

Region 8 Report

This is the most geographically compact region, but each state has very different politics and processes.

I've made it to more events than last term, and hope to continue doing so. We may do another joint event, perhaps a candidate or legislative training. Would like more members to subscribe to the *LP_8new* yahooogroup.

Heading into 2014 elections, only Vermont had reliable ballot access. Petitioning would either be eliminated or become easier if party status were obtained, except in Massachusetts where it would become more difficult.

Coming out of the election, no changes to statewide ballot access despite some early positive news. Given the timing of the 2016 convention, this lack of ballot access will require resources from either National or the presidential campaign to put our presidential nominee on the ballot in some of the states.

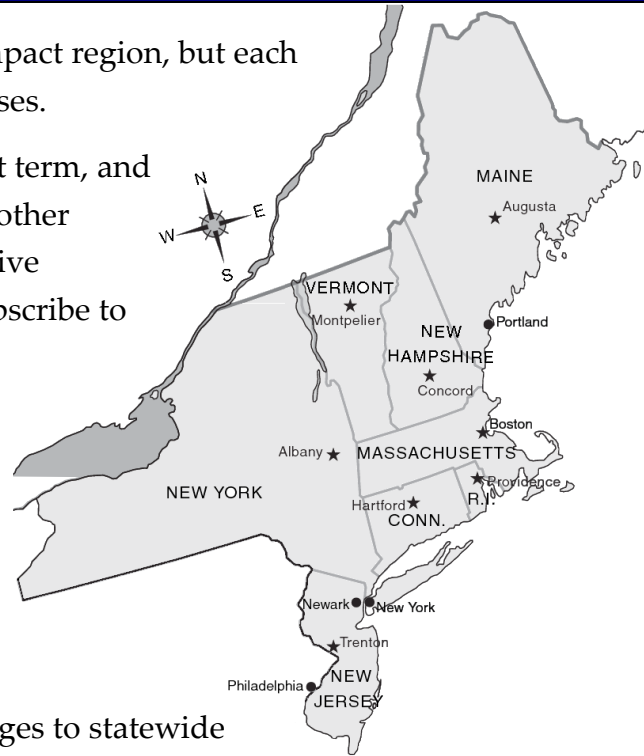
There were some definite highlights, including candidates in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York and Rhode Island setting local records. We also witnessed new levels of statist nastiness in New York with the challenge to several candidates including a gruelling effort against Gigi Bowman.

Recent events of interest:

- » Several political trainings from C4L and Atlas
- » Freecoast Freedom Festival in Portsmouth, NH, Sept 19-21
- » Massachusetts Convention on October 18th in Worcester

Upcoming events:

- » New Hampshire convention – January, TBA
- » NH Liberty Forum, Manchester – March 5-8 – feat. Jeffrey Tucker & Sheriff Mack





Campaigns and Election Results

LPCT ran two candidates in 2014: Rich Lion for State Rep and Dan Reale for Congress.

Rich Lion for State Rep, District 9, ran an active campaign, leaving thousands of door hangers and placing 100 yard signs. He received 15% of the vote. Mr. Lion left his job temporarily in order to campaign. He received the highest percentage of the vote received by a Connecticut Libertarian who did not win, and the best performance to date in a state legislative race.

Dan Reale, running for Representative in Congress, 2nd District, placed more than 100 yard signs. He received 1.1% of the vote and retained ballot access. This is the second time in a row that Mr. Reale retained ballot access. This time around, he faced a contentious convention in which he was challenged by the Republican for our nomination.

The LPCT currently has two elected officials. All races in Connecticut are partisan.

Future Growth

We are currently encouraging members and interested people to attend local meetings and consider running in next year's municipal elections.

The LPCT is engaged in a major fundraising effort with the hope of raising seed money to hire a part-time employee. We have sent letters to 1,500 people. In January, we will launch an email fundraiser for the purpose of funding the 2015 local races—the goal is to raise enough money to place all endorsed candidates on the ballot with paid petitioners, and to provide all candidates with a website, professional photograph and brochure.

