



Massachusetts Liberty

The Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts

October 2003

\$40 Million Tax Cut Heads for November 4th Ballot

Councilor at-Large candidate Rich Aucoin and his Waltham Citizens for Taxpayer Justice (WCTJ) have successfully moved their \$40 million property tax *override* initiative to the November 4th ballot. If passed, the measure will have the opposite effect of a tax override: it will *cut* the total tax levy that the town may raise through property taxes.

On September 3rd, Waltham City Clerk Russ Malone officially announced that 3,195 of the signatures submitted by WCTJ were certified. Signatures of 8% (2,592) of the city's registered voters were required to make the ballot.

From early May until mid-August, WCTJ petitioners canvassed every neighborhood in the city — some twice — to collect over 4,000 raw signatures.

If the measure passes, it will give back an average of \$1,000 to each of the city's single-family homeowners — every year — and will reduce the city budget by \$40 million. That's a 26% reduction — the boldest local tax cut initiative in recent American history.

Like Question 1 in 2002, the statewide ballot Initiative to end the state income tax, the WCTJ initiative provides huge, direct and immediate benefits to voters. WCTJ is also designated as "Question 1" on the ballot.

Large as this cut is, it's smaller than the spending increases of Waltham's Big Government politicians. The city's budget was only \$82 million in 1990. Today it's nearly \$156 million. Like many towns across Massachusetts, spending has nearly doubled in just over a decade.

"We must cut taxes now and reverse the city's spending spree," said Aucoin. "In addition to two new schools that opened this year, Waltham is building six more brand new schools - for a school population of only 4,750 students! We intend to cancel these pork-barrel building projects and force the council and the mayor to remove \$40 million in fat, waste, and sweetheart deals from the city budget."

City Solicitor Robert Pilicy affirmed the legality of WCTJ's tax cut initiative at a September 15th committee meeting with the city councilors, noting that WCTJ had followed the Charter to the letter.

Pilicy then informed the councilors that they had until September 23rd to pass the measure without alteration, and that unless they did so, the clerk would be required to place it on the November 4th ballot. Voting to enact the measure was the only action the councilors could have taken to prevent the question from reaching the voters.

Rather than taking the vote and letting voters know where they stood, Ward 4 Councilor Thomas Curtin swiftly moved to table the measure. His motion passed unanimously.

"These councilors have just shown the voters of Waltham how little courage they have," said Aucoin. "If they are so opposed to our tax relief for Waltham's struggling homeowners and renters, if they're so proud of virtually doubling their spending in little over a decade, then they should have proudly voted No, and they should have explained to the voters why they voted No. Evidently, they can't justify their increases," he said.

Aucoin says that Waltham's officials are clearly nervous about the support his tax cut has found with everyday voters. "After the councilors tabled the measure, I spoke with one of the friendlier councilors and asked him why he didn't vote on our tax relief," said Aucoin. "He told me the entire council is in a state of shock over the measure, and basically has no idea how to react to it."

"My hope is that Libertarians from overtaxed communities across America will hear about WCTJ, will read their own charters and see how they can help their families and neighbors," said Aucoin. "There's nothing so satisfying as hearing everyday voters discuss our bold Libertarian tax cut proposal over coffee at the local diner — as if it were the norm."

This Month in Libertarian History

Melanie Moore

On October 29th 1765, Sam Adams drafted the Massachusetts Resolves, a natural rights position for inalienable rights to property. Adams was a member of the Massachusetts Assembly at the time, and wrote the Massachusetts Resolves in defense of the American colonies, Adams wrote that the people of Massachusetts "are unalienably entitled to those essential rights in common with all men: and that no law of society can consistent with the law of God and Nature divest them of those rights." Crucial to these natural and inalienable rights was the right of property: "Resolved, that no man can justly take the property of another without his consent." After serving for the Massachusetts Assembly, Adams was appointed a representative of the Continental Congress. Adams retired from the Congress in 1781 and returned to Massachusetts to become a leading member of the states convention to form a constitution. He died in the morning of October 2, 1803, in his home town of Boston.



