



New Jersey Libertarian

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Sabrin Campaign Update

By Murray Sabrin

October 25, 2018 (Fort Lee, NJ) Libertarian Party candidate Murray Sabrin is coming out swinging after being excluded from the NJTV US Senate debate last night.

"Bob Menendez is the quintessential example of why Americans are fed up with Washington politics. His time in the Senate has been an embarrassing, politically-driven circus devoid of any civility or critical thought," Sabrin said. "Bob Hugin is no better. Hugin stands for nothing, is a long-time Menendez supporter, and offers hard-working New Jersey families more of the same. Last night both candidates demonstrated why neither of them are fit to hold office."

Sabrin says he is the only choice for independent voters concerned about Menendez's voting record and history of corruption. "Bob Menendez voted for corporate bailouts and higher taxes. He is totally out of touch with the people in our communities. Hard-working New Jersey families deserve better than another corrupt political insider who behaves as though they're above the law. When I'm your Senator I will fight for peace, individual liberty, and financial independence."

Sabrin is the only candidate in the race supporting term limits, student debt reform, and tax credits for charities. Sabrin also points out that Menendez voted for the corporate bailouts and Hugin subsequently donated to his campaign. Sabrin says he is the only candidate who wanted to "empower people instead of the politicians."

Sabrin is a professor of finance at Ramapo College running on the Libertarian platform to cut federal spending, legalize cannabis, and finally bring our troops home. He is running an active, grassroots campaign and has polled as high as 16%. He is an immigrant and the son of Holocaust survivors and his

father was a leader in the Polish resistance against Nazi Germany during World War Two.

Sabrin made headlines last month as the only 2018 Libertarian Party candidate to be endorsed by former Congressman and Presidential Candidate Ron Paul. Paul said in a press release:

"I am pleased to endorse my good friend of 35 years Murray Sabrin for United States Senate. Murray's dedication to, and knowledge of, the principles of liberty will make him an effective advocate for freeing the people of New Jersey and the Nation from excessive taxes, debt, and inflation, as well as ending the ongoing violations of our right to free speech, property, and privacy. Murray will also be an outspoken Senator for peaceful relations with other nations, and work to ensure that our immigration policies adhere to common sense solutions like his proposal to have immigrants obtain sponsors so they can assimilate and become financially independent."

Sabrin lives in Fort Lee with his wife of 50 years.

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Protectionist Occupational Licensing Laws

by Jay Edgar

In New Jersey if you want to practice hair braiding you need to complete a 1,200 hour cosmetology course where you learn lots of things – except for how to braid hair. The practice of hair braiding requires no chemicals and is perfectly safe. Last year, a mother of four was fined \$1,200 for braiding hair without a license. Anita Yeboah can't afford the up to \$17,000 to obtain this license. She faced the prospect of either going on welfare or starting a business to support her and her four children. As an immigrant from Ghana, she grew up learning to braid hair as part of her culture.

Brigitte Nzali was slapped with a fine for braiding hair from her shop in Blackwood, NJ. She and other hair braiders have joined forces to form the [Hair Braiding Freedom Coalition](#). They have worked to get a bill through the Assembly that would get rid of burdensome licensing requirements.

On August 27th, Governor Phil Murphy heartlessly vetoed their bill. The bill had bi-partisan support in the legislature, but Murphy thought it went too far and wanted hair braiders to have at least 50 hours of training or three years of experience.

Senators Christopher Bateman and Brian Stack along with Assemblywoman Valerie Huttle and Angelica Jimenez want to create a licensing scheme for pet groomers with little evidence that such a scheme will improve pet safety. S-2514 and A-3044 have been released out of committee and are heading to the Senate and the Assembly for approval. This will make NJ the first state in the nation to require license for pet groomers.

The State Department of Labor and Workforce Development lists [209 occupations](#) that require licensing. Of note that “hair braider” is not on the list. Instead the regulators expand the list to include hair braiding as a subcategory of “Cosmetologist-Hairstylist”. Many other occupations that pose little or no danger to the consumer require licensing. These include interior designers, librarians, locksmiths, jockeys, accountants, career consultants, horse groomers, and many others.

Occupational licensing is most often supported by lobbyists working for the industries being “regulated” because such requirements restrict competition. The restriction of competition most often results in lower quality, higher prices, and a barrier to employment.

