



Massachusetts Liberty

The Newsletter of the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts

October 1998

The Dirty Little Secret about the Clean Elections Act

by *Carla Howell*

with contributions from *Mark Cenci, Michael Cloud, and Walter Ziobro*

The "Clean" Elections Act is anything but clean. There is a dirty little secret: it forces you to subsidize the speech of viewpoints you oppose. It is welfare for politicians. And it is a blatant violation of the First Amendment right to free speech.

An overwhelming majority of voters have already said they don't want to use public money on campaigns. Only 13% of taxpayers chose to check off the box on federal tax returns which directs funds to campaigns at "no additional cost" to the taxpayer. Yet instead of honoring the will of the people, the conniving authors of this initiative gave the name "clean" to those politicians willing to coerce the taxpayer and accept welfare. This choice of terminology infers that candidates who ask people to voluntarily donate to their campaign are "dirty". I always thought it was a lot more polite—and a lot cleaner—to ask rather than to force people to give money. Unfortunately, unwitting voters will buy into this "clean"

rhetoric and never learn the dirty little secret behind this law.

Attempts over the years to control campaign financing have led to lower voter turnouts, more apathy, and less meaningful debates. Yet the backers of this law hang on to the belief that more government will solve the problem. They don't see that government created the problem in the first place.

To raise money for a Massachusetts campaign or to attempt to comply with existing Byzantine campaign laws is to know that the "Clean" Elections Act is outright dangerous. It attempts to socialize the practice of campaigning by paralyzing attempts to raise private funds while providing huge incentives to vie for public funds.

Here are some of the effects of the "Clean" Elections Act:

1. Candidates get classified as "Clean" or "Non-participating". "Clean" candidates are defined as ones who:

Limit individual contributions to \$100. This would wipe out a large portion of private donations (over half of the total funds raised for Libertarian candidates in Massachusetts would not qualify).

Limit overall spending for primary and general elections

Collect a set number of \$5-100 donations within a short time period. The number varies

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Libertarian Candidates Obliterate Spending Limits

In a story reported in the Boston Globe, the Libertarian Party's statewide candidates have effectively eliminated the spending limits in the races for Governor, Lt. Governor, Auditor, and Secretary, using Massachusetts' restrictive and Byzantine campaign finance laws to strike a blow for free speech in the Commonwealth.

\$19,514,800,000.00, the limit submitted by the Libertarian candidates, is approximately the amount that the Legislature has voted to spend in its 1998 state budget. This amount is greater than the entire gross domestic product of Bolivia, is twice the economic output of Luxembourg, and is four times that of Iceland.

"We don't believe in campaign limits," says Elias Israel, candidate for Lt. Governor. "They're an unconstitutional restriction on free speech." ■

Libertarian Candidates Take to the Airwaves!

Whether on radio, television, or just recording political ads to be heard on the David Brudnoy show on WBZ-1030AM, libertarian candidates in Massachusetts are being heard and seen more and more on the media.





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Editors

Brian Holt Hawthorne
Dan Belforti

Contributors

Carla Howell

Mailing Address

Mass. Liberty Editor
Post Office Box 2610,
Boston, MA 02208

E-Mail Address

ma-liberty@la-ma.org

Next Deadline

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For previous
issues, see:

www.la-ma.org

Letter from the Chair

Dear fellow Libertarians,

Did it make any difference who won the Republican Primary for Governor in Massachusetts? Some conservative Republicans who believe the "my vote won't count if I don't vote for someone who can win" fallacy saw Joe Malone as their best bet. His aim is perceived as more limited government, more "libertarian", than centrist Paul Celucci.

But what is Joe's big promise? What is Joe's idea of smaller government? He promises not to grow government any faster than the rate of inflation. Wow! What bravery! What transformation! What a way to slash government spending! What a turnaround in the economy that would signal! Imagine the investment dollars that would have POURED into Massachusetts with a Malone victory!

OK, enough sarcasm. The point is: not one Democrat or Republican candidate offered to cut government or even keep it at its current bloated size.

In contrast, Libertarian gubernatorial candidate Dean Cook promises brave, fast, and dramatic reductions in state government. His promise is simple: END the state income tax by the year 2000! Result: a family with an income of \$50,000 gets to keep \$3,000 of their hard-earned money every year that would otherwise be taxed. And hundreds of thousands of jobs get created in Massachusetts. Now that's how to invite businesses to pour money into Massachusetts!

