



# LIBERTARIAN

PARTY of NEVADA

www.LPNevada.org

**June 7 First Tuesday Libertarian Social**  
@ Jalisco Mexican Cantina from 6 - 9pm.

**June 14 Primary Pizza Party (Elect David Colborne Event) @ Nu Yalk Pizza, Reno, NV from 7 - 9pm.**

**June 14 Out for Liberty (LGBTQI Caucus)**  
@ The Phoenix Bar and Lounge from 7 - 9pm.

**June 18 Internship Orientation Day**  
@ LP Nevada HQ, 10am - 2pm

## Featured Articles

**Pg. 3 A Call to the Frustrated**

**Pg. 3 Supreme Court Decision Was Political**

**Pg. 4 The Cronyism Between Big Labor and Big Government Costs Taxpayers Billions**

**Pg. 5 Do You Measure Up?**

**Pg. 6 Meet LP Nevada's Candidates**

**Pg. 7 LP Nevada June Events**



## Presidential Debate Hosted by LPNevada & Out For Liberty

Three Libertarian presidential candidates, international celebrities, major media outlets, and celebrations on the Las Vegas Strip — these are just some of the highlights from May's presidential debate hosted by the Libertarian Party of Nevada.

The debate, moderated by Penn Jillette, featured former New Mexico Governor Gary Johnson, software developer John McAfee, and journalist Austin Petersen and marks the third nationally televised Libertarian debate.

Over 300 people were in attendance including judges, media, state senators and assembly members, and a host of other public officials, business owners, and students

News outlets from around the nation covered the event which was broadcast on Glenn Beck's network TheBlaze. NBC San Diego, Al Jazeera English, and local reporters from Fox 5 and CBS 8 were all in attendance. Popular online outlets such as [Reason.com](http://Reason.com), [NewYorker.com](http://NewYorker.com), [Breitbart.com](http://Breitbart.com), [ConservativeReview.com](http://ConservativeReview.com), and the [LibertarianRepublic.com](http://LibertarianRepublic.com) among others also covered the event.

Like other debates, there were four main sections: an introductory statement and one-on-one with Jillette, followed up by celebrity and party activist questions (such as Dee Snyder, Greg Gutfeld, and physicist Lawrence Krauss), then do-

mestic and foreign issues, and finally a lightning round.

Jillette, an outspoken Libertarian activist, proved his place on the stage with his fair and unbiased questions, respect for the candidates, and even disposition.

A post-debate discussion panel was led by LP Nevada state chair Brett H. Pojunis and included: Rick Harrison, star of the History Channel's Pawn Stars; Geoff Lawrence, Assistant Controller for the State of Nevada; and Drew Johnson, Daily Caller reporter and senior fellow at the Taxpayers Protection Alliance.

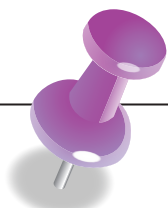
Candidates, their staffs, supporters, and the press headed over to the OUT for Liberty candidate meet-and-greet which was followed by a fabulous party hosted by the McAfee campaign.

The debate and the events following were a stunning success that helped put the Libertarian Party into the public eye.

LP Nevada is profoundly grateful to Penn Jillette for hosting this debate and to OUT For Liberty's Brandon Ellyson, who made this event possible.

All proceeds from the event went to Opportunity Village, a Las Vegas nonprofit that works to educate, train and empower Americans with intellectual disabilities.

**By Zach Foster, Senior Contributor**



## 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:
  - Facebook Page: [www.fb.com/lpnevada](http://www.fb.com/lpnevada)
  - 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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# A Call to the Frustrated

By Zach Foster, Senior Contributor,  
Libertarian Party of Nevada

If you've had enough with the 2016 presidential election and you're just joining us, welcome. Perhaps you happened upon us in a moment of frustration between all the name calling, ridiculous tweets, and jokes about what a certain presidential candidate is packing in their pants, or maybe you're simply looking for something that falls between the extreme left and extreme right.

