



New Jersey Libertarian

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Fall 2017

Chair's Message

Fellow Libertarians,

I'd like to extend my gratitude to all our candidates for office. Their dedication and hard work is giving the voters choices beyond the status quo. Win or lose, their efforts influence the political debate in a positive direction. I wish all of them luck on election day and urge readers to get out to the polls to vote for our candidates. Every voter in the state has a libertarian option on the ballot.

I love New Jersey. My family has lived here for four generations. Unfortunately, New Jersey has become a difficult place to live for anyone other than the extremely wealthy. It doesn't have to be this way.

In my town the average homeowner will pay nearly \$150,000 in property taxes over the next 10 years. This fact represents a serious failure of public policy. A community should be more than a school district where its graduates can't even afford to live.

Middle class families are fleeing New Jersey for a reason. It isn't because taxes are too low and government is too small. Rather, the Garden State is an object lesson for the problems inherent in unlimited government. Corruption is rampant. Spending and debt are out of control. Economic growth is stagnant. Our business and tax climates are among the worst in America. Our candidates are all fighting to make New Jersey a better place to live.

I hope to see you at our post-election General Meeting on November 12th in Hamilton. As we wind down the 2017 elections, it is time to begin planning our 2018 elections.

In Liberty,
Patrick McKnight
Chair, NJLP

By-Laws Proposal Motion

by Jim Tosone

This bylaws change formalizes the role of the Regional Secretaries. It was reviewed by the Bylaws Committee, which recommends approval. I will make a motion at the November General Meeting, asking our Members to approve it.

Whereas, the Secretary role is critical to any organization to record meeting minutes, motions et al

Whereas, our current bylaws do not include a requirement for a Secretary for our Regional Organizations

Whereas, the Regions have already created and filled the role of Regional Secretary in their Organizations

Resolved, that in Article 11c:

replace "...each Region shall caucus and elect a Chair and a State Board Representative..."

with "...each Region shall caucus and elect a Chair, a Secretary, and a State Board Representative..."

replace "...the newly elected Regional Chairs shall file with the NJLP secretary the names and positions of those elected."

with "...the newly elected Regional Secretaries shall file with the NJLP secretary the names and positions of those elected." ♦

In This Issue

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| | |
| Bylaws Amendment Proposal | 1 |
| 2017 NJLP Candidates | 2 |
| NJ Elections are Rigged | 2 |
| Secession is not Treason..... | 2 |
| Vote Libertarian | 3 |
| News from Candidates | 3-5 |
| NJ Sports Betting..... | 6 |

2017 NJLP candidates

[Peter Rohrman](#) 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 Brusciannelli](#) for Westfield Town Council

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

New Jersey Elections are Rigged

by Jay Edgar

Imagine a horse race where the faster horses are given a head start. This is how New Jersey elections are run. The incumbent politicians have given themselves advantages in elections and have paid for it with your tax dollars.

As of October 12th, Democrat Phil Murphy has received \$7.4 million in public funds, Republican Kim Guadagno has received just under \$2.1 million in public funds. Libertarian candidate, Peter Rohrman, has not received any public funds. NJ's matching fund program allows candidates to be given \$2 from public funds for every dollar they raise. Candidates from other political parties and independent candidates are excluded by setting a minimum level of \$430 million dollars that must be raised to qualify for the program. The more successful your campaign, the more money you get from the government. In true Orwellian newspeak, NJ Election Law Enforcement Commission Chair, Jeff Brindle, says that these funds allow those who qualify to "mount competitive campaigns".

Another area where the incumbent parties block access to their competition is with ballot placement. The Democrats and Republicans have passed a law that gives the established parties preferential ballot placement. The top two party columns are reserved for

any political party that polls "at any primary election for a general election of at least ten per centum (10%) of the votes cast in the State for members of the General Assembly at the next preceding general election."

Primary elections themselves are another way that the incumbent parties rip off the taxpayer. The Democrat Party and Republican Party, like the Libertarian Party, are not public entities, rather they are private clubs that nominate candidates for office. The two parties in power have tricked the taxpayer into paying for their selection process through the primary system.

