



New Jersey Libertarian

Volume XLIII, Issue 1

Spring 2018

Chair's Message

Fellow Libertarians,

We will be holding our 2018 State Convention on Saturday, March 24th at the Rutgers University Inn and Conference Center in New Brunswick. There are still seats available (register at <https://njlp.org/convention>).

The afternoon will feature a stellar lineup of speakers, including Scott Horton (author of "Fool's Errand: Time to End the War in Afghanistan"), Robert Wenzel (Political Commentator), Baruti "Libre" Kafele (Intellectual Entrepreneur), Christa Conklin (Home Educator), and Laura Nicolae (Co-President of the Harvard Libertarian Club).

During the morning, voting members of the Party will select the Libertarian nominee for U.S. Senate. Ramapo College Finance Professor Murray Sabrin has already thrown his hat into the race, attracting national media attention. We will also select our 2018 NJLP Officers and other candidates for office. Regional positions will be filled during the morning Regional Caucuses. If you wish to get involved, or if you are just curious about the Party, our annual Convention is the place to be.

The 2017 NJLP Convention sold-out in advance and political commentators expect an even larger crowd this year.

As many of you know, I will not be seeking a fifth term as your Chair. I thank you all for the opportunity to serve the party and look forward to supporting our new NJLP Officers.

In Liberty,

Patrick McKnight
Chair, NJLP



Proposed 2018 NJLP Convention Business Meeting Agenda

By NJLP State Board

- *Call to order & quorum check 9:00 AM*
- *Agenda review approval 9:05 AM*
- *Secretary's Report 9:10 AM*
- *Treasurer's report 9:15 AM*
- *Proposed 2018 budget presentation*
- *Election of NJLP Officers 9:30 AM*
- *Ongoing Business*
- *Bylaws Change Proposals 10:20*
- *Review and Approval of NJLP Candidates 10:30 AM*
- *New Business*
- *Candidate Petitioning and Ballot Access Support 11:10*
- *Recess for Regional Caucuses 11:20 AM*
- *Regional Caucus Reports 11:40 AM*
- *Future Meetings 11:50 AM*
- *Special announcements and recognitions 11:55 AM*

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New Jersey Is Taking the Turnpike to Uncontrolled Taxation

by [Dan Mitchell](#), originally published at [FEE.org](#)

When companies want to boost sales, they sometimes tinker with products and then advertise them as “new and improved.”

In the case of governments, though, I suspect “new” is not “improved.”

The British territory of Jersey, for instance, has a very good tax system. It has a low-rate flat tax and it [overtly brags](#) about how its system is much better than the one imposed by London.

In the United States, by contrast, the state of New Jersey has a [well-deserved reputation for bad fiscal policy](#). To be blunt, it’s [not a good place to live](#) and it’s [even a bad place to die](#).

And it’s about to get worse. A column in the *Wall Street Journal* warns that New Jersey is poised to [take a big step](#) in the wrong direction. The authors start by observing that the state is already in bad shape.

“...painless solutions to New Jersey’s fiscal challenges don’t exist. ...a massive structural deficit lurks... New Jersey’s property taxes, already the highest in the nation, are being driven up further by the state’s pension burden and escalating health-care costs for government workers.”

In other words, interest groups (especially [overpaid bureaucrats](#)) control the political process and they are pressuring politicians to divert even more money from the state’s beleaguered private sector.

“...politicians seem to think New Jersey can tax its way to budgetary stability. At a debate this week in Newark, the Democratic gubernatorial nominee, Phil Murphy, pledged to spend more on education and to “fully fund our pension obligations.” ...But just taxing more would risk making New Jersey’s fiscal woes even worse. ...New Jersey is grasping at the same straws. During the current fiscal year, the state’s pension contribution is \$2.5 billion, only about half the amount actuarially recommended. The so-called millionaire’s tax, a proposal Gov. Chris Christie has vetoed several times since taking office in 2010, will no doubt make a comeback if Mr. Murphy is elected. Yet it would bring in only an estimated \$600 million a year.”

The column warns that New Jersey may wind up repeating [Connecticut’s mistakes](#).

Going down that path, however, is [a recipe](#) for a loss of high-value taxpayers and businesses.