Trimming the weeds allows them to keep growing. Pulling them out by their roots brings about real change. Libertarians are here to design a new landscape.

Is there a Republican you know who sees government getting bigger and bigger and is wondering what good it has done to support his party?

Is there a Democrat you know who would like to see medical marijuana legalized (which Dean Cook supports)? Or who is outraged by Scott Harshbarger's mistreatment of the Amirault family and can not stomach voting for him?

Ask them to consider voting Libertarian this time. You never know—they may be ready for a switch. Even if Libertarians are not everything that they want, they already know that the Democrats and Republicans aren't what they want either. Their vote can send a real message rather than be lost in the weed-trimming contest.

And please don't forget to vote yourself on November 3rd. See the list of Libertarian candidates you can vote for on pages 5-7. Now is your chance to stand up and be counted!

Yours in peace and liberty,

Carla Howell

Chair, Libertarian Association of Massachusetts
and Candidate for State Auditor

Libertarian Events

Every Thursday at 7pm until election day! Dean Cook for Governor: Campaign Committee Meetings

Campaign meetings are held at Bickford's Restaurant in Waltham at 1006 Main Street. Come and join the fun—help plan, scheme, give status updates, and get into action to make our statewide campaigns successful! Directions from Route 128: Take Route 20 East. At your second traffic light, go left on Eddy Street. Take it to the end (one block). Turn right onto Main Street. Bickford's is one block on your right. Directions from downtown Waltham: take Route 20/Main Street west to Route 117. Bear right onto 117. Bickford's is one block down on your left. Once at

Bickford's: Enter the door to the left of the main entrance and go upstairs to the function room.

Saturday, October 24 , 7pm, Liberty Social Night

At the home of Lance Vaughan, 69 Margaret Rd., Newton Highlands, MA. RSVP to 617-244-4811

Thursday, Thursday, November 12, 7pm, Meeting of the Executive Board

All are welcome. The meeting will be held at Bickford's in Waltham (see directions above).

Saturday, November 21 , 7pm, Liberty Social Night

At the home of Bill & Sandra Cohen, 32 Maplecrest Dr., Southborough, MA. RSVP to 508-485-4458.

Some Libertarian Positions on November 1998 Ballot Questions

Vote NO on #1

Constitutional amendment to automatically raise legislative pay at the rate of the consumer price index.

Besides relieving legislators from having to prove they are worthy of any pay raise, this law makes it impossible to ever cut their pay since a constitutional amendment cannot be overturned by petition initiative.

Vote NO on # 2

The dirty little secret about the "Clean Elections Act" is that violates free speech while handing out welfare to politicians (see article on front page).

Vote YES on #3

Cuts the current 12% passive income tax (income on interest and dividends) to the income tax rate on wage-earned income tax (which is currently 5.95%).

This extravagant tax is one of several in Massachusetts that drives our parents and grandparents, who rely on passive income, out of the state. It needs to come down!

Vote ??? on # 4

This one is a mixed bag and Libertarians may disagree on which way to go. On the up side, it privatizes electric utilities which reduces government control. On the down side, it forces utility customers to pay for bad investments made by state-run utilities. Libertarian Association of Massachusetts Treasurer Walter Ziobro votes "no" for this reason. Libertarian Jason Solinsky votes "yes" claiming that utilities will win law suits to force utility customers to pay past costs anyway. Barbara Anderson, Co-Director of Citizens for Limited Taxation and Government, supports "real deregulation which means the government gets out of it all together." See article on this page. ■



Libertarian Candidate for Lt. Governor, Eli Israel

Libertarian Cha-cha-cha, 1998

by Walter Ziobro, Jr .

Those of you who remember the election of 1994, should recall the referendum cha-cha-cha, the no-no-yes-no-yes (or whatever it was) shuffle to help the hapless voter remember how to vote on the referenda. Well, it's time for this year's variant. The dance would be a simple four-step, but for the fact that some Libertarians might choose to finish on a different foot.

