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Massachusetts Liberty

Uniting Libertarian Party Activists

November 2009



Go Joe!

Libertarian National Party Member Joe Kennedy is hard at work, marching toward ballot access for his campaign. He's engaged professional petitioners, raised money, and mobilized volunteers across the Commonwealth. If he is on the ballot, we'll have a candidate taking libertarian stand after libertarian stand on issues like ending the wars, reducing taxes, and protecting social liberties like gun ownership, marijuana, and equality before the law!

But he won't make it on the ballot without your help!
To read how you can help, go to JoeKennedyForSenate.com.

Joe Kennedy! He's sacrificing his private life for our libertarian future.

State Convention is Big Success!

Platform, Constitution Passed! New State Committee Elected! Big Debate!

By nearly unanimous votes, your state convention adopted a new Party Platform and eight amendments to our Constitution. We are now the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts. A new State Committee was elected: David Blau, Alwin Hopfmann, Joe Kennedy, Richard Martin, George Phillies, and Robert J. Underwood. Delegates were elected to the Libertarian National Convention meeting in St. Louis next Memorial day weekend. There's room to appoint more delegates if you want to go!

Convention speakers included Brad Wyatt of the Campaign for Liberty, independent candidate for State Auditor (and former LP State Chair) Kamal Jain, and U.S. Senate candidate Joe Kennedy. They each gave their message, and did a panel — friendly questions on other issues.

The new State Committee met, electing David Blau as Chair and Recording Secretary, George Phillies as Treasurer and Membership Secretary, and Bob Underwood as Webmaster.

Published by the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts

Red Alert!

2010 Elections Forthcoming!

It may sound early to be thinking about the 2010 elections. "Not so," warns LAMA Treasurer George Phillies. "The decisions you take this month and next month will have a big effect on how our campaigns do next year."

"The key rule is simple: If you run for office, State Rep, State Senate...any partisan office...you must run with the party you choose on your voter registration. You can change your voter registration if you want. **But do it now!** If you don't have a registration form, drop me an email and I'll mail you one (phillies@4liberty.net).

"Why does it matter? If you are registered 'Libertarian', you must run as a Libertarian, under major party rules. That means that Democrats and Republicans can't sign your nominating papers. If you are registered "Unenrolled", any registered voter can sign your nominating papers.

"Even for State Representative, running when you are registered 'Libertarian' rather than 'Unenrolled' turns ballot access into a huge hurdle. For libertarian Joe Kennedy, we got lucky! Joe was registered as an independent, so \$15,000 may get him ballot access. If he had been registered 'Libertarian', he would have needed \$60,000 or more just to put his name on the ballot.

State Political Facilitator Bob Underwood explains this in more detail on his Facebook page facebook.com/group.php?gid=249906925463

The short message: Try to run as a Libertarian and your chances of getting on the ballot go way down. Bob proposes adding a second political designation to solve the problem: "Why do we need another party designation? Because as a member of the Libertarian Party I exceeded everyone's expectations and got over 3.2% of the vote for United States Senate, a statewide office. So "Libertarian" or "L" changed from party designation to party. That means only un-enrolled

voters and libertarian voters can sign our nomination forms. That will prevent us from being on the ballot, there are not enough of us to put a person on the ballot."

Web Pages Upgraded!

Your new State Committee is already hard at work building a libertarian future for all Americans. Webmaster Bob Underwood, with kibitzing by other State Committee members, has just rolled out the new LAMA Web Pages.

You can admire them at LPMass.org .

The new web pages are a work in progress—we look them to get even better as time goes on. Your suggestions to Webmaster Bob Underwood will be most appreciated. Send them to politicalfacilitator@lpmass.org.

A Monthly Step Toward Victory Understanding a Public Hearing

...by Alvin See

By now, we hope that you have made your way to your Town or City Hall and attended one or more meetings. You may have seen a "Public Hearing" at one of these meetings.

