



New Jersey Libertarian

Volume XLII, Issue 2

Summer 2017

Chair's Message

Fellow Libertarians,

2017 looks like another historic year of growth for us.

I want to make sure you saw this new story about the incredible growth of registered LP voters in New Jersey! Since 2015 our numbers have almost TRIPLED. We are now 7,090 strong. We are by far the third-largest political party in New Jersey (See page 4).

Please join me in congratulating our outstanding NJLP candidates (See page 2 for a full listing of our candidates) to make the ballot in 2017. Please provide whatever support you can to our candidates.

We are looking forward to the annual NJLP Summer Picnic July 15th at Jay's house in Cream Ridge! This is an extremely fun, informal get-together. Last year was a giant success and we're looking forward to seeing you again this year!

Finally, I want to personally say thank you to everyone volunteering your time and energy to help us spread the message of liberty. We are a 100% member-funded, volunteer-staffed organization. Libertarians don't want freedom for certain groups based on class, race, gender, age, or religion. We want freedom for all people, simply because they're human beings. Help our candidates empower people instead of politicians.

In Liberty,

Patrick McKnight
Chair, NJLP

2017 NJLP State-level Strategic Plan

by *Jim Tosone*

In January, I drafted and presented to the 2016 Board what, to my knowledge, was the first ever state-wide NJLP Strategic Plan using SMART goals. The purpose of the one-page State-level Strategic Plan is to:

- Communicate to members our key areas of focus for 2017
- Provide a baseline against which to measure progress against our plans
- Provide a framework which can be used by VPs and Regions as they develop their 2017 Strategic Plans
- Use the SMART (Specific, Measureable, Attainable, Realistic, Time Specific) model for defining goals

My hope was that the plan, along with the VP and Region plans, would be shared with the membership prior to, or at, the 2017 State Convention. The 2016 Board made the decision to instead have the incoming 2017 Board review the document, which it did when it met for the first time after the Convention in April. That Board decided to make the document non-binding on the VPs and Regions and, as such, no vote was taken on the document. To date, only one VP and (I believe) one Region has created a plan for their area using the framework.

So, I am belatedly sharing the State-level Plan with the General Membership. The lesson I have learned from this first attempt is that the 2018 Plan needs to be reviewed by the Board in December, the VP and Region Plans reviewed in January, and all of the plans submitted to the General Membership in the Newsletter announcing the 2018 State Convention.

That being said, here is the Plan that was submitted to the Board in April:

2017 NJLP State-level Strategic Plan

2017 NJ Elections

- Recruit, and nominate at the 2017 NJLP State Convention, and subsequent Regional meetings, the following candidates:
 - Governor/Lt. Governor

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2017 NJLP candidates

Peter Rohrma for Governor

Karese Laguerre for Lieutenant Governor

Dan Krause for State Assembly (12th District)

Anthony Storrow for State Assembly (12th District)

Eveline Brownstein for State Assembly (13th District)

Claudio Belusic for State Assembly (37th District)

James Tosone for State Assembly (39th District)

Michael Chazukow for West Milford Town Council

Jonathan Salzman for West Milford Town Council

Dan Heitkamp for Hunterdon County Freeholder

Tom Maciejewski for Berkeley Heights Town Council

Hisham Hamed for Manalapan Town Council

John Ordille for Northfield City Council

Valerio Bruscianelli for Westfield Town Council

Be sure to support our local candidates and state candidates at <http://njlp.org/statefund!>

- State Senate (4) [there are 40 seats.]
- State Assembly (12) [there are 80 seats.]
- County/Local Offices (10)
- Raise \$10,800 for the State Fund to support our candidates (Sep 30)
 - \$5000 – Governor
 - \$500 – each State Senator
 - \$300 – each Assembly/County/Local
- 2017 Campaign Issues
 - Major Spending Cuts (reform Pensions, Medicaid, Schools, Transportation)
 - Reduce Taxes (Property, Income, Sales, Gas) & Debt, based on Spending Cuts
 - School Choice (including vouchers, charter schools, home schooling)
 - Legal Marijuana; End the failed War on Drugs
 - County/Local issues as appropriate
- Voter Registration Drive (Jun 6 - Sep 30)
 - Increase number of voters registered as Libertarians by 33% i.e. From 5,400 (10/2016) to 7,200 (9/30/2017)

NJLP Organizational Effectiveness

- Increase collaboration, coordination, communication among VPs and Regions
 - Board Review/Feedback on VPs & Regions 2017 Strategic Plans (Apr 30)
 - Get formal Committees established: Marketing, Programs, and Membership (Jun 30)

