



# Michigan Libertarian

Volume 33, Issue 2

March/April 2004

## Badnarik at CMU

Libertarian presidential candidate Michael Badnarik will be speaking on the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative at Central Michigan University on April 15<sup>th</sup> 2004 at 7 pm. Seating for the event will be first come, first serve, so interested parties should arrive appropriately early to secure seating. This event will be free to the public and will showcase both Mr. Badnarik's platform and skills as a speaker. Location information will be released later in the week and can be obtained by emailing [cmulp@yahoo.com](mailto:cmulp@yahoo.com)

*Michigan Constitution  
ARTICLE I, SECTION 5  
Every person may freely speak, write, express and publish his views on all subjects, being responsible for the abuse of such right; and no law shall be enacted to restrain or abridge the liberty of speech or of the press.*

Libertarian Party of Michigan  
PO Box 27065  
Lansing, MI 48924-7065  
<http://www.lpmich.org>

## New Office Opens to Members and the Public

The Libertarian Party of Michigan is back in Lansing! For the first time since the 1980's, the LPM has established an office in our State Capital.

Party members from North, West, East, and Central areas of Michigan came to see the new office during our official Open House on March 21. In addition to the new working office, members and their guests alike were able to see the conference facility that has already



State Chair Bill Gelineau and Capital Area Chair Bob Broda discuss candidate recruitment.

hosted one LEC meeting. One guest signed the pledge and paid dues on the spot to become our newest member.

Members of the Capital Area

Libertarian Party, led by their have been instrumental in locating and organizing the new facility. "The resurgence of the team in the Lansing area is one of the great developments of this year", said Chairman Bill Gelineau. He

expressed hope that in the future the new office will give us a presence with the legislature. "This tells the statist that the Libertarians are here to stay."

Another benefit is that the *continued on page 7*

## Campaign Finance Information for Congressional Candidates

by Leonard Schwartz, LPM Campaign Finance Adviser

Unless contributions or expenditures are great than \$5000, you are not required to file any forms with the Federal Election Commission. If you expect that contributions or expenditures will be greater than \$5000, you should call the Federal Election Commission, 1-800-424-9530. Say that you are a candidate for Congress and want a candidate information package.

Even if contributions and expenditures are less than \$5000, you are still required to obey federal campaign

finance laws. The penalty for violating federal campaign finance laws can be one year in jail and a \$25,000 fine.

Here are some important rules:

You must form a candidate committee if you accept any contributions (even \$1) or if you spend more than \$5000 (even if all expenditures are paid out of your own pocket). Give it a name like "Committee to Elect [your name]" or "Citizens for [your name]" or "[your name] for Congress." The committee's name must

include your last name. You can be the treasurer of your own committee.

If you accept any contributions, your committee must open a checking account. Before opening an account, get an IRS identification number. (You do not need a new ID number if you used the same committee name before, even if you have dissolved your old committee.) File IRS form SS-4. You can do this online at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov). On the left frame, click "business;" then *continued on page 7*

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the weekly email newsletter of the LPM.

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## Newsletter Information

The *Michigan Libertarian* is published bimonthly as the official newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Michigan, PO Box 27065 Lansing, MI 48924-7065 Phone: (888) FREE-NOW

**Submissions:** Please email articles to [newsletter@lpmich.org](mailto:newsletter@lpmich.org)  
Only electronic format will be accepted. Acceptable formats are plain text, Word97, RTF, HTML, Pagemaker 7.0. Any other formats, please ask first.

**Deadline:** The next deadline for submission of articles and advertising is June 1, 2004.

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**Visit:** <http://www.lpmich.org/Newsletters/index.html> for more information.

# From the Chair

by **Bill Gelineau**

How quickly time passes in the course of a year! This is my final newsletter article as Chairman..... Upon reflection, what a great year it has been to affirm previous efforts and forge ahead with new ventures. 2004 presents us with tremendous opportunities to engage people with libertarian ideas.

1 Foremost among these, I hope you will consider becoming a candidate. Right up to our convention, there are plenty of positions that help us educate the public and motivate our activists. Our goal is to challenge all of the seats in Congress and a majority of the seats in the State House.

2 If you are not a candidate, offer to become a campaign manager. This is our best way for a candidate to become successful and present a professional image.

3 Become a donor to the Party or a candidate. Marketing the Libertarian Party or it's candidates is a prime purpose.

4 Get involved in the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative. There is no single better issue for Libertarian candidates to distinguish themselves from other candidates this year.