Ballot Access

LPCT chairman Joshua Katz testified against the cross-endorsement law (PA 13-180).

We are working with LP National and the ACLU to overturn some of the more onerous provisions in state ballot access laws, including restrictions on who can and cannot petition, and challenging the requirement that petitioners live in-state as unconstitutional. We have retained Day-Pitney in the lawsuit challenging the ban. The lawsuit will be filed during the next legislative session.



Social Media

The LPME Facebook page has more than 801 likes, up from 680 in March.

Healthcare

The issue is coming up again in Maine. Some Maine nursing homes are threatening to close due to inadequate funding from MaineCare, the Maine Medicaid program. Legislators fear a backlash from relatives of nursing home patients and house, senate and Gov. LePage will undoubtedly find funds to add to MaineCare budget. 78% of nursing home care in Maine is funded by MaineCare and Medicare and Maine Nursing Homes are 92% full.

We pointed out four key problems with the current system along with simple pro-market solutions to create greater availability and quality of care.

The Future

We will be looking at new party rules in Maine which may ease the way for us to become a recognized party, devil is in the details however. The effort will center on a voter registration drive.

We will need about 5000 to qualify so we will need 6000 signatures to ensure we have enough valid signatures to submit. We will have one year to get all the signatures so it shouldn't be difficult to meet our goals.

The difficult part for us will be voter turnout and registration after getting ballot access. We just may be repeating the same process every two years.



2014 State Convention

Held on Saturday, October 18 in Worcester. There were 18 credentialed delegates and about 10 guests. Evan Falchuk, an independent candidate for governor spoke to us, addressing many of the same concerns libertarians have with state government. Officers reported operations are running smoothly, though more help is always appreciated, our finances are stable, though membership is down about 20% but that may be due to some hiccups in 2013 newsletter delivery.

We elected 8 members to the state committee: Dan Fishman, Heather Mullins, Steven Sadowski, Ken Van Tassell, Cris Crawford, Alwin Hopfmann, Robert Clark and George Phillies. Five of our candidates spoke about their campaigns, upcoming efforts and media coverage.

Rich Tomasso gave a summary from the LNC, the region and across the country. He reminded members that the LNC will be voting on the budget in December and making appointments to the Bylaws and Platform committees next year, so get your ideas in early.

Joshua Katz, Chair of LPCT and alternate LNC rep, gave the keynote speech about the importance of running for local office and the impact you can have as a local official. He addressed the barriers the establishment puts in place and how to be clever to get around them to get our message out and to affect policy. Key part of being accepted is being reasonable and working with others, show you are responsible with the reigns of power and you will gain trust of the electorate.

Mr Katz announced an exploratory committee for a presidential run. He answered questions about that afterward. He has since dissolved the committee.

General Activity and Outreach

We hold monthly meetups in the Boston area and we have five regional meetups established. Our Facebook page has doubled the Likes in the past year! Our Twitter presence grows with regular postings. The newsletter includes items of general interest and practical aspects of Libertarianism, and we publish it on a regular schedule.

If anyone would like to partner or cross-advertise events, email us partners@lpmass.org

We continue to be active on social media, pointing out efforts of our legislature and police to trample more of our rights and calling out stupid regulations that stifle innovation.

2014 Elections

The electoral efforts were focused on the legislature rather than the executive branch. Candidates got press coverage, got radio interviews and were invited to debates.

Hassan A. Smith has a radio interview and other news on his facebook page.

Heather Mullins got great coverage, including the front page of the *Cape Cod Times* after her first debate appearance. www.heathermullins.net

Our 2014 Massachusetts State Rep candidates did really well by comparison with historical outcomes. We had new top performer, three in the top six (going back to 1992), two people squarely in the middle, and one man who did a career change in mid-campaign. We also had a State Senate candidate in a first-time three-way race, and our first-ever candidate for County Sheriff.

What did we do that was different? Our State Party made our legal-maximum donation to each candidate, and a major get-out-the-vote effort in each district where we had someone for whom to vote. The latter was Federal Election Activity, so we could support it with Federal Funds as FEA. We did a Facebook campaign and spent modestly above \$1000.

