



Massachusetts

Liberty

The Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts
www.lpma.org

January 2007

Re-Legalization Questions Pass Overwhelmingly

In 2006 Massachusetts activists put four marijuana-related Public Policy Questions on the ballots of four Districts. The Districts, questions, and votes:

3rd Middlesex : Shall the state senator from this district be instructed to vote in favor of legislation that would allow seriously ill patients, with their doctor's written recommendation, to possess and grow small amounts of marijuana for their personal medical use? Vote: 35,851-17,535 Yes-67%

7th Norfolk: Shall the state representative from this district be instructed to vote in favor of legislation that would allow seriously ill patients, with their doctor's written recommendation, to possess and grow small amounts of marijuana for their personal medical use? Vote: 8,386-4,820 Yes-64%

1st Plymouth: Shall the state representative from this district be instructed to vote in favor of legislation that would make possession of less than one ounce of marijuana a civil violation, subject to a maximum fine of \$100 and not subject to any criminal penalties? Vote: 9,307-5,862 Yes-66%

12th Plymouth: Shall the state representative from this district be instructed to vote in favor of legislation that would make possession of less than one ounce of marijuana a civil violation, subject to a maximum fine of \$100 and not subject to any criminal penalties? Vote: 8,862-5,919 Yes-60%

For more information Massachusetts marijuana policy contact <http://masscann.org> . MassCann sponsors the Boston Freedom Rally, on Boston Common. The next Freedom Rally is on September 15, 2007.

The LPMA will have a booth at the rally. To volunteer for the PVLA/LPMA booth at the Freedom Rally: phillies@4liberty.net 508 754 1859. Our friends at the PVLA have a tent, so rain or shine you will neither soak nor fry..

We Need You To Become Politically Active

...from the Recording Secretary

As the few of you who attended the State Convention may remember, I ran for State Committee in part on the platform that our problem was less that members of our party were not doing anything, and more that we were not hearing about it. I also wanted to be on the State Committee so that I could vote to share our mailing list more often with other legitimate libertarian groups.

I volunteered to be Recording Secretary and to be a primary news reporter for Mass Liberty to change what you heard. By publishing the minutes, I show what the State Committee is doing. I think the majority of party members who do not attend State Committee meetings feel better about the committee if they know how much effort is being made, and committee members do a better job and feel more appreciated if they know that party members are watching them.

I also write stories about what other members of our party are doing. I generally give the people I cover the opportunity to fact check my stories before I show them to the newsletter committee. My goal is to present people as they would like to be presented, and to make sure everything I say is true as much as I can check. I do not write attack stories.

I hope that one effect of my actions will be that activists feel less isolated, and that more people will want visibility and become active. Help does not always mean money, although money is appreciated. Help often means time, ideas, or just encouragement. My actions haven't worked yet.

A handful of active members cannot be a political party by ourselves. While voting a committee in and paying your dues are appreciated, if most of you just sit there, we're not going to accomplish much.

We need to get many local organizations in place and get many local candidates running. To get the word "Libertarian" on

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voter's minds helps us, even if our candidates do not win. We will need to gather signatures to get our 2008 presidential candidate onto the ballot. Unless we have local activity and local and regional organization in 2007, unless we overcome the perception of some people that our party has faded away, campaigning will be a lot harder for 2008.

Getting our presidential candidate onto the Massachusetts ballot will help us even if our presidential candidate does not win, because eventually our party will get enough support to get our candidate into the presidential debates. The more ballots we are on, the easier debate access is to justify, especially in court. It might happen in 2008, or it might be later, but I have faith that it will happen.

Because we are the party of principle, not lies, hot air and impossible promises, it is through the debates that the Libertarian Party can change what gets discussed in elections, possibly even before we can win them. We might then win elections, or we might just influence the issues, as some Socialists did, but either still changes government. That is my personal belief about what we are trying to do, both at a local and national level. We can influence the discussion even when we do not win the election.

I cannot tell you what to do or how to do it, but I can see that a whole lot of us need to do a lot of things. I'm not good at selling myself. Writing about other people is something I do well, which is why I volunteer the way I do. You know what you are good at, and what your life has room for. You also know that our party is all about personal choice and responsibility.