However you got here, we're glad you did. Here you'll find a few brief statements that highlight what we stand for and what we believe in:

- **We are socially liberal and fiscally conservative.**  
What does that mean? We think you should be able to do what you want and who you want as long as it doesn't harm others. And the government shouldn't take away your hard-earned money and give it to other people.
- **We have been for women and gay rights before it was "cool."**  
Our first presidential ticket in 1972 was a woman and an openly gay man. And we support marriage equality and LGBT rights.
- **We support the right to own guns.**
- **We support families' in their decisions how and where to educate their children.**
- **We are against the War on Drugs.**
- **We are against taxing businesses to death, especially small businesses.**
- **We are against the government picking winners and losers by handing out tax breaks and incentives to certain companies and industries.**
- **We do not support an increase in the minimum wage.**  
Simple economics proves an increase does nothing but inflate the value of the dollar, cause businesses to terminate workers, and has a more severe impact on small business owners.
- **We support streamlining government assistance programs to ensure that those who really need assistance will have access.**
- **We oppose interventionist foreign policy.**  
There are ways to defeat terrorists attacking Americans without resorting to long, costly overseas deployments.

If you agreed with more than half, then you're probably a Libertarian and never knew it. Either way, you're invited to join the hundreds of thousands who support individual liberty and freedom.

Join us and let's give freedom, peace, and prosperity a chance. The Libertarian Party can be your voice.



# Supreme Court Tax Decision Was Political

By Ron Knecht and Geoffrey Lawrence,  
Nevada State Controller and Assistant  
Controller

In our last column, we explained that the defeat of efforts to repeal the commerce tax shows that Nevada's political establishment – controlled by Big Gaming and Big Unions – owns not only many officeholders of both political parties, but much of state and local government.

We said that Nevada's supreme court justices, as loyal members of the establishment, manufactured a bogus excuse to upset the referendum effort. Today we explain why the court's decision was political.

By statute, each signature page of a referendum petition must "[s]et forth, in not more than 200 words, a description of the effect of the initiative or referendum if the initiative or referendum is approved by the voters." This description of effect and the whole petition were drafted by the general counsel at the Nevada legislature to meet all required standards.

The court did not take issue with the description of the effect of passing the proposed referendum. That text described the tax and noted that if it were approved, it would remain in effect and could not be changed by the governor and legislature. Instead, the court complained that the description did not specify in enough detail the effects if the referendum were disapproved – that is, if the tax were repealed by the voters.

By its terms, the statute doesn't require a description of the effects of voter disapproval of a referendum. But the justices' contention that such a description is required might be reasonable if those effects are substantial but not obvious. So, are they? The court states: "Eliminating the commerce tax thus will unsettle the balanced budget for this biennium, fiscal years 2015/16 and 2016/17, causing financial uncertainty for the government and thus the people of this state." For FY2015/16, this statement is absolutely false. The referendum could not be passed by voters before November 8, 2016, and it could not be retroactive. By the end of September, the books on FY2015/16 will be closed and all the commerce tax revenues will be collected and made available to spend. There's no possible effect.

But for people who understand the budgeting, tax collection and spending process, the court's claims are also substantively false for FY2016/17. The court references the net \$74.9 million that will not be collected for that year, as estimated by the Legislative Counsel Bureau. We take no issue with that estimate. However, the court misunderstands the budgeting impact of it.

If the commerce tax were repealed this November by voters, the fact \$74.9 million would not be collected for FY2016/17 would mean only that the ending fund balance for that year would be reduced by that amount –

... Continued on page 5



# The Cronyism Between Big Labor and Big Government Costs Taxpayers BILLIONS

For the last half century American labor unions have been increasing their control over local and state governments by colluding with big-government advocates to create laws that protect their influence.

And taxpayers have been paying the price.

**A new study** by The Heritage Foundation — coauthored by Nevada Policy Research Institute's former director of research, Geoffrey Lawrence — shows that this crony relationship between big government and big labor results in big costs for local budgets.

When Nevada passed its first collective bargaining law in 1965, it expressly prohibited government from engaging in collective bargaining. Had the Silver State simply maintained that prohibition on public-sector unionization, state and local spending in 2014 would have been between \$1 billion and \$1.8 billion lower.

In states that have mandatory collective bargaining laws, the difference was even greater. Nationwide, if union membership was simply made voluntary, state and local governments would have been able to save between \$127 and \$164 billion in 2014 alone.

As impressive as these numbers are, the study shows more than just raw data. It highlights the cronyism inherent in collective bargaining laws, and quantifies the burden taxpayers carry for this marriage between big government and big labor.