Results for State Representative (Two-Way Races)

Marciano, Euplio	6th Essex	3,442	26%	(best historical percentage)
Van Tassell, Kenneth	14th Middlesex	3,970	25%	
Underwood, Robert	9th Hampden	2,002	21%	
Morris, Daniel	7th Essex	1,932	16%	
Coombes, Michael	5th Middlesex	1,906	16%	
Roberts, Kenneth	3rd Hampshire	1,090	12%	

Hassan A. Smith	Suffolk County Sheriff	26,042	17.4%
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Heather Mullins	State Senate (Plymouth Barnstable)	2,272	3.6%
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Social Networks and Website

Our Facebook Group has 582 members, our Page has 339 Likes, and we have 1085 Twitter followers (@LPNH). Our website backlog grows, but a recent software upgrade should help. We need a new webmaster to take on several projects. Some people have come forward, but never reply to followups.

Candidates

None of our major candidates made it on the ballot but all ran write-in campaigns. This could have been our year, but we will deal with it. Perhaps the liberty community will realize their mistake of trusting the GOP and come back to support us as a useful counterweight to the establishment crowd. If everyone who complained about not having a Libertarian to vote for had done some petitioning we'd have made the ballot with plenty to spare.

Lisa Wilber, our state rep candidate, got a nice article in the Sunday *Concord Monitor* right before the election. Lisa earned 969 votes, or 11%, coming in 6th of 9 candidates. She beat one Democrat and came within 50 votes of beating another one.

Lawsuit

With the NHCLU we are suing the state over yet another change to the law to make life harder for third party and independent candidates. The latest change wiped out 2/3 of the time we have to complete a party-wide petition with no corresponding reduction in the number of signatures, effectively making the task impossible. We found a very favorable precedent from Rhode Island for nearly the same situation. The case is still in discovery phase. The case was featured at their annual *Bill of Rights* dinner in October.

The state has made a motion to dismiss and our response brief is in the works.

General and Future Activity

The Freecoast Freedom Festival was a success, with libertarians coming from all over New England. Even Vera Kichanova flew in from Russia as part of an extended vacation.

Getting members involved is still difficult. A few people have come forward finally, though I do need a few more to make a big enough team.

We are in the process of organizing a state convention. Hoped to have it in November, but it is now pushed out to January. The main business will be electing new officers and deciding on a plan for the next two years.

A sizeable bi-partisan liberty caucus is in the statehouse now, so we have lots of friendly legislators to work with. The leadership is still being sorted out and is usually where we face real challenges on the big issues we care about. I expect we'll make the most progress on fiscal and regulatory issues for the coming session.



Recent News and Events

We challenged the D's and R's automatically claiming the first ballot columns after they failed to get enough votes in the primary. We didn't win, but definitely highlighted the dwindling support for the two old big-government parties. We've had preliminary talks about legislative remedies to this situation.

Effective communication is critical for the success of Libertarian Candidates and Activists. On September 21, Jim Tosone and Ken Krawchuk hosted a workshop designed to help candidates and activists convey the message of liberty, and turn NJ residents into Libertarian supporters and voters. Ken, began the session with a series of talks based on his personal experience running for a variety of elective offices over the years. The topics covered were "How to Run a Campaign," "How to Go Door-to-Door," and "Why Vote Libertarian?" Ken and Jim then conducted a mini-master classes in prepared speeches. Two of our candidates, Joe Baratelli and Steven Uccio gave stump speeches to the audience. Ken and Jim then gave each candidate feedback on their speeches: what worked well, and ways they could enhance the substance of their talk and their presentation style. The candidates appreciated the constructive comments. The program ended with a Q&A session

We hosted "Liberate Trenton" on 10/25 at the Trenton Public Library. It was a free discussion of issues facing urban communities in New Jersey, including education, the war on drugs and jobs.

We had a general post-election party meetup on November 8th in North Brunswick.

