



New Jersey Libertarian

Calling All Libertarians!

By Vic Kaplan
NJLP Chair

Like you, I want to make the NJLP a party to be reckoned with in Trenton. Like you, I want the NJLP to receive extensive coverage in the press from Bergen to Cape May County, so that the word "Libertarian" would become a household name in New Jersey. Our party needs to make a splash, and you can make it happen!

Next year, you can help put the New Jersey Libertarian Party on the map by lending your name on a ballot. By achieving a full slate, the NJLP would receive the maximum coverage possible in the press, making the 10% total of the vote a doable goal. The press coverage itself, should aid us in this endeavor. Furthermore, I propose that the NJLP adopt a 10-point contract, on what our candidates would do if elected (after we achieve a full slate). This contract would be advertised before the press. A full slate for any alternative political party would be unprecedented. If we achieve 10%, this would mean that the NJLP would have a major party status with all the rights of a political party, on the par with the Republicans and Democrats. In 1995, the New Jersey Conservative Party nearly achieved a full slate with fewer members, with some candidates receiving 5, 6, and 7% of the vote. Their success was helped by the press, which covered the NJCP extensively. However, they lacked a gubernatorial candidate. Because the NJLP intends to field a gubernatorial candidate, our Assembly candidate would bring the vote totals of each other, up. If you are at least 21 years old, a member of the NJLP, and are a registered voter, I ask you to light the fire of liberty, and volunteer to run for Assembly. You do not have to necessarily wage an active campaign. Your name on the ballot is what counts! Let's start now, so that we can accomplish a full slate. Let's make the New Jersey Libertarian Party a household name!

Contact me at:

908-887-0669, vikaplan@hotmail.com or

Victor Kaplan

13 Barn Owl Drive,

Hackettstown, NJ, 07840



Virginia Flynn, candidate from Monmouth County, speaks with New Jersey Assemblyman Upendra J. Chivukula (D-17) about eminent domain. See Page 2.

Photo by John Paff



Len Flynn and other NJLP members registered voters and gathered signatures for Michael Badnarik. See page 3.

Photo by John Paff

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NJLP Congressional Candidate Ginny Flynn Joins Protesters

On Sunday, July 26, 2004, Virginia Flynn, NJLP Candidate for the 6th Congressional District, attended a protest against eminent domain abuse in Franklin Township, Somerset County, New Jersey. The Franklin Township Redevelopment Agency has decided to condemn several blocks of homes in order to make room for a Pathmark shopping center.

Photos by John Paff.



One of the homes in the so-called “urban slum” slated for condemnation to make way for the new Pathmark.



Local child wishes to remain in his home.

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editor by the 10th of every month.
Contact us at: New Jersey Libertarian,

Calendar

State Board
Sunday, September 19
1 pm
361 George Street,
New Brunswick
(Tumulty's Pub)

Steering Committee
Sunday, October 17th
1pm
254 Tennent Road,
(Flynn Residence)
Morganville, NJ

General Meeting
Sunday, November 14th
1 pm
361 George Street,
New Brunswick
(Tumulty's Pub)

NJLP Members Gather Signatures, Register Voters

On Wednesday, July 21, at the Rutgers (New Brunswick) University Campus, NJLP Members got signatures on the Badnarik petition and/or registered people to vote.

Photos by John Paff



Brenda Bell, NJLP member from Somerset County (right) gathering signatures on the Badnarik petition.



An attention-getting sign for the booth at Rutgers.



Len Flynn, NJLP member from Monmouth County, getting signatures and registering voters.

LPCNJ'S "Open Government Task Force" Chides Bound Brook

On August 3, 2004, John Paff, Chairman of the Libertarian Party of Central New Jersey's (LPCNJ) "Open Government Task Force" presented a report to the Bound Brook Borough Council (Somerset County) criticizing the manner in which the Borough announces and keeps records of its executive session meetings. Paff also gave the Borough a failing grade on its handling of government record requests.

The presentation is the first of its kind by the Task Force, which seeks to bring all local government agencies, including town councils, school boards and fire districts into full compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, Open Public Records Act and other open-government statutes and regulations. The Task Force is targeting Union, Middlesex and Somerset Counties.