By their very nature, public sector labor unions — tasked with “protecting” the interests of public sector workers — are dedicated to growing both the size and cost of local and state governments. It's not necessarily some nefarious conspiracy. It's merely self-preservation. As the size and cost of government

continues its upward trajectory, so do the union's membership and collected dues.

When representing workers in the private sector, union bosses must balance their demand for more generous collective bargaining agreements with the company's ability to turn a profit. Refusing to do so, after all, results in the employer being fiscally incapable of employing any additional labor.

But in government, where a seemingly endless supply of taxpayers fund operations, there is no such organic cap on what the unions can, and often do, demand. While private businesses are limited by the amount of cash they bring in, governments are only limited by the amount they can tax.

And as we know all too well in Nevada, politicians seem perfectly willing to raise taxes.

It's no surprise then that the burden government has placed on taxpayers has grown exponentially along with the rise of public sector unionization. While this study supplies us with hard data, the theory has been around as long as unionization.

In fact, even the most stalwart union-sympathizers — such as Franklin D. Roosevelt — warned against government-sector unionization early in the 20th Century. Nevada's first collective bargaining law also reflects this common-sense apprehension about public sector labor unions.

Considering that such a ban on public-sector collective bargaining could have saved Nevada more than \$1 billion in 2014 alone, maybe it's time taxpayers begin paying closer attention to big labor's influence over, and collaboration with, big government.

**By Michael Schaus, Communications Director, Nevada Policy Research Institute**



# Do *You* Measure Up?

There is a saying, “Don’t tell me about the labor, show me the baby.” In sales fields, telling how hard you worked or explaining how interested your customer is in your product is useless. What were your sales last quarter? How much commission did you make? Those numbers tell immeasurably more than any flowery speech about effort and dedication.

If politics had this saying, it would save countless hours of listening to individuals drone on and on about how Libertarian they are, and they would have to show what they accomplished.

Enter William Weld. He is a former governor of Massachusetts who holds a degree in economics — a politician who studied **actual** economics. He was part of the investigation of Wattergate and subsequently investigated corruption in Boston, leading to the prosecution of the mayor and 20 others. After earning head of the criminal division at the Justice Department, he resigned in protest over Edwin Meese, a Reagan appointee, whom he wanted to investigate for personal financial misconduct. Meese ended up resigning after Weld testified.

Say what you want about Weld, but he is nonpartisan when it comes to ethics.

As governor of Massachusetts he ushered in business confidence by being actively pro-business with lower taxes and strong leadership on fiscal restraint. He cut state spending year over year, leading to the Cato Institute’s continued high rating of him in their annual “Fiscal Policy Report Card on America’s Governors.”

He led an effort to privatize state human services, something even Republicans today think is radical in this era of big government. William Weld is an economic powerhouse, who makes Republicans look like they are just another wing of the Democrat party.

Regrading social issues, Weld has been outspoken on his support for marriage equality and his stance on the War on Drugs (it was a mistake).

And, in a state that is overwhelmingly Democrat, Weld won by the largest margin carrying every district in the state but five.

But, as we will see, William Weld supported the assault weapon ban. So he can’t be a Libertarian, right?

Exposure to our ideology in action is how people grow. The point here is this: the party is one of spreading liberty. If we don’t take the opportunity to embrace those who are on the path to our ideal, then how are we going to get others to take the rest of the journey?

Weld supported gun control 25 years ago, but he acknowledges today that gun control didn’t work and has since embraced the idea that liberty includes the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment.

So, please stop measuring the Libertarian purity of those who have not been tested, those who have produced nothing. Stop discounting individuals who may not tow the party line on 100 percent of the issues. Let’s throw our support behind candidates who can build on our party’s momentum and will help bring new interest to Libertarian solutions.

**By Jason G. Smith,  
Vice-Chairman of the  
Libertarian Party of Nevada**



## Supreme Court Decision (continued from page 3)

not that any change would be required or made in any currently budgeted state spending. Since the projected ending fund balance is more than three times that amount, the state could easily absorb such a revenue reduction. In fact, it sometimes absorbs even larger reductions when actual revenues collected fall short of expected levels.

The only real consequence of the repeal would be that, due to the reduced ending fund balance, the dollars expected to be available for the following year, FY2017/18, would be reduced by that amount. But no budget has even been set for that period, nor will one be set until the legislature meets next year. So, there will be no “hole in the budget”, no “shortfall”, nothing “unsettled.”