We publish a quarterly newsletter and have regular updates to our website. We're involved in many efforts from watching local government to fighting corruption, eminent domain abuse, poor public works, mismanaged government projects and more.

Eminent Domain and property seizures are big news in the Garden State, we've made regular commentary on the matter, even taking a stand to protect a judge's home from being seized via a ballot measure by irate citizens.

Chairman Patrick McKnight was recently published in the *Times of Trenton* and *NJ.com*.

The NHLP is the third-largest and fastest-growing party in the state! We are the only growing party! We are very excited and energized about the future! We are already recruiting candidates for state and local elections for 2015! Interested candidates should contact Patrick McKnight at chair@njlp.org

2014 Election Results

Joe Baratelli of Mercerville for U.S. Senate – 16,048 – 1%

Dorit Goikhman of Morganville for U.S. Congress (6th) – 1,322 – 1%

Jim Gawron of Flanders for U.S. Congress (7th) – 3,332 – 2%

Steve Uccio of East Windsor for Mercer County Freeholder – 1,441 – 1%

Brian Pizza of Forked River for Ocean County Freeholder – 4,022 – 3%



Challenging Our Candidates

12 Libertarians filed for public office. Nearly all our candidates were challenged, seemingly because they could be. In all, four Libertarian candidates were kicked off the ballot.

All 5000 of **Gigi Bowman's** signatures were challenged by her opponent and his paid staff. Late objections cast enough doubt on several of Bowman's petitions (the NY form has alot of spaces to fill in). We fought and it was an up and down ride. We lost the hearing in Albany on Oct 16th. The judge ignored the precedents we cited and the decision made no mention at all of our equal protection constitutional claim, relating to the unequal treatment of petitions to validate, as if that argument didn't even exist. We appealed to the next level. Ultimately the appeal went up four levels of the court system, but we prevailed! On Oct 24th the court overturned the earlier decisions, primarily for late paperwork from the opposition. The opposition filed an error-filled appeal on the 29th, but was competently rebutted by our council. Score one for the good guys, and we used their own precedents against them!

Kudos to **Gary Donoyan** who took the case and defended Bowman with a lot of energy and diligence and gave up many hours of sleep. The lawsuit took a toll on the campaign, as the opposition was able to get the media to drop coverage of Gigi Bowman and force her to take resources away from talking to voters and instead defend her place on the ballot. So while we did win, it was a costly win. The statist will use tactics like this to hinder the effort of liberty. Thankfully her supporters barraged the media for their sloppy coverage and it fired up the LPNY team to fight hard against this nonsense in the future. The shenanigans continued right into election day with the posting of sample ballots without Bowman's name on them.

Press Coverage and Endorsements

The challenge to **Gigi Bowman's** petitions got local press coverage. Gigi and party chair Mark Axinn called out the incumbent for trying to silence his competition and reduce the choices available to the voters and not upset the apple cart of the corrupt nature of NY politics.

Mike McDermott was included in debates with his old party opponents. Mike also got coverage in print and radio. The Mike Vogel column in *AM New York* asked voters to skip the big parties and vote Green or Libertarian. Jimmy McMillan, founder of the Rent is Too Damn High Party, endorsed McDermott.

Election Results

Gov/Lt. Gov.	McDermott/Edes	15,582	0.4%
Comptroller	John Clifton	25,096	0.7%
Atty General	Carl Person	23,680	0.7%
Congress 3	Grant Lally (also R-C)	71,212	45.5%
State Senate 5	Gigi Bowman	239	0.4%
Assembly 37	Wilson	748	7.1%
Assembly 73	Casavis (also R-I)	6,965	30.5%
Assembly 139	Mark Glogowski	1,387	4.7%



Candidates

Libertarians successfully petitioned for a statewide office for the first time in a midterm year. The party placed **Tony Jones** of Wickford on the ballot for Lieutenant Governor.

Jones' campaign focused on the elimination of the office of Lt. Governor, which costs taxpayers roughly \$1 million per year. The Lt. Governor does not have much power to wield in state government and many argue the position has long since lived out its usefulness.

