



New Jersey Libertarian

June/July 2006

Senate Campaign Edition

Plans for the Senate Campaign

by Len Flynn

The NJ Libertarian Party is in a unique position for the 2006 senate campaign. The alternative party candidates running for U.S. Senate are from two old-line socialist parties. For years we've heard opinion polls stating that Americans want an alternative to the Republicrats and that they look forward to a strong third party challenge. This year my campaign could provide that alternative.

I would like to challenge New Jersey voters through radio advertising or other means by asking for contributions to help the libertarian campaign this year. Tom Kean, the Republican candidate for U.S. Senate, obtained \$500,000 in contributions in one day. This mountain of cash was split with the Republican State Committee.



Thanks to the campaign finance laws there is no way I could raise such donations in a short time. If there were no limits on campaign contributions (for example, none existed in 1968 when millionaire Stuart Mott donated to the McCarthy for President campaign), then it could be possible that with my charm, wit, and sensible libertarian positions I could convince a wealthy individual to help the campaign the way Mott helped McCarthy. Campaign finance reform (passed following the 1968 campaign!) has made that impossible. Of course, the old parties still raise millions easily.

So what can we do? The answer is: the best we can. I am no millionaire, so I cannot self-finance any campaign. But if the voters really mean what they say in their disgust of the old parties, then appealing directly to the public for contributions might succeed. I like to say to reporters that if voters really voted the way they expressed themselves, then libertarians would be elected in a landslide. I plan to tell voters "Prove it!" as to their disgust with the present political choices. We need contributions more than we need votes!

I would like my campaign to help increase the size of the NJLP. If it is possible to use generic "Vote Libertarian" advertising and collect contributions outside the campaign (i.e., where a wealthy individual could contribute large sums), then that would be ideal. Government has gotten so powerful these days that many Americans have become fearful of it. I would like to see advertising declaring "Fight the Fear" by voting libertarian and by contributing to the party. Contributions outside the regulated campaign finance system—which might include large anonymous contributions to the party—would be ideal, if they are possible. This needs to be investigated.

Soon I hope to establish a campaign website that will start by telling the voters what a nice fellow I am. Dwelling on issues can be useless, if supporters don't know or like you. As a start, I plan to use something like the "mini-bio" used by petitioners to get me on the ballot. (See page 5.)

If you would like to help the campaign, send a contribution to "Len Flynn for U.S. Senate" at P.O. Box 448 Morganville, NJ 07751. Huge donations to the NJLP (P.O. Box 56 Tennent, NJ 07763) would be delightful for use on non-campaign activities.

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Susette Kelo: Kelo on Kelo: I'll keep my illusions
Originally Published in the Providence Journal - June 27, 2006

NEW LONDON

A YEAR AGO last Friday, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that my home can be taken by the government and handed over to another private party for its private use. The only requirements are that the city must have some plan in place that says another owner can create more jobs and pay more taxes than I do.

There went my property rights -- and yours, too.

Hardly a day goes by as I work in my garden or have a cup of coffee in my kitchen, both of which overlook the Thames River and Long Island Sound, that I don't ask myself, "If I had to do it all over again, would I?" Even on my worst days, and there are many, my answer is the same: "Absolutely yes."

It was in February 1998 that I first heard that Pfizer Inc. was coming to New London. I remember thinking that this was going to be trouble for us in the Fort Trumbull neighborhood, right next door to where the company was coming. Little did I know just how prophetic that thought was.

I immediately phoned Lloyd Beachy, the mayor then, who said he shared my concern and would take the side of the homeowners. He suggested that I call a local activist to see what I could do to defend my home.

Since that day, Lloyd and thousands of other people have become my sounding boards, my comrades in arms, and my best friends. Over 500 came to New London from as far away as Kentucky and Texas for a rally last July 5 to protest the notorious Supreme Court decision that carries my name. Without their support and that of the Institute for Justice, my fight would have been over years ago.

Where do I stand at this point? I think what I have thought from the very beginning: This is my home, and no one has the right to take it from me, especially for the vague concept of "economic development." I tell you honestly, and from my heart, that nothing will cause me to change my goals or my values.

Mark Twain wrote, "Don't part with your illusions. When they are gone, you may still exist, but you have ceased to live." My illusion has been, and will continue to be, that my home is mine.

Had the City of New London needed our homes for a school or a fire station, we would have understood that it was truly a "public use" and we would have complied. But there is no public use here. Building a hotel or upscale condominiums so someone else can live here is not a public use or even a public purpose. And in fact there are no specific plans for the land where our homes stand.

