



New Jersey Libertarian

Fall 2022

Screen Edition

Note on Editions

This new sletter has been published in two editions. The Print Edition uses a font size of 9 points (12 pixels)—suitable for printed books and magazines, especially when the cost of printing is a concern—and spans 8 pages. The Screen Edition includes the same content as the Print Edition, but uses a font size of 16 pixels (12 points)—suitable for files that are read on a screen—and spans 14 pages.

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General Meeting Announcement

The NJLP will hold its regular general meeting on December 18, 2022.

Sunday, December 18, 2022, at 1:00 PM

4303 US 130, Edgewater Park, NJ 08010

Please see njlp.org for additional discussion of proposed bylaws amendments.

Libertarianism in Branchburg

By Tara Murphy

In November's election, more than a quarter of Branchburg voters said YES to term limits and putting residents first, and said no to a tax increase. A vote for Tara Murphy and Jason MacDuffie was a declaration of independence from the GOP monopoly. These votes came from a broad coalition of third-party voters, Democrats, unaffiliated, and even a few Republicans. This bipartisan support in our historic run came from talking to people about the issues they care about. We've demonstrated the viability of Libertarian candidates.

Though we will not be inaugurated, we are not going anywhere. We will be closely watching where and when the township raises property taxes, seeking transparency in how it's spent, counting how many times their names appear on buildings and how many photo ops they smile for. As of now, 42% voted against raising their own taxes in order to purchase land that isn't for sale. Our campaign consistently opposed the public question and will continue to oppose similar township ventures. Sometimes voting isn't enough. Participation is needed at regular public

meetings—attending, commenting, and asking questions. We need to watch for potential seeds of corruption in the handling of our \$25 million and have a presence in the township's operations. We congratulate David and Tom on their wins and hope they continue their service to Branchburg by cooperating with residents who disagree with them in order to represent all people.

Challenges to incumbent parties need to continue into the future. Unopposed elections and a lack of choice are a disservice to voters. One candidate alone may not go far. Volunteers make them successful. The African proverb “if you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together” is our inspiration here. Visit our website and sign up for email notifications on township news, and please consider volunteering your time next year or a donation.

Not much is covered in the local news, which gave minimal coverage to our campaign. It will remain up to us to inform ourselves and each other. Let's make the next campaign YOUR campaign! Yours in liberty,

Freedom for Branchburg
freedomforbranchburg.com

Member-Submitted Bylaws Proposals

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Context added by the editors

~~Struck through~~ text is deleted, and underlined text is inserted.

1. Annual Convention

By Mark Kapengut

Modify the first sentence of § 6.b.1 as follows: “The State Convention is a ~~special~~ Annual General Meeting with the sole power to set dues; to adopt, amend, or discard the NJLP Platform; and to elect the officers and other State Board members.”

Rationale

This minor editing change would bring the terminology used in NJLP bylaws in line with *Robert's Rules* (§§ 9:20–9:23). New Jersey laws also require corporations such as NJLP to have an “annual meeting”. Much of the confusion in the run-up to the January petitioned general meeting was rooted in ambiguity how the NJLP bylaws deal with special and regular meetings in a *Robert's Rules* sense.

2. Regular General Meetings

By Mark Kapengut and James Ripley

Add new business rules § 6.a: “Unless explicitly stated otherwise, NJLP General Meetings shall be ‘regular meetings’.”

Rationale

That would redress a confusion in January 2022 over “special” and “regular” meetings under *Robert’s Rules* and NJLP practice.

3. Two-Tier Platform Structure

By Mark Kapengut

(a) Delete §§ 4.b.1 (“~~ISSUE, which shall be a statement of the reason why this subject is presented—the existence of a problem for the general population of New Jersey for which we believe we have a solution.~~”) and 4.b.3 (“~~SOLUTION, which shall be a summary presentation of the way this ISSUE should be addressed from a libertarian perspective.~~”).

(b) Modify the former § 4.b.2 (now numbered § 4.b.1) as follows: “PRINCIPLE, which shall be a statement of the specific implication of the Statement of Principles as it pertains to this ISSUE, and a summary presentation of the way this issue should be addressed from a libertarian perspective in the long run.”

(c) Modify the former § 4.b.4 (now numbered § 4.b.2) as follows:

§ 4.b.4 before amendment

TRANSITION, which shall be a presentation of some possible measures that might serve to get us closer to the SOLUTION, would relieve the immediate oppression specified in the ISSUE, or might make it easier to implement the SOLUTION.