"Unfortunately, we've found a lot more noncompliance than we have compliance," said Paff, of Franklin, who also serves as the LPCNJ's secretary. "The Open Public Meetings Act, for example, has been in effect since 1975, yet many if not most towns still don't comply with it," he added.

In his presentation, made during the public comment portion of the Council's agenda meeting, Paff presented the Mayor with a twenty-one page report that called attention to seven separate areas where the Borough failed to comply with the law. Violations ranged from the Borough denying access to records verbally instead of in writing to failing or refusing to release minutes of its executive or closed Council sessions. Paff told the Council that the Task Force wanted a detailed, written response to the issues raised by September 15, 2004.

Anyone interested in learning more about or helping the Task Force should contact John Paff at 732-873-1251 or at paff@pobox.com

Libertarian presidential candidate Michael Badnarik bumper stickers are now available in New Jersey!

Make your check payable to NJLP Federal Fund, and mail to:

**NJLP Federal Fund
1308 Spruce Ave.
Ocean, NJ 07712**

Send \$1 per sticker.

Let Jerseyans know they have a choice this November! Order your stickers today!

From The Chair

By NJLP State Chair Vic Kaplan

The New Jersey Libertarian Party has succeeded in placing Michael Badnarik, our 2004 presidential candidate on the ballot. (Website: www.badnarik.org) My thanks go out to Frank Warren for helping to coordinate the effort.

Vote for Badnarik in a straw poll at <http://www.uselectionatlas.org/USPRESIDENT/GENERAL/CAMPAIGN/2004/mock04.php>. Help turn New Jersey yellow!

I am looking for an NJLP member to organize the 2005 NJLP Convention next year. Please contact me at vikaplan@hotmail.com.

Next year, 80 seats for state Assembly (2 members for each of the 40 districts) would be contested. I want you to help put the NJLP on the map of New Jersey, by lending your name on a ballot. The law requires 100 valid signatures to get on the ballot. The NJLP will help train people to help with petitioning. By achieving a full slate, the NJLP would receive the maximum coverage possible in the press, making the 10% vote of the total doable goal. A full slate for any alternative political party would be unprecedented. The press coverage itself should aid us in this endeavor. Furthermore, I propose that the NJLP adopt a 10-point contract after we achieve a full slate, on what our candidates would do if elected. This contract would be advertised before the press. If we achieve 10%, this would mean that the NJLP would have a major party status with all the rights of a political party, on the par with the Republicans and Democrats. In 1995, the New Jersey Conservative Party nearly achieved a full slate with fewer members, with some candidates receiving 5, 6, and 7% of the vote. Their success was helped by the press, which covered the NJCP extensively. However, they lacked a gubernatorial candidate. Because, the NJLP intends to field a gubernatorial candidate, our Assembly candidate would bring the vote totals of each other, up. If you are at least 21 years old, a member of the NJLP, and are a registered voter, I ask you to light the fire of liberty, and volunteer to run for Assembly. You do not have to necessarily wage an active campaign. Your name on the ballot is what counts! Let's start now, so that we can accomplish a full slate. Let's make the New Jersey Libertarian Party, a household name!

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13 Barn Owl Drive
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Reluctant Perth Amboy to scrap loitering ordinance

Sunday, August 08, 2004

BY SUE EPSTEIN
Star-Ledger Staff

The Perth Amboy City Council will take up the legality of the city's loitering ordinance, during a meeting next month.

Mayor Joseph Vas said the council will probably repeal the ordinance as it is currently on the books to conform with a state Supreme Court decision in 1982 that ruled that local loitering ordinances were pre-empted by the New Jersey criminal code.

Vas said the decision to repeal the ordinance was made reluctantly because "it means that anyone arrested will now have to be charged with a criminal offense and now face having a criminal record if convicted."

"We kept our ordinance all these years because we didn't think an 18-year-old with his or her life ahead of him should be branded for life with a criminal record for doing something that is just a nuisance," the mayor said.

The question of the ordinance's legality was first raised in July 2003 in a letter to Alberto Rivas, the city attorney, from John Paff, the secretary of the Libertarian Party of Somerset and Middlesex Counties, who has been campaigning around the state to repeal loitering ordinances.