What do I think should happen now? What I thought should happen eight years ago: I and the Cristofaro family, who are also holdouts, should be allowed to keep our homes and live in peace. We should be able to pass these homes on to our children and grandchildren. This is America, isn't it?

[Editor's note: On June 5, the New London City Council voted 5 to 2 to authorize the city attorney to obtain a court order to seize and demolish the homes of Susette Kelo and Michael Cristofaro.]

Doesn't that simple desire define the safety and security of the American Dream? That is the dream that U.S. Justices Kennedy and Stevens and Souter and Ginsberg and Breyer gave away.

Last September, when we again received eviction notices, our governor, Jodi Rell, intervened on our behalf, asking the New London Development Corporation to rescind those notices and declare a moratorium on eminent domain until the legislature had had time to consider a bill to protect Connecticut property owners. An informal moratorium is in place to protect those whose homes were condemned after mine, but it is not retroactive.

But in any case, the legislature failed to act, so all Connecticut property owners are now in the same boat as I.

This has been a stressful eight years. More often than not, I wake up exhausted and wonder if it is all worth it. But though I've lost my rights and my property, I cannot quit.

Keep Your Shades Closed
Submitted by Ray Babecki

Court Rules Cops Can Enter
Unannounced
Home News Tribune Newspaper,
05/23/2006, transcribed/abridged

Washington: The Supreme Court reaffirmed yesterday that police can enter homes without knocking or announcing their presence.

Justices said four Brigham City, Utah, police officers were justified in going inside a home in 2000 after PEEKING THROUGH A WINDOW and seeing a fight between a teenager and adults.

Chief Justice John Roberts, writing for the UNANIMOUS court, said officers had a reasonable basis for going in to stop violence.

Kelo on Kelo: Continued

The threat of eminent domain continues even though Governor Rell asked that our homes be incorporated in the redevelopment project; the City Council rejected that request, choosing instead to evict us. We now face the prospect that when the wrecking crew is trundling down the road, the city councilors -- my own city officials, who are supposed to protect my rights -- will have us dragged from our homes.

Nevertheless, I and the others who remain, who are outraged at this gross violation of our basic civil rights, still plan to keep our homes. That's how much they mean to us. We plan to keep fighting.

At some point, a day of reckoning will come for all. We will all have to answer for things we've done or failed to do. On that day, I would much rather be me than be the people trying to take my home.

Susette Kelo was the lead plaintiff in *Kelo v. City of New London*, in which the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that private property could be taken for private economic development.



The LPCNJ's success in Edison (i.e. winning the \$55 floppy disk case at the appellate level) earned the Libertarian Party a political cartoon in the May 10, 2006 Sentinel, the local Edison paper.

Franklin Man Receives Open Government Award

By Tina Renna

On Monday, May 22, 2006, the New Jersey Foundation for Open Government (NJFOG) sponsored an "Evening with the United States Attorney Christopher Christie." During the event, held in Metuchen, NJFOG honored John Paff of Franklin Township (Somerset County) with its 'Lift' award. NJFOG issues this award annually to those who advocate open and transparent government.

Christie, who is in his fifth year as New Jersey's chief federal law enforcement officer, oversees a 139-lawyer operation with officers in Newark, Trenton, and Camden. In 2004 and 2005, he served as one of seventeen U.S. Attorneys on Attorney General Gonzales' Advisory Committee. In 2004, Christie was named one of America's top ten prosecutors by the Corporate Crime Reporter.

Christie gave a twenty minute speech on his office's battle with New Jersey corruption. When asked what local watchdogs can do to be most effective in keeping an eye on government Christie replied "Go to meetings". He said "It is important to shine a light on what is going on and get people to notice and talk about it. Corruption happens when no one is paying attention."

Paff seeks to hold area local governments accountable to open government statutes. He regularly sues area towns that violate the state's Open Public Records and Open Public Meetings Acts. His recent actions have brought about changes in Old Bridge and Edison Townships which, respectively, refused to disclose their closed session meeting minutes and overcharged for copies of meeting minutes. He chairs the Libertarian Party of Central New Jersey's Open Government Task Force and is a member of NJFOG's Open Public Meetings Act compliance Committee.

Paff is a founding member of Forfeiture Endangers American Rights (FEAR). He was a vocal critic of the forfeiture practices of the late Nicholas L. Bissell, the disgraced Somerset County (New Jersey) prosecutor who was convicted in 1996 of a multitude of federal crimes.

In 1997, Paff helped found New Jersey Citizens for Justice, Inc., of which he is the President. That organization's purpose is to educate the public on New Jersey's attorney discipline system and to seek reform of that system. To meet these ends, the group meets regularly to discuss attorney discipline issues.