- Make it easier for candidates, members, prospective members to get information
 - Create or update easy to access “How Do I?” or FAQ section at the website (Sep 30) e.g., become a member, join a committee, run for office, donate, etc.
- Create a standing Convention/Picnic/November General Meeting Committee (May 31)
 - Have the November meeting be an event, not just a business meeting
- Replace the current head of the Bylaws Committee and reassess members (Apr 30)
- Revitalize the Platform Committee, incl. a permanent head, and reassess members (Dec 31)
- Conduct a survey of members to provide feedback/guidance to NJLP Leadership (Jun 30)
- Create a succession plan so there is an orderly transfer to the 2018 State Board (Jan 31, 2018)

A Motion to Amend the Bylaws

by Jim Tosone, NJLP Bylaws Committee member

A concern has been raised about an ambiguity in the NJLP Bylaws with regard to the seating of delegates at LP National Conventions. The motion below removes that ambiguity. It has been reviewed and endorsed by the Bylaws Committee. It will be put to the Membership at the General Meeting at the July Picnic, so it is in place for the 2018 National LP Convention.

Section 4f of the NJLP Bylaws currently reads:

4f: “The NJLP Convention gives full authority to the NJLP delegation to decide procedural matters at the National LP Convention.”

Motion

Whereas, Convention Rule 4f could be misconstrued to allow the NJLP delegation to seat out-of-state members at LP National Conventions (under its authority to decide “procedural matters”) and

Whereas, Convention Rule 3a (“Delegates to the LP National Convention shall consist of all NJLP members who were members on the first day of the month preceding the month when the Convention is held”) clearly intends for delegates to be NJLP members, therefore

We move that the underlined text be added to Section 4f:

4f: “The NJLP Convention gives full authority to the NJLP delegation to decide purely procedural matters at the National LP Convention. However, Convention

Rule 3a (above) applies, along with the following requirement: the person must have been an NJLP member for at least one (1) month prior to the first day of the month in which the National LP Convention begins.” ♦

New Jersey Political Prisoner NJ Weedman Does ‘Hunger Strike for Bail’ from Mercer County Jail

by *Makeda Smith*

TRENTON, N.J., June 21, 2017 — Is orange the new green? Cannabis activist, cancer patient and self-proclaimed “Superhero of the Potheads” Ed Forchion aka “NJ Weedman” might well be pondering this dilemma as he sits out his “Hunger Strike for Bail” protest in New Jersey’s Mercer County Jail.

The free speech activist was originally incarcerated on March 3, 2017 and is being held without bail on charges of witness tampering. Forchion has since filed a Federal Writ of Habeas Corpus in U.S. Federal District Court of Trenton New Jersey (Case No. 317CV02669PGS) claiming a tragic violation of his civil rights under New Jersey’s new bail reform laws. Forchion has gone without food for over 11 days.

The charges were filed after Forchion, per the approval of his former attorney, posted the name and photo of a police informant on his Facebook page, requesting the public to help him find information on the man. Forchion believed the individual was a paid informant, hired by the Trenton Police, to build a drug case against him. Under New Jersey’s new bail reform laws, which went into effect January 1, officials cite that certain conditions can warrant pre-trial detention, like danger to the community, flight risk or threat to a witness.

“I am a peaceful, proud and patriotic pothead,” cites Forchion. “Yet I have sat here for over 100 days in a cell while watching real criminals, like murderers and rapists, get released daily on bail. Nothing I did was illegal,” Forchion has stated from jail. “Nothing I did was wrong. In fact, I actually thought I was in accordance with the law per the advice of my attorney.” (Forchion’s attorney has since been removed from the case per his own request.)

Forchion’s long standing battle for marijuana law reform has been documented for over two decades. Considered by many as the “grandfather of marijuana reform in New Jersey,” Forchion is a bone cancer patient who states he needs marijuana for his symptoms. Forchion’s most recent travails with the

Trenton Police Department have shined an international media spotlight on the state’s current cannabis policy. Forchion contends he is political prisoner due to the “politics of pot Jersey style.”

Amongst his many trials and tribulations over the years, Forchion pleaded guilty in 2000 to charges of conspiracy to distribute and marijuana possession and was released on parole after serving 18 months on a reduced sentence. He was arrested again in Burlington County, N.J., in 2010 on marijuana possession and distribution charges. He has fought those charges. Forchion argued his medical condition gave him a “medical necessity” defense to possess and appealed the decision to the NJ Supreme Court and the U.S. Supreme Court.