Consumers would be better served if instead of government licensing we allow professionals to opt into voluntary private certification to demonstrate their competence. Consumers can utilize private consumer agencies and online internet rating systems to determine the reputation of a professional. ♦

Libertarian Supporter, Marlene VerPlanck, Has Passed On

by Ken Kaplan

The New Jersey Libertarian News has just been made aware that Marlene VerPlanck passed away on Sunday, Jan. 14, 2018, at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Hospital after a brief illness. Marlene, and her husband Billy, were long-time members and supporters of the New Jersey Libertarian Party. Billy also wrote letters to the editor in support of the party and its candidates.

Marlene was a critically acclaimed singer, known for her interpretations of songs from the Great American Songbook. She first met her husband to be when Billy was a trombone player for the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra and Marlene was a singer with that orchestra. They married in 1956 and Billy became her arranger. They were inseparable, musically and in life, until his death in 2009.

In a 1980 review in the New York Times, John S. Wilson wrote that Marlene VerPlanck "may be the most accomplished interpreter of popular material performing today." As recently as March 1917, after an appearance in London, at Ronnie Scott's, a reviewer for Jazz Journal International called her "the finest Canary in captivity." She recorded numerous albums, the most recent of which, "The Mood I'm In," was ranked as one of the best releases of 2016 in the jazz magazine, DownBeat. In addition to her own recordings, she sang backup for many other singers, including Tony Bennett, Perry Como, Frank Sinatra, and Mel Torme.

Born in Newark, N.J., on Nov. 11, 1933, as Marlene Pampinella, into a family of restaurateurs, she was first heard by many when she sang the words "Mm-m-m Good, Mm-m-m Good. That's what Campbell's Soups are - mm-m-m good." Marlene was one of the most successful of the "jingle singers" of the 1960s and '70s. Hers was the voice that sang "Winston Tastes Good (like a cigarette should)." She also sang jingles for Amtrak, Michelob Beer, Singer sewing machines, and the "I Love New York" campaign.

Her obituary requested in lieu of flowers, that donations be made to the J. "Billy" VerPlanck Scholarship Fund at William Paterson University

Minimum Wage Laws Hurt the Most Disadvantaged

by Jay Edgar

There are only two factors that determine what you are paid for the work that you do - how much you are willing to work for and how much your employer is willing to pay you. How much your employer is willing to pay you is based on the laws of supply and demand. The work that you do may require back-breaking effort or may require a certain skill set and training, but this alone does not mean that it will reward you with a large paycheck. The output of your work needs to be in demand.

In a free market, financial transactions between consenting parties only occur if both parties benefit from the transaction. This is true both for the exchange of goods and the exchange of labor. The wages that a worker receives is enabled by the simple fact that both the employer and the employee benefit from the exchange of salary and benefits paid to the employee and the work done for the employer. Anything that stands in the way of this mutual benefit results in fewer transactions.

Price and wage fixing, at either minimum or maximum levels, create misallocation of resources and higher levels of unemployment.

Because each person has the right to offer goods and services to others on the free market, and because government interference can only harm such free activity, we oppose all intervention by government into the area of economics. The only proper role of government is to protect property rights, enforce contracts, adjudicate disputes, and provide a legal framework in which voluntary trade is protected.

-- [NJ Libertarian Party Platform](#)

Minimum wage laws, no matter how well intentioned, hurt the most vulnerable in our society. For a portion of our society, the only comparative advantage a worker has is their willingness to work for a lower wage. Perhaps their willingness is out of despair, or perhaps out of a desire to gain work experience and get a foothold into the working world. For sure, a minimum wage that is placed higher than what value a worker can provide to an employer places this worker into unemployment. No employer will hire someone at a loss. In short, unless you are being forced to work at a job, an employer is being forced to keep you employed,

or you have not yet demonstrated your worth then you are most likely getting exactly what you are worth.

Government fiat, including wage restrictions, burdensome licensing requirements, and other such restrictions against people from consenting to voluntary financial arrangements impede economic growth.

Furthermore, these restrictions tend to benefit the large companies and the already established companies while penalizing small companies and new competitors in a market. ♦

New Jersey and New York Continue March towards Cannabis Legalization

By Patrick McKnight, Republished with Permission from liberty2point0.com

New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy says the legalization of recreational cannabis is coming “sooner rather than later.” His remarks came during a Facebook Live town hall meeting on October 1st. Murphy went on to say the legislature could vote on recreational cannabis within the next few weeks.