A public hearing is a forum to provide an organized method to present information to the public and to receive from the public. There are likely several boards or commissions in your town or city that are chartered to hold public hearings. Topics may include a developer applying to build a shopping center, a restaurant applying for a license to serve alcoholic beverages, a home-

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owner who wants to put an addition on his house that leaves less than the minimum setback from the lot line, or a state highway department with plans to replace an old bridge.

Public hearings may be a meeting in and of itself or just one item on the agenda of a regularly scheduled meeting of a board or commission.

Public notice of a public hearing is required some minimum number of days in advance. A notice in the "Legal Notices" section of the classifieds in a local newspaper may be what your town uses. Check with your Town Hall for the normal procedure. Note that county and state government departments may have different methods. If you don't live in a county seat or state capital city, you may not see such notices unless you go out of your way to find the notices. Smaller towns have fewer public hearings. A down economy also reduces the number of development projects, and hence hearings, everywhere.

Here is a general format for a public hearing. Expect variations with different boards and commissions and in different cities and states.

- At the scheduled time, the hearing is declared to be open. Usually, the notice that was published in advance of the hearing is read by the chairperson.
- The petitioner is then called to present his project to the board.
- The board members may ask questions after the petitioner makes his presentation.
- After board members finish their questions, the meeting is opened to the public for "questions of fact." This is not for stating opinions of the project but to get clarification details of the project that may not have been clearly stated earlier or maybe details that were not mentioned at all.
- Then the meeting is open to the public to state whether they are in favor or opposed to the project. You may also give the board your suggestions, opinions or reasons for the board to consider when they decide the fate of the project. You may be limited to three minutes or so and asked not to restate something that someone else may have said although you may elaborate on a previous statement.
- The hearing may now be closed or continued.

Once the hearing is closed, no further input may be considered by the board. If the petitioner is asked to get more information, alter a plan or if the board wants to consult another department, the meeting will be "continued" to a specific date and time (this is your notice of when to return.)

- The board will have a time limit to act on the proposal but may act on it right away. If approved, the board may add a list of conditions that the petitioner must comply with when proceeding with their project. Occasionally, the list of conditions may increase the cost of the project such that the petitioner decides not to even start the project (or they may sell the project along with the board's approval and list of conditions.)

For your monthly step, attend a public hearing and observe the format that is used, how well the chairperson conducts the hearing and whether everyone attending had a reasonable opportunity to bring up issues or state their opinions. For meetings that are continued, attend the next part of the hearing. If you can, stay for or come back at the time designated for the board to act on the matter.

Knowing how a public hearing works will be helpful in the event that some project that affects you, your home or in some other way comes up in your future.

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Liberty for America magazine

What The Next LNC Chair Should Do

[Editor's Note: Every two years, your state organization gets to send a delegation to the Libertarian Party National Convention. What should they view as issues? Here is a thought-provoking article from a current National Committee member.]

...by Jake Porter

First of all, I am not a candidate and have no plans on becoming a candidate for the LNC Chair's race during the 2010 LNC elections. That being said, I have some suggestions for the delegates as to the type of candidate for Chair they should support at

the 2010 convention.

2012 Presidential Campaign:

First, the 2010-2012 LNC Chair should not under any circumstances be a candidate for our 2012 Presidential nomination. This is a clear conflict of interest. Additionally, in the past, there have been serious allegations that our party has suffered from some national staffers playing party politics with our Presidential nomination. It would be a terrible idea to place someone with the ability to hire and fire staff in a position to use party resources to directly benefit his or her campaign or to sabotage a competitor's campaign.

The Budget:

The Libertarian Party needs a budget that will spend money on doing actual politics. For example, we should have a budget that includes ballot access, advertising, and candidate and volunteer support. At the end of the year, it should be included in the Annual Report sent out to all dues paying members of the party so they can decide if we are spending their money wisely.

Strategic Planning:

There is absolutely no reason, no excuse for a million dollar a year organization not to use any strategic planning. Unfortunately, this is what the LNC does. It is an embarrassment, it is inane, and it could possibly be the downfall of the Libertarian Party. Would you invest in a business with no plans or goals? I sure wouldn't.