Come to our Convention in Lansing and get involved. Individually, we can achieve a great deal. Together, we can change the political landscape. Now is the time to seize opportunity and unite the LPM.

## You Are Broke If . . .

- ◆ You work for a paycheck to pay bills
- ◆ The price determines what you order
- ◆ You can't pay your credit card balance
- ◆ You can't give as much as you'd like

For most people with a **job** (just over broke), taxes are the biggest expense of they have.

A good home based business can not only Reduce your taxes but can also provide the income to create **Financial Freedom**.

Find out if you qualify to join the dynamic team currently being formed. **Financial Freedom** can be yours if you act **now**. Contact one of these team leaders for a **FREE** information package.

**Dave Nagy**      **Will White**      **Jon Addiss**  
(734) 718-1664    (517) 349-3806    (877) 559-9245

# LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF MICHIGAN PLATFORM

*proposed 2004 revision (added language in italics)*

## STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLE:

The Libertarian Party does not believe in or advocate the initiation of force to achieve social or political goals.

## PREAMBLE:

Libertarians seek a society based on liberty — a society in which all individuals are sovereign over their own lives. *This most desirable method of organizing society is the natural order that arises when the inalienable*

rights of individuals to life, liberty and property ownership are respected and protected.

People have the right to engage in any activity that is peaceful and honest, and pursue happiness in whatever

manner they choose so long as they do not forcibly interfere with the

equal rights of others. Libertarians

welcome the peace, prosperity, and diversity that freedom brings.

The essential precondition for a free society is that people follow their own dreams in their own ways without

government interference. This precondition allows that the only

legitimate function of government is the

protection of the inalienable rights of its citizens. *To that end, government at all levels should be strictly limited*

to the essential services necessary to uphold individual rights, maintain public order, and adjudicate disputes.

Government at the state and federal level should be involved only in issues not best handled by local or regional government.

## I STATE GOVERNMENT

1. In the absence of a declaration of war by the United States Congress, we oppose any use of Michigan troops

by the federal government for any purpose *other than natural disaster relief.*

2. Everyone has the right to defend himself and others. *Article I, Section 6 of the Michigan Constitution states:*

“Every person has a right to keep and bear arms for the defense of himself and the state.” We oppose any law

that dilutes the right of a law-abiding citizen to own a gun.

3. We endorse the Tenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which reserves to our state and its people all

powers not expressly delegated to the federal government by the U.S. Constitution, or prohibited from the states

or the people by the Constitution.

4. We oppose any form of discrimination by government based on race, ethnicity, religion, gender, or any other

group. Each person has the same inalienable rights that the State has a duty to protect.

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## Platform Committee Endorses a New, Improved Platform

by Emily Salvette

The Libertarian Party of Michigan platform committee has developed a new document to replace the current LPM platform. Platform committee chair Mark Owen, an elected councilman in Owosso, charged his committee to keep the best of the old platform, but to develop a shorter, less complicated document without inflammatory “macho-flash” language. “The document we crafted remains true to Libertarian principles,” said Owen. “But,” he continued, “it will be less open to attack by political opponents, so our candidates won’t have to spend a lot of time, effort, and money trying to clarify their true positions.”

Members of the committee included two other elected officials, Fred Collins (Berkeley) and Andy LeCureaux (Hazel Park), whose experience campaigning with the current platform provided valuable insight. Kenneth Howe (Wyoming), Emily Salvette (Ann Arbor), and Will White (Okemos) also served on the committee.

The proposed platform has been sent to local affiliate chairs and will be available on the LPM web site for review by members. The new platform will be voted on by the membership at the LPM convention April 17, 2004. Feedback can be sent to Mark Owen, [mark\\_0066@hotmail.com](mailto:mark_0066@hotmail.com), or LPM Chairman William Gelineau, [chair@lpmich.org](mailto:chair@lpmich.org)

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## Campaign Finance Information for LPM Affiliates

by Leonard Schwartz, LPM campaign finance law adviser

An LPM affiliate can (directly or indirectly) support its candidates in at least five ways:

1. It can encourage its members to contribute money directly to each candidate's committee.
2. It can use its administrative fund for leaflets and ads encouraging persons to vote Libertarian without identifying any candidates.
3. It can encourage its members to create and support independent political committees — such as the Small Government Alliance and the Fully Informed Voter Effort PAC — that support candidates.
4. It can create a separate local Libertarian Party campaign committee to support candidates. If used properly, a party administrative fund and campaign fund are not merely separate bank accounts; they are separate legal entities.
5. It can use one fund for candidate support and administrative purposes. This is the worst method. If it does, the fund becomes subject to the Campaign Finance Act.

