



New Jersey Libertarian

March 2006

In This Issue

- 1 State Bill Would Put Tax on Water
- 1 No Special Election to Fill Corzine Seat
- 1 Minutes of NJLP Steering Committee Meeting
- 2 Libertarians in Print - Courier-Post
- 3 Free State Project
- 4 Show Your True Colors in NJ!
- 5 NJL Newsletter Gets New Editor
- 5 Membership Form
- 6 Calendar

State Bill Would Put Tax on Water

Home News Tribune Online 02/12/2006

By Jonathan Tamari, Gannett State Bureau;
jtamari@gannett.com

TRENTON - Homeowners could face a \$3.20-per-year tax on water under a bill that advanced in a Senate committee Thursday. The money would be used to preserve areas environmentalists say are critical to the state's water supply and averting droughts.

The measure was approved in the Senate Environment Committee despite opposition from business groups who said the tax could hurt companies that depend on high volumes of water.

"The truth of the matter is the water supply in New Jersey is in crisis," said Sen. Bob Smith, D-Middlesex, citing five "major droughts" in the past 13 years. "If we don't invest in it, our children and even ourselves and our industry are not going to have water to do business or to survive, so we need to put a little money aside now to protect that water supply."

The bill is expected to raise \$15 million. The money is intended to help buy land in areas that supply water and build connections to let different regions transfer water during droughts.

But critics said there is nothing to guarantee the money would go to those goals. Given New Jersey's fiscal problems, they worried that the tax would create another fund that could be raided to balance the budget.

"Without the protection of a constitutional amendment, or 'poison pill' language . . . these monies will disappear into the gaping maw of state government," Sen. Anthony Bucco, R-Morris, said in a news release.

No Special Election to Fill Corzine Seat

Citing "the significant cost connected with holding special elections on days other than regular election days," Governor Corzine announced that he would not order a special election to fill his vacated Congressional seat. Corzine estimated the cost for such an election at \$2.6 million.

In a published letter to the editor of Home News Tribune Online, NJLP co-founder and life member Fred Stein commended Corzine for the decision. "The governor and the Legislature can save the taxpayers a lot more money by moving school-board elections and school-bond proposals to the November general election," Stein added.

"And, why should all taxpayers be forced to pay for primary elections? The Democratic and Republican parties should pay for their own elections."

In a letter to the editor of NJL, NJLP member Ray Babecki respectfully disagrees with Stein. "No voter must ever be forced to accept, or be deprived of the right to vote for or against, a legislative representative (not) of their choosing. But, political parties ought to pay for their 'closed' or 'exclusive' elections."

Minutes of the NJLP Steering Committee Meeting January 30, 2005 (Draft)

Chair Ken Chazotte called the meeting to order at 7:42 pm at the Chazotte residence.

Present in addition to Ken were Jay Edgar, Emerson Ellett, Virginia Flynn, Robert Hull and Len Flynn. Absent: Elizabeth Macron and Lou Stefanelli.

The purpose of the meeting was to finalize a draft 2006 budget.

A MOTION (Ellett, Hull second) to present the draft budget to the Convention CARRIED.

The meeting adjourned at 9:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Emerson Ellett, Secretary

Libertarians in Print

The Libertarian Party and activist John Paff were mentioned in the following article in the February 6, 2006, edition of the Courier-Post. Paff asks that all readers help support S.1219 by signing the on-line petition at <http://www.njsunshinelaw.com/> and going to the "help wanted" section of that site.

Reforms Proposed to Bolster Access to Public Information in N.J.

By RICHARD PEARSALL Courier-Post Staff

A lot has happened since the state enacted the Open Public Meetings Act in 1975.

The Internet came about, for example.

And a steady flow of corruption stories has had vacationers on distant shores leery of admitting they're from New Jersey.

One state senator thinks it is time to amend the old Sunshine Act, as it used to be called, to prod governing bodies into doing more of their business out in the open.

State Sen. Robert Martin, R-Morris Plains, quietly introduced legislation last week that would, among other things, require public bodies to:

Maintain Web sites or, barring that, let a qualified volunteer in their town do it for them.

Post everything from meeting notices and agendas to ordinances and minutes on those sites.

Make audio recordings of all meetings, including executive sessions.

Allow the public to comment at the beginning of meetings, not just the end.

Bring subcommittees and advisory panels under the purview of the Open Public Meetings Act.

Change the name and expand the jurisdiction of the Government Records Council to include the Open Public Meetings Act and put some teeth -- like \$5,000 fines and liability for citizens' attorney fees -- into enforcement.

The League of Municipalities, whose members would be responsible for implementing the proposals, is not exactly jumping with joy at Martin's proposal.

"The more the public is informed the better," said Deborah Kole, staff attorney for the league.

But she said the league has not yet seen the bill and could not comment on its provisions until it has reviewed them.