Legalizing cannabis within his first 100 days in office was a major campaign promise the Governor. This window came and went while competing legislation and battles over the budget stymied momentum during the Spring and Summer. Now reform advocates are hopeful that with the budget passed and legislative support coalescing around a single proposal, the Garden State may enact recreational cannabis legislation before the end of 2018. State Senate President Steve Sweeney said the Senate could vote before the end of October. On the other hand, the new unified proposal has not been formally introduced. The legislature would also need to schedule public hearings which will likely bring scores of opponents and supporters alike to voice their opinions.

Murphy said of the progress, “Based on the tenor of discussions and the give and take we've gotten, that feels about right. People have got to remember: We're not inventing marijuana. This exists right now. It's not regulated. It's in the hands of the bad guys. Kids are exposed. It's not taxed. And the inequities, particularly along racial lines, continue.”

Although the bill has not been released to the public, sources familiar with the matter have indicated it will involve a low tax rate, cannabis delivery, a mandate of 25% of licenses going to women and minorities, and allowances for public consumption. Much of the rule-making authority would be left up to the Cannabis

Regulatory Commission. A separate bill may be introduced to enact expungements for New Jersey citizens previously convicted of low-level cannabis possession.

Across the Hudson River, the Empire State is also moving towards substantial cannabis reform. In August, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo announced the formation of a cannabis working group to write a legalization bill. The bill will be based on the recommendations of the New York Department of Health which came out in support of legalizing and regulating cannabis earlier this year.

Some observers have suggested the first of the two states to legalize cannabis could enjoy a significant first-mover economic advantage. ♦

The last time someone other than a Democrat or Republican was elected to Congress from New Jersey

By Ken Kaplan

It has been a very long time since anyone other than a Democrat or Republican was elected to Congress from New Jersey. In fact, it last happened 160 years ago! In 1858, [Garnett B. Adrain](#), who had been elected in the 3rd District as a Democrat in 1856, ran as an Anti-Lecompton Democrat. [Jetur R. Riggs](#) ran with the same party identification and was elected in the 4th District. A major issue that year was the admission of Kansas territory to the union as a state. Congress needed to ratify the new constitution of the proposed state. One of the proposed constitutions, the [Lecompton Constitution](#) had these provisions in it concerning slavery:

ARTICLE VII.- SLAVERY.

SECTION 1. The right of property is before and higher than any constitutional sanction, and the right of the owner of a slave to such slave and its increase is the same and as inviolable as the right of the owner of any property whatever.

SEC. 2. The Legislature shall have no power to pass laws for the emancipation of slaves without the consent of the owners, or without paying the owners previous to their emancipation a full equivalent in money for the slaves so emancipated. They shall have no power to prevent immigrants to the State from bringing with them such persons as are deemed slaves by the laws of any one of the United States or Territories, so long as any person of the same age or description shall be continued in slavery by the laws of this State: Provided,

That such person or slave be the bona fide property of such immigrants: And provided, also, That laws may be passed to prohibit the introduction into this State of slaves who have committed high crimes in other States or Territories. They shall have power to pass laws to permit the owners of slaves to emancipate them, saving the rights of creditors, and preventing them from becoming a public charge. They shall have power to oblige the owners of slaves to treat them with humanity, to provide for them necessary food and clothing, to abstain from all injuries to them extending to life or limb, and, in case of their neglect or refusal to comply with the direction of such laws, to have such slave or slaves sold for the benefit of the owner or owners.

SEC. 3. In the prosecution of slaves for crimes of higher grade than petit larceny, the Legislature shall have no power to deprive them of an impartial trial by a petit jury.

SEC. 4. Any person who shall maliciously dismember, or deprive a slave of life, shall suffer such punishment as would be inflicted in case the like offense had been committed on a free white person, and on the like proof, except in case of insurrection of such slave.

Nationally, the Democrats supported slavery, but some northern Democrats joined with Republicans to oppose it. Adrain and Riggs were among those northern Democrats. Eventually, Congress approved the admission of Kansas as a free state under the Wyandotte Constitution.

Neither of these Congressmen sought reelection in 1860, Adrain returning to his law practice and Riggs to his medical practice. Thanks to [Richard Wingers's Ballot Access News](#) for making me aware of them.