Anyway, Question One is a proposed Constitutional Amendment, crafted by the legislature itself to have its own pay increased (or decreased) every second year after 2001 by the rate of increase or decrease in the median household income for the Commonwealth for the preceding two-year period. This is supposed to remove the legislature from setting its own pay. Unfortunately, it also removes forever the opportunity of the people from overruling their pay raise through a referendum. I say vote NO; if I wrote the Constitution, *all* pay raises of *all* elected officials would be submitted *automatically* to the people, their BOSSES!

Question Two is supposed to make elections "fairer" by allowing candidates who agree to certain campaign expenditure and contribution limits and additional reporting requirements to receive public money for their campaigns. The proposal also allows the legislature, who would be eligible for public campaign money for the first time, to appropriate money for this purpose over and above the money that is now available under the voluntary check-off. Whether or not you use the check-off, they will spend your tax money on their own campaigns, anyway! Vote NO!

CLT&G's tax cut didn't make the ballot, but Question Three is a tax cut that did! It cuts the tax rate on interest and dividend income from 12% to the same rate as earned income (now 5.95%), as of 2000. Vote YES!

The tough call is Question Four. It attempts to create a competitive market for electricity by allowing the consumer to choose to buy electricity from whichever generating company that he or she might prefer, regardless of whoever the local utility is. Sounds great! But there's a fly in the ointment. There's a provision in the law that lets a utility "recover, from consumers, previously incurred costs related to generating plants and contracts that have become uneconomical under competition." In other words, if we want competition, we have to agree to pay for all the mistakes that they made before there was competition. The purist in me says vote NO; but I can appreciate a Libertarian gradualist who would say: "take the offer and vote yes; we won't get a better deal any time soon if we vote no." Still, principle will probably stir me to vote no. It's your call.

So, what does this year's dance step sound like? For the purist, it's "No-no-yes-no." For the gradualist it's "No-no-yes-yes." ■

1998 Libertarian Party Candidates in Massachusetts

Statewide Candidates Governor

Dean Cook 978-921-7939
14 Summit Avenue 978-461-0660
Beverly MA 01915-4855 dcook@shore.net

Lieutenant Governor

Eli Israel 781-273-3760
105 Lexington Street
Burlington, MA 01803 eisrael@la-ma.org

Secretary of State

David Atkinson 508-487-0759
4 Priscilla Alden Road
Provincetown, MA 02657 atkinson@capecod.net

State Treasurer

Merton B. Baker 413-477-6359
1167 Lower Road
Hardwick, MA 01031 VSNT14A@prodigy.com

State Auditor

Carla Howell 508-358-4247
6 Goodman Lane
Wayland, MA 01778 chowell@la-ma.org

Contributions to candidates should be by check made payable and mailed to the candidate's election committee. For example, "*Committee to Elect Dean Cook*", 14 Summit Avenue, Beverly, MA 01915-4855.

Media Coordinator for Statewide Candidates: Elaine Berchin
508-634-9684, eberchin@aol.com

Representative, 3rd Congressional District

George Phillies 508-754-1859
87-6 Park Avenue. Press Inquiries Only: 508-831-5334
Worcester, MA 01605 phillies@wpi.edu
http://www.excell.net/phillies

State Senator

Alfred "Pit" Warren 413-594-2348
P.O. Box 494
Chicopee, MA 01021-0494 pit.warren@excell.net
http://www.wmlp.org/warren

State Representative

Ron Bargoot 617-666-5535
16 Wallace St.
Somerville, MA 02144 RBargoot@la-ma.org
http://www.tufts.edu/~rbargoot

Planning Board, Holbrook

Jerome Erickson 617-767-2616
3 Revere St.
Holbrook, MA 02343 jerick7602@aol.com

Selectman

Craig J. Mathias 508-881-6467
Farpoint Group 508-881-8058 (fax)
7 Whippoorwill Lane
Ashland MA 01721 USA farpoint@ultranet.com

Welcome Our New Editor

With this issue, we begin the process of transferring the editorial reins to our new Editor, Dan Belforti. All of us here on the Massachusetts Liberty staff are looking forward to work-

ing closely with him to ensure a smooth transition. Please take a moment and drop him a note of thanks or an unsolicited article submission by sending e-mail to ma-liberty@la-ma.org, or by USPS to Mass. Liberty Editor, Post Office Box 2610, Boston, MA 02208.