In September 2003, the party sent a letter to the city's two municipal prosecutors and the municipal judge, asking them to stop prosecuting people under the ordinance until they have discussed its validity with the Middlesex County prosecutor or with the state Division of Criminal Justice.

Paff said he received no reply to either letters, so he sent a third on Dec. 4, asking the mayor and council to instruct Rivas to review the loitering ordinance and repeal it Rivas finds it is unenforceable. The two-page letter also asked Vas to order the police not to enforce the ordinance until Rivas finishes his review.

Paff said he also attended a council meeting Dec. 8 and spoke to the validity of the ordinance. "I pointed out that the city's ordinance was almost identical to one in Flemington that had recently been invalidated, and I suggested the city do the same thing," Paff said.

The council ordered Rivas to review the matter and discussed it with him in several closed sessions, but no decision was announced.

Paff said he began looking into the Perth Amboy ordinance after receiving complaints from residents.

One of those who contacted Paff was William Lankford, who retired several years ago after working 20 years at East Jersey State Prison.

Lankford, who is in his 70s and has lived in Perth Amboy for 61 years, said one of his favorite activities is to walk down to the waterfront and sit and watch people. He said the "police don't bother me" because they know him and they know why he's there, but he feels sorry for the people who aren't as lucky as he is. "I think it's wrong," Lankford said. "I see what they're doing."

He said the places where the police, in particular the auxiliary police officers, crack down on people hanging out, are the ones who have been redeveloped or are close to areas undergoing redevelopment, like the waterfront and all along Smith Street to the train station. "I've seen them arresting young people for just being there," Lankford said. "I don't think it's right what they're doing to the younger generation."

He said most of those arrested don't want to complain because "they're afraid."

"I tell them, 'If you're clean, you have nothing to worry about,'" Lankford said.

In January 1982, the state Supreme Court threw out Newark's loitering ordinance, stating it was pre-empted by the New Jersey Code of Criminal Justice, which took effect in September 1978. The high court argued that the Legislature, in devising the new criminal code, considered including a loitering statute, but it "made a conscious decision to exclude a general loitering provision from the code."

Instead, the code breaks down all of the different types of loitering and includes them in several other charges, including "riot: failure to disperse," "obstructing highways or public passages," "possession of alcohol in public places by minors," "interference with transportation," "failure to disperse on order of a peace officer," and disorderly conduct.

Conviction of the charge of "riot: failure to disperse" gives the defendant a criminal record. All of the other charges are either disorderly persons offenses or petty disorderly person offenses, which usually carry fines and do not go on someone's record.

The justices said they believed it was the Legislature's intent to decriminalize loitering.

The new criminal code includes a section, titled, "Abolition of Common Law Crimes," in which there is a subsection that states, "Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the local government units of this state may neither enact nor enforce any ordinance or other local law or regulation conflicting with, or pre-empted by, any provision of this code or with any policy of this state expressed by this code, whether that policy be expressed by inclusion of a provision in the code or by exclusion of that subject."

Sue Epstein covers Middlesex County. She can be reached at sepstein@starledger.com or (732) 404-8085.

The Route to Individual Freedom: Philosophical Revolution vs. Political Movement

“The trouble in the world today is philosophical; that only the right philosophy can save us. And here is a party which plagiarizes some of my ideas, mixes it with the exact opposite, with religionists, with anarchists, with just about every intellectual misfit and scum that they can find. They call themselves ‘Libertarians’ and run for office.”