An affiliate should always have a separate administrative fund. A fund that is used exclusively for administrative purposes is exempt from the Campaign Finance Act.

An affiliate should **never** transfer money from its administrative fund to a candidate committee, a ballot question committee, an independent political committee, the LPM Campaign Fund, or a local campaign committee. An affiliate likewise should **never** use its administrative fund to make an independent expenditure for or against a candidate or a ballot question. If it does, the administrative fund becomes subject to the Campaign Finance Act. If such transfers plus expenditures exceed \$500 in any year, it must register with the Bureau of Elections.

An administrative fund, however, can be used to send letters to members asking them to contribute money to the LPM Campaign Fund and local LP campaign committees.

If a web site or news release merely lists candidates, that is not a problem. But if they encourage the public to vote for candidates, that is a campaign expenditure. The same applies to newsletters distributed to the general public.

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## Campaign Finance Information for Candidates for State or Local Office

by Leonard Schwartz, LPM campaign finance law adviser

### A. Introduction

The penalty for violating Michigan's campaign finance laws can be one year in jail and a \$20,000 fine.

To get campaign finance information and forms, contact: Bureau of Elections, 430 W. Allegan, Lansing MI 48918; 517-373-2540.

Ask the Bureau to send you:

1. Michigan Campaign Finance Candidate Committee Manual.
2. Campaign Statement Instructions for Candidate Committees.
3. Candidate Committee Campaign Statement Forms. Make copies of the blank forms, fill in the copies, and make copies of the completed forms.

B. Highlights from Michigan Campaign Finance Candidate Committee Manual.

#### 1. Candidate Committee

You become a candidate under the Campaign Finance Act as soon as you:

- (a) file a nominating petition or a filing fee, or
- (b) receive a contribution or make an expenditure, or
- (c) are nominated by a political party caucus or convention.

Within 10 days of becoming a candidate, you must form a candidate committee (even if you don't plan to solicit contributions or spend any of your own money). You can be the treasurer of your own committee (unless you are running for a judgeship).

Give it a name like "Friends of [your name]" or "Citizens for [your name]." The committee's name must include your first and last names.

Within another 10 days, you must file two copies of "Statement of Organization for Candidate Committees."

#### 2. Contributions

If you accept any contributions, even \$1, your committee must open an account at a bank or credit union. All contributions must be deposited in the committee's account.

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# Calendar of Events

**April 8, 2004 - 7:00 PM** Monthly meeting of the Libertarian Party of West Michigan. Social discussion at 6:30 pm. Business agenda begins at 7:00 pm... Candidates should plan to attend for paperwork assistance and committee planning for candidate training. **Location:** Club North, 1359 Plainfield NE in Grand Rapids — just 1/4 mile North of Leonard Avenue. **Contact:** Ron Heeren **Phone:** (616) 363-8999 **E-mail:** [ronh@lpwm.org](mailto:ronh@lpwm.org)

**April 15, 2004 - 8:00 AM** Tax and Debt information event sponsored by the Libertarian Party of West Michigan. Members and others will carry ball-and-chains to demonstrate the burden of taxes and spending on individuals and families. Literature and ball-and-chain kits are available through the LPWM. **Location:** Throughout West Michigan public and workplace areas. **Contact:** Project Chairman Tom Quinn **Phone:** (616) 887-3053 **E-mail:** [mrtomq@yahoo.com](mailto:mrtomq@yahoo.com)

**April 17, 2004 - 9:00 AM** Annual Convention of the Libertarian Party of Michigan — Come join us for this annual event..... Including — Platform discussion, Nomination of Candidates for Public Office, Selection of Delegates to the National Convention, Election of LPM Officers. Also, hear many of our Presidential and Vice-Presidential Candidates speak about their campaigns..... All business sessions are FREE .... The evening will feature a banquet with townhall-style debate between several of our Presidential Candidates. Registration forms have come in the current Michigan Libertarian newsletter. For more information, contact Convention Chair Jamie Lewis at [jkl620@yahoo.com](mailto:jkl620@yahoo.com) **Location:** West