"One issue would be cost, of course," Kole said.

Tom Cafferty, the attorney for the New Jersey Press Association, said his group has not yet reviewed the bill either. But, Cafferty added, "I'm sure we're going to support it."

While the concept is popular, he suggested, passage is not likely to come easily or soon.

"It took 13 years to enact OPRA," he recalled, another "sunshine" effort spearheaded by Martin.

The Open Public Records Act of 2002 turned New Jersey's approach to public documents on its head.

Up until OPRA, public documents in New Jersey were presumed to be off-limits unless specified public by statute.

Today, under OPRA, documents are presumed to be public unless specifically deemed otherwise.

In seeking to amend the Open Public Meetings Act, Martin is trying to do for meetings what OPRA did for records.

Two activists, John Paff of Franklin Township, Somerset County, and Martin O'Shea of West Milford, Passaic County, helped draft the legislation.

"What we did was take our life experiences -- the problems we as citizens have had with the Open Public Meetings Act -- and see what needs to be done," said Paff, a 48-year-old Libertarian Party member.

"This is our 21st draft," O'Shea said of the proposal that Martin introduced last week.

Enforcement is a key issue for O'Shea and Paff.

"I'd be happy if they just enforce the law we have," Paff said.

"There are officials who think they can go into executive session whenever they feel like it," O'Shea added.

Right now a citizen who suspects a violation of the Open Public Meetings Act has two choices: sue or go to the county prosecutor.

But the former is expensive and the latter is not always greeted with enthusiasm by prosecutors who feel they have other, more pressing charges to pursue.

"I need less than the fingers on one hand to count the people who have been found guilty of violating the Open Public Meetings Act," Cafferty said.

Martin's bill was introduced a week ago and sent to the Senate's State Government Committee.

The chairman of that committee -- Sen. Joseph Coniglio, D-Paramus -- had no comment as he had not yet had a chance to review the bill, said Marc Schrieks, the state senator's chief of staff.

Reach Richard Pearsall at (856) 486-2465 or rpearsall@courierpostonline.com

Published: February 06, 2006.

Liberty in our Lifetime Free State Project

Free State Project What is the Project About?

The Free State Project is a plan in which 20,000 or more liberty-oriented people will move to the state of New Hampshire and work within its political system to reduce the size and scope of government.

The Project will reduce burdensome taxation and regulation; reform state and local laws; opt out of federal mandates; and press for the restoration of constitutional federalism.

The Free State Project will show the world what liberty can accomplish!

Free State Project Liberty in Our Lifetime

We don't want to wait decades for most citizens in the US to realize that the nanny state is an insult to their dignity. For those of us who already understand the debilitating effects of a government bent on reducing liberty rather than increasing it, the Free State Project aims at liberty in a single state.

What do we mean by liberty? We believe that being free and independent is a great way to live, and that government's maximum role should be to help individuals defend themselves from force and fraud.

Free State Project Where & Why?

The state where we will move was decided by a vote of the FSP membership after we reached 5,000 commitments. Population was the critical factor. Our research so far indicates that 20,000 activists could heavily influence only states with under about a 1.5 million population, or which spend less than \$10 million on political campaigns in any given two-year election cycle. New Hampshire met the population criterion, and its distaste for big government and a generally welcoming attitude toward the Free State Project were pluses.

Free State Project Get Involved!



Join the Free State Project and take part in a rapidly growing movement aimed at securing liberty in our lifetime. To learn more, you're invited to visit our website at www.freestateproject.org. Check out our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) page, and visit our articles sections which contain more detailed information about the project. Whether you wish to become a full-fledged member or are sympathetic but unable to relocate, the Free State Project wants you!

www.freestateproject.org ● Call toll-free 1-888-532-4604

Paid Advertisement

Show Your True Colors in NJ!

At long last, you can register as a Libertarian! Fill out the form below
and mail it to your county election board.

The deadline to declare your party affiliation for the June 6, 2006, primary is April 17, 2006.