One other area the politicians in power stack the deck is through the publicly funded debates. Only candidates who have qualified for matching funds can participate in the debates. Millions of taxpayer dollars have gone into paying for the Primary Election and General Election debates in this year's Gubernatorial race, however all the benefit goes to the parties in power.

Critics often declare the elections in other countries as a fraud. Recent examples include elections in [Venezuela](#), [Liberia](#), and [North Korea](#). We need look no further than our own state to see examples of politicians creating electoral advantages for themselves while raiding public funds to support their own electoral success. ♦

Letter to Editor: South's Secession Wasn't Treason

by Mark Richards, West Milford

Published in The Record, 9/14, USA Today, 9/13, and the Suburban Trends, 9/20

While racism, bigotry and hate deserve to be condemned, I can't help but observe that many of the letter writers to The Record display an appalling lack of historical knowledge despite their noble intentions.

For example, I see the concept of secession being labeled as treason when applied to the South in 1860. If that's the case, then the original 13 colonies should be condemned for seceding or breaking away from England in 1776. Keep in mind that the states brought the federal government into existence not the reverse.

I can find nothing in the Constitution that says a state may not withdraw if it so chooses. The Constitution would never have been ratified in 1787 if any of the state delegates thought that membership in the Union was irreversible. Also, secession wasn't just a Southern idea. During the Hartford Convention of 1814-1815, the New England states talked about secession because

of their opposition to the War of 1812 against England with whom the North had close trade and commercial relations with.

If the South seceded in 1860 just to preserve and expand slavery, then why did the Confederate constitution in Article 1, Section 9, prohibit the importation of any slaves from abroad? In short, there is nothing inherently wrong with secession as a last resort against centralized government power. It is rather ironic that those who call secession “treason” see nothing wrong with defying the federal government with regard to issues like marijuana laws or Donald Trump’s immigration policies.

The 10th Amendment says that powers not specifically granted to the federal government are reserved to the states or the people. No government at any level can ever really be trusted as we libertarians are well aware, so I would urge all people to be eternally vigilant to safeguard all of our liberties without exception. ♦

Letter to Editor: Make a change, vote Libertarian on Nov. 7

by Mark Richards, West Milford

Published in The Record, 10/19

On Nov. 7, voters will have the opportunity to reject the politics of both the Republicans and the Democrats who act as if the Constitution didn’t even exist. Those who go to the polls do have a choice in the Libertarian Party candidates who consistently defend liberty on all issues without exception. For governor, the Libertarian candidate is Peter Rohrman and his running mate is Karese Laguerre.

Here in West Milford, Michael Chazukow and Jonathan Salzman are the Libertarian candidates for Town Council, and for those residing in New Jersey’s 39th legislative district the Libertarian candidate for state senator is Jim Tosone. Let the career politicians know that you are sick of them trying to run your life for you. If freedom is worth fighting for, it’s worth voting for. ♦

Letter to Editor: Hillcrest Property Should be Sold to Pay Down Debt

by Michael Chazukow, Libertarian Candidate for West Milford Council

Published in West Milford Messenger, 10/19

I haven’t yet personally met either Garcia or Nolan so before I respond to the letter by Chris Garcia in last

week’s paper, I’d like to say that I respect and admire all the candidates for their commitment to serving our community.

As my running mate Jonathan Salzman and I talk to voters, the first thing 90 percent of people say to us is “lower my taxes.” The Hillcrest school property represents a unique opportunity to do just that. About 55 percent of our property taxes goes to the schools so if we are going to have meaningful tax reform, the BOE is going to need to take a lead role. Understandably, parents are hesitant to request cuts in educational funding. Yet today the BOE has a large, valuable, centrally-located piece of property that it is not using. Selling this asset gives us a chance to save money on school without cutting funding or programs! Instead of getting the BOE into the property management business, and giving out \$1 for 99-year sweetheart lease deals, the Hillcrest property should be sold and used to pay down our debt. Even if the property is sold undervalue, the additional money saved in interest payments on debt alone (especially compounded over 99 years) is unquestionable, unlike the proposed aquatic center. The township could also then collect tax revenue on the property, unlike the proposed aquatic center.