## LEC MINUTES

### Minutes of the regular Executive Committee Meeting of the LPM for February 8, 2004

Call to Order at 1:00 PM

Secretary absent, minutes to be taken by Tom Quinn

#### Officer Reports:

Vice-Chair (Paul Hitch): Looking for Fundraising Coordinator

Treasurer (Jerry Bloom):

\* Raised questions regarding current insurance

\* Federal election laws restricts us and forces decision making

\* Financial Report

#### Committee Reports:

State Office Committee: (Gelineau, Donahue)

\* Office phone numbers are 517-853-1900 and 888-373-3669 (FREE-NOW)

\* Old computer to be returned to owner (Ben)

\* Phone calls to old office to be forwarded to new office — Bloom to implement

\* A scanner is being donated

\* Copier in building to be used for casual copying; retail outlet for larger jobs.

\* Discussion on new equipment that is needed — Motion by Donahue, Second by Hitch, to authorize



Chairman and/or Treasurer to spend up to \$1000 for new computer hardware, software, printer, monitor.

— Ayes all.

\* Inventory needs to be done at Hazel Park office and items made available to owners — Schwartz to oversee.

Membership Committee: (Joswiak)

\* Sent out 38 new member packets

\* No information received regarding lapsed members, working to obtain from NIDUS

Political Issues Committee: (Sherman)

\* Discussion on MCRI — Tim O'Brien explained the campaign, looking for Area Coordinators. Jennifer Gratz was also present.

\* Motion by Miller, second by Sherman, to accept ballot language and enthusiastically endorse the efforts of the MCRI. Ayes all.

\* Chair questioned how he can formally complain about Kent County ISD officials improperly promoting millage proposal. Schwartz answered.

Website Committee:

There is a problem with updates from National overwriting local information. The automatic download is to be turned off and Bloom will do manual updates.

Newsletter: (Lewis)

Jamie Lewis is new editor; Next issue is ready to go; Next deadline will be April 1 as the newsletter is to

be sent out before convention.

Affiliates: (Hitch)

Encourages participation with MCRI.

Candidates Committee: (Schwartz)

Articles in LPM Newsletter asking for candidates;

Wanting active candidates for University Boards;

Discussion regarding candidate filing issues

Farm Team Committee: (Collver)

Discussed "Just One" with Van Buren; Meeting with affiliates; Working on college intern program;

Discussed fund raising for Farm Team

Old Business:

\* Extensive discussion on State Convention, much work done by platform committee. Motion by Schwartz, second by Donahue to adopt Convention schedule. Ayes all.

\* Stuart Ruley estate still in limbo. Lawyer Sheridan has not acted. Perhaps resolution by Convention date.

\* Affiliate insurance discussed. For a \$25 fee local affiliates can have events covered through LPM policy. LPM coverage is not \$2,000,000

New Business:

\* Bloom recommended having an LEC meeting on March 14 in old office.

\* Executive Session entered into at 5:00

\* Executive Session terminated at 5:17, meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Tom Quinn  
February 9, 2004

# Campaign Finance Information for Candidates for State or Local Office

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Before opening an account, get an IRS identification number. (You do not need a new ID number if you have used the same committee name before, even if you have dissolved your old committee.) File IRS form SS-4, Application for Employee Identification Number. You can do this online at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov). On the left frame, click "business;" then click "employer ID number." On line 8a of the form, check "other nonprofit" and write "political committee." On line 9, check "banking" and write "deposit contributions." On line 14, check "other" and write "political committee."

You must keep a record of all contributions for 5 years. You must record the name and street address, not a P.O. Box address, of each contributor. If someone contributes more than \$100 in one year, you must also record the

person's occupation, employer, and work address. Do not deposit a check until you get this information.

You can accept contributions from any U.S. citizen. You cannot accept more than \$20 in cash from anyone. You cannot accept contributions from corporations and labor unions; but you can accept contributions from their political committees. You usually cannot accept contributions from political committees that are not registered in Michigan; for exceptions, see the Manual (pages 30 & 68 of the June 2001 edition).

### 3. Expenditures

You must keep a record of all expenditures for 5 years, even if you paid them out of your own pocket.

Your committee must not make any cash expenditure greater than \$50. Your committee must get a receipt for any expenditure greater than \$50; a canceled check is acceptable.