Libertarian Association of Massachusetts Contact List

For more information, contact one of the individuals below, <http://www.la-ma.org>, e-mail info@la-ma.org or call 800-JOIN-LPM.

<p>Chair Carla Howell 6 Goodman Ln. Wayland, MA 01778 chowell@la-ma.org 508-358-4247</p> <p>Executive Director Eli Israel 105 Lexington St. Burlington, MA 01803 eisrael@la-ma.org 781-273-3760</p> <p>Board Member Dave Rizzo 145 Tahattawan Road Littleton, MA 01460 Dave_Rizzo@bigfoot.com 978-952-6773</p> <p>Massachusetts Liberty Editor, Recording Secretary Brian Holt Hawthorne 25 Myrtle Street Watertown, MA 02472 bhawthorne@la-ma.org 617-926-6361</p> <p>Volunteer Coordinator Laura El-Azem Winchester, MA lelazem@la-ma.org 781-721-2709</p> <p>Board Member Mark Tuniewicz 652 S. Main St. Sharon, MA 02067 nhliberty@aol.com 781-784-6001 eve 781-784-6005 fax 508-222-3400 x247 day</p>	<p>Board Member Rebecca Stewart Walter J. Ziobro, Jr. 32Whitman Rd. Unit B1 Waltham MA 02154 wziobro@la-ma.org 617-451-1978(day) 781-647-5743(eve)</p> <p>Accountant Sam Robbins 126 County St. Attleboro MA 02703 LVEW40A@prodigy.com 508-222-0842(day) 508-222-0842(eve)</p> <p>Membership/Corresponding Secretary David W. Roscoe 30 Worthen St., Apt. A9 Chelmsford MA 01824 droscoe@la-ma.org 508-256-3159(day) 508-256-3159(eve)</p> <p>Electronic Outreach & LNCRegion 6 Representative Muni Savyon 31 Crafts St. Waltham, MA 02154 muni@la-ma.org 781-642-6864</p> <p>Communications Coordinator Ronald Bargoot 16 Wallace St. Somerville MA 02144 RBargoot@infonet.tufts.edu 617-666-5535</p>	<p>Social Night Coordinator Bill Hurst 651 State St. Hanson MA 02341 617-826-1538(eve)</p> <p>Candidate Media Coordinator Elaine Berchin P.O. Box 439 Mendon, MA 01756 eberchin@aol.com 508-634-9684 (media) 508-634-0654 (fax)</p> <p>Regional Contacts The Cape Cod Liberty Supper Club (LSC) Mark Moniz capescapec@capecod.net 508-375-9946</p> <p>Pioneer Valley Libertarian Association Pit Warren P.O. Box 494 Chicopee, MA 01021-0494 413)594-9391 pit.warren@excell.net</p> <p>Central Massachusetts Liberty Coalition George Phillies phillies@wpi.edu 508-831-5334</p>
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Dean Cook: Candidate for Governor

Dean Cook, a Beverly resident, is running for governor as the candidate of The Libertarian Party. He received the party's nomination at convention in February of this year. Dean was born on August 1st, 1960, in Cambridge. He grew up in Saugus, where his parents still reside. He has two older sisters, and one younger brother. Dean is married to Michelle Cook (nee Piva).

Mr. Cook attended Saugus High School, Sylvania Technical School (certificate in computer electronics), and Salem State College (BS in chemistry)

Dean served in the United States Marine Corps from 1979 until 1983. Following his honorable discharge, he served 4 years in the National Guard, 1984-1987.

He has been a member of The Libertarian Party since 1990, serving during that time as State Chair for two years. He previously was on the ballot as a candidate for governor in 1994. Dean ran for state representative, in Beverly, in 1996.

"As governor, I plan to cut the size of the state government, and return more control to local town and city governments. The way to return control to local government (and individuals) is to return control of the money that presently flows out of the towns and cities to the state. The best way to return the money to the towns is to not take it from them in the first place. To accomplish this, I am proposing the elimination of the state personal income tax."

Mr. Cook points out that eliminating the income tax would still leave the state with a working budget comparable in size to the 1990 state budget, even allowing for inflation.