Libertarians oppose our government giving community resources to special interest groups because the first thing those groups usually buy are politicians. We are skeptical of government spending that “won’t raise taxes” because we’ve heard that line before. I’ve lived in West Milford for most of my life. In that time, I’ve lived on or near six different lakes. So, to me, and I’m sure many of my neighbors agree, the idea of an aquatics center is not exciting. Nothing has more support than lowering property taxes. The voters are clear on this. Yet Nolan and Garcia are intent on spending your tax dollars on “nice things”. Libertarians believe there is no nicer thing than elected officials who are responsible stewards of our tax dollars. If you agree, join us. Vote Libertarian, Row “C”, on Nov. 7. ♦

Berkeley Heights’ Fiscally Responsible Choice for Township Council

by Tom Maciejewski, Libertarian Candidate for Berkeley Heights Township Council

My name is Edmund Tom Maciejewski and I am running for Berkeley Heights Township Council in 2017. This is my second year running and in 2016 I had an extremely successful campaign with roughly 20

percent of the voters coming out to support me. I have spent the past year meeting more people in the town and learning more about the intricacies of the Berkeley Heights municipal government.

The three pillars of my campaign are:

- Honesty - Without honesty none of our political differences matter.
- Transparency and Communication - The public plays an integral part of township government and they need to be in on the conversations, issues and debates while they are happening not after all of the decisions are made. Currently much of the township is left in the dark until the ground-breaking is announced.
- Fiscal Conservative - I believe that taxes should be kept to a minimum. We all work hard for our money and it is not right that we need to work two months just to pay for our property taxes.

A political monopoly is never healthy for a township. Berkeley Heights is currently being run by a hand selected group who vote as a bloc. This is not good for the township. Currently there are no public debates and very little public discussion, certainly none of the decision making is actually done in the public meeting.

We need at least one member of the Council who can ensure that things are discussed on first reading and debated in public rather than behind closed doors or through meeting by proxy.

My opponents, Kingsley and Sincaglia claim:

1. Together we will deliver crucial services in a balanced and cost-effective way.

Over the past six years the municipal property taxes have gone up at astounding rates. This year, there was not even one item in the capital budget that was rejected. The total approved debt up nearly \$35 million leaving a debt burden of around \$5,800 / average household to pay off. That is from 2017 alone. The majority of this new debt has nothing to do with providing crucial services.

2. Keep the small-town feel of the Berkeley Heights we all know and love.

With multiple high-rise apartment buildings, a second downtown, and many other seemingly haphazard projects being done simultaneously, the small-town feel is slipping away at an alarming rate. While there are promises of traffic studies as these projects come to fruition we will be one more step towards the urban

environment that was a key component in the Connell presentation.

3. Ensure residents are well informed about important township issues and Township Council initiatives. Communication is key.

Jeanne Kingsley's record on communication has been poor at best. She supported a new ordinance to stop or severely limit the recording of public recording. She rejected public reading of the Berkeley Heights Sunshine Act which would provide additional transparency for Berkeley Heights residents. She voted to close committee meetings to the public. She denied the residents their right to a referendum on the largest expenditure in Berkeley Heights history.

4. Optimize collaboration with public and private organizations and agencies in order to fund township initiatives. Neighbors helping neighbors in our community.

I do not believe that large checks from Connell to pay for events while major changes were being made to the Master Plan to benefit Connell is just neighbors helping neighbors.

When elected, I pledge to keep the public up to date with what is going on in town, to keep executive sessions legal and minimize the usage of its exceptions unless absolutely justified. I pledge to be honest and open at all times and to treat your money with the respect it deserves, providing tax relief whenever possible. ♦

Northfield City Council Race Update

by John Ordille, Libertarian Candidate for Northfield City Council

I realized when I was young that New Jersey was a great place to live, each part of the state is a little bit different with a variety of things to do and specialties that other states could only dream about. There is, however, one thing that unites the state...government; more accurately, the disdain of government.

New Jersey has every major tax that has ever been dreamed up, all at very high levels. Income tax, sales tax, property tax, gas tax, estate tax...you get the idea. Northfield is no different.