### 4. Campaign Finance Reports

You must file periodic campaign finance statements if you received more than \$1000 in contributions or if you spent more than \$1000, even if all campaign expenditures were paid out of your own pocket.

### 5. Campaign Material

Fundraising letters and most campaign material must state: "Paid for by [name and address of your committee]."

## J.P. DENOYER FOR LEC



J.P. Denoyer turning in signatures for the Ann Arbor medical marijuana petition



J.P. Denoyer spending Liberty Dollars at the Ypsilanti Shell Station 3150 W Michigan Ave

Hello my name is J.P. Denoyer. I have been active in the party For 6 years. In this time I have distributed tons of literature for candidates and gotten thousands of signatures on petitions. I have been on the leadership team for two local petition drives in Ann Arbor was county coordinator for a statewide petition. I have run for city council twice.

I find bitter infighting hard to understand. Disagreements about what direction the party should take are inevitable, however it is inexcusable to refuse to talk to people who disagree with you or to accuse them of conspiring against you. The first time I ran for city council I had coffee with my opponent the day after the election.

## My Platform

- Get the Party to sponsor initiative petitions
- Get the party to accept e-gold and consistently accept all forms of Liberty Dollars.
- Continue Operation Farm Team
- Re-establish a real office in any part of the state. If the real office is not located in Lansing, leave the cubicle office open.

Vote J.P. Denoyer for Michigan Libertarian Executive committee at the convention Saturday April 17  
Contact info: (734) 395-5732, [jpdenoyer@hotmail.com](mailto:jpdenoyer@hotmail.com)

# West Michigan Changes Tax Day Tactics

by Tom Quinn

For several years the LPWM has tried to conduct a Tax-Day Protest with varying amounts of success. Typically, we would try to have as many people as possible gather in downtown Grand Rapids near the post office on April 15 in an attempt to get people's attention and hand out fliers. If we were fortunate, we might get some media attention. This year we are trying something quite different.

This year we decided to focus on a timely issue that has received regular attention in the mainstream media. Rather than directly protesting the income tax as we have in past years, we are using the deadline for filing income tax returns to bring attention to the soaring national debt. We are emphasizing the debt's enormity and have chosen a theme that says: Debt and Taxes are like a Ball and Chain.

Most people think that they have done their civic duty by having paid their taxes on time, but we are telling them that they need to think again. When the national debt it is broken down to equal shares among the citizenry it leaves every man, woman, child, and infant with a \$25,000 IOU. Not many people are aware of just how large this burden has become.

For those who want to participate in this year's event, we have available a ball-and-chain that can be worn and is clearly labeled US Debt. Our plan is that as a person has this on a leg (or desk) at work, has it hanging from her arm while shopping, or carries it in any manner while doing just about anything, it will draw attention from others. We then have leaflets to pass out which briefly explain how each and every one of us is being burdened by our Washington politicians, and directs people to our web site or the Michigan toll free number for more information.

With this plan, any of our members who want to can participate. There is no need to travel to a specific place at a specific time, and bad weather isn't a concern. A person can distribute leaflets on any day or days of his choosing. To support our message, we have a special page on our web site with more detailed information; we have asked the LEC for a special voice mail box on their phone system; we are placing radio ads on popular local stations during the week leading up to April 15; and we are also hoping to place an ad in a local high school newspaper.

We have several objectives with this project:

1. We want to increase awareness of the Libertarian name.
2. We want Libertarian positions to be more accurately understood.
3. We want to present ourselves in a positive light.
4. An increase in hits at our web site is expected.
5. We want to draw attention to a serious problem the R's and D's have created.
6. We want to involve members who have not had the opportunity to participate in the past.
7. We would be happy to see new members sign up.

I've presented here some of the details of the Tax-Day Event for 2004 for the LPWM. However, from a simpler, more general perspective, there is strong agreement that it is a damn good feeling to be doing something organized to promote the LP.

# Campaign Finance Information for Congressional Candidates

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click "employer ID number." On line 8a of the form, check "other nonprofit" and write "political committee." On line 9, check "banking" and write "deposit contributions." On line 14, check "other" and write "political committee."

You must keep a record of the name and address of each person who contributes more than \$50. If someone contributes more than \$200, you should also get the person's occupation and employer. You can accept anonymous contributions of \$50, but you must keep a record of when they were received.

You cannot accept more than \$100 in cash from any person. You cannot accept any contributions from corporations and labor unions; but you can accept contributions from their political action committees (PACs).