Proposed deletions and insertions

TRANSITION, which shall be a presentation of a problem for the general population of New Jersey and of some possible measures that might make it easier to implement the PRINCIPLE or would serve to get us closer to the SOLUTION, it, or would relieve the immediate oppression specified in the ISSUE, or might make it easier to implement the SOLUTION. The TRANSITION section may address both more radical and more moderate steps.

§ 4.b.2 after amendment

TRANSITION, which shall be a presentation of a problem for the general population of New Jersey and of some possible measures that might make it easier to implement the PRINCIPLE or would serve to get us closer to it, or would relieve the immediate oppression. The TRANSITION section may address both more radical and more moderate steps.

(d) Modify § 4.c.1 as follows: “ISSUE, PRINCIPLE, and SOLUTION shall require two-thirds (2/3).”

Rationale

Currently, bylaws § 4.b prescribes a four-tier structure for NJLP platform planks, consisting of four sections: issue, principle, solution, and transition. This amendment would allow us to transition to a two-tier section structure instead: principle and transition. Principle would reflect a long-term libertarian ideal, require a two-thirds majority to amend, and be more stable over time. Transition would address more specific issues and interim proposals, require a simple majority to amend, and reflect the zeitgeist. The language used in the Amendment merges the old Principle and Solution as a new Principle, and the old Issue and Transition as a new Transition. The existing language of the Platform can be used as “additional materials”.

4. Interim Elections

By Mark Kapengut and James Ripley

Modify § 11.c ¶ 1 sentence 1 as follows: “At a designated time during each State Convention, if a majority of the regional membership in attendance feels there is sufficient opportunity to deliberate effectively, each Region shall caucus and elect a chair, a Secretary, and a State Board Representative, together with any other officers it may choose, from its membership, for terms to expire at the next State Convention, or until their successors are elected.”

Rationale

This eliminates the discrepancy between § 11.c and § 6.c.7.c (“The term of office for a Regional Representative shall be until the conclusion of the next State Convention or when the successors are elected.”).

5. VP Deputies

By Mark Kapengut and James Ripley

Renumber § 9.f (“Editors, webmasters, social media administrators and e-list moderators must all be members of the NJLP.”) as § 9.g.

Add new § 9.f: “VP Deputies for the VP Officials named in clauses 9.b–9.e. Deputies shall assist VPs in handing their portfolios. Deputies shall participate in and have access to all State Board deliberations. Deputies shall have no voting rights on the State Board. However, in case a VP cannot attend a State Board meeting, that VP's Deputy shall be presumed alternate/designee in the VP's stead, as described in § 6.c.5 of these bylaws. VP Deputies who fail to attend 3 consecutive meetings of the State Board shall be deemed resigned. Prior VPs, runners-up in VP

elections, or other members may be appointed VP Deputies.”

Rationale

Adding the institution of VP Deputies would allow two members to handle the respective portfolios simultaneously. This redundancy would smooth knowledge transfer and leadership grooming, and would allow for better continuing when life interferes with the VPs. The recommendation would be to allow for the State Board to appoint these Deputies for 2023, and then transition to elections if this is successful.

6. Constrained Approval Voting

By Mark Kapengut and James Ripley

Modify convention rules § 3.b sentence 1 as follows: “On a given ballot, a member shall cast one vote for any number of candidates ~~up to the total number left to be elected~~ not exceeding eight.”

Rationale

This constrained approval voting should make for more competitive elections. The suggested number of eight is picked as an estimate of how many members a typical freshman member attending regional events may meaningfully encounter within the first six months.

7. Appointments Print Ed. Page 3 of 8 to the State Board

By Carole Acton and James Ripley

Modify § 6.c.2 as follows: “The State Board shall have the authority to fill any Officer or VP vacancies in between General Meetings.”

Rationale

This provides clarity and eliminates confusion. A General Meeting already has Full Authority per § 6.a.5.

The Over-Regulation of Craft Breweries in New Jersey

By Chris Russomanno

I love craft breweries because: they are small businesses, which are the backbone of our economy; they invest in the local community, making it more prosperous; and, most importantly, they make delicious beer.