-Ayn Rand, 1976

by Josh Scher

Not too long ago one of my Republican friends who fancies himself a liberal, emailed me several anti-Bush jokes. The email concluded with his expressing frustration over not finding John Kerry to be a savior, rather merely a lesser evil. I replied suggesting he take a look at our platform if he was as disillusioned as he claimed. To his credit, he did in fact read some of it. He liked much of what he read, but stopped once he came across the Libertarian Party’s calls for the elimination of Medicare and Medicaid. My friend is a pharmacist, and healthcare reform is at the top of his agenda. The idea was far too radical for him. His protestations included all that you would expect. My reply was only to tell him it was not that simple. Despite his urgings, I refused to attempt to convince him. Quite simply, his mind was set; molded very early on to think along altruistic guidelines, rejecting without contemplation an argument that threatens the only approach to life he knows. I had no desire to partake of a futile debate. We have all been there. It is both laborious and aggravating because the obstacle is overwhelming. While I find immediate dismissal of any view to be anti-intellectual, my sheepish friend is anything but stupid. He excelled at Rutgers’ highly regarded College of Pharmacy, and will be attending graduate school at Georgetown shortly. This recent exchange found me reluctantly admitting that perhaps Ayn Rand’s contention had merit. Perhaps she was even altogether right in her claim that individual freedom could only become mankind’s priority through a philosophical revolution, not a political movement. I lost sleep over this. I consulted my own personal kitchen cabinet of advisors. Finally, I was able to settle on a compromise between the colossally arrogant Ayn Rand and the LP. Sleep eventually came when I realized that with Americans being the way they are, Rand’s argument was too simple. Alas the Libertarian Party’s existence continues to be warranted.

To my way of thinking the difference between the Libertarian Party’s movement and Rand’s Objectivist revolution is to some degree analogous to the difference between marketing and selling. Budweiser and Heneiken market their beer to consumers. Their message is “use our brand, because we make the best beer.” What they are not doing is trying to sell the idea of beer. The public to whom they cater has already been won over. They like beer. They serve it at parties, drink it at events, and go to bars to purchase it. Of course there is some selling going on as something to try for the unacquainted, or as an alternative to liquor, but the crux of the message is “try ours”, not “try it.”

Selling on the other hand, constitutes the introduction of a concept in the hope that the prospect will adopt it as his or her own. The independent insurance salesman does not discuss the different options associated with life insurance policies offered by The Hartford or Mass Mutual. He talks about the need for protection in the event of a premature death. His prospect is educated on the risks of finding oneself suddenly without the income of the family’s primary breadwinner. The salesman might discuss the freedom of federal estate taxes on the death benefit proceeds. The point is that a salesman’s audience needs to be convinced of the idea’s benefits to the point that they think in line with him.

To follow the route of Rand, and sell America on the philosophy of objectivism is more than a daunting undertaking. Its success calls for a monumental overhaul of the way people think on a scale comparable to Christianity’s growth. Philosophy, however, is not religion. The spread of religion thrives on acceptance and rebirth of the weak-willed with the price being a surrendering of individualism. In exchange for hearing what you want (heaven, eternal life, absolution of guilt, etc.), your conformity relieves you of the responsibility of determining how to go about life. Rather than expend the oftentimes-challenging effort, you can defer to your respective religion’s code of ethics (understanding and agreeing not being necessary). Objectivism calls for individual freedom, but with that comes individual responsibility. The certainty is gone, and people are left to fend for themselves on an intellectual level. You are charged with making your way among mankind with Darwinian consequences looming because the government of religion will not bail you out. With this being the case, is it any wonder that Objectivism never truly caught on after its lone icon died? Does this philosophical revolution sound like a sale that will be made on the grand scale success would require?

The Libertarian Party offers an alternative route to individual freedom, albeit a long-term movement. Americans are growing increasingly disillusioned with the two divisions of the Corporate Party. Eventually something will have to give. Perhaps it will be when social security implodes after delay tactics are no longer accepted. Maybe the War on Drugs debacle’s climax will mark a turning point. Regardless, the LP will be seen as an alternative option—another choice on the menu next to Tweedle Dee and Tweedle Dee #2. The familiarity of the many disgruntled Republican division defectors will provide comfort. In time, the successful growth of the Party will be apparent in results of Libertarian legislation and deregulation. Only then will Rand’s ideology have a forum prepared to listen. From there, the philosophical revolution can take hold.

Show your true colors in NJ

At long last, you can register as a Libertarian. Fill out the form below and mail it to your county election board.