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Editor

Stephanie
Woiciechowski

Contributors

Rich Aucion
Celeste Jain
Melanie Moore
Kay Pirrello

Mailing Address

Mass. Liberty Editor
Libertarian Party of
Massachusetts
PMB 276
203 Washington St
Salem, MA 01970

E-Mail Address

ma-liberty@lpma.org

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letter from the chair

The Mystery of Faith

By the time you read this, Celeste and I will have gotten married in a religious ceremony. (Two, actually...ask us if you'd like to know more.) In preparing for the wedding and for married life, with intentions of starting a family, we've been spending lots of time discussing and doing things in and around religious settings.



Kamal Jain

What's all that got to do with Libertarianism? Faith. It's no secret that many people in the Libertarian movement are not religious or even of faith. It even would be fair to say that some Libertarians are devout atheists - there's a punch line in there somewhere, I'm sure.

So what about faith?

Faith is often defined as "blind belief". Some call it irrational, though technically it's non-rational. But I digress. Libertarians have quite a few beliefs about how things would or wouldn't be in a Libertarian world. And because we're such a clever bunch of people, we know that we can't just say things will be — no, no...we provide data and examples and theories.

Now don't get me wrong, I believe these things, too. In fact, I am probably among the more rabid Libertarians you're likely to meet. Yet I question some of our beliefs because often times, there is no tangible proof to support — or refute — the validity of them.

Non-Libertarians (shall we call them "non-Believers"?) are the ones we need to convert...umm...I mean "convince", and they often don't even get to the point of being willing to examine our beliefs and question them with respect to their own. It's at this point we often either beat them into submission with our superior intellect and data, or we write them off.

As Michael Cloud points out, political persuasion is an art that we can all practice and become great practitioners of — not a mechanical pursuit that can become more effective simply by turning up the level of energy put into it, or a technical problem that can be solved by

simply adding more people with advanced engineering degrees.

One must wonder, "How can we convince others of our beliefs if we are unsure of them ourselves?" Must we sit in solitude and read *Human Action*, *Healing Our World* and *God of the Machine* without food, water or sleep until we're sure...until we're fully convinced? Must we renounce all

that we preach until all doubt has been vanquished from our minds?

Probably not, but we do need to take the time to be introspective, ask difficult questions, and example the possibility that we could be wrong. And while there are those who risk questioning their faith only to lose it, there are also those — such as J. R. R. Tolkien, author of *Lord of the Rings* — who find that examining their faith causes them to rediscover it and become one of its most convincing advocates.

Libertarian philosophy covers nearly every area of human endeavor, so there is no limit to the areas you can examine and find certainty in — or at least get as close to certainty as anyone possibly may. Find those areas, read about them and speak about them. Learn the arguments for and against the Libertarian positions; by closely examining your own beliefs, as well as those contrary to yours, you will be able to divine the truth, clearly seeing the strengths of our beliefs over the failings of the alternatives (including the status quo).

When you're ready, you will be one our party's most convincing advocates. And by the way...when you're ready, be sure to let me know so that I may call you when I'm having doubts!

Libertarian Events

Pioneer Valley Libertarians Meeting

Wednesday, October 8, 7:00 P.M.

Pioneer Valley Libertarians meet the second Wednesday of each month at Bickford's on Boston Road in Springfield. This month, Amanda Phillips speaks on the Free State Project, an exciting new proposal to persuade 20,000 liberty-minded people to the same small state. Also: Campaigns for office. Petitioning. Magazine collation and mailing. For more information, contact Carol McMahon at **(413) 250-6608** or **kilshandra@mindspring.com**.

Marlborough Libertarian Association

Sunday, October 12, 7:00 P.M.

Marlborough-area Libertarians gather the second Sunday of each month at the Joy Asia buffet on Route 20 in Marlborough. For more information, contact Jess Bowen at **jbowen@lpma.org** or Stephanie Woiciechowski at **swoiciechowski@lpma.org** or **(508) 485-3341**.