Forchion achieved Hollywood notoriety when he opened a marijuana dispensary in Los Angeles in 2008, saying it was a temple that used marijuana as part of its religious ceremonies. The California temple was shut down after a federal drug raid in 2011.

Currently Forchion, a Rastafarian, is the co-owner of New Jersey’s only cannabis-themed restaurant, NJ Weedman’s Joint and a spiritual sanctuary, Liberty Bell Temple III, located directly across from New Jersey’s Trenton City Hall. He opened the businesses, alongside his partner, medical marijuana mom activist and registered nurse, Debi Madaio. The restaurant and sanctuary receive not only a steady stream of customers but also worldwide media attention.

A barbeque fundraiser and birthday celebration is scheduled for Ed Forchion on his birthday, July 23 at NJ Weedman’s Joint at 322 E. State St. in Trenton, N.J. Follow [NJ Weedman’s Joint on Facebook](#) for updates and details. ♦

Supreme Court rules Data Extracted from Emails are OPRA "Government Records."

by *John Paff*

In a unanimous decision issued today in [John Paff v. Galloway Township, et al](#), the New Jersey Supreme Court held that under the [Open Public Records Act \(OPRA\)](#), "information in electronic form, even if part of a larger document, is itself a government record [and that] electronically stored information extracted from an email is not the creation of a new record or new information; it is a government record."

Thus, it appears that going forward, the public is generally entitled to information stored in government databases, subject to normal confidentiality constraints

and payment of a service charge if extraction of the requested data requires “a substantial amount of manipulation or programming of information technology.”

In its ruling, the Court rejected the [Appellate Division's April 18, 2016 opinion](#) that held that for electronically stored information, “OPRA only allows requests for records, not requests for information.” The Supreme Court held that the Appellate Division's "position cannot be squared with OPRA’s plain language or its objectives in dealing with electronically stored information."

The Supreme Court also ruled that courts are to grant no deference to decisions or information advice given by the [New Jersey Government Records Council \(GRC\)](#) except when the Appellate Division considers appeals of GRC decisions. It also recognized that while "[i]t may take only two to three minutes for an IT Specialist to make accessible fields of information from

two weeks of emails; it will take considerably longer for the Township Clerk and Chief of Police to determine whether the requested information in each email may intrude on privacy rights or raise public-safety concerns." Accordingly, the Court remanded the matter back to the trial court to address any such confidentiality concerns.

I was ably represented in the case by [Walter M. Luers](#) of Clinton. ♦



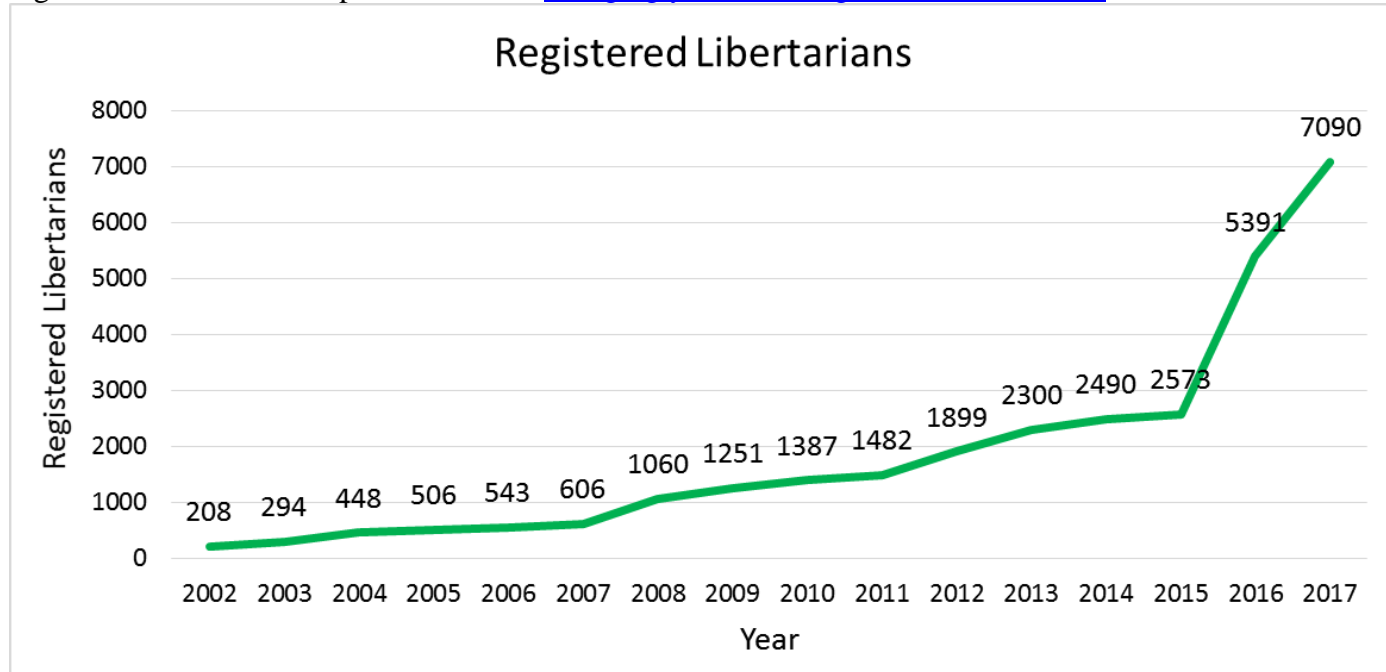
New Jersey Libertarian Party Grows Again

