



# LIBERTARIAN

PARTY of NEVADA

[www.LPNevada.org](http://www.LPNevada.org)

## Apr 1 First Libertarian Presidential Candidate Debate

Fox Business Channel, the John Stossel Show, 6-7pm.

## Apr 5 First Tuesday Libertarian Social

@ Jalisco Mexican Cantina from 6-9 PM.

## Apr 6-10 Clark County Fair

@ the Clark County Fair Grounds, Logandale, NV, for more information, please visit [www.CCFair.com](http://www.CCFair.com)

## Apr 11 Open House

@ LP Nevada Headquarters from 5-8 PM.

### Featured Articles

## Pg. 3 Libertarian Assemblyman Makes Waves With College Students

## Pg. 4 AFAN AIDS Walk 2016

## Pg. 5 American's for Prosperity Grassroots Leadership Academy

## Pg. 6 The Libertarian Lean: Renewable Energy

## Pg. 10 Ridiculous Pot Legalization Rules Do Nothing to Eliminate Criminals



# The Real Record on Income Inequality & Economic Growth

We frequently hear claims from the Left that Republican economic policies increase income inequality by benefiting the wealthy and leaving the poor and middle class in the dust.

Last year, President Obama dissed Republican leaders' empathy for income inequality, saying, "They're just trying to bamboozle folks. We've got an agenda and we know it works."

As economists, we know that history and experience around the world show that economic freedom and strong property rights, plus the rule of law, limited government with separation of powers, and personal liberty and individual rights produce the best results for the public interest in human wellbeing and fairness.

As public officials, we take these matters seriously. So, the first question we ask on issues is whether a particular policy, law, regulation, decision, etc. promotes economic growth and thus gives people greater opportunities and aggregate

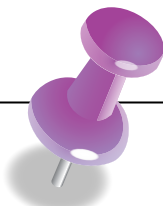
well-being.

Growth that benefits only the privileged few and doesn't provide opportunity and prosperity for most folks doesn't pass our test. Sound economic policies are those that allow people to use their talents and ambition, put forth effort, take risks, and rise out of lower income brackets.

As sons of working-class people in the Midwest and South, we understand this quite well.

Government intervention stifles income mobility and thus increases inequality. Protectionist licensing regimes and restrictions on trade shield incumbent producers from competition, giving them market power while entrepreneurs are squeezed out and consumers must pay higher prices. The minimum wage doesn't create high-paying jobs; it just outlaws low-paying jobs and prevents people from getting the entry-level exper-

... Continued page 3



## Things *you* can do to help grow the Libertarian Party of Nevada

- ✓ Sign up for a FREE account at [www.LPNevada.org/join](http://www.LPNevada.org/join)
- ✓ Become a dues paying member of LPNevada, [click here](#) to view membership levels
- ✓ Register to Vote Libertarian & get your friends to register to vote as well. Visit: [www.lpnevada.org/register\\_to\\_vote](http://www.lpnevada.org/register_to_vote)
- ✓ Volunteer because LPNevada needs your help! Visit: [www.lpnevada.org/volunteer](http://www.lpnevada.org/volunteer)
- ✓ Connect with us on Social Media:
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  - Facebook Group: [www.fb.com/groups/lpnevada](http://www.fb.com/groups/lpnevada)
  - Twitter Account: [www.twitter.com/lpnevada](http://www.twitter.com/lpnevada)
- ✓ Once connected, please “**share**” and “**like**” our posts with your friends.
- ✓ Our events are awesome! Start attending our events, visit: [www.LPNevada.org/events](http://www.LPNevada.org/events)
- ✓ Become a **contributor** to our blog and newsletter by visiting the **Volunteer** link and selecting “*I would like to write for the blog.*”
- ✓ Get involved with a Caucus and Coalition. See a complete list at [www.lpnevada.org/caucuses\\_coalitions](http://www.lpnevada.org/caucuses_coalitions)

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## The Real Record (continued)

-rience they need to advance.

Likewise, government interventions in financial markets and credit-allocation policies have inflated asset prices and caused financial bubbles. This puts home-ownership and other goals further beyond the reach of low-income families, and it benefits mainly small groups of Wall Street crony capitalists. Lawrence Lindsey's latest book, *Conspiracies of the Ruling Class*, examines among other things the real record of income inequality under presidential administrations the last half-century. Lindsey was a Harvard economics professor; advisor to Presidents Reagan, Bush41 and Bush43; Federal Reserve System Governor; and successful businessman. By his own admission, he knows the Ruling Class's mischief as one who was part of the problem.

We've replicated and significantly extended his work to show which presidents really had the best records for promoting wide prosperity since the War on Poverty began and income redistribution became the obsession of the Democrats and other leftists. We compared the average annual economic growth rate of each administration in real, per-person terms with the average of three standard measures of income inequality produced by the U.S. Census Bureau.