LPMA Social

Saturday, October 18, 7:00 P.M.

Calling all sweet tooths! Bring your favorite dessert to the Bowen's house in Marlborough and come prepared to sample some of the best goodies around! As always, all are welcome including newcomers and old-timers. For more information, contact Jess Bowen at **jbowen@lpma.org**.

Volunteer Opportunities

City and town elections are happening now — are you running for local office?

Get on board with bold property tax cuts!

Volunteers are needed now until Election Day on November 4th. Rich Aucoin and his Waltham Citizens for Taxpayer Justice have initiated the boldest, most exciting tax cut initiative happening anywhere in America this year. We're giving voters a chance to cut property taxes by \$40 million — and giving taxpayers back \$1000 — every year! We're in the home stretch — and we need all hands on deck! Come and be part of the fun — and learn how to cut taxes in your town. There's all kinds of volunteer opportunities, including some you can do from your home: holding signs, leafletting, office work, and more.

Contact Rich Aucoin today and let him know how and when you can help: **Raucoin@lpma.org**.

Voter Registration Drive

The LPMA needs to register 25,000 new libertarians by the end of 2003 to maintain major party status in Massachusetts. There are a variety of jobs that need to be filled by volunteers — from fund raising to running OPH and voter registration booths. To help the LPMA maintain major party status, con-

October 2003

Worcester County Libertarians Speaker: Amanda Phillips

Sunday, October 19, 7:00 P.M.

The Worcester County Libertarian Association meets on the third Sunday of each month at Tweed's Pub Restaurant at 231 Grove Street in Worcester. Speaker: Amanda Phillips, Free State Project. Activities: Petitioning on State Ballot Initiatives. Worcester City Council Races. For more information, contact George Phillis at **(508) 754-1859** or **phillies@4liberty.net** or Dean Cook at **(508) 765-5011** or **dcook@lpma.org**, or visit **wcla.tripod.com**.

2003 Liberty Expo, NH State Convention

Saturday, November 1, 10:30 A.M.

Highlander Inn, Manchester NH (located near Manchester airport, Exit 2 of Route 101) Featured speakers include NH Governor Craig Benson, and longtime libertarian activist and candidate Richard Boddie of CA. Registration starts at 10:30am. Lunch starts at 11:30. Benson's speech is at Noon. Dinner served at 6pm. Boddie's speech is at 7pm. You can register online at **http://www.lpnh.org/convention-2003.htm**.

North Easton Libertarian Meeting

Tuesday, November 18, 7:00 P.M.

At George F. Schindler Post 2547, Allen Road and Rockland Street, North Easton. Pizza and soft drinks served. All Welcome. For more information call Gerry Cardillo at **(508) 238-6823**.

tact Kay Pirrello at **kpirrello@lpma.org** or Jess Bowen at **jbowen@lpma.org**.

Operation Politically Homeless

Operation Politically Homeless is a booth set up at events that draw crowds. Volunteers ask event attendees to take the World's Smallest Political Quiz, hand out Libertarian literature, answer questions, and encourage people to register to vote as Libertarians and join the party.

Many fairs and festivals are candidates for OPH booths. Find out if there's one in your area. Running an OPH booth is easy and fun. We can help you plan the event, recruit help, and supply you with an OPH kit. For more information about OPH booths, see **www.discoverliberty.org**.

Massachusetts Liberty Needs Reporters

Do you enjoy writing? Want to help make this newsletter even better? *Massachusetts Liberty* is looking for a few good people to cover Libertarian events around the state. Whether you're willing to travel across the state or prefer to stay near home, your help is needed. We will provide you with the when and where of the event and you provide us with an article and photo (digital if possible!) For more information, contact us at **ma-liberty@lpma.org**.