Tony Jones generated a fair amount of media, including TV coverage on NBC Channel 10 in Providence.

Regulate Rhode Island

Tony Jones released a statement calling for Rhode Island to become the next state to tax and regulate marijuana like alcohol. He pointed out the harm reduction and business growth in Colorado and Washington thanks to their recent initiatives.

"As candidate for Lt. Governor, I'm proud to be a member of Regulate Rhode Island, a new organization leading the movement to regulate and tax marijuana like alcohol. In 2015 Rhode Island has the opportunity to become the first state on the East Coast to end the costly and destructive policy of marijuana prohibition."

Stopping Agenda 21

A new push to implement Agenda 21 called "Rhodemap RI" is working its way through the legislature. The LPRI is strongly against this and encourages all members to get involved. We passed a formal resolution against this "grand experiment in extreme environmentalism and collectivist social engineering whose objectives include income redistribution, minimizing the authority of local governments, income-based housing quotas, an expansion of eminent domain at the expense of property rights, and increased government influence over many areas of our lives."

The advocates scheduled a meeting on November 20th but had to postpone to Dec 11th due to all the bad publicity that's been raised and the outpouring of citizen action against it.

The Future

Now that the election is over, properly reorganizing the LPRI is chairman Mike Rollin's very top priority. That will get started at our executive committee meeting on Dec 7th. Here in Rhode Island Tony Jones set a new record for Libertarian Party candidates with his nearly ten thousand votes. Beyond that, Bob Healey, who actually called himself a libertarian during one of his debate appearances, got 22% of the vote. We thus do have an obvious libertarian base here in Rhode Island that is ready, and waiting for us to organize it. Any, and all help that we can get from the national LP will be extremely welcome toward our efforts!



Vermont Candidates

The **Dan Feliciano for Governor** campaign is drawing in support from all affiliations. On the eve of the GOP primary, several prominent GOP leaders endorsed Dan as a write-in. He came in 2nd! Dan participated in a televised debate and was broadcast on CSPAN. The debate became a social media hit for the interesting cast of characters running for governor.

In all, we nominated 15 candidates for the general election! Travis Spencer, John Cisar, Ben Mayer, Glyn Wilkinson, Christopher Coolidge and Paul Washburn for State Senate; Loyal Ploof, Ray Collette, Varpilah Chase, Lillith Soleil, Dana Rushford and Ted Schaft for State Representative; Owen Mulligan for Sheriff of Chittenden County, Jonathan Stauffer for High Bailiff of Chittenden County; Loyal Ploof and Roy Collette for Justice of the Peace.

Outreach and Coverage

The Vermont LP participated in the 2014 Pride Vermont Parade on Sunday September 14th. Several members and candidates participated. One of our featured candidates, John Cisar for Vermont Senate received a close up from FOX44 Local News.

Channel 17/Town Meeting TV filmed the Chittenden county state senate forum including Libertarian state senate candidates: John Cisar and Paul Washburn.

Loyal Ploof debated four of his opponents on Burlington TV.

In Essex, Varpilah Chase debated two incumbents on Channel 17/Town Meeting TV.

Election Results

Dan Feliciano for Governor 8,248 4.38%

<u>Chittenden County</u>			<u>State Representatives</u>			
<u>State Senate</u>			Ray Collette	Chittenden-6	49	0.95%
Ben Mayer	3,310	1.77%	Loyal Ploof	Chittenden-6	68	1.32%
Christopher Coolidge	3,694	1.98%	Varpilah Chase	Chittenden-8	466	12.74%
Glyn Wilkinson	2,706	1.45%	Lillith Soleil	Chittenden-8	67	1.19%
John Cisar	3,896	2.09%	Dana Rushford	Chittenden-9	90	1.92%
Paul Washburn	4,113	2.20%	Ted Schaft	Rutland-2	414	9.56%
Travis Spencer	3,405	1.82%				
Owen Mulligan, Sheriff	4,672	11.46%				
Jonathan Stauffer, High Bailiff	2,279	5.68%				