Moreover, the \$74.9 million reduction in revenues is less than 0.7 percent of total state spending in the most recently com-

pleted fiscal year. Even with that reduction, total state spending is likely to rise about four percent. So, the referendum’s effect is well-known and small, not substantial. Everyone knows that when voters repeal a tax, the state will have less revenue than if they didn’t repeal it. The description is not at all “deceptive”. Especially contrary to Justice Nancy Saitta’s concurring opinion, the description is not “materially misleading” and petition signers have not been “both deceived and materially misled.”

Had the justices stuck to the numbers, one could assume they just misunderstood a very convoluted process in concluding there was a need to labor the alleged impact in the description. But when they started larding their decision and concurrence with false and loaded rhetoric – “unsettled ... financial uncertainty ... deceptive ... materially misleading” – they showed they were politically motivated.

# Meet Our Candidates



**John Moore**  
**Assembly District 8**

[www.ReelectJohn.com](http://www.ReelectJohn.com)

In 2014, John was elected to the State Legislature representing Nevada Assembly District 8. During his first term, John provided a fresh and strong libertarian voice to represent his constituents, and to ensure that our voice is heard. John will continue to work to bring a consensus to the Nevada State Assembly, and to create a brighter future for Nevada! John knows it is extremely important to be able to work with both sides of the aisle.

As a combat Veteran himself, John knows the value of making sure that our nation's Veterans get the kind of care and treatment that they deserve. He will fight for our Veterans at every opportunity. Every year, we are asked to pay "just a little bit more," and John knows this is not the answer to the issues that face our state. Instead government agencies must be held accountable for how our tax dollars are being spent. For years, we've been paying more and getting less. We deserve better. John understands that less government involvement in our daily lives and less government spending of our money is the best way to ensure a free and prosperous future for Nevada. Please re-elect Assemblyman John Moore, District 8, Nevada.



**Jonathan Friedrich**  
**Senate District 3**

[www.friedrichforsd3.com](http://www.friedrichforsd3.com)

Jonathan Friedrich has lived in Las Vegas for over thirteen years and seen many promises made by politicians in the Republican and Democrat parties. While serving on various boards and commissions here in the State of Nevada, he has had an opportunity to see the needs of this state firsthand.

As a libertarian, he is not bound to the crony capitalism or good-ole-boy politics of the major parties; Jonathan has his own personal code and his loyalty lies with the citizens of Senate District 3. He believes in protecting our citizens from organizations and monopolies that infringe on our liberties and financial well-being. Some of his goals include repealing the commerce/margin taxes, stopping common core from ruining our classrooms, and restoring constitutional rights to homeowners.



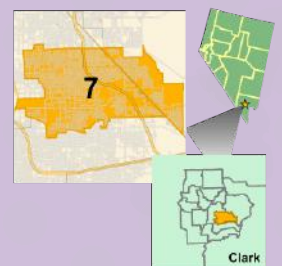
**Kimberly Schjang**  
**Senate District 7**

[www.Schjang.com](http://www.Schjang.com)

As a native of Las Vegas for 33 years and a student at UNLV, Kim has seen plenty of changes to Las Vegas as a whole, and most notably, to District 7 where she has lived for most of her life.

She wants to know - where will this district be in another ten years? Not just for herself, but for her young nephews, for her mother that just turned 57, for her neighbors playing basketball on Saturday evenings, and even the "Corn Man" blowing his horn to announce that he has come to serve the neighborhood a treat. Will things be improved, or stagnant like the past ten years?

The future is why Kim is running for Senate District 7. She is determined to make sure that each and every man, woman and child has a bright future. Whether it is improving the public transportation system, offering more choices for education to parents, or lowering taxes so the things you buy are cheaper, Kim has a plan to improve the lives of everyone in District 7. A vote for Kimberly A. Schjang for State Senate District 7 is a vote for a certain future.



# EVENTS

## JUNE 2016

### 07 FIRST TUESDAY LIBERTARIAN SOCIAL

@ Jalisco Mexican Cantina, Las Vegas, NV, 6 - 9pm.

### 18 INTERNSHIP ORIENTATION MEETING

@ LP Nevada Headquarters, 10am - 2pm.