Let’s look at [a remarkable story](#) from the *New York Times*. Published last year, it offers a very tangible example of how the state’s budgetary status will further deteriorate if big tax hikes drive away more successful taxpayers.

“One man can move out of New Jersey and put the entire state budget at risk. Other states are facing similar situations...during a routine review of New Jersey’s finances, one could sense the alarm. The state’s wealthiest resident had reportedly “shifted his personal and business domicile to another state,” Frank W. Haines III, New Jersey’s legislative budget and finance officer, told a State Senate committee. If the news were true, New Jersey would lose so much in tax revenue that “we may be facing an unusual degree of income tax forecast risk,” Mr. Haines said.”

Here are some of the details.

“...hedge-fund billionaire David Tepper...declared himself a resident of Florida after living for over 20 years in New Jersey. He later moved the official headquarters of his hedge fund, Appaloosa Management, to Miami. New Jersey won’t say exactly how much Mr. Tepper paid in taxes. ...Tax experts say his move to Florida could cost New Jersey — which has a top tax rate of 8.97 percent — hundreds of millions of dollars in lost payments. ...several New Jersey lawmakers cited his relocation as proof that the state’s tax rates, up from 6.37 percent in 1996, are chasing away the rich. Florida has no personal income tax.”

By the way, Tepper isn’t alone. Billions of dollars of wealth have [already left New Jersey](#) because of bad tax policy. Yet politicians in Trenton blindly want to make the state even less attractive.

At the risk of asking an obvious question, how can they not realize that this will accelerate the [migration of high-value taxpayers](#) to states with better policy?

New Jersey isn’t alone in committing slow-motion suicide. I already mentioned Connecticut and you can add states such as [California](#) and [Illinois](#) to the list.

What’s remarkable is that these states are punishing the very taxpayers that are critical to state finances.

...states with the highest tax rates on the rich are growing increasingly dependent on a smaller group of superearners for tax revenue. In New York, California, Connecticut, Maryland and New Jersey, the top 1 percent pay a third or more of total income taxes. Now a handful of billionaires or even a single individual like Mr. Tepper can have a noticeable impact on state revenues and budgets. ...Some academic research shows that high taxes are chasing the rich to lower-tax states, and anecdotes of tax-fleeing billionaires abound. ...In California, 5,745

taxpayers earning \$5 million or more generated more than \$10 billion of income taxes in 2013, or about 19 percent of the state's total, according to state officials. "Any state that depends on income taxes is going to get sick whenever one of these guys gets a cold," Mr. Sullivan said.

The federal government [does the same thing](#), of course, but it has more leeway to impose bad policy because it's [more challenging to move out of the country](#) than to move across state borders.

New Jersey, however, can't set up guard towers and barbed wire fences at the border, so it will feel the effect of bad policy at a faster rate.

P.S. I [used to think](#) that Governor Christie might be [the Ronald Reagan of New Jersey](#). I was naive. Yes, he did have some success in vetoing legislation that would have exacerbated fiscal problems in the Garden State, but he was unable to change the state's bad fiscal trajectory.

P.P.S. Remarkably, New Jersey was like New Hampshire back in the 1960s, with [no income tax and no sales tax](#). What a tragic story of fiscal decline! ♦

Bylaws Change Proposals Being Considered at Convention

by Jim Tosone, Bylaws Committee

There are two separate bylaws change proposals to be considered at our upcoming business meeting on March 24th. In accordance with our bylaws they must be announced to our members prior to the convention. This announcement and the announcement in the previous newsletter satisfies that requirement. The first bylaws modification, announced in our past newsletter modifies the attendance requirement for State Board meeting. It was reviewed by the Bylaws Committee, which recommends approval. It modifies 6.c.5A to provide a mechanism for removal of State Board Meeting members once they miss three consecutive State Board meetings. See our Winter 2017-2018 newsletter for the full text of the proposal. (<http://njlp.org/newsletters>).