The data show that income inequality increased by all three measures similarly throughout the last half century, but the rates of growth in inequality were much slower under some presidents. And all administrations presided over positive but also greatly varying net economic growth.

We combined these two measures to create a new metric showing how successful each president was in both fostering growth and the wide sharing of its benefits. We did this by subtracting the average annual rate of increase in the inequality measure from the average annual per-person real economic growth rate.

The following table summarizes the results. Reagan and Clinton had by far the best economic growth records, while the Bushes

had by far the worst. Obama has the worst income inequality results, followed by Reagan, Clinton and Carter. The Bushes and Nixon/Ford had by far the best records on income equality.

Administration	Annual Growth / Real GDP Per Person	Annual Increase in Income Inequality	GDP Growth Less Income Inequality Increase
Nixon/Ford	1.87%	0.33%	1.55%
Carter	1.67%	0.67%	1.00%
Reagan	2.70%	1.04%	1.66%
Bush 41	0.69%	0.32%	0.37%
Clinton	2.48%	0.84%	1.64%
Bush 43	0.70%	0.25%	0.45%
Obama	1.44%	1.23%	0.20%

Reagan, Clinton and Nixon/Ford had by far much better records on the two measures combined than Carter, while Obama (especially) and the Bushes have by far the worst records.

In our analysis, we assumed that both the income growth and inequality effects of an administration take effect in its second year and that its first year is more affected by the policies of the administration leaving in that year. This assumption hugely benefits Obama and Clinton, whose records are much worse without a one-year lag, but it diminishes Carter's performance.

Most striking to us is that President Obama, who's been a caustic critic of Republican and free-market ideas, has overseen the fastest growth in income inequality. So, the data show that the “agenda” of the President, Democrats, progressives, statist liberals, and the politically correct actually damages the society as a whole, especially the poor and middle class. But it makes great political rhetoric.

**By: Ron Knecht, Nevada State Controller and Geoffrey Lawrence, Assistant Controller.**

## Libertarian Assemblyman Makes Waves With College Students

[Young Americans for Liberty](#) hosted a state convention at UNLV Saturday, March 5, which was attended by LP Nevada's leadership team. One of the keynote speakers was Assemblyman

John Moore, introduced by YAL State Chair (and LPN Youth Caucus leader) Andrew Lea. Assemblyman John Moore is an Iraq War veteran, a businessman, and currently the only capital-L Libertarian serving in a state legislature.

Assemblyman Moore spoke about a number of issues that specifically affect millennials. He discussed the major differences between his generation and the millennial generation.

For example, in the 1970s, it was a common thing for children as young as 11 to start at some kind of ongoing job before or after school. Today's kids have a much harder time being able to be gainfully employed and learn the value of money and a hard work. Learning to receive instead of earn creates a damaging culture of entitlement.

Millennials also suffer from inflation and rampant runaway government spending. At the rate the federal government spends money and allows the Federal Reserve to inflate the US dollar, millennials will be earning \$60,000 a year to live in slum apart-

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# AFAN AIDS Walk 2016

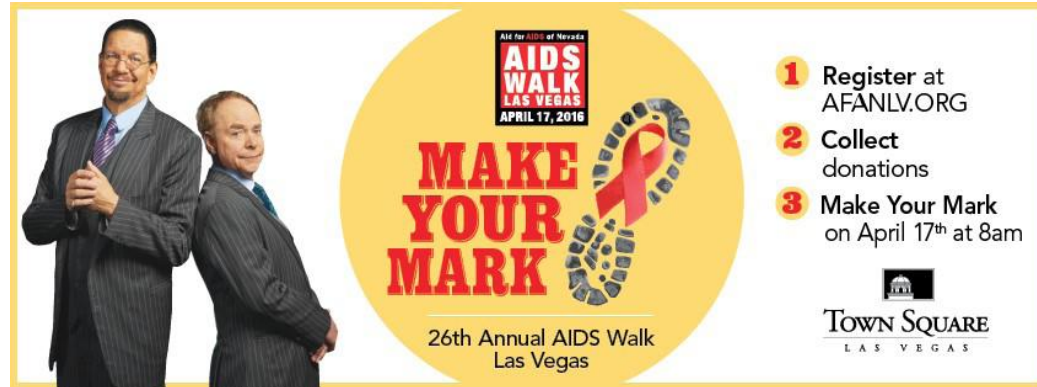
## Why Walk?