Massachusetts Liberty 3



Waltham Citizens for Taxpayer Justice

Rich Aucoin's Top 4 Reasons to Vote YES on 1

1. Get back \$1,000 from your property taxes - every year!

Voting YES on Question 1 this Nov 4th will give back an average of \$1,000 to each of our city's single-family, residential homeowners. Every year. \$1,000 more to make ends meet, or to save for a rainy day.

Renters will also see fewer rent hikes, once their landlords are no longer overcharged by the city.

If your family budget needs a boost, then vote YES on 1 this November 4th.

2. Stop City Government Waste and Overspending

City officials are spending nearly double what they spent in 1990. The city budget was just over \$82 million then. Now it's \$155 million! But has your family budget come close to doubling since 1990? Are city services that much better now than in 1990?

Voting YES on 1 will reduce city spending to 1990's level and will force officials to live within the same trimmed-down budgets that Waltham families are being forced to get by on.

3. Demand Quality, common-sense Education for our kids.

Waltham is now spending nearly \$12,000 per student per year. That's thousands of dollars higher than the state average!

Wayland's schools, by comparison, have such an excellent reputation that families move there just for the schools. Yet Wayland spends only about \$7,500 per student, per year. Many private schools charge even less than that. It's time we demanded a fair market price for education in Waltham.

4. Stop Needless Property Tax Increases - they're coming if we don't act now!

City officials are still pretending that 90% of the costs for their \$210 million eight-school reshuffling project will be paid by the state. But Beacon Hill has overspent itself into oblivion and can no longer keep its promises (see reverse side).

Rather than review the need of the projects, city officials would rather preserve their power to hand out construction contracts. Rather than face fiscal reality, they're planning to borrow hundreds of millions of dollars - that will lead to skyrocketing property taxes and rents in the coming years.

We must stop this waste now, before more pork-barrel construction projects send our taxes and rents through the roof!

Please Vote YES on 1 this November 4th!

Help WCTJ purchase yard signs and fliers. Write a check to **Waltham Citizens for Taxpayer Justice**. Mail to: **PO Box 541428, Waltham, MA 02454**.

Want a WCTJ yard sign? Want to help WCTJ provide relief for our city's struggling families?

Call (781) 899-1418 or send e-mail to Raucoin@lpma.org or visit www.RichAucoin.com.

2003 Freedom Rally: Over 57% Score Libertarian!

Kay Pirrello

What a great day we had! On Saturday, September 20th, we held an Operation Politically Homeless (OPH) table at the MassCann Freedom Rally. The rally drew over 30,000 people, all in support of legalizing marijuana.

Libertarian Presidential candidate Gary Nolan was a featured speaker. He told rally attendees that he would end the War on Drugs his first day in office. He earned great applause from the crowd.

Our OPH table was a huge success. 242 people took the World's Smallest Political Quiz, and over 57% of them (139 people) scored Libertarian. We collected the names of 44 people who want more information about the Libertarian Party, including 3 new volunteers. We also registered 20 people to vote, with 19 of them registering Libertarian!

This is more voter registrations than we have collected at previous rallies.

Our 5-Jar Technique, which asks, "Does the Government Do a Good Job?" was a big hit. Five jars are set up with the follow-

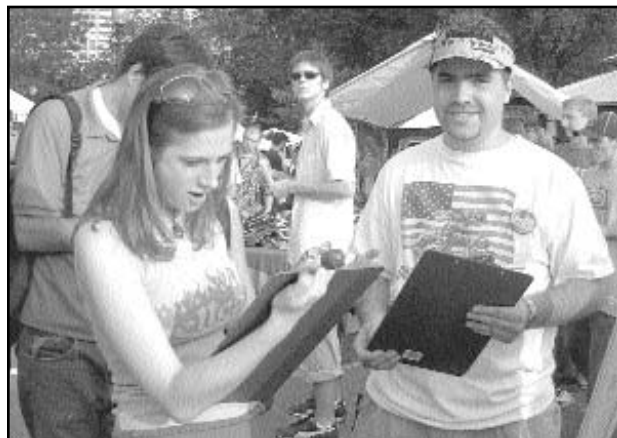
ing responses: Always, Mostly, Sometimes, Occasionally, and Never. Event attendees are encouraged to vote by dropping coins into the jar they agree with. Always and Mostly received no votes at all, Sometimes scored 10 cents, Occasionally scored \$2.48, and Never overwhelmingly won with \$8.46. Many people even voted with dollar bills instead of coins!