Politicians here are no different than politicians across the state and country. They have formed a club designed to benefit a few instead of protecting the private property rights and freedoms of all.

I will address the high cost budget items of City Electrical Costs and Library Maintenance; I will address the issue of abandoned houses by cutting taxes to make Northfield affordable; and I will examine each and every ordinance that strips property owners of basic property rights.

Sadly, the only community event scheduled for candidates was cancelled when Republicans refused to show up, however, it may have been a halfhearted effort anyway since I did not get invited until the Friday before the Tuesday event.

I still have been going door to door and have yard signs throughout the city. Hopefully, the residents here will realize that I am the only one who will skip the political club to work for them and I will scream it from the rooftop when their property rights are threatened. ♦

District 39 State Senate Race Update

by Jim Tosone, Libertarian Candidate for State Senate

I am running for State Senate in legislative District 39, which includes many town in North Central Bergen County, as well as three in North Eastern Passaic County. As this is my first campaign, it has been quite the learning experience. I have focused on several ways to get my message out.

Social Media: I created a website, along with a presence on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube. I post my blog entries, my videos, and my events. I have also run several Facebook ad campaigns, targeted at voters in my District who are interested in government, politics, and elections.

Newspapers: I designed a ¼ page campaign ad which will appear in the November 2 editions of Pascack Valley Community Life and Northern Valley Suburbanite. The same ad will run in the November 6 editions of Pascack Press and Northern Valley Press. Each of these community newspapers reaches 50,000 households.

Business Cards and Door Hangers: I designed campaign business cards and door hangers. With the help of volunteers, the door hangers are being targeted to those households with at least one unaffiliated registered voter.

Candidate Forums: I participated in the League of Women Voters Candidate Forum for District 39 Senate and Assembly on October 16 in Westwood. Feedback I received was that I was the best prepared candidate and provided the clearest, most concise, and well-thought out answers to questions from the moderator and

submitted by the audience. I hope to have participated in additional debates during October.

Historical Societies: As a member of the Pascack Valley Historical Society and the Revolutionary War Roundtable (where I spoke earlier this year), I have attended their events as a way to campaign one-on-one with voters in the District who are pre-disposed to the ideas of liberty.

We will soon know how the time and effort (and small amount of money) that went into the campaign will translate into votes. But it is clear to me that running candidates in elections draws peoples' attention to the message of liberty in a way like no other. I'm glad I did it and hope others will run under the NJLP banner in 2018 and 2020. ♦

On Veterans Day, Who Should Thank Whom?

by Dan Sanchez, originally published under a Creative Commons License at [The Anti Media](#)

Anti-war activists are sometimes scolded that they owe their freedom to speak out against war to the very soldiers they are implicitly or explicitly criticizing. This is meant to silence opposition to war by making it appear self-contradictory.

However, for a very long time, American wars have only been foreign wars. None of these wars (especially not the most recent ones) have been in defense against foreign conquest of our homeland. Rather, the wars were themselves invasions and conquests of the homelands of others.

Moreover, the wars have not diminished, but [multiplied](#) our foreign enemies. They have toppled [non-threats](#), like Iraq's Saddam Hussein and Libya's Muammar Gaddafi, and created new actual threats, like Al Qaeda in Iraq, which evolved into ISIS and Syrian Al Qaeda. Amid the chaos that U.S. wars have created, such groups have [thrived and grown explosively](#).

Yet even so, the chief threat to our freedoms is our own government, not any foreign foe. And if anything, the activity of soldiers has contributed to, not defended against, that threat.

Randolph Bourne famously wrote, "War is the health of the State." By that he meant that foreign wars nourish domestic tyranny because they place people into a [siege mentality](#) that makes them more apt to give up their freedoms for the sake of the war effort. And indeed, the American national security state, from

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militarized cops to domestic spying, has metastasized under the cover of the War on Terror.

So, no, the activity of U.S. soldiers has not secured our freedoms, but eroded them. More specifically, contrary to the common argument discussed above, the troops are not busy protecting freedom of speech for all Americans, including those who are anti-war. Rather, by contributing to foreign wars, they make it more likely that someday the country's siege mentality will get so bad that speech (especially anti-war speech) will be restricted.