Out for Liberty Nevada is proud to support the AFAN AIDS Walk 2016. On their website, you can sign up to be a [donor](#) or [walker](#) for our team. Here is some more information from the AFAN AIDS Walk website on why this is so important:

HIV/AIDS is **everyone's** public health issue. AIDS Walk Las Vegas is Nevada's most significant fundraising event in the fight against HIV/AIDS. It funds supportive services designed to stabilize and empower clients living with or affected by HIV, including:

- Guiding our clients through our referral and monitoring programs
- Connecting clients with HIV specialists in various fields of medicine
- Prevention education, including weekly seminars for clients and providers, as well as community outreach initiatives
- Taxi vouchers and bus passes for transportation to healthcare providers
- Rent and utility assistance
- Nutritional counseling, food vouchers, and dietary supplements for those affected by weight loss due to HIV progression
- Kids' program that ensures children affected by HIV enjoy a sense of normalcy

All AFAN programs are designed to eliminate fear, prejudice, and the stigma associated with the disease.



Join Grand Marshals Penn & Teller – along with local celebrities, businesses and community leaders – in making this a Las Vegas-style landmark event in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

For AIDS Walk Las Vegas' 26th anniversary, Penn & Teller are challenging walkers to raise at least \$250.

If you achieve this minimum goal, Penn and Teller will match your fundraising dollar for dollar!\* If you want a shot at doubling your contribution, join the Penn & Teller Challenge when you register!

*\*Penn & Teller Challenge donations will be matched until the maximum amount is reached.*

### You Can Make a Difference!

Last year, more than 6,000 people walked with us to raise awareness for the cause. We invite you to walk with your friends, family, coworkers, neighbors, or alongside the thousands of other members of our community who come together to show their support.

Every donation counts, no matter the amount. Our online registration

website has great fundraising ideas to help get you started, or you may share your unique idea(s) to help motivate and inspire others to reach their goals. Aim high and be creative, passionate and persistent – your success may surprise you! Invite your family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers to join you and/or sponsor you for AIDS Walk Las Vegas. Also, many companies will match your contributions through a Matching Gift Program. Check with your employer and encourage your donors/sponsors to do the same.

Although medical advances have improved and prolonged many people's lives over the last few decades, the need for AFAN's services continues to be crucial. In 1984, the founders of AFAN did not imagine that there would still be a need to advocate for our clients 30 years later. So much has been accomplished of which we should all be proud, yet as we know, there is still much to be done. Your support, hard work and generosity will allow us to continue our mission.

**By: Brandon Ellyson, Out for Liberty Nevada Chairman**

## Getting Into Office

Assemblyman John Moore in Assembly District 8 and Dennis Hof, a well-renowned businessman running in Assembly District 36. Unfortunately, the candidate filing deadline passed on March 18, so if you're a Libertarian in Nevada and you're interested in running for office today, you'll have to wait until 2018.

It's campaign season, so the Libertarian Party of Nevada is naturally running candidates throughout the state. This year we're running many candidates, including

Right?

Not necessarily. If you're interested in getting involved in your local government, there are several local boards throughout the state that are always frantically looking for volunteers to serve. Washoe County Citizen Advisory Board recruitment, for example, is continuing until April 1 - it's a free, appointed position, and in many CAB districts, Washoe County has serious issues finding volunteers that will reliably show up to CAB meetings and make quorum. Reno has a similar program through its Neighborhood Advisory Boards, which also often recruit interested volunteers. In Clark County, there are two similar programs - the Town Advisory Board and the Citizen Advisory Council, and they perform similar roles to Reno's NAB and Washoe County's CABs - namely, providing community feedback to either the City Council or County Commission, as appropriate.

... Continued page 6

## Learn to lead. Get certified.

**AMERICANS FOR PROSPERITY**  
FOUNDATION  
GRASSROOTS LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Attend American's for Prosperity Grassroots Leadership Academy to learn how to effectively make the case for economic freedom, how the left operates and how to effectively message and tell your story in your community. Courses and the dates are below:

### Session 1

April 6 - Making the Case for Economic Freedom

### Session 2

April 13 - A Brief History of Grassroots Activism & How the Left Operates

### Session 3

April 20 - Communities vs. Networks

### Session 4

April 27 - Sharing Freedom by Telling Your Story

### Session 5

May 4 - Going Viral: Social Media Workshop

### Session 6

May 11 - Effective Written Messaging

## Libertarian Assemblyman (continued)

-ments.

Rampant student loan debt made possible by the federal government and predatory Federal Reserve member-banks will be even more crippling in 10 years as interest accumulates.

Finally, Assemblyman Moore spoke about the NSA, the FBI, the "Sagebrush Rebellion," and about the importance of preserving civil liberties. "I went back into the Army after 9/11, I went to war for my country, to defend freedom. My idea of freedom doesn't include the

government spying on all its citizens. It's unconstitutional and un-American."

Moore also expressed the controversial opinion that the shooting of Oregon protestor Robert LaVoy Finicum by the FBI was a political assassination. "They had been letting people come in and out of the perimeter, but they're going to shoot someone two miles down the road? For what danger? Where was his due process?"