Mr. Paff is active in his community. He serves on church council of the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and as Secretary of the Middlebush Volunteer Fire Department. He is married and has two children.

John Paff can be reached at (732) 873-1251

Federal Petition Drives

Petition drives are hard, and this year was no different. However, we were largely successful at getting our federal candidates on the ballot. This year, we are officially running a U.S. Senate candidate and four Congressional candidates. The petition totals are as follows:

Len Flynn U.S. Senate 800 required 1,054 submitted

Congress (100 required)

4th CD Jay Edgar 102

7th CD Darren Young 130

8th CD Lou Jasikoff 210

11th CD Dick Roth 113

The leading petitioner for Congress was Lou Jasikoff, who finished his signature collecting weeks before the filing deadline of June 6, and easily qualified for the ballot. Darren Young was a late recruit as a candidate but he worked hard and made it. Dick Roth was also a late recruit, but he managed to qualify. Ken Kaplan, the author of the classic "Petitioning 101" instruction sheet worked with Dick and helped put him over the 100-signature requirement.

NJLP Vice Chair Jay Edgar just barely squeezed out enough signatures to get on the ballot. Jay's commitment to his local boy-scout troop and busy work schedule made finding time for petitioning difficult. NJLP stalwarts Betty Florentine and Shad Woolley came through with some last minute help to ensure Jay made it on the ballot.

Petitioning for U.S. Senate began on the week following tax day (April 17 this year). Formal petitioning really got going following the April 23, 2006 NJLP State Board meeting in New Brunswick. For a commitment to gather 50 or more signatures, each petitioner received a customized clipboard containing the motto "2 parties = no choice" along with a brand-new "Vote Libertarian" button and a "mini-bio" of the candidate including a photograph. Armed with these petition packages, gathering of signatures moved steadily along and the 800 signature benchmark had been passed by Friday night June 2, 2006.

Len gathered a large number of signatures even though he is self described as, "an ineffective and at times even a cowardly petitioner." Len credits his success to the "mini-bio" and first aid photograph he displayed while collecting signatures.

Thanks to all who helped!

Project Full Slate

Thanks to everyone who contributed to Project Full Slate. Because of your donations, each of our Congressional candidates will receive \$200 from the NJLP Federal Fund as these candidates managed to get on the ballot by themselves.

Seven candidates expressed an interest in running for Congress. Unfortunately, the NJLP was unable to recruit petitioners, leaving three potential candidates short of the required 100 signatures.

Looking back, it is clear that we should have tried to recruit petitioners immediately after the NJLP convention. Instead, we focused on finding candidates. Once we realized our candidates were in trouble of not making the ballot, it was too late to find qualified petitioners. (New Jersey election law requires that petitioners live within the Congressional District for which they are petitioning. The NJLP, Green Party and Conservative party are working together to overturn this law.)

Penpals Wanted for NJLP Activist

By Len Flynn

One of our own is in the tight clutches of the state. Longtime Libertarian activist Don Meinshausen is imprisoned in the Federal Correctional Institute at Fort Dix on drug distribution charges. Don has been an outspoken opponent of the drug war and the drug warriors found a way to get him. He may be in prison but he wrote us saying that his experience has finally broken his "writer's block" and he is writing about Libertarian topics vigorously.

Don was given a life membership in the NJLP many years ago, because he had single-handedly gathered sufficient signatures to put one of our candidates on the ballot for statewide office. He supported us those many years ago and we should support him in his struggle today. Please write to Don at this address:

Don Meinshausen
IN 08496-050
FCI Fort Dix
PO Box 2000
Ft Dix, NJ 08640

To donate money for Don to use at the prison commissary call (215) 222-6323. See Don's website at www.paganinstitute.org/FreeDonNow.html

Biographical Information – Len Flynn for U.S. Senate



Len in his volunteer “work clothes.”

Qualifications:

Political activist since the 1960s who opposed the Vietnam War and the military draft. Opponent of increased taxes and bloated government spending at every level. Relentless supporter of the Bill of Rights (especially the 1st and 2nd Amendments) and unswerving adversary of the ever-expanding size, cost, and power of government.

Occupation:

Regulatory and Scientific Consultant 1985-date, Morganville, NJ
Assisted various companies with regulatory documentation and compliance management.

Education:

Ph.D. Organic Chemistry, Purdue University, 1973
M.B.A. Management Science, University of South Carolina, 1974
M.S. Organic Chemistry, Purdue University, 1969
B.A. Chemistry, Rutgers University, 1967

Personal:

Married 39 years, two adult children
Volunteer (EMT) for local first aid squad since 1987.