### 25 DIRECTORS' MEETING

@ LP Nevada headquarters from 9 - 11am.

### 30 LEGALIZE EVERYTHING LIBERTY PARTY (STUDENT CAUCUS)

@ LP Nevada Headquarters, 7 - 9pm.

### 14 PRIMARY PIZZA PARTY: ELECT DAVID COLBORNE EVENT

@ Nu Yalk Pizza, Reno, NV, 7 - 9pm.

### 21 THIRD TUESDAY LIBERTARIAN SOCIAL

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

### 25 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

@ LP Nevada headquarters from 11am - 1pm.

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

@ the Phoenix Bar & Lounge from 7 - 9pm.

### 23 WOMEN IN NEVADA CAUCUS

@ LP Nevada headquarters from 6 - 8 PM.

### 28 SAVE NEVADA BUSINESS MEETING (LOCAL BUSINESS COALITION)

@ LP Nevada Headquarters, 5 - 7pm.



# #NeverTrump: True Republicans Desire an Alternative

So you're a Republican who has had enough of the party and its support for the Donald, eh? Whether you are dissatisfied with his politics, his personality, or his hair, we want to let you know that there is an alternative this year! And it's not Hillary...

This year, you have the chance to make a difference. You have the opportunity to wake up the two-party system. You can be part of a historic movement toward a multi-party system of government, but only if you help break the stalemate of Republican vs. Democrat.

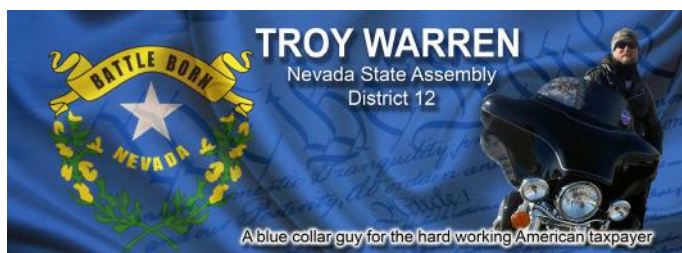
This year, on November 8th, you can vote for the [Libertarian Party](#). The Johnson/Weld ticket is on the ballot in all 50 of the United States and they advocate for a smaller, more-transparent government. They want to lower your income taxes. They want to end the fees and licensing for businesses. They want to stop government charities in favor of private ones, such as churches and non-profits. Don't believe me? [Watch this incredible debate](#).

But they need your support. There are several ways you can help the Libertarian Party defeat Hillary and Trump at the ballot box:

1. Vote Libertarian in polls online or via telephone.
2. Switch your [voter registration](#) to the Libertarian Party.
3. Talk about this option to your friends. Spread the word!
4. Become an official member of the [Libertarian Party](#) and your [state-affiliate](#).
5. Most of all, vote **Libertarian Party** in November!

This year, don't waste your vote on the lesser of the "evils." Vote for a candidate you can actually support. One who knows the issues, can argue them, and ultimately, can run the largest company in the world – The United States of America.

By Alexander DiBenedetto, Editor-in-Chief





## The 2016 LP Convention: A First Hand Perspective

This was my first time attending a Libertarian Party National Convention. I didn't really know what to expect when I arrived, but I was excited for the opportunity. This was a brand new experience; it was also a good excuse to wear my suit! Here's what happened on Day 1.

The first experience I had as a delegate was during the Bylaws portion of the convention. We went along the list of proposed changes and were given the opportunity to debate them and take a vote. The National Chairman, Nick Sarwark, moderated the Bylaws debates and took votes. Pretty much everyone who wanted to speak had the opportunity (given the time allotted hadn't expired). He also provided a system to go back and forth between those in support and those against the proposed change to allow both sides equal speaking time. The Bylaws portion of the convention has been my favorite so far. There were a few proposed changes that were not in line with libertarian ideology. The one that stuck out the most was the proposed change that you can only be a delegate for the National Convention if you are a dues-paying member of the National Party. (The original Bylaw stated something along the lines of, you could be a delegate if you were a member of the National party OR a state-affil-

iate.) The new Bylaw would have forced every delegate to pay the National Party an undetermined amount of money to be allowed to attend the next convention as a delegate. Luckily, there were enough sensible delegates in attendance that the proposed change failed.