After Finicum was killed in Oregon, Assemblyman Moore and one other legislature colleague drove seventeen hours to help negotiate a peaceful

agreement between holdout protesters and the FBI. "I just wanted to prevent anyone else from being killed," said Moore. "We accomplished in an hour what the FBI or

the BLM couldn't, or wouldn't, accomplish in weeks."

Assemblyman Moore's speech was followed by a Q&A session that concluded with a standing ovation.

After the YAL convention and a brief social, LP Nevada Chairman Brett H. Pojunis hosted an incredible party at the Libertarian Party of Nevada Headquarters. YAL co-State Chair Woodrow Johnston commented, "I'm so happy the convention went well and now everybody's having a good time like a family."

**By Zach Foster, Contributor, Libertarian Party of Nevada**

*\* YAL is a nonpartisan organization but they're ready and willing to partner with outside organizations like the Libertarian Party of Nevada to advance the cause of liberty. A similar article appeared on [YALiberty.org](#)*

### Registration & Locations

*Pahrump:*  
250 N Highway 150  
Click [here](#) to register.

*Las Vegas:*  
5575 S Durango Dr., Suite 111  
Click [here](#) to register.

*Reno:*  
4080 Keitzke Lane  
Click [here](#) to register.

### Contact

Marcos Lopez, Field Director, Americans for Prosperity Foundation – Nevada: [mlopez@afphq.org](mailto:mlopez@afphq.org)





# The Libertarian Lean: Renewable Energy

When cities in the United States grew, so did the need for horses. With many horses, comes many mounds of horse manure. The larger the city, the larger the problem of horse manure. In the mid 1800's, cities were looking for an innovation to deal with the smelly and dirty problem of horse manure, and innovation led to the omnibus (the precursor to our buses) and streetcars. As electricity and motors developed, innovation led to electric streetcars and eventually the automobile, and with this innovation came the end of the horse manure problem in our cities. This was not solved with a government program, nor was it resolved after multiple committees were formed in Congress to devise a plan of action. No taxes were raised to come up with this plan; it quite literally was a libertarian answer from a society that allowed the free market idea to develop. Fast forward now, to 2016 and there are over 260 different models of automobile available in the United States.

The problem now is not manure, not literally. The goal is to produce renewable energies. The libertarian lean would be to allow an open competition for the most economical and commercially viable method of harvesting, transporting and storing of renewable energies. The result of this competition would be plummeting prices, new and exciting innovation in the production and storage of electricity, and maybe even one day the ability to put economical and efficient systems in every home, effectively eliminating the need to burn fossil fuels

to cool our homes in the summer. But we don't have a libertarian environmental policy. What we have is one energy company, protected by government from any competition. There are mandates, subsidies, goals, and minimum requirements that must be met. As with any minimum requirement, it is a safe bet you will not get anything more than the required minimum. Next time you go to the market, the pub, the park, or the office, listen to how many people openly talk about their energy bills in summer, because providing the minimum requirements is getting more expensive when nobody is competing with them to force innovation and progress.

In Las Vegas, over 11% of the energy sold to NV Energy is of the "renewable" variety, and sometimes costing upwards of 300% of what coal or natural gas costs to produce. The plan is to raise this percent from renewables to 25% in the next few decades. . .but there is one problem. . .one missing ingredient in this fix: Innovation. The call is there, the desire exists to utilize the natural resources like the sun or wind; but is this problem being worked on by dozens of entrepreneurs and investors who work late into the night to find new and innovative ways to harness nature and efficiently transport and store its energy? No. What we have instead are energy bills inflated by government mandates. Instead of a business owner forgoing a salary to make sure his dream is achieved, we have multiple administrators with six figure salaries who administer govern-

ment subsidies and maintain a monopolistic system that encourages the use of inefficient technology to provide the bare minimum to fulfill the requirements placed on them by government. If someone was asked to conceive of the least effective method of servicing a community with energy, and to design a system that was the slowest to innovate and provide new technologies, they could scarcely do any better than this system of corporate cronyism.

If we were to mimic the methodology used by those who cleaned up the horse manure problems, we could open the energy grid supply to multiple suppliers, allow other companies to compete for contracts either by homes or by HOAs. There would be startups that employ engineers and electricians who would find more efficient means of providing energy. New gadgets to conserve energy could be innovated. Perhaps it could even be an opportunity to allow solar panel companies to work with small energy companies to install solar panels privately, instead of using tax credits and subsidies. Then, the energy not used could be sold back to pay for the installation and maintenance of these systems. All it would take to get this going is the politicians would have to lean a little libertarian. If we really want to clean up the environment, we need to do something different. After all, it worked for horse manure!