Our reception this year continued to get better! Most of the crowd felt they knew what Libertarians were, and a number of people told us they we already registered as Libertarian voters.

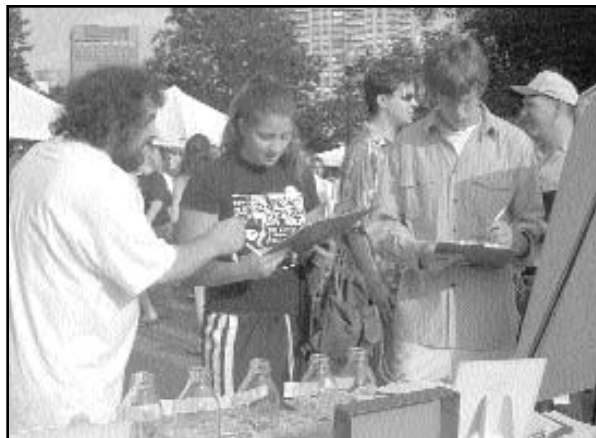
We couldn't have done so well without the incredible help of our dedicated Libertarian volunteers! Joining us to make this day a great success were Chris DeLeo, Kasia Sokalla, Celeste Parent, Rich Aucoin, Eryk Boston, Laura Hajj, Muni Savyon and Rich Aucoin.

Thank you to everyone who helped us pull off this event!

Our Libertarian activists are the backbone of our party — without you, no success is possible.



Volunteer Chris DeLeo gives the World's Smallest Political Quiz



Volunteers Rich Yampell (left) and Rich Aucoin (right) help event attendees take the World's Smallest Political Quiz



Libertarian Presidential candidate Gary Nolan addresses 30,000 at the MassCann Freedom Rally



Drug War Casualty?

Celeste Jain

In the middle of the hot, summer afternoon, a young man — I don't know who he was or even his name, let's call him "Joey" — hit the ground hard at the tent next to our Libertarian Party table at the Freedom Rally. Joey's eyes were wide open and rolled back in his head, which sent chills through those around. Not surprisingly, Kay Pirrello immediately took charge. She directed me to get help at the MassCann emergency tent as she cleared people who stood paralyzed. The tent was not nearby, but hundreds of yards away. On the way, I was hoping to find a cop who could walkie-talkie the incident to the paramedics in order to get help more quickly.

Each year, I'm more and more thankful that the people who are waging the War on Drugs are losing. Police officers have less and less of a presence at the rally; people are left peacefully to protest however they like. I found no cops on the way to the emergency tent.

Later in the day, Joe Brennan pointed out to me that there are still plenty of police officers at the rally, but that they are undercover. Undercover cops couldn't have helped me this day. And I know undercover cops aren't there to help, they are around to "nab", "sting", or "raid." Depending on my mood, more and more often I'm torn between three thoughts: "We're winning — people everywhere are becoming more aware", "We're just spinning our wheels" and "Things must get much worse before they get better."

Many uniformed officers were nearby the ambulances and I approached one to explain my story and inquire how best to proceed. He accompanied me to the EMTs who asked where the young man was located. "At the www.get-stoned.com table," I said. I could have named the Libertarian Party table instead, but this was no time to think about spin, no time for approximations...someone needed help. Their response? Laughter. They stood and laughed and then hopped on their

bikes in the direction I led them. I very soon was left behind by the rescuers, sickened to my stomach by their reaction and wondering what kind of medical attention Joey was about to receive.