by Jay Edgar

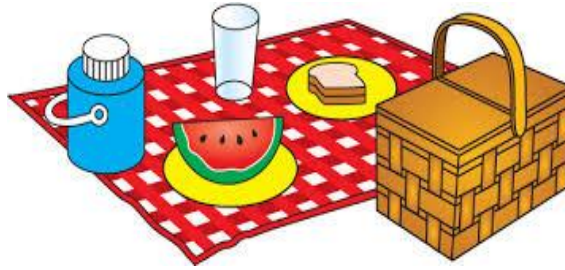
In 2001, an [appeals court ruled](#) that New Jersey's practice of not allowing anyone to register to vote as anything other than Democrat, Republican, or Independent was unconstitutional. This was the result of a lawsuit brought by a coalition of political parties, including the NJ Libertarian Party.

Since then the number of registered libertarians has been steadily growing. The 2016 numbers show 5,391 registered Libertarians. This is a 109.5% growth from the prior year. We are only partway through 2017 and we have grown once again to 7,090 registered Libertarians.

Help us to keep this momentum! If you are not a party member consider [joining the party](#). If you are not registered as a libertarian please consider [changing your voter registration declaration](#).



NJLP Picnic – Band Bash and Regular Business Meeting



Saturday, July 15, 2017 3:30 PM

Jay Edgar's House

8 Arneytown-Hornerstown Road, Cream Ridge, NJ

Come hang out with fellow freedom lovers. The NJLP Summer General Membership Meeting will be on Saturday July 15th starting at 3:30 PM at Jay Edgar's home in Cream Ridge. The picnic will start around 4:30 PM following the General Membership Meeting.

Some food will be provided, but please consider bringing your favorite dish to share. Gas grills and tubs of ice with cold soft drinks will be provided along with snacks and picnic utensils. Extra lawn chairs would help. A \$10 donation to help cover our costs is encouraged.

There will be room to set up tents for those who want to stay late. There is also a hot tub on the premises!

Jay's house is five miles west of Great Adventure near the intersection of Routes 539 and 537. Call 848-525-0578 if you get lost. Use caution using back roads from the south, Arneytown Hornerstown has a closed bridge at Crosswicks Creek.

DJ Awesomus_Prime will be serving up music with the potential of some live music.

Directions to Picnic Location:

Take the Parkway exit to exit 98 and follow Route 195 West to Exit 16. Or take the Turnpike exit 7A to Route 195 East to Exit 16. Then follow Route 537 West for 6 miles (passing Great Adventure). Make a right at the light onto Route 539 North. Arneytown-Hornerstown Road is your next left in ½ mile. House is on the right across from the church.

Alternative from the West, the NJ Turnpike, or Route 295:

After getting on 195 East take exit 8 (Route 539/Hightstown/Allentown). Keep right for 539 South towards Allentown. Make the first left (539 Bypass/526 East). At the stop sign make a left onto Allentown-Lakewood Road. In 1.8 miles turn right at the light onto Sharon Station Road. Arneytown-Hornerstown Road is 4.6 miles on the right.

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New Jersey Libertarian Party - - - - -



Are you a current member? **Please consider joining.**

I'd like to join the NJ 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 _____

Check here to use address from mailing label

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City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____

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