Craft breweries are small businesses, which are the backbone of the economy, and they create more jobs than huge corporations ever will. The owners are plucky entrepreneurs who have a strong strain of self reliance and a can-do attitude that is sorely needed in New Jersey. These small businesses are an economic benefit because they increase tourism and increase revenue for the state. However, regulations in New Jersey are making it difficult for craft breweries to operate and thrive because legislators are doing the bidding of big business.

Big business is afraid that craft breweries will cut into their profit by drawing consumers away. These big businesses can afford to give large donations to political campaigns as well as send lobbyists to Trenton to influence politicians who then enact laws and regulations that favor those who donate over others. I have always been confused by this. New Jersey is a “blue state”, with the Democrats, for the most part, having sway over politics. Supposedly the Dems are on the side of the little guy and the common man, but they then enact legislation to hurt small business owners. The notion that any of our politicians care about the little guy is just a tired old trope that they pull out to pander to their base when they need votes.

Most of the regulations placed on craft breweries have nothing to do with safety or creating a good product. They are there to prevent them from competing with larger, more politically powerful big businesses. For instance, they cannot sell coffee, sell food, offer a free drink to a patron (as a gesture of goodwill), or permit a happy hour. There are numerous other regulations that only apply to craft breweries, including limiting the number of events they can hold, limiting the number of

televisions they can have, and mandating that each craft brewery participate in a tour of the business.

It should be noted that craft wineries, bars, and restaurants do not have to abide by any of these crazy rules and regulations—just craft breweries. With all this over-regulation, the owner of a small craft brewery doesn't stand a chance. The over-regulation of this industry will eventually put much of it out of business. What will be left will be big business and large corporations.

The local community benefits from craft breweries because they create jobs and are a source of tax revenue. There is a benefit to other small business owners as well. Food trucks, musicians, and other peripheral small businesses would be able to sell their products at craft breweries, having a positive effect which would ripple outward to other local businesses. However, regulations are preventing any of this from happening, thereby reducing the potential prosperity of all.

Moreover, craft breweries make delicious beer. It is a treat for me when I can drink a beer that is not mass produced. Sure, when I want something quick and easy I stop off at the local watering hole and grab a six-pack of [fill in the blank with any old run-of-the-mill mass-produced beverage] to get me through some event with friends. There is nothing wrong with mediocre swill. However, the quality ingredients, wide variety, and loving care that go into craft beers make them a treat to drink. For people like me who like something different, something better, craft beers are the way to go.

If politicians and government got out of the way, more people could start their own business and make money to feed their families. With these cumbersome regulations it is difficult for small business owners to stay in business and it is even more difficult to start one. The dream of starting your own business goes by the wayside, and, because of

government regulations, business is kept— well, big. If these small businesses were left alone they could grow and have a positive effect on other small businesses, as well as the local community, increasing the prosperity of all.

In the last few years politicians forced everyone to stay in their homes, and small business owners were affected the most by these draconian measures. Many small

businesses were put out of business for good because of the financial strain. The lockdowns and over-regulation are a one-two punch that craft breweries may not recover from. I choose not to believe that politicians have the best interest of “the little guy” anymore. These regulations on craft breweries only stifle the economy and prevent people from making a living as well as crafting delicious, tasty beer.

Annual Mercer County Holiday Bash

Saturday, December 10, 2022 at 6:00 PM

109 Mercer Street, HIGHTstown, NJ 08520

The Mercer County Libertarian Party will host its annual holiday party on December 10, 2022.

  Jordan Page   Lou Perez  Mike Salvi 

Visit njfreedomfest.com for more details.

NOTE: This event is a paid fundraiser.

The LP and Vaccines

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By Jim Tosone

What should be the Libertarian Party's position on vaccines? Here is my recommendation:

1) We oppose government mandates that either require individuals to get a vaccine or prohibit them from getting one.

2) We oppose government incentives (e. g., cash payments) or disincentives (e. g., fines) to individuals and businesses that interfere in a person's vaccine decision.

3) We support the right of private companies either to require or to prohibit vaccines for their

employees and customers. Individuals who unable or unwilling to comply with company policy are free to work or shop elsewhere.

4) We have no position on whether individuals should or should not get vaccinated. Each person has their own risk/reward criteria, medical history, family situation, economic considerations, and sources of vaccine-related information. As such they, not us, are in the best position to decide what they should do.

5) All of the above apply to masks and other virus-avoidance methods as well.