Upon my return to the LPMA table, I was relieved to hear of a medical recovery being retold to one of the EMTs who had responded. After lying on the ground for a minute or two, with his head elevated by a bystander who offered him water, Joey's condition improved quickly. "Paramedics? Did you say paramedics? I don't need any paramedics!" he said and quickly got back on his feet and scurried off into the crowd before the EMTs arrived on the scene. Was Joey afflicted with an epileptic disorder or heat stroke, or was he someone who dared not get "help" from paramedics for fear he'd be eventually caught with contraband in his bloodstream?

And what could those EMTs be thinking? Libertarians preach personal responsibility and yet here are these stupid teens getting high whenever and wherever they can and then needing medical attention at taxpayers' expense. But, EMTs and police officers are paid in part through the fees paid by the organizers of the event, so regardless of their personal feelings about drug use or re-legalization, they have an obligation to perform the duties they are paid to do.

In a libertarian world?

Police officers would not be misdirected into being undercover agents.

Emergency medical personnel would treat each situation with equal seriousness, with no bias due to immoral laws or hysteria fueled by government propaganda.

And Joey would not be afraid to seek help for fear of becoming a Drug War casualty.

Get Involved!

Melanie Moore

The Advocates for Self Government's program, "Lights of Liberty" recognizes and rewards outstanding libertarian grassroots volunteer work and seeks to encourage more of this activism that makes libertarianism one of the fastest growing movements in the world today. To learn how to apply or get involved, visit www.self-gov.org.

Other events of Libertarian Interest

In July of 2003, one of the most important museums of our time opened: The National Constitution Center in Philadelphia. The museum and its website, www.constitutioncenter.org explores the issues and history related to freedom and liberty.

Libertarian Party of Massachusetts Contact List

web www.lpma.org

email info@lpma.org

phone 800-JOIN-LPM

LPMA State Committee and Staff

Chairman
Greater Lowell Regional Chair
Kamal Jain kjain@lpma.org
26 Cedar Road 978-502-0249
Littleton, MA 01460-1821 (fax) 978-952-6302

Vice Chairman
Region B Chair
Central Massachusetts
Thomas LaRoche tlarochel@lpma.org

Political Director
Dennis Corrigan dcorrigan@lpma.org
145 Lake Shore Road 978-352-4435
Boxford, MA 01921-1005 978-352-4415 (fax)

Membership & Corresponding Secretary
David W. Roscoe droscoe@lpma.org
30 Worthen St., Apt. A9 978-256-3159
Chelmsford, MA 01824

Executive Director
Region D Chair - North Shore
Social Coordinator
Kay Pirrello kpirrello@lpma.org
131 Bridge Street (978) 317-0355
Salem, MA 01970

Treasurer
Walter J. Ziobro, Jr. wziobro@lpma.org
32 Whitman Rd. Unit B1 617-451-1978(day)
Waltham, MA 02154 781-647-5743(eve)

Assistant Treasurer
Carolyn McMahon cmcmahon@lpma.org
221 Bumsted Road 413-267-9339
Monson, MA 02154

Secretary
Peter Kuntz pkuntz@lpma.org

Assistant Secretary
Region H Chair
Boston
Robert French rfrench@lpma.org

Region F Chair
Metro Boston North
Richard Aucoin raucoid@lpma.org

Associate Member
Celeste Jain cjain@lpma.org

Associate Member
Muni Savyon msavyon@lpma.org

Associate Member
Jessica Bowen jbowen@lpma.org

Associate Member
Jim Marshall jmarshall@lpma.org

Member
Sally Howes

GLBT Outreach Chairman
Doug Krick doug@krick.us.com
79 Chittick Road #2 617-678-LPMA
Hyde Park, MA 02136

Electronic Outreach
Muni Savyon muni@lpma.org

Student Groups
University of Massachusetts - Dartmouth
Katie Rosen krosen@lpma.org

University of Massachusetts - Lowell
Tristan Lewis Tristan_Lewis@yahoo.com

Clark University
Larissa Price LPrice@Clarku.edu

Boston University
Mark Dranias m dranias@bu.edu

Harvard University
Julio Machado jmachad@fas.harvard.edu
www.harvardlibertarians.org