By Jason Smith, Vice-Chairman, Libertarian Party of Nevada

## Getting Into Office (continued)

Opportunities to serve don't end there, though. Every city and county in Nevada has dozens, if not hundreds, of boards addressing various needs. Whether it's Clark County's SNGIS Data Data Committee, Reno's Arts and Culture Commission, or Washoe County's Organizational Effectiveness Committee, there are opportunities and openings throughout local government for anyone with some time, a skill set, and a willingness to attend meetings and learn about Nevada's Open Meeting laws.

This is a known, proven way to get Libertarians into local government. We've had Libertarians openly serving in the Beatty Water and Sanitation District, the Mineral County TV District, the Washoe County Library District, and plenty more besides. Getting involved in your local government costs little to nothing and it's a great way to learn local issues and learn how local government works. So, pick a search engine, type in your community's name, add "boards and committees", hit "Enter", find a committee that looks interesting, and serve your community today!

By David Colborne, Northern Nevada Regional Representative



# EVENTS

## APRIL 2016

### 01 FIRST LIBERTARIAN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE DEBATE

Fox Business Channel, the John Stossel Show, 6-7pm.

### 07 WOMEN IN NEVADA CAUCUS TABLING AT CC FAIR

@ the Clark County Fair Grounds, Logandale, Nevada, 6-9pm.

### 09 CLARK COUNTY FAIR (DAY 4)

@ the Clark County Fair Grounds, Logandale, NV, Setup starts at 9 AM, 10 AM-12 AM.

### 14 OUT FOR LIBERTY (LGBTQI CAUCUS) MEETING

@ the Phoenix Bar & Lounge from 6-8 PM.

### 19 THIRD TUESDAY LIBERTARIAN SOCIAL

@ Rounders Bar & Grill from 5:30-8:30 PM.

### 27 LAST WEDNESDAY LIBERTARIAN PHONE BANK

@ Libertarian Party headquarters from 5:30-8 PM.

### 05 FIRST TUESDAY LIBERTARIAN SOCIAL

@ Jalisco Mexican Cantina from 6-9 PM.

### 07 CLARK COUNTY FAIR (DAY 2)

@ the Clark County Fair Grounds, Logandale, NV, Setup starts at 9am, 10 AM-11 PM.

### 10 CLARK COUNTY FAIR (DAY 5)

@ the Clark County Fair Grounds, Logandale, NV, Setup starts at 9 AM, 10 AM-9 PM.

### 16 LEADERSHIP TRAINING & POTLUCK

@ LP Nevada headquarters from 10 AM-1 PM.

### 21 LEGALIZE EVERYTHING LIBERTY PARTY (STUDENT CAUCUS MEETING)

@ LP Nevada headquarters from 7-9 PM.

### 06 CLARK COUNTY FAIR (DAY 1)

@ the Clark County Fair Grounds, Logandale, NV, Setup starts at 8am, 4-11 PM.

### 08 CLARK COUNTY FAIR (DAY 3)

@ the Clark County Fair Grounds, Logandale, NV, Setup starts at 9 AM, 10 AM-12 AM.

### 11 OPEN HOUSE

@ LP Nevada Headquarters from 5-8 PM.

### 17 AFAN AIDS WALK 2016 (LGBTQI CAUCUS EVENT)

@ Town Square Area from 8-11:30 AM

### 24 OPEN HOUSE

@ Libertarian Party headquarters from 11 AM-2 PM.



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# Libertarian Boxer Making a Comeback!

Earlier this month, American Dream Presents and the Libertarian Party of Nevada hosted LP Nevada's 2016 convention after-party for a special double announcement. LPN state chair [Brett H. Pojunis](#) announced his candidacy for the Libertarian Party national chairmanship. Shortly before that, LPN's own light-heavyweight champion Ron Johnson announced his return to the ring!

A double main event is happening on May 27, 2016 at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Florida to coincide with the 2016 Libertarian National Convention.



The special attraction features Cleveland, Ohio's Roy Jones Jr., battling in the ring with the undefeated up-and-comer Omari Braxton. The two main events will feature Hector "Machito" Camacho, Jr. and LPN's Ron "The American Dream" Johnson, another proud native of Cleveland.

Ron Johnson was inducted into the Boxing Hall of Fame in 2003. His stellar record includes 11 wins to 1 loss, with 3 of those wins by knockout. He stepped out of the ring in 2007 due to injuries and professional frustrations.

"I got burned out boxing and doing promotions at the same time," Johnson recently said in an interview for [Cleveland online magazine](#). "It also didn't help not having a full team of loyal people. I got exhausted. Looking back, I'm glad I took the time off. I don't have a lot of wear and tear on my body. I took care of myself."

"Ron is an underdog," says longtime friend and manager Ralph Faulkner. Faulkner's company, My Inner Circle Entertainment, is promoting the fights and promoting Ron Johnson. "We came

from a rough neighborhood where you'd meet someone on Saturday and he'd be dead on Tuesday. Rising up out of that and being successful is not easy. But that's the type of hunger that makes a man win."