Open Letter to Senator Vin Gopal

By Emerson Ellett

Originally published as a letter to the editor in the *Asbury Park Coaster* for Oct. 20–26, 2022

The *Coaster* often gives you a column for you to express your views. Maybe it will do the same for me.

Cynicism aside, the birthday card you sent me seemed to be less about acknowledging my aged bones than about your bid for re-election. However, the card did extend a kind offer of help, and in fact you can do so in two ways.


The country is plagued with time-serving professional politicians. You can't do much

about President Joe Biden (48 years in office) nor Monmouth county's own bi-partisan “election hogs”—Cong. Chris Smith (42 years) and Cong. Frank Pallone (36 years plus time in the NJ Senate)—but you can introduce term-limit legislation for state, county, and local offices here in New Jersey.

Also, you can help by announcing that you will not seek a third term. “Two terms only” will restore the principle of the citizen-legislator that the country was founded on and needs so badly today.

NJLP State Board		
Office	Officer	Email
Chair	Nikhil Sureshkumar	chair@njlp.org
Vice-Chair	Francine Abel	vicechair@njlp.org
Treasurer	Carole Acton	treasurer@njlp.org
Secretary	James Ripley	secretary@njlp.org
VP Public Relations	Mike Manieri	vppublicrelations@njlp.org
VP Political Affairs	(vacant)	vppoliticalaffairs@njlp.org
VP Membership	(vacant)	vpmembership@njlp.org
VP Programs	Joe Baratelli	vpprograms@njlp.org
South Representative	Nick Magner	southrep@njlp.org
Central Representative	Dan O'Neill	centralrep@njlp.org
North Representative	Matthew Struck	northrep@njlp.org


Other Party Leadership		
Office	Officer	Email
Central Chair	Mark Kapengut	centralchair@njlp.org
North Chair	Dave Willard	northchair@njlp.org
South Chair	Max Heatter (acting)	southchair@njlp.org



**NEW JERSEY
LIBERTARIAN
PARTY**

DECEMBER GENERAL MEETING

SUNDAY DEC. 18TH, 1PM



@ 45th Street Pub

4303 US 130, Edgewater Park, NJ 08010

How I Became a Libertarian

By Chris Russomanno

I think it was way back between 2007 and 2012 when I became a libertarian. I'll use the small "I" for now, because I had not as yet joined the party but my thoughts and outlook were becoming libertarian.

My father was, and is, a die-hard conservative Republican. So, not knowing any better, I was as well. I think one could have considered me a "Neo-conservative" or a "Neo-Con." I believed in "America" and everything I thought it stood for.

In the public school I went to (I like to think of them as government-run indoctrination centers) I had been taught about the Founding Fathers and the Revolutionary War and all the noble ideas that came with it. Most of the Presidents were lionized, especially the ones that got us into wars. I was taught that World War Two was "the good war" and that we definitely, definitely, should have fought that one, for the good of everyone.

My father and mother went to public schools also and they learned the same things I did regarding our Presidents, foreign policy, and our government. My grandparents also went to public schools, and, while they were there, they were also taught pretty much the same thing that I was taught.

My parents and grandparents reinforced what I had been taught in school. The news, television shows, and movies that I saw pretty much reinforced what I had been taught in school and what my parents told me. So, can you blame me for being a Neo-Con? I believed in what I was taught so thoroughly that I believed it was all my idea to start with.

When I was nineteen I joined the Marine Corps, where my idea of America policing the world and interfering in other countries politics was not only reinforced, it was put into overdrive. I believed that the United States of America, for the good of the world, should be the world's policeman. America should have bases all over the world and have the largest military ever.

I remember reading a book about Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller, one of the most famous Marines ever, if not the most famous. A sergeant saw what I was reading and told me that if I liked reading I should read *War Is a Racket*, written by another famous Marine—Smedley Butler. I asked him what it was about. He told me that Butler had realized that rich people used the Marine Corps to protect their interests (companies and corporations) in other countries (think United Fruit, sugar and coffee plantations in Latin America, etc.) and that wealthy elites profited off of war.

I thought the guy was crazy, there must be some mistake. If Smedley Butler was a Marine, surely he must have gone crazy to lose faith in "America" and what we stood for. I knew some veterans felt that way after seeing horrible things in war, in combat. I thought that perhaps he had some kind of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) or something like it. I was quick to dismiss this story. I didn't believe him at the time; but, you see, he planted a seed of curiosity.