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Laura Hajj laura_hajj@hotmail.com

Regis College
Sarah Duevel duevey@hotmail.com

Worcester Polytech Institute
Prof. George Phillies phillies@wpi.edu

Worcester State College
Jess Peysech Jess46224@aol.com

Town and Regional Committees
Billerica Libertarian Town Committee
Arthur Torrey atorrey@lpma.org
10 Kohlrausch Ave 978-663-0241
North Billerica, MA 01862

Boston Libertarian City Committee
Bob French rfrench@lpma.org
617-948-1609

Cambridge Libertarian City Committee
Jeff Chase jchase@lpma.org
617-441-0909 x206

Chelmsford Libertarian Town Committee
Edward Hayes ehayes@lpma.org
chelmsford-committee@lpma.org 978-250-8947

Dartmouth Libertarian Town Committee
Laura Hirschmann lhirschmann@lpma.org
508-996-VOTE

Franklin County Libertarian Association
Richard Herchenreder rherchenreder@lpma.org
9 Sherman Drive 413-665-9979
South Deerfield, MA 01373-9732

New Bedford Town Committee
Lee Nason lnason@lpma.org

Provincetown Libertarian Town Committee
David Atkinson datkinson@lpma.org
4 Priscilla Alden Road 508-487-0759
Provincetown, MA 02657

Southeastern Massachusetts Libertarian Association
Laura Hirschmann lhirschmann@lpma.org
508-996-VOTE

Marlborough Libertarian City Committee
Stephanie Woiciechowski sfarrell@lpma.org
143 Lincoln Street #2 508-485-3341
Marlborough, MA 01752

Waltham Libertarian City Committee
Dan MacKenzie dmackenzie@lpma.org
215 Hardy Pond Rd. 781-891-1104
Waltham, MA 02451

Watertown Libertarian City Committee
Edward McCormick emccormick@lpma.org
60 Salisbury Road 617-926-2214
Watertown, MA 02472

Westford Libertarian Town Committee
Cliff Ryding westford-committee@lpma.org

Whitman Libertarian Town Committee
George Coffey gcoffey@lpma.org

Woburn City Committee
Jim and Sue Poulin jpoulin@lpma.org
781-935-1509

Worcester County Libertarian Association
George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net
(508) 754-1859

Dean Cook dcook@lpma.org
508-765-5011

LPMA Email Groups

List Name *Subscribe/Unsubscribe Address*
Announce **announce-request@lpma.org**
Very low volume of messages, perhaps one or two per month. Intended to convey important information and good news.

Activists **activists-request@lpma.org**
Low volume of messages, perhaps one or two per day. Intended to make people aware of the latest activism opportunities.

To subscribe to any of these groups, send email to the address shown, with the word "subscribe" in the body of the message. To unsubscribe, send email to the address shown, with the word "unsubscribe" in the body of the message.

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Sign me up for the national Libertarian Party and the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts! Send me *LP News* and *Massachusetts Liberty* every month.

No person, or group of people, or government has the right to initiate force against any other person, group of people or government. The word force is interpreted broadly to cover such acts as fraud, stealing, and threats against life and property, as well as physical aggression.

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: (day) _____ (evening) _____

E-Mail: _____

Occupation _____

Employer _____
(Federal Election Commission requires us to ask)

Annual Membership, including both newsletters:

- \$1,000 Benefactor
- \$500 Patron
- \$250 Sponsor
- \$100 Sustaining
- \$25 Subscribing

Additional contribution to LPMA for state activities:

- \$_____ each month (billed to credit card)
- \$_____ one-time contribution

Payment (make checks payable to LPMA)

- Check Visa MasterCard Amex Discover

Credit Card #: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Name on Card: _____

Cardholder's Signature: _____

Credit card donations will be deposited in the LPMA federal account. Donations by check will be deposited into the LPMA state account unless the check memo field directs otherwise. Both accounts support party-building activities, but federal and state candidate support is restricted to the respective account.