If you are waiting for someone to ask you to act, I am asking. I think I can speak for the State Committee and say that your State Committee is asking. In 2007, there are no state-wide elections, so the other parties may be sleeping in many places. That leaves openings for us. Please do something in the way of state or local level Libertarian political activity. Pick your favorite libertarian-compatible issue if you prefer that. If you tell anyone on the newsletter committee what kind of activity, and what kind of help you want, we will do our best to let the rest of the state party know, and hope they choose to help you. If you need training or advice, we have people with various kinds of expertise, who will mentor you.

If you wait for us to drop a solution into your lap with no work from you, that will not happen. If you act, more becomes possible. The initiative is yours.

The 2007 election cycle is fast approaching.

Why People Should Run for Office

I was a Democrat for years. It used to be very difficult to get another party going. I was not a happy Democrat. Most of the candidates I supported never made it through the nomination process. What reforms we now have are largely the result of rioting at the 1968 Democ-

atic Convention where anti-war candidates were shut out of the process. A few wealthy and influential people control the Republican and Democratic Parties.

I guess I am a middle of the road Libertarian. The civil liberties platform is probably the easiest to implement quickly. Of course there are extreme theorists in every crowd. North America was open country when the English landed. Now some would believe that every square inch should be owned by someone. I can just see someone starving to death because they cannot pay for right of passage from their lot to the grocery store.

But there is definitely too much government control over things. On the other hand we have several crisis issues building, eroding of our scientific and industrial base, as well as problems in our system of education. We need practical solutions to problems.

When ordinary pragmatic people run for office it takes the microphone away from the extreme theorists. Ordinary practical people then become the public perception of the Libertarian Party. The most effective way to push your platform is to run for office and get on the ballot. You will have to get some amount of publicity simply because your name is on the ballot.

I never expected to run for office (City Council, and the House or Representatives), but if I wanted for someone else to do it, it would not happen. The first step toward building a party and winning an election is to get candidates on the ballot, and the only person that will get a candidate on the ballot is YOU!!!!

Robert Underwood

Needed: Platform Committee Volunteers

Are you interested in the political stands your state party takes? If so, your state party needs *you* to volunteer for the newly formed platform committee, created at the 2008 LPMA State Convention. The motion to create a committee was made because the 2006 National Convention had unexpectedly made very extensive platform changes. Under our State Party Constitution

"The convention shall have the authority to adopt a platform. The Statement of Principles of the national Libertarian Party shall be included as a part of such platform, and shall not be amended except by a vote of seven-eighths of the delegates present. The platform, other than the Statement of Principles, shall be the most recently adopted platform of the national Libertarian Party, provided that, any plank of such platform, excluding the Statement of Principles, may be deleted in its entirety by a simple majority of the delegates present. The substitution of a new plank for an old plank, or the addition of a new plank, shall require approval by a vote of at least two thirds of the delegates present."

those platform changes automatically passed through to our state platform. It was proposed that we would be better off with our own statements on issues, so that our stands would not

change just because Libertarians elsewhere had changed their positions.

News

The Massachusetts State Party has a new web site location. The LPMA is now at

<http://www.lpma.org/>

The URL is registered in the name of the LPMA, and safely belongs to the LPMA itself so long as we renew the addresses. To protect the LPMA against hackers and other humorists, the other lpma.org and masslp addresses (except the unavailable masslp.com address) were also retained. The change was necessary because an unfortunate oversight some years ago failed to put the lpma.org URL ownership in the name of the state party.

Libertarian Events

January

7 2PM LPMA Social, at the home of Vera Meyer, 521 Fellsway East Malden, MA 02148 781-321-0210 Directions: Take exit 32 off of Rt. 93. Head East on Rt. 60 (towards Malden) for about a mile. You will see a shopping center on the right with a Foodmaster store. This intersection is Fellsway WEST. Go one light further (there is a church on the right). This is Fellsway EAST. Take a left up the hill and my house is .9m on the right, white colonial with dark blue shutters.

10 6:30 PM PVLA Monthly Meeting, Hu Ke Lau Restaurant at Mass Pike Exit 5 Contact: Carol McMahon, 413-250-6608
cjmcmahon@verizon.net

21 6:00 PM WCLA Monthly Meeting, Tweed's Restaurant, Worcester MA 01605 Contact: George Phillies,
phillies@4liberty.net 508-754-1859

23 8:00 PM Lowell Area Liberty Association, Outback Steakhouse, Reiss Street, RSVP to Lowell Arthur_torrey@comcast.net or 978-663-0241 (NB. They cancel if there are no RSVPs).