Atlantic County

1333 Atlantic Ave., 4th Floor
Atlantic City, NJ 08401

Bergen County

1 Bergen County Plaza, Room 310
Hackensack, NJ 07601

Burlington County

P.O. Box 6000
Mount Holly, NJ 08060

Camden County

P.O. Box 1066
Camden, NJ 08101

Cape May County

10-12 W. Mechanic Street
Cape May Courthouse, NJ 08210

Cumberland County

60 Broad St. W., Suite 210
Bridgeton, NJ 08302

Essex County

33 Washington Street
Newark, NJ 07102

Gloucester County

P.O. Box 352
Woodbury, NJ 08096

Hudson County

595 Newark Avenue
Jersey City, NJ 07306

Hunterdon County

P.O. Box 2900
Flemington, NJ 08822-9952

Mercer County

P.O. Box 8068
Trenton, NJ 08650

Middlesex County

777 Jersey Avenue
New Brunswick, NJ 08901-3605

Monmouth County

300 Halls Mill Road
Freehold, NJ 07728

Morris County

P.O. Box 900
Morristown, NJ 07963-0900

Ocean County

P.O. Box 2006
Toms River, NJ 08754-2006

Passaic County

311 Pennsylvania Ave.,
Room 103
Paterson, NJ 07503

Salem County

90 Market Street
Salem, NJ 08079-9856

Somerset County

20 Grove Street
Somerville, NJ 08876-1262

Sussex County

18 Church Street
Newton, NJ 07860-9965

Union County

271 North Broad Street
Elizabeth, NJ 07207

Warren County

413 Second Street
Belvidere, NJ 07823

Signature or mark of registered voter		Date
<p>State of New Jersey Political Party Affiliation Declaration Form</p> <p>I, being a registered voter at the address listed below, do hereby declare that I wish to affiliate with the following political party:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Democratic* <input type="checkbox"/> Republican* <input type="checkbox"/> Green Party <input type="checkbox"/> Libertarian Party <input type="checkbox"/> Natural Law Party <input type="checkbox"/> Reform Party <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Constitution Party</p> <p>OR</p> <p>I, being a registered voter at the address listed below, wish to formally disaffiliate with any political party:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Independent</p> <p>Last Name _____ First Name _____ Middle Initial _____ Date of Birth: (month) _____ (day) _____ (year) _____ New Jersey Residence: Street _____ Apt. No. _____ Municipality _____ County _____ Zip Code _____</p> <p>Signature or mark of registered voter _____ Date _____</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"><p><i>*If you are a registered member of the Green Party, Libertarian Party, Natural Law Party, Reform Party, U.S. Constitution Party or an Independent, you cannot vote in either the Democratic or Republican Primary.</i></p><p><i>Declaration must be filed no later than 50 days preceding the primary in which the voter wishes to vote. A newly registered voter or a voter who has never voted in a primary election, can affiliate with the Democratic or Republican Party on the day of the Primary.</i></p><p style="text-align: right;"><small>v11.12.02</small></p></div> <p>LPS New Jersey Department of Law & Public Safety</p> <p> Division of Elections www.NJElections.org</p>		

To the Editor

Dear Editor,

The scandals involving New Jersey Governor James McGreevy put a spotlight once again on the subject of governmental reforms. Some reforms that have been proposed are considered adequate and needed. However, regrettably, they do not go far enough.

The culture in Trenton is one that has been corrupt for years. It needs to be overhauled from the surface, to the middle and on the bottom. It has affected not only the office of Governor, but it has affected the State Assembly, the State Senate and other offices. The corruption needs to be looked at in totality as a whole.

What reforms would I like to see proposed for Trenton? They are the following:

An Office of Lieutenant Governor: When a sitting governor becomes incapacitated by ill-health, death, resignation, or in this case scandal, the New Jersey Senate President takes over as Acting Governor for the remainder of the term. The Acting Governor not only holds the power of the executive branch, but also legislative power as leader of the Senate. This violates checks and balances between the three branches of government (executive, legislative and judiciary). Thus the Acting Governor is put in the position of being a quasi-dictator.

There is unanimity among the legislature and the people in creating a Lieutenant Governor's post. The difference lies in how that post should come about. Should it be an elective office like in California or should it be one in which the person runs with the gubernatorial candidate during elections such as in New York State? I believe that the Lieutenant Governor's position should be one running with the gubernatorial candidate. Just as a presidential candidate chooses the running mate to run with him or her for the office of vice president, the gubernatorial candidate should be allowed to choose the best person to run with him or her for the office of Lieutenant Governor.