There was one other distinct moment I remember. I feel so silly now when I think about it. When I was stationed in Okinawa Japan on Camp Hansen back in 1990 many of us would go out into the town of Kinville to eat, drink, and otherwise, be merry. At the many bars and clubs in town, there were what we called "Drinky Girls" who worked at the establishment. I always like to think of drinky girls as the poor man's geisha. These girls were provided as "company" for lonely GIs. You would buy them a "drink" for about ten dollars and they would then sit with you for about seven to ten minutes, or as long as it took them to smoke a cigarette. Most of these girls were from the Philippines.

I had a buddy who dated one of these ladies. He told me that she didn't like the Japanese. She also didn't like Americans. She didn't like them for the same reason: they had both invaded her country, killed people and committed atrocities.

I could understand her not liking the Japanese. After all, hadn't they started WWII by bombing Pearl Harbor? Weren't they an empire that went around taking over countries forcefully, killing the populace and taking their resources? But the United States of America? Surely she must be mistaken. We were the good guys. Why we sacrificed our own servicemen in several wars all for the sake of democracy, and freedom. We were the ones who won WWI and WWII single-handedly only to help other countries who needed it.

I told him to tell his girlfriend that she better reread some of her history books and if she did she would know what really happened and that the the USA was a shining beacon of liberty to all the world and we were the good guys.

The fact that I was telling someone about her own culture and history still haunts me to this day. I can't believe how uninformed, naive, and ignorant I was. But, please remember, I had only gone to government-run public schools. What I learned there was reinforced by what I saw on television and movie screens. My father and mother, and my grandparents, all went to public schools and watched the same thing I watched on television and movie screens.

What I didn't know was that the US had invaded the Philippines during the Spanish–American War. After we “liberated” them from the Spanish they wanted their independence. Instead of giving it to them, our government proceeded to slaughter and torture as many people in the Philippines as they could. They also put civilians in concentration camps and committed atrocities that would have made any tyrant or despot proud. I have to forgive my younger self. I just didn't know because I wasn't taught it. Neither were my older relatives or friends.

When I got out of the Marine Corps, I eventually became a police officer. Because most of us were taught in school that police officers are our friend and they are there to protect you. My parents were also taught this. It was reinforced by television shows and movies ... Are you starting to get the picture?

As I got older and started to have a few election cycles under my belt, I began to become disenchanted with the two-party system. Those running for election, who were out to oust the incumbent, said they hated war and big government. They promised to end all our wars and foreign entanglements. They also promised to rein in government spending and make the government smaller.

The politician looking to get elected blamed all our woes on the party that was already in power and promised to make corrections and undo everything the incumbent had done. Finally a new president from a different political party would get elected.

Suddenly whatever wars they started were necessary wars, not like the unnecessary conflicts their predecessor had started. And now they found that they had to increase the size and scope of government which in turn increased government spending. They blamed all of our woes on the party that had been in power before them and claimed responsibility for anything that was going right in the country.

Eventually I caught on and began looking for something better, something different. And that's when I heard of Ron Paul. I did a little research and found that he had been in politics for a long time. He was consistent with what he said. He said the same thing in 2008 as he had for the previous twenty years. It was almost like he had—well, principles. The more I discovered about him and his ideas the more I liked him. So much so that I began to follow his campaign and read his books.

Then came the point of no return. Dr. Paul was at a debate with several Republican candidates including Rudy Giuliani. Dr. Paul was talking about ending our foreign wars and bringing our troops home. He also said that many of our problems were “blowback” from our government interfering in the affairs of other countries. And then I remember people laughing at him.

The moderator did not stop them or try to bring order back to the debate. The other candidates, including Giuliani, laughed at him

and told him how wrong he was. Then they spouted some jingoistic bullshit about how great “Merica” was and the debate continued.

I also remember that in several of the other debates, they did not even mention that Ron Paul participated. There was one in particular where all the corporate media stations, including “fair and balanced” Fox News, reported who came in first, third, and fourth in the debate. Ron Paul came in second and they failed to report that or even mention that he participated in the debate.

There is an adage that goes something like, “You only tear out a man's tongue if you are afraid of what he might say.” What could be so dangerous about what Ron Paul was saying that he received almost a complete blackout from the corporate media? He was only talking about ending the wars, auditing the Federal Reserve, and promoting freedom. What was so wrong with that?