There were a few things I did not like about the convention. One issue I had was with the people who were not acting professionally during the convention. At one point a delegate shouted out, "Traitor!" at the delegates in favor for deleting the Abortion plank of the platform so that it could be revised and reworded. Another action that was unprofessional was that certain delegates were walking around with thumbs up/down signs and flashing, red lights in their hands while a debate was underway on the floor. This sort of behavior seemed very distracting and disrespectful to the delegates trying to make their case during the debating process.

I'm not a stickler for appearance and I certainly understand if you cannot afford a suit to wear. However, my issue was with the delegates who purposely chose unprofessional clothing, which in my mind was disrespectful to the proceedings and served only to make the convention look like a joke. Many of the

news outlets that attend the convention purposely don't interview the nice, polished, and respectful delegates who present the best of the party. They are there to help discredit any 3<sup>rd</sup> party option and the delegates acting and wearing unprofessional clothing are the ones they target for interviews. It's my hope that states will be more selective in the delegates they send to the National Convention in the future.

So far I have enjoyed my time at the convention and I believe it has been a great experience. Even though the convention is only halfway complete, I already know I want to attend the next one. Fortunately, the majority of the Libertarian party delegates are good at debating their point of view on issues in a manner that is respectful (and for the most part logical). If a compelling argument is presented before them that is different than the idea they hold, they will think about it; if it makes sense they will change their opinion. Even if the two sides can't convince each other, there is a mutual respect for the other individual and they can move on without any emotional outbursts. I believe that's what sets the Libertarian Party apart from the Republicans and Democrats. I am looking forward to the most exciting day of the Convention, Sunday, when we choose our Presidential and Vice-Presidential nominees – my vote will help select the persons on every ballot in all 50 states.

# 2016 National Convention: My Most Eye-Opening Experience in Politics

I've been a political activist for eleven years. I volunteered for my Congressman and saw him on a regular basis as a teen. I worked within the Ron Paul 2012 campaign and canvassed for the Iowa Caucuses. I've been to multiple state conventions since I joined the Libertarian Party in 2014. None of those experiences was as eye-opening and educational as the 2016 Libertarian National Convention.

It was one hell of an experience, but I'm honestly glad it's over. I was constantly being pressured to vote for one of the top three candidates, which was awkward as hell because I like and respect all three of them. I'd also made no secret about supporting Kevin McCormick on the first ballot, and I was disappointed that he got only a fraction of the delegate votes that went to Daryl Perry and Dr. Mark Feldman. I have nothing against those gentlemen, but I truly think McCormick had the best message. I'm slightly relieved that Gary Johnson won the nomination, though I'm also glad the convention had to go to a second ballot. It showed the good Governor that enough movers and shakers within the Party were displeased with his campaign, and that he would have to earn their confidence.

Though I have infinite respect and admiration for McAfee and Petersen, I also understand that the only way the Libertarian Party will make it into the prime time debates and the televised polls is by having an "electable" candidate on the ballot. Appealing to principled Libertarians alone will never get us there.

The Party must find a balance between pandering to "normal people"—the vast majority of the electorate—and maintaining our libertarian soul.

I lost some of you right there; if that's the case, let's agree to disagree and end this talk as friends.

I didn't appreciate Daryl Perry's speech about the Party being destined to fail if we "take a welfare check from the government." We need that 5% of the popular vote and we need those federal election funds for a crucial boost to help even the playing field against the two parties, which will spend billions. A few million well-spent dollars can go a long way for "guerrilla" politics. Mr. Perry's comment got a huge applause, so it's obviously a popular opinion for a not-so-small minority within the Party.

These folks clearly haven't paid much attention to the professionals throughout history who know how to win: Sun Tzu, Julius Caesar, Machiavelli, Mao Zedong, and Saul Alinsky. Regardless of their statism, these men knew how to win. They understood what a benefit and a blessing it is for us that our enemy (the State) would fund its own eventual defeat by funding the Libertarian Party. My top choice for Vice President was Larry Sharpe, for no small part that the man is ridiculously intelligent and articulate. As an effective communicator, a combat veteran, and a black Libertarian and self-described "city boy" from New York, the man is a unicorn and I believed he'd boost Johnson more than he would have busted his chops. This vote went to a second ballot too, ending

table: with two governors on the ticket, the American voter can no longer say the Libertarian Party candidates are unelectable. That combo will help our Party's candidates kick ass down ticket, especially at the county and state levels. That in itself is a greater victory than we could have hoped to achieve in 2012 when most of us were still hiding in the Republican closet.