28 10AM-1PM LPMA Social Brunch with **State Committee Meeting at 2 PM**, at the home of Stephanie Woiciechowski and RJ, 4 Carp Road, Milford MA RSVP to swoiciechowski@lpma.org or 508 381 3121.

February

14 6:30 PM PVLA Monthly Meeting, Hu Ke Lau Restaurant at Mass Pike Exit 5 Contact: Carol McMahon, 413-250-6608
cjmcmahon@verizon.net

25 2 PM LPMA Monthly Potluck Social at the Lewises, 23 Beech Street, Townsend MA Hosts will supply napkins, utensils, plates, vegetarian pasta, salad and nonalcoholic drinks. RSVP 978-597-9013. or fiberlady@yahoo.com. Directions: **495** to exit **#31./rt.119**. Go **North**, towards Groton/**Townsend** approx. **13** miles. Turn **left** at traffic signal onto **South Street** (Cooperage and Grist Mill on the left). At the **Y** take the **left** fork onto **Warren Road** and the first **right** onto **Beach Street**.

27 8:00 PM Lowell Area Liberty Association, Outback Steakhouse, Reiss Street, RSVP to Lowell Arthur_torrey@comcast.net or 978-663-0241 (NB. They cancel if there are no RSVPs).

January 2007

Contact Your State Committee

Carolyn McMahon - Chair PO Box 29, Monson, MA 01057 cjmcmahon@verizon.net 413 267 9339 (h) 413 250 6608 (c)

George Phillies - Vice Chair 48 Hancock Hill Drive Worcester MA 01609 phillies@4liberty.net 508 754 1859 (h) 508 831 5334 (w)

Walter Ziobro - Treasurer WalterZiobro@cs.com

Mary-Anne Wolf - Recording Secretary 10 Kohlrausch Ave North Billerica MA 01862 mgwmgw@comcast.net 978-663-0241

David Roscoe - Membership Secretary 30 Worthen Street Apt A-9 Chelmsford MA 01824 DWRoscoe@earthlink.net 978-256-3159

Steven B. Drobnis steve@mrd.net 781 784 6085 H 781 784 7080 W

Bill Hees 78 Dana St. #1, Cambridge MA 02138 llib@hees.us 617-835-0972 home/work/mobile

Arthur Torrey 10 Kohlrausch Ave, North Billerica MA 01862 arthur_torrey@comcast.net 978-663-024

Robert Underwood, 83 Cherrylyn, Springfield MA 01104-2441 rjunderwood2000@yahoo.com

Stephanie Woiciechowski 508 . 381 . 3121 swoiciechowski@lpma.org

Publications Committee: Sue Mosher, Stephanie Woiciechowski, George Phillies, Mary-Anne Wolf

Socials Committee: George Phillies

Web Page Activists: Bill Hees

Rules Committee: Walter Ziobro, Mary-Anne Wolf, Arthur Torrey, George Phillies

Committee on the Platform: To Be Determined

Contact the Party itself:

LPMA, 30 East Chestnut Street, Sharon MA 02067

Massachusetts Liberty 3



Join the Libertarian Party!

Libertarian Party
30 East Chestnut Street
Sharon MA 02067

Sign me up for the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts. Subscribe me to *Massachusetts Liberty*. As a member, I agree that I believe that 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 broadly interpreted to cover such acts as fraud, stealing, and threats against life and property as well as physical aggression.

Annual Membership, including Massachusetts Liberty Subscription: \$15 per year

Your generous donation to our state party will be used efficiently to advance Party activities. Please help us by donating.

- \$200 \$100 \$50
- \$2100 \$1000 \$500
- Other _____

Your monthly pledge will give us a consistent revenue stream.
I pledge \$____ per month to be charged to my credit card.

- Please make Checks payable to "LPMA".**
- Visa Mastercard Discover
- Credit Debit

Card Number
Expiration Date
Name on Card
Cardholder Signature

Signature

Name
Address

City, State, ZIP

Phone

Email

Occupation

Employer

(Federal Law requires us to ask your occupation and employer. Donations are not tax deductible)

I Want to Volunteer to Help Our Party

- I am prepared to (circle all that apply) Put up lawn signs
- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Write letters to editor | Place Bumper Sticker |
| Help Organize local group | Petition for candidates |
| Help with fundraising | Help Get Out the Vote |
| Help Local Candidates | Run for office |

Massachusetts Liberty
c/o David Roscoe
30 Worthen Street Apt A-9
Chelmsford MA 01824