedom will have more influence. The alternative is more of the status quo, with the winners being Republicans and Democrats, and liberty having no influence.

This plan is not unethical. Most politicians believe that we are spoiling some races and we are just encouraging that belief for the benefit of liberty. All of our candidates will make many mistakes during the campaign. No matter what they actually said, they can always claim afterwards that they could have made any statement stronger or weaker to help or hurt the other side, but they said what they intended to say.

Ron Windeler

Windeler's proposal will rapidly be recognized by voters for what it is: It's a vote siphon, run by a corrupt party for whom no one will vote. Windeler proves one thing: We need some new LNC Alternates, ones who are not Republican activists.

Liberty for America

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