I had an epiphany that weekend while reading Clotaire Rapaille's *The Culture Code*, a psychology book on archetypes that subconsciously motivate the buying decisions of consumers. The author was hired by multiple presidential campaigns to find out what deep psychological archetypes compulsively motivate voters. Not surprisingly, the American culture code for the President is "Moses." The people want to be rescued by a divinely appointed leader. This is literally the essence of statism. The epiphany came to me as I read that passage, since two things had occurred that day. First, I witnessed untold nastiness hostility in popular attitudes toward Governor Johnson. Gary Johnson fits the American culture code archetype of Moses; he can get the LP to 5% just by not being Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump. Yet people were literally saying the most repulsive, wicked comments about him as a human being. Second, a startling majority of delegates re-elected Nick Sarwark as LNC chair over Brett Pojunis, even though Pojunis is a far better fit for "Moses" than Sarwark could ever be. Those two events rang through my mind like a bell as I read the passage in the book.

I realized that approximately half of the active members in the Libertarian Party simply don't want to win. They want to be right! While I'm relieved that Pojunis at least came in second place, I was truly baffled at how so many Party members had fetishized parliamentary procedure and the ability to run

with William Weld becoming Gary Johnson's running mate by just a few percent. I'll give credit where credit is due as far as what Weld brings to the



meetings. For starters, Brett is great at running meetings, and the meetings he runs flow more smoothly and free of conflict than ANY local or statewide LP meeting I've ever attended elsewhere. Second, the LNC only meets four times per year! What about the other 97% of the time?

Membership and donations for the national party have dropped significantly under Sarwark, yet people were absolutely enamored with the chairman's calm voice and his fluency with parliamentary procedure. Obviously, the market has spoken. That means next time around, my team either changes the market's demand or we find a way to campaign on the best damn meetings in America. Nonetheless, I still struggle to grasp how hardcore anarchists have such a fetish for parliamentary procedure. Could this be closeted minarchism?

However, I realized that Sarwark was exactly the type of archetypal package that most people in the Party wanted. We'll have to repackage a pro-growth candidate for Chair next time around according to that archetype, unless we can significantly change the culture within the Party. We'd like to move it away from parliamentary fetishism toward accomplishments and noticeable growth and health. Sure, Nick is a great parliamentarian, but Brett Pojunis turned a small band of conspiracy theorists meeting at the local Denny's with nothing more than a PO Box into a growing, relevant, state affiliate. It gives me hope that many delegates from all sides of the Libertarian Party were convinced to vote for Brett that weekend. This shows me that, while it may be an uphill battle, at least the modern-era Libertarians already have a foothold in changing the culture within the Party to an accomplishment-driven, entrepreneurial culture.

It also gives me hope that there are still people of principle in this Party who care about values more than they care about egos. This was proven when Dr.

Feldman and LP Canada Chair Tim Moen, a career firefighter/paramedic, were the first responders to a hit and run that left a victim bleeding in front of the convention hotel! This is the epitome of compassion, of helping people, of charity by choice.

It moves me that Nebraska State Senator Laura Ebke followed Nevada Assemblyman John Moore's lead and jumped ship on the GOP to become a Libertarian. I hope others in her position within legislatures find the intestinal fortitude to do the same. The GOP must be allowed to die because of what it's become. This was the sentiment of the original LP founders who walked out on the GOP in 1971.

It gives me hope that this election cycle produced superstars like Kevin McCormick, who is looking to use his new popularity and influence to grow the Arizona Party. Perhaps our national chairman, an Arizona resident, will go out of his way to help Kevin accomplish this.

It gives me hope that multiple state parties have seen the success of Nevada and want to imitate it. Furthermore, they want our guidance, as well as to benefit from our experience--we're absolutely thrilled about this. We look forward to joint events with other state parties later this year. If we were to apply Mao's political principles of guerrilla struggle to the 2018 LNC Chair race, this is the epitome of building our bases of support in the countryside.