The second bylaws proposal was submitted by a member, Damien Calliault, in accordance with our bylaws:

I Damien Caillault, past candidate for the 27th District, resident of Springfield NJ, Union County propose the following change:

Whereas, Union County is considered as part of the New York City Metropolitan Area and Congressional

districts 8 and 9, although clearly located in Northern New Jersey include towns located in Union County and

Union County is significantly closer to most North Jersey Meetings than Central Jersey Meetings and Union County has much more in common with the plight of North Jersey Towns than with Central Jersey Towns propose the following change to 11 f. Assignment of Counties to Regions:

Change From:

The assignment of counties to regions shall be:

Northern NJLP: Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Morris, Passaic, Sussex, and Warren.

Central NJLP: Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Somerset, and **Union**.

Southern NJLP: Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Ocean, and Salem.

Change To:

The assignment of counties to regions shall be:

Northern NJLP: Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Morris, Passaic, Sussex, **Union**, and Warren.

Central NJLP: Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, and Somerset.

Southern NJLP: Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Ocean, and Salem ♦

On Reflection

By Jim Tosone

I've had the privilege of serving as your Vice Chair in 2016 and 2017. I am grateful for the time and effort that many of you have devoted to liberty and to the Party. In particular, I want to thank the Board members and the Regional leaders for their contributions.

As I leave the Board, my message to our members is that each of you has the opportunity to have the Party be what you think it should be and operate the way you think it should operate. But as is true in most volunteer organizations, we have more good ideas than people to make them a reality. We can't expect others to simply put our ideas at the top of their priority list. For that to happen, you need to 1) have a clear vision of how to want things to work, 2) have a concrete proposal, 3) communicate it to the Board/Regions and build support for it, and 4) be willing to take the lead in putting the idea in practice (or convince others to take the lead).

By way of example, here is what I was able to accomplish over the past three years using this approach:

- Redesigned a new organizational structure which eliminated the mostly redundant Steering Committee, replaced the mostly inactive County structure with an active Regional structure, and replaced the three At-Large Board members, with VPs of Marketing, Membership, and Programs. Worked the proposal through the Bylaws Committee and got it approved at the 2016 State Convention.
- Instituted a Strategic Planning process for the VPs, Regions, and at the State-level. Provided a scorecard of how we did at the state level vs. the plan.
- Redesigned and received approval for our questionnaire for candidates for elective office, and created a new questionnaire for candidates interested in Board and Regional leadership positions.
- Proposed and received approval to expand the Convention Committee into a standing General Meetings Committee.
- Proposed and received approval to replace our ad-hoc way of identifying/recruiting candidates for elective office and Party leadership positions with committee leads.
- Ran for elective office, post daily at on the NJLP Facebook page, and write letters to the editor, to communicate my view of libertarian principles, policies, and positions to the wider community.

The story goes that when the delegates to the Constitutional Convention completed their private deliberations, a woman said, "Which is it to be Dr. Franklin? A monarchy or a republic." Franklin replied, "A republic—if you can keep it." My hope is that the 2018 Board and Regional leaders will both carry on and improve upon what I have been able to put into place, as I believe them to be the foundation on which we can expand the influence of the party to expand the cause of liberty. ♦

"I like taking the guns early, like in this crazy man's case that just took place in Florida ... to go to court would have taken a long time ... Take the guns first, go through due process second." – President Donald Trump, February 28, 2018

Letter to Editor: Calls for Gun Control Reminiscent of 1930s Germany

by Mark Richards

Published in The West Milford Messenger, 2/27

In the wake of the school shooting in Florida, it is disturbing to see the uninformed masses out there demanding more gun laws.

It is more than a reminiscent of the civilian population of Germany in the early 1930s demanding "law and order" and a strong government and leader to "save" Germany from the political violence in the streets that was occurring at the time.

A certain political leader did emerge at that time and I think we all know who that was!

There are approximately 300 million guns in private citizens hands, yet only a miniscule fraction of those are ever used in a crime or mass shooting, clearly gun ownership is not the problem.

Historically, the worst mass shootings have been carried out by governments not deranged or mentally ill individuals.

Pick any dictatorship you want regardless of ideology and they all require a disarmed civilian population.

You would be in error if you think I'm only referring to past events in foreign nations, it's happened here, too. The massacres of Native Americans in the West come to mind, plus the shooting of strikers at a mine in Colorado back in 1914 and what about the killing of the Branch Davidians in Waco Texas only 25 years ago at the hands of the FBI and the BATF?