Libertarians also believe that same hunger for improvement and success is the true American spirit. It's more noticeable than ever in the age of entitlement and adults needing "safe spaces."

Ron "The American Dream" Johnson returned to the ring in 2015. These days, Johnson works in promotions but continues to stay involved with community service and local politics. Most recently, he's been training for America's Fight Night in May. Ron will also use this fight card to promote the Libertarian Party.

"It's a match made in Heaven," Brett Pojunis. "Ron is an underdog boxer. The LP is an underdog party. If you look around, more and more people in Nevada and across the country are fed up with the status quo. It's time for all the underdogs to start sticking together everywhere."

**By Zach Foster, Contributor, Libertarian Party of Nevada**

Follow LP Nevada on [Facebook](#) for the latest exclusive scoops on celebrities and Nevada politics.

## Steve Sanson for Nevada State Assembly District 13

My fellow residents of Assembly District 13, I have decided to run for Assembly against the incumbent.

I have chosen this path because an elected official should never lie to the voters and over tax working class Nevadans, after the voters have rejected a tax increase.

This is what the current establishment has done to you. These back-room deals and politics conducted as normal practice, must stop.

The incumbent would like you to be ill-informed or entirely uninformed of his voting record.

I have been working against corruption as President of Veterans In Politics International, since 2005, dedicating my time and resources to the public for free.

We have exposed corruption, fought against unnecessary tax increases, educated the public on candidates running for office, and championing veterans' rights.

As a citizen, I have testified and offered ideas on several bills that have ultimately become law.

This will not be my first rodeo.

As your Assemblyman, I will do my very best to fight for you.

Sincerely,  
Steve Sanson  
[www.SteveSanson.com](http://www.SteveSanson.com)  
702 283 8088

# Obama's New Oil Tax Would Suffocate the Economy and Cost Americans a Pretty Penny at the Pump

A lot of Americans are breathing a little easier these days. The lower fuel prices -- gas has dipped below \$2 a gallon in some places in Nevada -- mean many folks have a few extra dollars in their pockets.

But if President Obama has his way, low gas prices will be a thing of the past and it will be harder for families to make ends meet.

In his recent budget request to Congress, the president proposed a \$10.25-per-barrel fee on crude oil to fund transportation projects. If implemented, this new tax would paralyze the economy, undermine our competitiveness in the global energy market and raise prices at the pump by more than 10 percent.

The timing of the president's proposal couldn't be worse. The oil industry, which supports 9.8 million jobs in the United States and accounts for 8 percent of the economy, is suffering its worst financial crisis in 25 years. A 70 percent drop in the price of crude oil over the past year and a half is wreaking havoc on the energy sector.

As a result, oil companies have had no choice but to let people go. Shell has cut its workforce by 10,000 and BP recently announced it will eliminate 3,000 jobs. Haliburton has laid off 22,000 workers since the beginning of 2015.

Some smaller energy companies have found they simply can't stay afloat in

today's market. For example, Samson Resources of Oklahoma and Texas-based Hercules Offshore and Swift Energy have all filed for bankruptcy.

The ripple effect throughout the economy has been a return to sluggish overall growth: in the last quarter of 2015, the U.S. economy grew at only 0.7 percent, lower still than the already anemic 2 percent the quarter before. Economists are even sounding the alarm about the possibility of another recession.

President Obama's oil tax would kick the industry while it's down. Robust economic growth is impossible while the energy sector is sprawled out flat on the canvas.

The president's proposed oil tax would also snuff out America's opportunity to become the premier energy superpower worldwide. Before the price of oil dropped, our country was well on the way. Surging domestic production looked to erase decades of dependence on foreign energy sources, especially in the volatile Middle East.

In 2014, our nation passed Russia as the world's largest producer of natural gas and Saudi Arabia as the leader in oil production. As of last June, the United States produced 9.3 million barrels of crude oil daily -- nearly double the figure from just a decade ago.

Congress, to its credit, has attempted to seize the opportunity to parlay America's

growing energy production into a boon for the U.S. economy. Last December, legislators lifted the oil export ban, thereby allowing domestic companies to export crude for the first time in more than 40 years. The move has the potential to lower gas prices by 12 cents per gallon and ensure the United States can play a stronger, more competitive role in international energy markets.

But none of this will materialize if President Obama gets his way and America levies a stifling oil tax. If our country is going to remain on top, our energy sector needs policies that nurture it, not punish it.

While Obama's new oil tax proposal appears to be a vindictive jab at big oil companies, it's everyday Americans who will get stuck with the tab at the pump. Under the tax, drivers can look forward to paying an extra 25 cents or more per gallon. Especially hard hit will be low-income Americans, who spend a greater share of their income on gas than those who are better off.