I'm excited to announce fruitful conversations with Vermin Supreme. He'll be doing a tour in the fall and the Party affiliates in Nevada and Southern California will be happy to help arrange logistics to bring his tour for the West Coast. I saw for myself at the convention center how anime fangirls in skimpy costumes were making beelines to take their photo with this man. He directly made it possible to talk to over a dozen apolitical, anime geeks about the Libertarian Party. At first I balked at



his recruitment into the Party, but now I totally get it.

It gives me hope that John McAfee is staying in the Libertarian Party. We absolutely NEED his cyber-security expertise for providing peaceful defense solutions. Libertarians are excellent on a humble foreign policy, but absolutely terribly lacking on actual defense, and in their assumption that not creating new blowback somehow makes the old blowback go away.

It even gives me great hope that, following the announcement of the Johnson-Weld ticket, the Johnson campaign was able to raise a quarter million dollars in one evening, with promises for more. Rich people hate Hillary and Trump too, folks! This would have only been a dream during Dr. Ron Paul's 2012 presidential campaign.

We in LP Nevada have A LOT of work to do to continue professionalizing and continuing to grow as we figure out how to behave like a real political party. The same goes for the Party in every state and territory across America. 2016 is the golden opportunity for sustainable and organic growth, not just a flash in the pan. To do that, the state party's need to build their infrastructure and get to work NOW. This opportunity has come and it will pass in November, whether the other parties are ready or not. Some of this weekend was triumph. Other parts felt like a bitter defeat. Overall, the 2016 Libertarian National Convention was my most educational experience in politics and I'm grateful to have been able to attend. Most of all, the experience made me hungry—hungrier than I've ever been.

**By Zach Foster, Senior Contributor**



# LIBERTARIAN

PARTY of NEVADA

## A Party of Immigrants

By Seth Martin, Contributor

Headlines were made this week when Libertarian Party frontrunner Gary Johnson selected former Governor William Weld as his running mate. Two former Republican governors are likely to be pursuing the presidency this year on behalf of Libertarians, in the wake of two of the most unpopular nominees the major parties have ever submitted. The opportunity to expand the party and its influence has never been greater. The only thing that can stand in our way now is our own divisiveness.

Immediately upon being announced, Gov. Weld was subjected to the scrutiny that any public official seeking office should be subjected to and questions were raised that deserved answers. Most notably, Gov. Weld supported "assault weapon" legislation in 1993, saying, "The purpose of this common sense legislation is to remove deadly guns from our streets and to take weapons out of the hands of many teens who themselves are becoming deadly killers." Gov. Weld has some other anti-liberty opinions in his past, but this sample is sufficient.

In 1993, crime in America was deplorable. Massachusetts was worse. Violent crimes peaked that year at ~48,000, of which two-hundred and thirty-three murders accounted for the third highest of all time, behind 1991 and 1990. For comparison, in 2014, Massachusetts experienced about 60% of those numbers despite sizeable population growth. Gov. Weld was elected in this decidedly Democratic state in 1991. He lived and breathed in a time when gun control seemed necessary and inevitable. As such, he supported a bill to curtail the 2nd Amendment rights of his citizens. There's no doubt that such a bill would have been useless, if passed; we've seen time and time again restrictions on firearms ownership add a burden to the responsible, and give more power to the criminal. Luckily for us, Gov. Weld also saw this.

That was twenty-five years ago. Today, Gov. Weld says, "I would make some different choices. Restricting Americans' gun rights doesn't make us safer, and threatens our constitutional freedoms. I was pleased by and support the Supreme Court's decision in the District of Columbia vs. Heller -- a decision that embraced the notion that our Second Amendment rights are individual rights, not to be abridged by the government." So that leaves us with a very important question: Do we believe him? If faced with a similarly tough electorate, would he again cave to tyranny? Should we trust him to maintain his current stance on this and other positions he claims to no longer hold? I say yes, and here's why:

We are a Party of Immigrants. Not a single Libertarian I know was a born and raised Libertarian. Almost all of us have held views and positions in the past we would find distasteful today. I used to support registration of all firearms. I used to oppose marriage equality. I used to oppose marijuana legalization and decriminalization of prostitution. You may have guessed, I used to be a Republican! Chances are you also used to be either a Republican or a Democrat. Someone, somewhere introduced you to a way of thinking you now find important enough to fight for, and you changed your mind. Should I believe you when you tell me you're no longer a Republican or a Democrat? Well I do believe you. And I believe Gov. Weld, too.

## Libertarian Readers' Corner

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