Direct Initiative and Referendum: Initiative and Referendum in the Garden State is considered to be nothing more than a farce. If a majority of the people voted in favor of a proposal on the ballot, it does not become law until the legislature takes up the question, which could take years or never. There have been many politicians that have ran for Governor, the Assembly and the Senate that have made the promise to enact Direct Initiative and Referendum similar to those found in states such as in Michigan, Nevada, Washington State and California. However, once these candidates have achieved victory in their electoral contests, they forget the whole thing.

Trenton politicians, including the mainstream New Jersey Press I might add, have this belief that the citizens of New Jersey are not only incapable of voting on proposals and making law, but, in their arrogance, believe that they are smarter than the general public. This is elitism, it is insulting and it is despicable.

By giving the people the power of Direct Democracy, the people of New Jersey would be given the power to vote up and down on legislative proposals and issues. They would be given the power to pass or vote issues concerning automobile insurance, property tax reform and more. The mainstream New Jersey Press and the whole Trenton crowd cannot stand that. It is time to pass a constitutional amendment giving the people the power of Direct Initiative and Referendum with the requirement that 2,000 to 5,000 signatures be obtained to put a legislative proposal on the ballot.

Term Limits: Most members of the Senate and Assembly have an average serving time of close to twenty years. For example, State Senator William Gormley (R-Atlantic County) has been in office for twenty-two years. Assemblyman Neil Cohen (D-Union County) has been in office for twelve years in total. The office of Governor is limited to two four-year terms. The State Senate and Assembly terms should be limited as well. Two four-year terms for the Senate, four two-year terms for the Assembly. A constitutional amendment should be passed stating such. No longer will there be a 90% incumbency reelection rate. No longer will there be careerism in Trenton. All that will remain is service for a time and then retirement.

Direct Election of the State Treasurer: There have been some that have been calling for the direct election of a State Auditor to oversee state programs and agencies for fraud, waste, abuse, incompetence, finances and spending. I believe there is no need for this. I believe the State Treasurer should be made into an elective post, and be given the power to do all that issuing quarterly reports on a daily basis. The elected State Treasurer's post should be an independent office not affiliated in any way with the legislature, the executive or the judicial branch. By doing this, the need to create another elective office will be negated.

To pass these proposals in the Garden State will take more than people standing up. It will take a revolution. Sadly, when it comes to state government, the citizens of New Jersey are not good at getting ferociously active. They do not participate all too well. It is only they that have the power to demand and see a change from the horrible status quo. I pray they get off their seats and do so. However, I stand pessimistic at this time.

Alex Pugliese



NJLP Member Dan Karlan at the podium during the 2004 LP National Convention. The entire delegation is pictured on page 12.

Photo by Tom Wright



Libertarians in Print

Kudos to all the NJLP members who have gotten into print! In this issue we have the successful efforts of:

Mark Richards
Jeff Pawlowski
Terry Wintroub
and
Chris Wuestefeld

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August 24, 2004

McGreevey must go now

I wasn't here when the New Jersey Constitution was ratified, but I cannot believe that the drafters and ratifiers intended the duties of governor to be carried out for 14 months by someone who was put into office by 17,220 voters in a single Legislative district and then made Senate president by another handful of his party mates.

So far, I've seen no reason for Gov. James E. McGreevey to have resigned. However, a career, professional politician would not resign from a position of power, privilege and fame just because he's gay and a philanderer. It doesn't happen. Not in D.C., not in Trenton. So he obviously knows there is something bad that is going to come out.

In any event, if he is resigning, he should do it now so the voters of New Jersey have time to choose the person who will be in charge of patronage, no-bid contracts and the signing or vetoing of bills for the next year and some months.

I understand that all three of our 15th District representatives are members of the same glorified gang as McGreevey and Senate President Richard Codey, D- West Orange. I also understand that it is not in their gang's interest to let the governorship fall into the hands of the other major gang. However, just in case they decide to put the will of the voters ahead of their gang's interests, I want to add my voice to the other voters who are demanding McGreevey leave immediately.

I applaud *The Times'* stand on this issue and I urge its readers to urge their representatives to insist McGreevey leave now and to exert any political leverage and threats necessary to get him to comply.