Unfortunately, instead of trying to help our troubled economy regain its footing, President Obama wants to go the other way to score political points. If his ill-conceived tax is implemented, that'll mean big harm to the economy, and a big bite out of Nevadans' wallets.

**By Drew Johnson, Senior Scholar at the Taxpayers Protection Alliance.**





# Ridiculous Pot Legalization Rules Do Nothing to Eliminate Criminals

The Campaign to Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol and the Marijuana Policy Project have sponsored a ballot initiative to legalize one ounce or less of recreational marijuana which also includes a cumbersome system of licensing, certification, testing, labeling, and inventory controls. On November 8, 2016, Nevadans will vote on this legislation.

The Marijuana Policy Project and its advocates claim that regulation is “in the interest of public health,” but their proposed exaggerated government oversight is unnecessary, as the underground marijuana market has done a perfectly good job of regulating itself. Black market marijuana consumers know both who to buy from, and who to avoid thereby putting the vendors who sell bad products out of business, and keeping reliable weed merchants in business. Ask any marijuana user you know, and they can connect you with a trusted dealer, likely someone they have been doing business with for a long time.

Cannabis-caused deaths due to marijuana overdose are extremely rare. The April 2014 edition of Forensic Science International, a peer-reviewed journal, reported that only two deaths due to

acute cannabis toxicity have ever been reported in the US. In addition, the sale of laced marijuana is not as frequent as one would think. More often, the lacing occurs at the point of consumption by the user, not by the seller. This renders the need for exorbitant regulations on recreational marijuana completely unnecessary, and refutes the Marijuana Policy Project’s concern for “public health.”

Economic consequences of recreational marijuana over regulation also need to be considered. The increased operational costs for recreational marijuana proprietors will cause the price of marijuana to be higher than it is currently. A brief search of medical marijuana prices shows that the average price for one ounce of weed is USD\$320-USD\$350. The increased operational costs associated with the proposed regulations will make recreational weed much more expensive than it is currently on the black market. A brief survey of marijuana users revealed that current black market price of marijuana in Las Vegas is about USD\$250 per ounce. That is 29% difference in price, hardly insignificant.

Many recreational marijuana users are

not likely to pay 29% more for the same high, and are likely to keep purchasing marijuana products from their dealer of choice, thereby making criminals out of mutually consenting buyers and sellers. This is hardly a viable solution to reduce the extremely high prison population, as many are incarcerated for mere marijuana possession.

Instead of legalizing recreational marijuana, it should be decriminalized. It is necessary that the current penalties associated with the possession, sale, and private cultivation of marijuana are eliminated. It will reduce the number of individuals who arrested, charged, and have their lives ruined by a practice that is voluntary and victimless.

Regardless of your political or personal view of marijuana use, buying and selling it is a mutually beneficial exchange between consenting parties. Adding extra costs and burdens of regulation does nothing to remedy prison overpopulation, does nothing to eliminate black market marijuana, and makes criminals out of consenting parties.

**By Thalia C. Siqueiros, Contributor,  
Libertarian Party of Nevada**

took notice of something I particularly liked. The room kept filling up with more and more people I’ve never seen before. Looking back at the past couple state conventions this was definitely a big jump. The 2015 convention saw more attendees than the previous year but the difference between 2016 and 2015 was huge. The office completely exploded with longstanding dedicated member and fresh faces alike. It got to a point where I didn’t think we were going to have enough seating. Now that I think about it I remember people standing in the corners and others sitting on the tables. So I guess we did run out of seats after all and came close to running out of room in general. Moving around in there became a rather careful endeavor.

As the seats filled up, the coffee maker ran dry and the talking subsided it was now time ... Continued next page

## State Convention (continued)

to begin. The Chairman of the Nevada Libertarian Party, Brett H. Pojunis, opened the meeting and before I knew it we were charging through the agenda. The proceedings followed a quick, yet careful, course. I suspect the speed was due to the focus of the party members. We were all pretty much on the same page as we knew what exactly needed to be done. Questions certainly arose, as they should, concerning votes, candidates, by-laws, budgets and other aspects. But once they were hammered out we were right back on track, seemingly without missing a beat. Again, the attention given provided a noticeably strong commitment to the convention. While we were taking care of business in Las Vegas, our Northern Regional Representative David Colborne was holding the other half of the state convention in Carson City. The party had a live video stream going so each side could correspond with the other in

real time. The reason for this is Nevada’s size. It’s the seventh largest state in the Union and the distances between communities can be rather vast. When it comes to getting everyone together in one spot this state isn’t exactly Delaware or Massachusetts.