Elias Israel: Candidate for Lieutenant Governor

Elias Israel is a 35-year-old resident of Burlington, Massachusetts. Born in New York and raised in Miami, Florida, he first came to live in Massachusetts in 1981 to attend Brandeis University, where he graduated with honors in 1985. He is President and Founder of ProManage, Incorporated, a management consulting firm specializing in project management solutions for the software industry. Prior to founding ProManage, Mr. Israel served as Director of Engineering for a Boston-area startup, and he has also served in management and technical positions with some of Massachusetts' top employers including Sun Microsystems and Eastman Kodak.

Mr. Israel is now in his second term on the Executive Board of the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts, where he serves as Executive Director.

He has also worked on fundraising, membership growth, candidate recruitment, coalition building, and petitioning for the Libertarian Party in Massachusetts.

Mr. Israel is a member of the NRA and of the Gun Owner's Action League, which gave him a "good rating" (their best rating for non-incumbents) in their 1998 candidate ratings.

Mr. Israel is a published author, a public speaker, and fundraiser. His wife of eight years, Eve Maler, is also active in Massachusetts Libertarian politics. She works in high technology document processing, and participates in the World Wide Web Consortium where she helps to design the future of the Internet.



David Atkinson: Candidate for Secretary

David Atkinson is a 56-year-old tree surgeon and photographer living in Provincetown on Cape Cod, where he serves as Selectman. David has been a libertarian activist since discovering the party in 1979.

While living in Vermont he organized many events to point out libertarian alternatives to government-as-usual. In 1990, just before leaving Vermont to live at the ocean he ran for Governor of Vermont and came in third in a four-person race.

David hosts a radio talk program, entitled "The Other Side" (a libertarian approach to current events) twice a month (second and fourth Tuesdays at 8 PM) on WOMR which covers all of Cape Cod.



Carla Howell: Candidate for Auditor

Carla Howell, a Wayland resident, is a high-tech management and marketing professional of twenty years. She received her MBA from Babson College in 1986 where she studied managerial accounting, financial accounting, and business management. She holds a B.S. in Math/Computer Science with a minor in Economics.

Ms. Howell has developed and managed bookkeeping systems for small business and corporate business units. Her responsibilities have required extensive budget analysis and oversight, project quoting, and project tracking. She has created and implemented large-scale tracking systems designed to ensure accountability.

Within The Libertarian Party, Ms. Howell is serving her second term as State Chair. She has served as Press Secretary and frequently writes and speaks publicly on libertarian topics. Her other party activities have included campaign management, petitioning, budgeting, advertising, training, and event organizing.

As a dedicated Libertarian, she regards government as a service to the people which must meet the highest standards of responsibility and accountability. As such, she advocates publicizing how tax money is spent in accurate yet simple terms so busy taxpayers can easily assess whether elected officials are keeping their promises and using tax dollars to the liking of the taxpayer.



Merton Baker: Candidate for Treasurer

Mert Baker was born in 1928. His family moved to Barre, MA, in 1931, where Mert was locally schooled, graduating from Barre High with the Class of '46. Mr. Baker then attended Worcester Academy, and Tufts University (Class of 1954). He did graduate work at U. Conn., M.S.U., Redlands (CA), and U. Mass.

Mr. Baker is a retired teacher, having taught Science & Math at Sandwich High School from 1954-57; his alma mater, Barre High, 1957-67 (Principal from 1966-67); then Science at Quabbin Regional from 1967 to 1982. Mert also taught Physics, Chemistry, Algebra, Wood Shop, Metal Shop, and Driver's Education, as needed. He has been a professional gunsmith since 1967 (although he says that he has been an amateur gunsmith from age 11.) Discussing his hobbies, and other activities outside of the classroom, Mert says, "I do people's income taxes on the side; build & fly autogyros; and water ski. I ski on snow from time to time as well." Mr. Baker is a member of the Mt. Zion Lodge of Masons, the National Rifle Association, the DAV, The American Legion,

and The Popular Rotorcraft Association. Mert also volunteers time to the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program.

Mert was drafted in December of 1950, and served two years in the armed forces. He has been married to his wife, Ruth, for 20 years. He has two children; a daughter and a stepson.