TERRY WINTROUB
Lawrence Township

Where is the individual responsibility?

To the editor:

Concerning Lea Kahn's Aug. 12 article, "Lawrence parking ordinance curbed," politicians' habit of mind strikes again. If someone somewhere is doing something you don't like, or might be doing something you don't like, pass a law. Be sure to inconvenience as many people as possible in your drive to protect some citizens from themselves.

It is none of government's business if I want to park my car or my guests' cars on my front yard. If my parked cars impede firemen or EMTs trying to save my life, that is my problem. It isn't Lawrence's problem, it isn't the mayor's problem, it isn't Township Council's problem. Nor is it a legitimate object of legislation by any of the above.

Harry Browne, former Libertarian Party candidate for president, said it well. "Government seems to operate on the principle that if even one individual is incapable of using his freedom competently, no one can be allowed to be free."

In the same issue of the *Ledger*, we learn that we taxpayers are going to buy the homes of people who live in flood-prone areas. Government says so. It's not that government made these areas flood-prone and is now trying to make up for it. It's simply that some people decided they want to live where they get flooded out every few years. Face the consequences of their own decisions? Nah. Government will arrange for everybody else to pay for their decisions.

To quote Browne again, "It's wrong for someone to confiscate your money, give it to someone else, and call that 'compassion.'" Why do these government types keep finding "nice" things to do with other people's money? Why do we keep calling these public tyrants "public servants?" Is there no longer anybody in government in this state who believes in individual freedom, individual responsibility, and individual accountability?

Terry Wintroub
Lawrence

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Whose choice?

The *Times'* editorial "When quitters win" (June 28), recites figures purporting to show that quitting smoking at various ages adds a certain number of years to one's life span. Or, at least, to certain male British doctors' life spans. At the end it states, "Whatever government can do to cut the toll - regulation of tobacco by the Food and Drug Administration, higher cigarette taxes, bans on indoor smoking - is justified by these chilling statistics."

Could *The Times* publish the provision in the U.S. Constitution or in any of the state constitutions that gives government the prerogative of determining at what age people may choose to die?

TERRY WINTROUB
Lawrence Township

Who will pay the freight for Sayreville park and ride?

About a week ago, Sayreville officials were patting themselves on the back about the new park and ride. What was not mentioned was the cost to the borough taxpayers now and in the future.

The estimated cost for the project is \$1.2 million for 296 spaces – more than \$4,000 per space. Funding from state sources falls \$400,000 short. The residents of Sayreville will be forced to shoulder this burden plus all cost overruns.

Who will maintain the property, provide security, plow the snow in the winter? Will Sayreville form a parking authority, costing more taxpayer money?

I suggest that the bus companies who will reap the profits from the increased ridership pay for the park and ride. Local government was never meant to be in the parking business.

Our local officials must look to lift the burden of taxes off the shoulders of taxpayers rather than add to this burden.

Jeffrey Pawlowski, Sayreville.

The Star-Ledger
August 18, 2004

Unworthy of the name

One might expect that a political party calling itself Democrats would, above all, champion the right of the people to choose their own leaders. What irony that the NJ Democratic Party has made a name for itself by playing political games to determine for us who our leaders will be, heedless of the people's will.

In the 2002 U.S. Senate race, NJ Democrats pursued legal loopholes to replace their disgraced candidate, Robert Torricelli, with an alternate, chosen by powerbrokers rather than party members. Appalling as this was, we never expected that it would be the opening hand in their game of election by fiat.

Their latest play of timing Gov. McGreevey's resignation to avoid an election for the next governor lays their cards on the table for all to see. The state Democratic Party is not interested in democracy. Its motivation is simply to ensure to its own power.

The state Democratic Party is a sad joke, obstructing the democratic process. The only question remaining is whether the Republicans are any better. Will they take up the banner for we the people?

Chris Wuestefeld, Milford

Suburban Trends
July 14, 2004

Not Left or Right, But Liberty!

Dear Editor:

In her opinion piece of June 23, Holly Ennist Stewart makes the statement that Thomas Jefferson "continues to inspire liberalism." I don't know what "Liberals" Ms. Stewart is thinking of, but virtually all the ones I know of are polar opposites of Mr. Jefferson's belief in individual rights and minimum government interference in your life.