Since foreign wars are inimical to domestic freedom, it is those who strenuously oppose war who are actually fighting for freedom. If not for opponents and skeptics of war, we would have even more war than we do. And in that case, individual freedoms would have been even more infringed upon.

This is especially true for soldiers. If we were even more mired in war, soldiers would have longer and more frequent tours of duty and be more likely to be conscripted in a backdoor draft. They would also be more likely to face combat, and thus more likely to be traumatized, maimed, or killed.

It is anti-war, not pro-war civilians who truly support the troops. And it is anti-war activists who strive to

secure the freedoms (and lives) of imperial troopers, not the other way around.

On Veterans Day, thank veterans of the anti-war movement for their service, especially if you made the mistake (perhaps with the best intentions) of enlisting in the war machine. But don't bother thanking them with words. The best way to thank them is by joining them in the struggle for peace. Then a year from today, from the bottom of our hearts, we can all thank you. ♦

Congress Risks the Constitution in New Jersey Sports Betting Case

by Iyla Shapiro and Matthey Lasosiere, originally published under a Creative Commons License at [Cato at Liberty](#)

The Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act (PASPA), which Congress passed in 1992, forbids states from "authorizing" sports betting "by law." As every middle-schooler learns, however, our Constitution establishes dual sovereignty between the states and the federal government. And as the Supreme Court most recently held in *New York v. United States* (1992) and *Printz v. United States* (1997), the Constitution forbids Congress from "commandeering" state officials to serve federal ends, whether by forcing states to enforce federal laws or to pass new state laws (or to refrain from repealing old ones), which is exactly what PASPA does.

NJLP Post Election General Meeting



Sunday, November 12, 2017 5:00 PM

Killarney's Public House

1644 Whitehorse Mercerville Rd, Hamilton, NJ

The business meeting will start at 5:00 PM. Come meet our candidates and thank them for their service. All members are strongly urged to attend. We will be discussing and voting on changes to our bylaws structure, socializing, hearing from libertarian luminaries Larry Sharpe and Murray Sabrin, and planning strategy for the 2018 election cycle. Please plan on attending. Food and drinks will be available from the venue at your own expense.

In 2011, New Jerseyans voted overwhelmingly—two to one—to legalize sports betting in a 2011 referendum. The next year, the state legislature responded to the will of the people by enacting a law allowing sports wagering at casinos and racetracks. The four major professional sports leagues, plus the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), sued under PASPA to prevent the state from moving forward and legalizing sports betting. In 2016, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit ruled for the NCAA, reasoning that if the state were to repeal its pre-PASPA sports gambling laws, they would be “authorizing” the activity “by law,” which was forbidden by PASPA. Unwilling to be forced to continue enforcement of a law overwhelmingly rejected by its populace, New Jersey appealed to the Supreme Court.

Cato has now joined the Pacific Legal Foundation and Competitive Enterprise Institute [on a brief](#) (written by former Cato intern Jonathan Wood) in support of the Garden State. We argue that PASPA unconstitutionally commandeers state officials and undermines the core concepts of federalism.

If the federal government wants to enforce its chosen

policy, it must find a way to do so that doesn't involve having New Jersey do its dirty work. There are several options: Congress could regulate sports betting itself (at least across state lines) or it could use its spending power to provide incentives to states to adopt more restrictive schemes. Instead, PASPA forces states to enforce and maintain policies which have become outdated and unpopular, against popular and state sovereignty.

PASPA and other overweening federal laws pose a serious problem for accountability because they tie the hands of state officials, forcing them to enforce policies they do not want. The people of the state then blame state officials for bad outcomes, not knowing that their hands are tied by Congress. Moreover, the same issue comes up again and again, in areas ranging from immigration to guns, from health care to marijuana. The federal government should not be forcing one-size-fits-all solutions on a large and diverse country—and indeed the Constitution was designed to prevent such abuse.

The Supreme Court will hear *Chris Christie v. NCAA* this fall.” ♦



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 _____

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