Let our current candidates be inspired by these two men because they were New Jersey's last 2 Congressmen who were not elected as Democrats or Republicans, because they stood against slavery, and because they both embodied our ideal of legislators not being career politicians. ♦

Does the Migrant Caravan Pose a Serious Terrorism Risk?

by Alex Nowrasteh, Reprinted from [Cato At Liberty](#) Under Creative Commons License

Yesterday, President Trump tweeted that “unknown Middle Easterners are mixed in” with the migrant caravan approaching the U.S. border. Vice President Pence later tried to justify President Trump's comment by arguing that, “It is incontrovertible that there are not people of Middle Eastern descent in a crowd of more

than 7,000 people advancing toward our border.” Todd Bensman of the Center for Immigration Studies wrote that “the president was obviously referencing ... ‘special interest aliens’ ... U.S.-bound migrants moving along well-established Latin America smuggling routes from [Muslim] countries.” Perhaps President Trump was referencing special interest aliens but the clear implication is that they are potential terrorists who are using the caravan to sneak into the United States and murder Americans.

The members of the migrant caravan will either apply for asylum at the U.S. border or try to enter illegally. From 1975 through the end of 2017, 9 Americans have been murdered in attacks committed on U.S. soil by 20 foreign-born terrorists who entered illegally or as asylees. During that time, the annual chance of being murdered in a terrorist attack committed by an asylum seeker or an illegal immigrant was about 1 in 1.3 billion per year. Those estimates are based on this methodology with updated numbers.

During that time, about 31.3 million illegal immigrants entered the U.S. illegally (most have since emigrated, legalized, or passed away) and about 732 thousand asylum seekers have been admitted. Nine of the 20 terrorists who entered did so as illegal immigrants, meaning that about 1 terrorist entered hidden amongst every 3.48 million illegal immigrants. They killed zero people in domestic terror attacks. The 11 terrorists who entered as asylum seekers murdered 9 people in terrorist attacks or about 1 murder for every 81,000 asylum seekers let in.

Of those 9 terrorists who entered illegally, only 3 did so along the border with Mexico: Shain Duka, Britan Duka, and Eljvir Duka crossed as children with their parents in 1984. They are ethnic Albanians from Macedonia. They were 3 conspirators in the incompetently planned Fort Dix plot that the FBI foiled in 2007, long after they became adults and more than two decades after they entered illegally. There is no evidence that the Fort Dix plot was more than 23 years in the making.

As far as we can tell, virtually all the members of the migrant caravan come from Central America while the asylum-seeker and illegal immigrant terrorists who committed or attempted to commit attacks on U.S. soil came from Cuba, Lebanon, Pakistan, Palestine, Canada, Algeria, Somalia, Macedonia, Kyrgyzstan, and Afghanistan. Not a single terrorist in any visa category came from Mexico or Central America during the 43-year period.

None of the above estimates are meant to imply that those asylum seekers or illegal immigrants who committed or attempted to commit attacks were terrorists when they entered. Some, like Ramzi Yousef, obviously did enter as terrorists but the Boston Bombers Dzhokhar Tsarnaev and Tamerlan Tsarnaev entered as children too young to be plotting a terrorist attack years later. My colleague David Bier has shown just how rare it is that a foreign-born terrorist intends to come to the United States and how infrequently the government fails to stop him or her.

This issue is complicated by the recent statements of Guatemalan president Jimmy Morales, who announced that his government “apprehended close to 100 persons completely involved with terrorists, with ISIS and we have not only detained them within our territory, but they have been deported to their country of origin.” Morales then stated that information about these supposed terrorists (like their names or countries of origin) was classified, which should raise a red flag as governments love to brag about their anti-terrorism actions with specifics even when such bragging is unjustified.

Even if we assume that some members of the migrant caravan are Middle Easterners who might pose a higher terrorism risk, that is still no good reason to bar the Central American migrants from applying for asylum. If some Middle Easterners are in this caravan, they too will be able to apply and face the same terrorism vetting procedures that work so well. There is little evidence that there are Middle Easterners in this caravan, even less that there are actual terrorists, and the risk from terrorists crossing the border has been tiny historically. This time could be different, but there is no real evidence to suggest that it is. Whatever problems may arise due to this caravan, the actual threat of terrorism from its members is very small. ♦

We hold that human rights should not be denied or abridged on the basis of nationality or national origin. The right to freely travel between States and Nations is a fundamental right. Humans must be free to leave tyrannical regimes. Employees, employers, and contractors must be free to negotiate without government interference or restriction.

- [NJLP Platform Plank 11](#)

Letter to the Editor: Both Groups are Pushing Country Toward Civil War and Upheaval

by Mark Richards

Published in The West Milford Messenger, 8/16

A recent letter to the editor in the Messenger puts forth the idea that increased government power and control is the way to protect wildlife and its habitat.