At the time I was gradually becoming something other than a Neo-con. I began to research Libertarianism. The more I found out about it the more I liked it. I was probably a minarchist at this point. Yes, I wanted smaller government, but didn't we need a little government?

I had heard of anarchists before, but I associated that word with people who wanted chaos and that also threw bombs back in the 1800s. As I kept reading books by Rothbard and listening to people like Tom Woods, I realized that there was another definition of anarchy that simply meant an absence of government.

Fast forward to 2018, when I had just arrived at the annual state convention for the New Jersey Libertarian Party. Someone I had never met approached me and we began to converse on libertarian thought and ideas. The conversation was moving along and everything was good until he said, “I am a Libertarian but I think we should still have public schools.” I could feel myself getting angry and my left eyelid began to twitch. He then said, “And I also think that we should also have a strong foreign

policy using our military to exert influence around the world.”

I could feel Rothbard rolling over in his grave and the tic in my eye became more pronounced. I wanted to shout at him, “Are you sure you're a libertarian? Are you sure that you're at the right convention?! You sound more like a Neoconservative **Print Ed. Page 6 of 8** Republican, you idiot!”

Luckily for everyone, Vermin Supreme arrived and started shouting something about giving away free ponies. I quickly walked away and sat down next to Arvin Vohra who was having a conversation about how cops were thieves and terrorists.

Some people are libertarians simply because they didn't want to be a Republican or a Democrat anymore. Some libertarians are minarchist, some are anarchists. At various points, I went through all of those phases in my libertarian journey. I should have understood that the guy I was talking to was on his own journey as well. Perhaps he had just joined the party and libertarian ideas were new to him. If I had started berating him for his beliefs, we could have lost a member that we really needed.

I should have remembered how I used to think and why. If he had been indoctrinated—sorry, I mean educated, in public schools, watched the same television programs and movies that I had, then he was still stuck in that mindset, a lot of it wasn't really his fault. Some people find it hard to let go of old ideas, and it may be a little scary for them when they find out they had been misinformed or disinformed by people and institutions they thought they could trust. For some people, once they realize that they have been lied to for years, their whole world seems like it's collapsing.

So, if you have been a Libertarian for a while, try to gently inform newcomers that much of what they have been led to believe is bullshit, and be nice about it. To newcomers who don't know much about our beautiful philosophy—you need to educate yourself. If you also went to public schools and watched corporate media,

you have probably been misinformed/disinformed. You need to read books, and listen to podcasts by great Libertarians. They will point you in the right direction.

I told you all that to tell you this. My fellow Libertarians, be nice and kind to everyone especially each other. Be especially patient and understanding to new members of the party whether they are little "l" libertarian or big "L" Libertarian. Our party is too small for infighting. We can't afford to lose anyone. If you are mean to people, members or not, we may

lose people we desperately need. Help them in their journey by explaining what we stand for and what Libertarianism is all about. If recent events in the party have gotten you upset, please don't go. We need you. Again, we are too small to have people leave the party. I would ask you to remember why you became a libertarian in the first place. If some of those reasons were that you were tired of corrupt politicians and the failure of the two-party system, then those things haven't changed.



DECEMBER MEETING

FOX & HOUND
TAVERN
At the Lebanon Hotel

THURSDAY DEC. 8TH, 7 PM

@ Fox and Hound Tavern
69 Main St Lebanon, NJ 08833

A Critique of Hobbes's Social Contract Theory

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By Michael Manieri

In 1651, Thomas Hobbes published *Leviathan*, making the first contribution to social contract theory. He argued that the dangers of individuals' self-interest necessitates the formation of a state. The following essay, which has been abridged, offers a criticism of Hobbes's theory. It should be noted that subsequent political theorists offered contributions to social contract theory, and that this essay does not address those subsequent developments.

In Thomas Hobbes's *Leviathan*, the English philosopher offers commentary on the philosophical basis of government and sovereign power. Hobbes considers a society without government to be in a state of nature, characterized by perpetual conflicts between individuals pursuing their self-interests over the general interest of society. According to Hobbes, the state of nature is one of incessant war and danger. A multitude—defined as a group of individual, unrelated persons—covenants with one another to escape the state of nature in favor of establishing a government. Hobbes asserts that, in a state of nature, individuals will pursue their own interests at the expense of society, constituting the need for a sovereign. However, Hobbes fails to address the reality that individuals pursue their self-interests in communities with political systems as well.