When I talk about strategic planning, I am not discussing a 250 page detailed plans with pictures and arrows on it. I am talking about beginning with the end in mind, and then finding out what we can do short-term to get to our destination. For example, our goal long-term could be to control Congress by 2030. Realistic or not, it doesn't really matter. What matters is what we do today to get to that point. Based on that goal, we could set goals for this LNC term and determine what we should do during this term to reach our goals for the term. By setting short-term goals, we will be much closer to our end goal no matter if we ever actually reach it or not.

A few, but not a complete list of goals for the 2010-2012 LNC should be:

Affiliates: We should have an active party in every state and Washington D.C.

Ballot Access: There is no excuse that our Presidential nominee should not be on the ballot in at least 49 states and Washington D.C. in 2012.

Communications: Our supporters should be able to download flyers, brochures, and other materials to help them campaign. It would be a good idea to produce a radio and television advertisement to brand the Libertarian Party. If we don't establish our own brand, someone else will and we may not like how we are perceived by the American public.

Elections: Candidates should be given information like was available in the "Success 99" documents that help them fundraise, advertise, talk to the media, etc.

We should try to increase the number of candidates we run for Federal office and both the vote totals and the percentage we receive by a specific percentage over 2008. This creates stability as a party that does not run candidates, doesn't have much influence in the public debate.

Subcommittees: As the old Toby Keith song said, "A little less talk, and a lot more action" is exactly what we need on the LNC. Gabbing and gossiping about other LNC members and endless discussion of Roberts Rules of Order is an unproductive use of time and resources to say the least. If you want to be an LNC member, you should be on a working committee to help set, monitor, and implement goals and strategy.

Positive Campaigning:

I don't know about you, but I hate receiving gloom and doom direct mail. "Donate now or we will turn of the lights!" That type of negative thinking brands us as losers that spend too much money on lights and not enough money on real politics. Think of something positive, and raise funds for that. For example, production of a high-quality television

advertisement sounds like a good project that needs to be funded.

Another good example is ballot access so you can vote for a Libertarian in your state.

National Headquarters:

No doubt, this part of my article will cause some controversy, but it is an issue that desperately needs to be discussed.

Washington D.C. is a very expensive location to have the national headquarters. Additionally, the high cost of living in Washington D.C. means that we are forced to pay staffers more than what we would pay if they, for example, worked in Des Moines, Iowa where the cost of living is much more affordable.

Please don't get me wrong. There are benefits to having the national headquarters in Washington D.C. For example, it is easier to lobby for or against proposed legislation, it is good for media relations, and it provides staff with great networking opportunities. On the other hand, it uses a lot of money from our donors that could be spent on critical items such as ballot access, and advertising. Additionally, moving from Washington D.C. would also make it far less likely that our party would go broke in the future. Also, with some work, we could have a D.C. organization that could effectively handle media opportunities, and lobbying efforts.

The next LNC Chair should be willing to at the very least discuss the possibility of moving the national headquarters and put this party back into financial stability.

Inner-Party Fighting:

The next LNC Chair should not be a vocal member of any faction. He or she must be someone who can unite the party. A party divided cannot stand! The next LNC Chair must be committed to growing membership and working with others, not purging volunteers from other factions.

Executive Decisions:

According to our bylaws, our party Chair is our Chief Executive Officer. We need a Chair that takes a hands-on approach to what goes on in the party. The Chair should be able to make decisions, and admit his or her mistakes when things go wrong. Just because we have an Executive Director does not mean the LNC Chair gives up his or her responsibility to oversee the management of the party.

J.D. (Jake) Porter, a 2008 Business Administration graduate, previously served as Iowa Coordinator for the 2008 Bob Barr Presidential campaign, and worked as Business Manager for the Saint Joseph Telegraph. Today, he is the owner of J.D. Porter Consulting, and is the Alternate to Region 6 of the Libertarian National Committee.