This thinking is erroneous.

Private conservation efforts work much better since there is an incentive to do well that government bureaucracies will never attain; that incentive is profit and the need to please donors and investors.

The [Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation](#), [Ducks Unlimited](#) and [The Nature Conservancy](#) all come to mind as successful private conservation groups.

Also, according to the Constitution, there is no grant of authority for the government to be involved with conservation.

I have one of those handy pocket-sized editions of the Constitution, courtesy of [The Cato Institute](#), one of the most well-known Libertarian research organizations in the country, and I can't find the words "wildlife" or "habitat" anywhere in the Constitution.

It's no accident that President Richard Nixon supported laws that were contrary to the Constitution; he like so many other presidents before and since thumbed his nose at the Constitution whenever it stood in the way of his legislative agenda.

I seem to recall the same writer of a recent letter to the editor having written in support of more gun control laws in previous letters a number of years back, so I guess punching more holes in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights is a major goal for that writer.

Fortunately, more and more people are waking up to the fact that progressive liberals and neoconservatives are both anti-liberty on virtually all issues.

I hate to say it, but both groups are pushing the country toward civil war and upheaval.

When the dust settles, hopefully a society that stands for individual liberty on all issues will emerge. ♦

Letters to the Editor: Government, media, mislead on wars

by Mark Richards

Published in The West Milford Messenger, 9/18

Regarding the article on local veterans' groups being concerned over the public's lack of understanding the meaning of Memorial Day and Veterans Day

I can only say look no further than the government school system.

The politicians and bureaucrats have a vested interest in keeping the general population in the dark on how we get involved in all these wars.

A century ago, U.S. Sen. Hiram Johnson of California observed that when a war comes, truth is the first casualty.

Our government has lied to us time and time again with regard to war and foreign policy and the mainstream media is pretty much a government echo chamber. If our leaders had followed the sage advice of the Republic's founders we would still have a noninterventionist foreign policy and this whole matter wouldn't be an issue.

Those who aren't afraid to face some unpleasant truths should get a copy of "[The Failure of America's Foreign Wars](#)" published by the [Future of Freedom Foundation](#).

This book details the deceit and subterfuge used by the government to maneuver America into war for over 100 years.

There is nothing "patriotic" about blindly following our leaders without question whenever they decide to whip up hysteria over some foreign boogeyman that they themselves are usually responsible for in the first place.

Individual liberty and historical truth go hand in hand, now is the time for veterans and the public to start waking up. ♦

American foreign policy should seek an America at peace with the world. Our foreign policy should emphasize defense against attack from abroad and enhance the likelihood of peace by avoiding foreign entanglements. We would end the current U.S. government policy of foreign intervention, including military and economic aid. We recognize the right of all people to resist tyranny and defend themselves and their rights. We condemn the use of force, and especially the use of terrorism, against the innocent, regardless of whether such acts are committed by governments or by political or revolutionary groups.

– [National LP Platform](#) Plank 3.3

NJLP Post Election General Meeting

Saturday, November 17, 2018 6:00 PM

Killarney's Publick House

1644 Whitehorse Mercerville Rd, Hamilton, NJ

The business meeting will start at 6:00 PM. Come meet our candidates and thank them for their service. All members are strongly urged to attend. We will be socializing, hearing from libertarian candidates, and planning strategy for the 2019 election cycle. Please plan on attending. Food and drinks will be available from the venue at your own expense.

Letters to the Editor: I Thought the Republicans Were the Party of 'Family Values'

by Mark Richards

Published in The West Milford Messenger, 7/5

Have I missed something, I thought the Republicans were the party of "family values," why then are they OK with breaking up the families of immigrants?

Thanks to our "Bigot in Chief," Donald Trump the Republicans are no longer the party of small limited government.

If true Classic Conservatives like Sen. Barry Goldwater or Sen. Robert Taft were alive today, they would not be welcome in today's Republican Party. Anti-

immigration ideas are not new, in the 19th Century the Workingman's Party in California and its leader Denis Kearny spewed forth a mix of anti-capitalist Socialism and virulent anti-Chinese immigrant racism.

One result of which was the passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, a dark spot of American history to be sure.

We Libertarians on the other hand have always supported the free flow of people and goods across borders.

As long as the activities in immigration and trade are peaceful, there should be no government barriers keeping people apart, for a more in-depth study of this subject go to the websites of the Libertarian Party and the Future of Freedom Foundation. ♦

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New Jersey Libertarian Party - - - - -

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