Continued from p. 1

- depending on the race, e.g. 200 for State reps, 6,000 for Governor. This adds yet another bureaucratic process for candidates to follow. Existing petitioning and filing requirements already go beyond dampening frivolous races to discouraging honest and diligent candidates from running at all. This law creates yet another hurdle.
2. "Clean" candidates get matching funds, and then more matching funds if a "Non-participating" opponent exceeds limits.
 3. "Non-participating" candidates get penalized. Every dollar they raise above specified limits causes a similar amount to go to the coffers of their "Clean" candidate opponents. In other words, there's not much point to raising money beyond prescribed limits.

4. The law severely restricts the ability of state and national parties to donate to Massachusetts campaigns.
5. The law adds filing restrictions and penalties that will further discourage candidates and their Treasurers.
6. And last but not least, \$56 million of your taxes would be needed to subsidize campaigns just at the 1998 level. It does not matter whether you check off the "no" box on your tax form saying you do not want money allocated to campaigns—the money will get spent from the general fund anyway!

Beware the press!

This could significantly dampen overall spending on campaigns—leaving much more control in the hands of the press to opine about candidacies. So particularly democratic-leaning press may have an interest in expanding their influence and endorsing it.

The press believes in completely unrestricted speech—for the press. But if abuses such as Communist Chinese financing of the Clinton campaign justifies the "Clean" Elections Act, should abuses such as dishonest columnists justify censorship of the press? By the Boston Globe's own admission, their former columnist Patricia Smith lied repeatedly.

Neither should be censored. If the Globe is unwilling to be censored itself, it should oppose the "Clean" Elections Act. Don't hold your breath!

Please vote to REJECT the "Clean" Elections (Welfare for Politicians) Act! Vote NO on #2 and spread the word! ■

Want a Libertarian campaign sign on your lawn or at the polls?

Here's where you can get them:

Dean Cook: "Libertarian Dean Cook" signs and "Enough is Enough; Vote Libertarian" signs (as well as bumper stickers) will be available at the Thursday statewide campaign meetings at Bickford's Restaurant in Waltham on October 22nd and October 29th. A \$10 donation is requested for signs and \$2 for bumper stickers to defray costs. Or, contact Elaine Berchin at 508-634-9684 or eberchin@aol.com.

The Phillies campaign has ordered bumper stickers that say: "Phillies-Congress VOTE LIBERTARIAN". Donations are always welcome.

For Ron Bargoot, just call 617-666-5535. ■

Board Meeting Minutes September 3, 1998

Present: Carla Howell, presiding; Elias Israel; Brian Hawthorne

Absent: Mark Tuniewicz, Laura El-Azem, Rebecca Stewart

The meeting began at 8:45 pm at Bickford's in Waltham with a brief review of the agenda. The chair noted that due to the resignation of Jim Sullivan, the three members present represented 50% of the serving members of the board, and ruled this a quorum under the by-laws.

0. The minutes of the June meeting were approved unanimously.

1. Dave Rizzo was elected unanimously to fill the vacancy on the Executive Board as of the close of this meeting.

2. The board approved the expenditure of up to \$2500 for reprints of a Worcester Magazine article.

3. The board approved the expenditure of up to \$200 per month to outsource the layout and production of the newsletter.

4. The Executive Director reported that the association is currently below budget on expenses. The Membership Secretary reported that we currently have over 684 members and UMP payments have been steadily increasing with the last month being \$999. Dave Roscoe will draft new membership response letters. Eli will edit them.

5. Dan Belforti will book our tables at MassCann on 10/3. Eve Maler will manage supplying materials for both tables and manage a table.

6. The board assigned Dave Rizzo and Elaine Berchin to coordinate the 1999 State Caucus and Annual Convention with the assistance of Eli and Carla.

7. Reporting Requirements

Eli will coordinate creating a networked database for contributions and member data, to allow more organized collection of contribution names and addresses, cumulative amounts given, occupation and employer as required by law.

8. The board scheduled the next meeting for Thursday, November 12 at 7pm at Bickford's in Waltham.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15pm. ■

Massachusetts Liberty

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The Dirty Little Secret
about Question #2



Libertarian Party

Libertarian Association of Massachusetts

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Become a member!

Sign me up for the national Libertarian Party and the Libertarian Association 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 and 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 LAMA for state activities:

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

Payment (make checks payable to LAMA)

- Check Visa MasterCard

Credit Card #: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Name on Card: _____

Cardholder's Signature: _____

Contact us for additional membership, subscription and contribution options.