Hobbes does not account for competing interests in political societies, which may lead individuals to pursue their own interests as they would in a state of nature. Hobbes admits that most individuals would rather govern themselves than follow the edicts of someone else. The theorist writes, "For there are very few so foolish that had not rather govern themselves than be governed by others." This shows that individuals in a society with a state still have the incentive to pursue their desires. Furthermore, Hobbes recognizes that the multitude consists of many

dissimilar people. In chapter 16 of *Leviathan*, he postulates that the beliefs of the majority should take precedence over those of the minority. Implicit in Hobbes's point is that there are often competing interests within political societies, and that individuals will likely advocate for their own self-interests.

Hobbes believes that, by forming a social covenant, the people appoint a sovereign to regulate society. However, even within the administration of the sovereign's will, there may be interests competing with that of the sovereign. When considering the implications of having a state carry out the sovereign's will, it becomes clear that individuals' self-interests may impact the administration of government.

Government, as defined by Rousseau, is an intermediate body that enforces the will of the sovereign. This body, according to social contract theory, is merely supposed to execute the laws set forth by the sovereign rather than establishing its own laws. Nonetheless, government bureaucrats and officials frequently have their own opinions, biases, and ambitions.

Considering Hobbes's belief that the formation of a state is necessitated by the dangers of self-interest, the persistence of self-interest in political societies is a major shortcoming of the scholar's political theory. In *On the Social Contract*, Rousseau points out that citizens will likely begin to cast their vote in their private interest instead of casting it in the interest of the general public. Although the individual's failure to consider the greater good when voting hurts society, the voter cares more about enhancing their well-being than that of society. As more voters begin to consider private interests rather than the general interest while voting, the laws will reflect the general interest less and less. Therefore, Thomas Hobbes does not offer a sufficient philosophical basis for the existence of a state.

Call for Candidates

By Mark Kapengut

Apply in confidence: njlp.org/partyinfo/run-for-office/candidate-questionnaire (sic)

Test the waters: centralchair@njlp.org

Members are encouraged to give it a try.

The time to start is now. Don't wait for next year or spring!

- Are you self-driven?
- Are you reasonable?
- Do you respect different viewpoints?
- Are you anti-establishment and anti-authoritarian?
- Do you have three friends who would help you campaign?
- Are you willing to expand the libertarian coalition?
- Do you have fresh ideas?

State level (Assembly and Senate)

- Mostly paper campaigns
- Let libertarian voters park their vote with you.
- Fiscal restraint, health freedom, guns, policing, surveillance, fleeing NJ...

Local government

- Driven by local concerns
- Run against long-term incumbents and single-party local bosses.
- No experience? No problem.
- Do you have a friend who may be itching to push back, or a local gadfly? Share a lead.

School board sample planks

- Return money to taxpayers. Cut government school budgets and property taxes.
- Seek excellence in education. Improve meritocracy, gifted-and-talented programs, and streaming.
- Support Homeschoolers. Offer grants and improved services.
- Health freedom. Bar schools from health mandates and collecting student health information.
- No indoctrination. Bar Pledge of Allegiance, prayers, and requiring CRT, QT, DIE instruction.
- Unleash the Market in public education. Support vouchers and interdistrict paid transfers.
- Reduce Athletics budget, make more offerings parent-supported.
- Offer an elective foreign-language mix based on local district demographics.
- Unplug kids. Reduce overreliance on technology in classrooms.
- Unlock school doors. Eliminate funding for school "security", IDs, and surveillance.
- Hire teachers with industry experience. Reduce barriers to entry.

Adult children? You're still paying for this banquet, claim your seat at the table.

HOLIDAY BASH

Sat

Hosted by:  Mercer County 

12/10

@ Liberty HQ in Hightstown, NJ (109 Mercer St.)

A night of LIBERTY, MUSIC,
COMEDY, and MORE

FEATURING JORDAN PAGE AND MIKE SALVI

SPECIAL GUEST LOU PEREZ HOST JAMES BABB

Doors @ 6

Dinner + Drink included w/ticket

VIP option available

Show @ 8

Ugly Holiday Sweater Contest
(\$50 cash prize!)



TIX AND MORE INFO:

www.njfreedomfest.com



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PRESENTED BY:



AUTONOMY