Atlantic County

1333 Atlantic Ave., 4th Floor
Atlantic City, NJ 08401

Bergen County

1 Bergen County Plaza, Room 310
Hackensack, NJ 07601

Burlington County

P.O. Box 6000
Mount Holly, NJ 08060

Camden County

P.O. Box 1066
Camden, NJ 08101

Cape May County

10-12 W. Mechanic Street
Cape May Courthouse, NJ 08210

Cumberland County

60 Broad St. W., Suite 210
Bridgeton, NJ 08302

Essex County

33 Washington Street
Newark, NJ 07102

Gloucester County

P.O. Box 352
Woodbury, NJ 08096

Hudson County

595 Newark Avenue
Jersey City, NJ 07306

Hunterdon County

P.O. Box 2900
Flemington, NJ 08822-9952

Mercer County

P.O. Box 8068
Trenton, NJ 08650

Middlesex County

777 Jersey Avenue
New Brunswick, NJ 08901-3605

Monmouth County

300 Halls Mill Road
Freehold, NJ 07728

Morris County

P.O. Box 900
Morristown, NJ 07963-0900

Ocean County

P.O. Box 2006
Toms River, NJ 08754-2006

Passaic County

311 Pennsylvania Ave. Room 103
Paterson, NJ 07503

Salem County

90 Market Street
Salem, NJ 08079-9856

Somerset County

20 Grove Street
Somerville, NJ 08876-1262

Sussex County

18 Church Street
Newton, NJ 07860-9965

Union County

271 North Broad Street
Elizabeth, NJ 07207

Warren County

413 Second Street
Belvidere, NJ 07823



State of New Jersey Political Party Affiliation Declaration Form

I, being a registered voter at the address listed below, do hereby declare that I wish to affiliate with the following political party:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Democratic* | <input type="checkbox"/> Republican* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Green Party | <input type="checkbox"/> Libertarian Party <input type="checkbox"/> Natural Law Party |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reform Party | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Constitution Party |

OR

I, being a registered voter at the address listed below, wish to formally disaffiliate with any political party:

- Independent

Last Name _____

First Name _____ Middle Initial _____

Date of Birth: (month) _____ (day) _____ (year) _____

New Jersey Residence:

Street _____ Apt. No. _____

Municipality _____

County _____ Zip Code _____

Signature or mark of registered voter

Date

"If you are a registered member of the Green Party, Libertarian Party, Natural Law Party, Reform Party, U.S. Constitution Party or an Independent, you cannot vote in either the Democratic or Republican Primary.

Declaration must be filed no later than 50 days preceding the primary in which the voter wishes to vote. A newly registered voter or a voter who has never voted in a primary election, can affiliate with the Democratic or Republican Party on the day of the Primary.

v11.12.02



New Jersey Department of
Law & Public Safety



**Division of
Elections**

www.NJElections.org

NJL Newsletter Gets New Editor

Beginning this month, Joe DiMatteo of Malaga, NJ, joins the New Jersey Libertarian as a volunteer editor. Current editor Deb Sackett will be leaving NJL in order to devote more time to her family and career, but is serving as Joe's advisor during the transition period.

Joe first joined the Libertarian Party in 1992, when Philadelphia radio talk show host Irv Homer piqued his interest in libertarian ideology and the Libertarian Party. Recently, Joe has served as a cameraman and assistant director for A Third Point of View, a libertarian cable-access show seen on Monmouth County Cablevision (Channel 71) on Wednesdays at 10:30 PM.

Joe welcomes contributions of articles, letters to the editor, and advertising to be included in future editions of NJL. Please direct materials and inquiries to editor@njlp.org or via "snail mail" to New Jersey Libertarian, c/o Joe DiMatteo, Editor, P.O. Box 341, Malaga, NJ 08328

March 2006

Volume XXX, Issue 3

The New Jersey Libertarian

©2006 The New Jersey Libertarian Party
ISSN 1093-801X Editor, Joe DiMatteo

The New Jersey Libertarian is the official monthly publication of the New Jersey Libertarian Party. Opinions, articles and advertisements published herein do not necessarily represent official NJLP positions unless so indicated. Material appearing in the NJL may be reproduced, as long as credit is given the author, the New Jersey Libertarian, and tear sheets are furnished to the address below. Commentary and advertising may be submitted to the editor by the 10th of every month.

Contact us at: New Jersey Libertarian, c/o Joe DiMatteo, Editor, P.O. Box 341, Malaga, NJ 08328 or editor@njlp.org



NEW JERSEY
LIBERTARIAN
P.O. BOX 56
PARTY 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 political or social goals.

(Signature required for membership only) **X** _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone (____) _____ Email _____

Occupation & Employer _____

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.

Please send me a Voter Registration Form

Please send me a Voter Declaration of Party Affiliation Form

Membership Level: \$40 - Both National LP & NJLP \$25 - National LP only \$15 - New Jersey LP only

Newsletter subscription(s) are included with your membership(s).

Make check payable to NJLP and mail to: NJLP c/o Robert Hull, P.O. Box 558, Brielle NJ 08730-1414

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:

Calendar

LPCNJ Meeting

Friday, March 10, 2006

7:30 pm - 10:30 pm.

Libertarian Party of Central New Jersey monthly meeting. Lone Star Steakhouse, Route 22 W, Scotch Plains, NJ.

This event repeats on the second Friday of every month.

**Watch for coverage of the
2006 New Jersey Libertarian Party Convention
in the April issue of the New Jersey Libertarian**



New Jersey Libertarian Party
PO Box 56
Tennent, New Jersey 07763
800-201-NJLP www.njlp.org

ADDRESS SERVICES REQUESTED