Have all you Liberals forgotten the three Civil Rights workers killed by the Neshoba County Mississippi sheriff's department and the Klan in 1964?

Had those three been armed, I suspect things would have ended quite differently!

If only the police and military have guns, who protects us from them?

Now it looks like Donald Trump is going to "flip flop" on gun control and stab gun owners in the back. Those of us who knew he was a fraud and charlatan weren't surprised at all!

Maybe next time people will wise up and vote Libertarian, as well over 4 million did in 2016.

To the fools demanding more gun laws, don't be shocked when the rest of your freedom disappears as well. ♦

Letter to the Editor: Republic made it just fine without FBI, CIA

by Mark Richards

Published in The West Milford Messenger, 1/19

In your Viewpoints section of the Jan. 12 issue of The Messenger you carried speeches by Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy both of whom were assassinated in 1968. Yours truly was in the 8th grade when those events shook America to the core, I recall debating my teachers who wanted us to believe that the assassins were "lone nuts " and not part of any conspiracy that may have involved our own government. Martin Luther King was under FBI surveillance (ironically ordered by then Attorney General Robert Kennedy in the early 1960s) and was being harassed by FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover who hated King and the Kennedys.

This is just another example of why government power can't be trusted regardless of who is in office. Our Republic made it from 1787 to 1924 without a FBI or a CIA or any of the other unconstitutional agencies that have followed over the years that spy on Americans and harass them regardless of who they are or where they are on the political spectrum. One of the Libertarian groups I support is "The Future of Freedom Foundation" (fff.org), they have been running an ongoing series of articles on the violations of the Constitution by the various components of the Federal Governments national security apparatus.

I would encourage all readers to read up on what our leaders have been doing to us going back decades, I should warn you it doesn't make for pleasant reading, then again, the truth seldom does! ♦

The New Jersey Libertarian

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Editor, **Vacant**

*"We, the members of the New Jersey Libertarian Party, defend the rights of the individual and deny the idea that government coercion is an efficient or moral way to solve social problems." –
NJLP Platform*

Letter to the Editor: On Questioning the Meaning of Charity

by Jim Tosone

This letter was published in The Bergen Record, 1/15

Regarding "Property taxes as charity debated" (Page 1A, Jan. 15):

So the word "charity" now means "a tax maneuver designed to keep more of our money and pay less of it to the federal government?" It used to mean "generosity and helpfulness, especially toward the needy or suffering."

For years, high-tax states like New Jersey have used the federal property tax deduction to shield its residents from bearing the full cost of the states' spending and tax policies. We should demand that our elected officials stop spending their time looking for tax loopholes, and instead work to control spending by reforming the biggest programs in the state budget: schools, pensions, and Medicaid. ♦

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**THIS APPLIES TO FULL WEEKEND
REGISTRATION ONLY.**

NJ Libertarian Party Convention Announcement

March 24, 2018 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Rutgers University Inn and Conference Center
178 Ryders Lane
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

The Party's Business Meeting will be held from 9:00 AM until Noon and will be open to all. Registration will be required for the afternoon events which will include lunch and guest speakers. Our convention package will also include coffee and refreshments that will be available all day.

Registration for the Convention will be \$55 until March 19th. After March 19th (including at the convention), registration will be \$65.

Tentative Agenda:

- 8:30 – 9:00 Gather for Continental Breakfast
9:00 – Noon NJLP Business Meeting (all our welcome, only NJLP members may participate)
- Nomination of 2018 Candidates
 - Election of NJLP officers
 - Discussion of NJLP Business
- Noon – 1:00 Luncheon
1:00 – 5:30 Speakers include:

Scott Horton
Robert Wenzel
Christa Conklin
Baruti Libre Kafele
Laura Nicolae

Note that the morning business meeting is free. You do not need to register for the meeting. Full speaker biographies and online registration is at <http://njlp.org/convention>. Contact Email: convention@njlp.org



NJLP Convention Form

Check here to use address from mailing label on reverse

Name: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Email Contact: _____ Phone Contact: _____

Full Convention Package (\$65; \$55 if paid prior to March 19th) _____

Additional Donation: _____

Reserve your place by sending payment to: NJLP Convention, P.O. Box 56, Tennent, NJ 07763

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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