Minutes From June 11, 2006 Steering Committee Meeting

Jay Edgar, Ray Cragle, Len Flynn and Emerson Ellett met at Tumulty's Pub, New Brunswick, June 11. Lacking a quorum for either the scheduled State Board meeting or a Steering Committee meeting no business was conducted.

Per the bylaws, Jeff Pawlowski and Jay Boucher, having missed two meetings, are no longer members of the State Board.

Respectfully submitted,
Emerson Ellett

2006 Libertarian Candidates

U.S. Senate Leonard Flynn

U.S. Congress, 4th District

U.S. Congress, 7th District

U.S. Congress, 8th District

U.S. Congress, 11th District

R. Jay Edgar

Darren Young

Lou Jasikoff

Dick Roth

Politics is supposed to be the second-oldest profession. I have come to realize that it bears a very close resemblance to the first. –
Ronald Reagan



NEW JERSEY
LIBERTARIAN
PARTY
 P.O. BOX 56
 TENNENT • NJ • 07763

CALL TOLL FREE
1 800 201-NJLP

I want to become a member of the Libertarian Party! I have checked the level at which I want to join and have enclosed the corresponding dues. I certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force to achieve social or political goals.

(Signature required for membership only) X _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone (_____) _____ Email _____

Occupation & Employer _____

\$15 Regular membership
Newsletter subscription(s) are included with your membership(s).

Make check payable to NJLP and mail to: NJLP, c/o Robert Hull 12 Liberty Lane Grafton, NH 03240-3439

Federal law requires political committees to report the name, mailing address, and occupation and name of employer for each individual whose contributions aggregate in excess of \$200 in a calendar year. Political contributions are not tax deductible.

Donation

Enclosed is my additional contribution of \$ _____ to help the NJLP in its efforts to expand individual liberty.

Send to a Friend

I have a friend who might be interested in the NJLP. Please send a complimentary copy of the *New Jersey Libertarian* to:

I WANT TO KNOW MORE! PLEASE SEND ME THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

Books:

- Libertarianism in One Lesson** – David Bergland, the Libertarian Party’s 1984 Presidential Candidate, presents a comprehensive but concise explanation of the Libertarian philosophy; 126 pages, soft cover. Donation - \$9.00
- Healing Our World: The Other Piece of the Puzzle** – Dr. Mary Ruwart, AIDS Researcher, explores how our deepest and most troubling problems are caused by government coercion, and how to solve them; 308 pages, soft cover. Donation - \$19.00
- Special** – Send me both books for my donation of \$24.00.
- Expanded Info Pack** – An executive overview of Libertarianism. Donation \$3.00

PAMPHLETS: (no donation necessary):

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> What Happened to the Family Budget? | <input type="checkbox"/> Working to Cut Your Taxes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Making Your Neighborhood Safe Again | <input type="checkbox"/> Solving Your Health Care Crisis |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Equal Rights for Gun Owners | <input type="checkbox"/> Towards a More Sensible Drug Policy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ending the Welfare State | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thanks for the information; I’m not interested at this time. Please remove my name from your list. | |

Please advise us of any corrections to your name or address.
 Please send any corrections to: membership@njlp.org
 or the address at the right.

Send your check made payable to:

NJLP
 c/o Robert Hull
 12 Liberty Lane
 Grafton, NH 03240

COUNTY INSURANCE FUND PROMISES BETTER "SUNSHINE LAW" COMPLIANCE

At its May 24, 2006 meeting, the Somerset County Joint Insurance Fund (JIF), a government insurance pool covering Somerset County and various local governments, agreed to make its executive session resolutions and meeting minutes more specific. JIF made this change in response to a threatened lawsuit by Libertarian Party of Central New Jersey (LPCNJ) Open Government Task Force Chairman John Paff.

In a March 24, 2006 letter to M. Paige Berry, Esq., a Princeton attorney representing the JIF, Paff complained that the JIF's executive (closed) session resolutions and minutes were "too sparse and vague" and did not give members of the public enough information to understand what types of matters the JIF Commissioners were discussing behind closed doors. "The JIF, as a public agency, needs to comply with the Open Public Meetings Act," said Paff.

In a May 25, 2006 letter, Berry said that the JIF, starting in June, will make its executive session resolutions and minutes more specific. In his May 27, 2006 response, Paff said that he will not file suit immediately. He promised, however, to review the JIF's minutes in a few months and then decide whether a suit needs to be filed.



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