Your Monthly Step For Liberty ...Forming a Local Group

You've found a niche in your local government. You've found an office for which you might run. Now you have the next challenge, getting into office. In most of America outside New England, there are a modest number of elective offices and a large number of people who run for them.

There are a series of steps here, namely (i) getting on the ballot, (ii) getting elected, (iii) doing the job well, and (iv) getting re-elected. Some libertarians would add a fifth, namely abolishing your office, but in general that's not even going to be an option let alone a possibility.

To carry out any of those steps, a lot of work needs to be done. For really small-town minor offices, you can do it all yourself, but on a larger scale the work involved moves from considerable to insuperable. What you need is a little help from your friends, friends you have organized in advance and formed up into a political club that will not only help you run for office, but do the same for all of them who want to run. You need a local libertarian organization, a society that will help you do the dog work of running for office: petitioning, fund raising, distributing literature, holding signs at polling places, and all the other tasks demanded of effec-

tive political candidates.

You need to be a bit thoughtful here. Libertarians are still thin on the ground. If you form a group limited to your town, you will likely have too few members to keep everything together in an organized manner. You need a group that covers enough area to have enough people that meetings are all attended, but not so large that coming to meetings is a major chore.

So what do you do to organize a meeting? Find a sensible neutral meeting site, a modest restaurant with a back room, a library with meeting hall, in places with pleasant climates a park with covered pavilions. Scout it out, make needed reservations for four or six weeks off, and advertise through libertarian channels. If you have the cash, organize it as a Meetup.Com site which gets you extensive local publicity and a cross-connect to Craigslist.com. If you can reach 100 people, 3 or 5 of them might show up. If you have 20 names on your meetup list, you may pick up two or three of them.

Don't expect a group to start immediately, and don't expect it will be effective immediately. You need a lot of repeat advertising to bring people to meetings, and you need a few test runs before it becomes apparent which members will do good work and which members talk a lot but never deliver. There are lots of possible steps here, but forming a local group is clearly the important next step.

Wanted: More Activists!

Your State Committee is doing what it can to build a stronger libertarian movement in Massachusetts. We need more people. We need people to help bring more people on board.

Would you be willing to help? Every political advance must begin with a single step. Make that political step yours!

To volunteer, please contact State Chair Dave Blau chair@LPMass.org 617 487 5204

Your State Committee

Chair — David Blau chair@lpmass.org

Political Facilitator and Webmaster — Robert

Underwood politicalfacilitator@lpmass.org

Treasurer and Membership Secretary — George

Phillies, 48 Hancock Hill Drive Worcester MA

01609 phillies@4liberty.net 508 754 1859 (h)

Members — Joe Kennedy

joe@kennedyinnovations.com

Alwin Hopfmann

Richard Martin

Contact the Association itself:

LPMass, POB 1154, Worcester MA 01613

508 754 1859

Partying Events

*Pioneer Valley Libertarian Association meets the second Wednesday of every month at Doctor Deegan's Restaurant in Springfield. RSVP for directions to rjuunderwood2000@yahoo.com

*The Western Massachusetts Libertarian Meetup <http://libertarian.meetup.com/417/> — 2nd Wednesday

*Boston Area Libertarian Meetup Group <http://libertarian.meetup.com/349/> — 2nd Sunday

*Route 495 Area Libertarians Meetup <http://libertarian.meetup.com/413/> — looking for a new local organizer

*Essex County Area Libertarians Meetup Group — still looking for a local person to set up meetings

*South Shore Libertarians Meetup Group — still looking for a local person to set up meetings

*Worcester County Libertarians — in the process of forming

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\$200 \$100 \$50

\$2400 \$1000 \$500

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(Law requires separate checks for state and federal gifts.)

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Volunteer!

I Want to Volunteer

I am prepared to (circle all that apply)

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| Put up lawn signs | Host Social for Members |
| 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 |
| Man Booth at Outreach event | |
| I have special skills or suggestions, namely: | |

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Join the Libertarians and Party!

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