At its completion, I sensed a very dedicated crowd. Each knowing his or her future role or at least having a firm idea how they can contribute to the party’s ultimate success. I’m also glad to report the party has seven candidates running for state offices and one running for a federal Representative’s seat. Conversations once again resumed with many questions focusing on the after-party at Satay Thai Bistro. Located at Flamingo & Paradise, it serves some exquisite Thai food. If you’re a beer fan, as I am, don’t forget to try their Thai import beer Singha. It’s a lager style brew that can be ordered in a tower which is

great if you have a few friends with you. While at Satay, the Libertarian National Convention was promoted. It will be held Memorial Day weekend from May 27-30 in Orlando, Florida. I encourage anyone who can make it to go. At the event Nevada resident and WFB Light Heavyweight Champion Ronald Johnson will strap on gloves and jump in the ring for the benefit of the Libertarian Party. Also in Orlando our Nevada Chairman Brett H. Pojunis will be running for the party’s national chair. Personally knowing this man’s work ethic, financial sacrifices, and all the countless hours he has put in for the Nevada State party, my decision to support Brett H. Pojunis is an easy one. I can’t think of another person who has single-handedly done more for the Libertarian movement than Brett. He certainly has my full support for Chairman of the Libertarian National Committee - will you vote for him too?

## The Power Behind Bartering

It was 1980. Jimmy Carter was soon to leave office and Ronald Reagan would take his place at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. The economy was stagnant, except for one interesting niche: Bartering. Bartering had grown beyond an old-fashioned way of country folk trading eggs for chopping firewood or a wagon load of hay for stud services from the neighbor’s bull. Nearly every Fortune 500 company had a Barter Division. It was an effective method of making sales that otherwise wouldn’t have been made.

My parents had a baby and no college degree. Interest rates were around 20%. It was a tricky financial time, but my parents had one important mental tool: free will.

They joined a barter network and with a little creativity, suddenly had more trade dollars than they could spend each month. But eating was key. A fancy restaurant was on the trade network; reservations were the envy of the town. My parents would invite friends and clients to join them for dinner saying, “Hey--we’ll buy; you just pick up the tip!” Friends were impressed with the secret

wealth of this young couple. My parents were paying for everything from rent to dry cleaning with trade.

My parents were broke by typical calculations, but with their own free will they became King and Queen of their own economy.

Fast forward 30 years. I was a single mom with a hobby for a business. My friends encouraged me to seek out government assistance to pay for daycare and help put food on the table. “Wow, is it really that bad?” I called a few government agencies, a feeling of desperation growing as I waited on hold; their daycare funds had dried up months ago. I felt terrible after hanging up the phone. Suffocating in my own powerlessness. “This sucks. This is not me,” I decided.

Time for barter.

I had used barter casually, but now it was time to use my own free will and create my own economy. I did some

Googling, looking for preschools that didn’t have websites. I carefully planned out possible win-win scenarios that would put some immediate cash in the daycare’s pocket, but would also buy me some time to generate more clients and sales. My barter network became the “man of the house” making household repairs, moving heavy furniture, fixing my car and giving me empowering support whenever I needed it. Using barter built my confidence; I knew I could survive any financial situation.

When we recognize that our financial power comes from our own minds, and not the dollars in the bank--The Powers that Be get nervous. No, the Powers that Be become a force within, not an unknown entity to be feared.

**By Angela Refsland, Contributor,  
Libertarian Party of Nevada**

## The 2016 Libertarian State Convention: A Personal Review

**By Mike Astafan, At-Large Representative, Libertarian Party of Nevada**





# LIBERTARIAN PARTY of NEVADA

## 2016 Libertarian National Convention



Dates: Friday, May 27 - Monday, May 30,  
Location: Orlando, Florida

LPNevada would like to have very strong representation at our National Convention to ensure *our* voice is heard! The 2016 convention is important because we select our Presidential & Vice Presidential Candidates as well as the leadership for the National Party.

Visit: [www.LPNevada.org/natcon](http://www.LPNevada.org/natcon)



Come out and see the Libertarian Party of Nevada at the Clark County Fair & Rodeo in Logandale, Nevada. We are presenting at booth 167. There are a lot of fun prizes, games, rides, food, and other events going on over the course of 5 days. For more information about the fair, please see [www.CCFair.com](http://www.CCFair.com).

Volunteers - please sign up on [www.LPNevada.org/ccfair](http://www.LPNevada.org/ccfair) and indicate what shifts you are able and willing to work. You will not have to work all of these shifts; it's for flexibility of scheduling! The attire is going to be an LPNevada T-shirt & Jeans with closed-toe shoes.

We will be joined by many LPNevada candidates for office on Saturday from 2-11pm. Meet Assemblyman John Moore as well as Kim Schjang, Ed Uehling, Tim Hagan, Lesley Chan, Troy Warren, and Jonathan Friedrich.



Re-Elect  
**John Moore**  
ReElectJohn.Com

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