Both the modern "Liberal" and the modern "Conservative" are the political heirs of Alexander Hamilton, who believed in a strong centralized government. The only minor differences are that "Liberals" and "Conservatives" are anti-free choice on different issues. The collectivist premise that the "group" is more important than the individual is the basis for both "Liberals" and "Conservatives".

For example, the "Liberals" believe you shouldn't be able to own a gun or run your business as you see fit or associate with whom you please in your private life. They also believe you should be compelled to share what you produce with others that they regard as less fortunate. For the "Liberal," individual freedom must be sacrificed on the altar of "equality" and "social justice."

When it comes to "Conservatives", they believe that you shouldn't be able to do with your own body what you want. They favor government censorship over TV, radio, movies, the press, the Internet and just about anything else they can think of, all in the name of upholding "morality" or "national security".

Either way you look at it, freedom is the loser when "Liberals" or "Conservatives" take a position on an issue. Perhaps it's unfair to say this, but I've always believed most "Conservatives" are closet Fascists and most "Liberals" are closet Socialists!

They both think they know better than you do how to live and run your life.

The real philosophic heirs of Thomas Jefferson would be the Libertarians, of which I proudly count myself among. We are consistently pro-freedom on ALL issues and never compromise those views for political expediency. The answer is not Left or Right, but Liberty!

Mark Richards
West Milford

Thanks!

The following NJLP members are running for office in 2004. They deserve our thanks, and any help we can give their campaigns. Where available, contact info is provided.



Michael Matthews

Congress, 2nd District Michael Mathews, Jr.
 Congress, 3rd District Frank Orland
 Congress, 4th District Richard Edgar
<http://www.redgar.com/>
 Congress, 5th District Victor Kaplan
<http://www.liberty5th.org/>
 Congress, 6th District Virginia Flynn
 Congress, 7th District Thomas Abrams
 Congress, 9th District David Daly
 Congress, 11th District Austin Lett
 Congress, 12th District Ken Chazotte
<http://kenforcongress.com/>

Borough Council, Sayreville Chris Koszalka
 Borough Council, Sayreville Jeffrey Pawlowski
<http://www.liberty123.org/>



Ken Chazotte



Richard "Jay" Edgar



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I want to become a member of the 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 political or social goals.

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Newsletter subscription(s) are included with your membership(s).

Make check payable to NJLP and mail to: NJLP c/o Robert Hull 400 Higgins Ave Ste B Brielle NJ 08730-1414

Donation

Enclosed is my additional contribution of \$ _____ to help the NJLP in its efforts to expand individual liberty.

Send to a Friend

I have a friend who might be interested in the NJLP. Please send a complimentary copy of the *New Jersey Libertarian* to:



2004 NJ Delegation to the LP National Convention. L-R: Robert Hull, Frank Warren, Brenda Bell, Lou Stefanelli, Elizabeth Macron, Rob Tannen, Tom Wright, Tony Federici, Emerson Ellett, Virginia Flynn, Len Flynn

A Guide to U.S. Newspapers

1. The Wall Street Journal is read by the people who run the country.
2. The New York Times is read by people who think they run the country.
3. The Washington Post is read by people who think they should run the country.
4. USA Today is read by people who think they ought to run the country but don't really understand the Washington Post. They do, however like the smog statistics shown in pie charts.
5. The Los Angeles Times is read by people who wouldn't mind running the country, if they could spare the time, and if they didn't have to leave L.A. to do it.
6. The Boston Globe is read by people whose parents used to run the country.
7. The New York Daily News is read by people who aren't too sure who's running the country, and don't really care as long as they can get a seat on the train.
8. The New York Post is read by people who don't care who's running the country either, as long as they do something really scandalous, preferably while intoxicated.
9. The San Francisco Chronicle is read by people who aren't sure there is a country, or that anyone is running it; but whoever it is, they oppose all that they stand for. There are occasional exceptions if the leaders are handicapped minority, feministic atheist dwarfs, who also happen to be illegal aliens from ANY country or galaxy as long as they are democrats.
10. The Miami Herald is read by people who are running another country, but need the baseball scores.