You must keep a record of all campaign expenditures, even if you paid them out of your own pocket. Your committee must not make cash expenditures greater than \$100. Your committee must get a receipt for all expenditures greater than \$200; a canceled check is acceptable.

Most campaign material must say "Paid for by [name of your committee]."

# New Office Opens

*continued from page 1*

Lansing location provides the Party with an organizing center within 2 hours drive of 80% of the members of the LPM. The office itself is located at Southwind Plaza, just 5 minutes from downtown and easily accessible from all directions. The search committee was pleased to find such quality facilities at a very low cost. Rent, utilities, on-line capability and the new computer system approved by the LEC will run less than \$300 per month over the next year. Gelineau continued, "We hoped to not only find a place near the Capital, but one that spent the Party's money wisely. It was great to see a unanimous LEC put this together."

The LPM office and conference room is available for many uses. To reserve the room for committee meetings, candidate training, or other affiliate functions, contact [wgelineau@firstam.com](mailto:wgelineau@firstam.com) or call 616-254-2878.

# Platform Revision

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5. State government should be removed entirely from the licensing process, including occupational licensing. *It* has produced no better results than private licensing and amounts to another tax. For example, marriage licenses are contracts between individuals and should be left to the individuals, their attorneys and religious officials, without the need to pay the state for a stamp of approval.

6. We support returning to a part-time legislature, *which is sufficient to carry out the legislative duties as prescribed by our State Constitution.*

7. The Michigan Constitution should be amended with a sunset law requiring an automatic end to *most* government offices, agencies, departments, laws, regulations, taxes, and expenditures *within 10 years* if not renewed.

8. We oppose immunities for any public officials or employees for illegal acts or omissions. *Like any citizen,* they should be subject to criminal prosecution and held liable for any injuries caused by their actions.

## II. ELECTIONS

1. The only electoral duty of the State government should be providing for fair and efficient conduct of elections. Political parties, like any private voluntary group, should be free from government control and allowed to establish their own rules for nomination procedures and conventions. All taxpayer-funded subsidies to candidates for public office and/or political parties, such as primaries and conventions, should be eliminated.

2. We support the addition of the alternative “None of the above is acceptable” to all ballots. We further propose that in the event that “None of the above is acceptable” receives a plurality of votes in any election, a new election shall be held for which none of the

losing candidates shall be eligible. *Other forms of voting* should also be considered, such as instant runoff voting or proportional representation.

3. Campaign finance laws are unwarranted restrictions of free speech or association and should be repealed.

4. The time during which voters may circulate any statewide petition should be extended to two years.

5. Voters should have the power of referendum on all existing or new legislation.

## III. COURTS

1. The current practice of forced jury duty should be replaced by volunteer juries.

2. The common law authority *of a trial by jury preceded our constitution and is the foundation of our legal*

*system.* If a jury of peers deems a law unjust, oppressive or inappropriately applied, it has the right and duty to acquit the defendant. *We support the right of defendants to a fully informed jury,* which would require judges to instruct jurors of their authority to judge not only the facts, but also the justice of the law according to their own good consciences.

3. We support restitution for victims of crimes or civil infractions at the expense of the perpetrator. The victim should have the right to pardon the perpetrator, provided the victim is not threatened *or coerced.*

4. Private adjudication of disputes by mutually acceptable judges *or mediators* should be encouraged.

5. No-fault laws should be repealed as they deprive the victim of the right to recover damages from those responsible for causing harm.

6. All civil or criminal cases should allow the right of trial by jury.

7. The use of civil asset forfeiture to enforce laws circumvents constitutional protections and should be ended.

8. Random police roadblocks and other searches without probable cause bypass constitutional

protections and should be prohibited.

## IV. PUBLIC SAFETY

1. *Law enforcement cannot guarantee individual safety. Self protection is a personal responsibility.* All individuals have the right to defend themselves and to possess the means to do so, *as guaranteed by the State*

Constitution Article I, Section 6.

2. State prison facilities should be used only for the incarceration of individuals who have proven themselves a threat to others.

3. Curfew laws should be repealed *as the behavior of children is the responsibility of the parent, not the state.*

4. Laws requiring the use of seat belts and helmets *are misguided, paternal, and* should be repealed.

Individuals must assume responsibility for their own safety.

## V. VICE LAWS

1. Government should confine itself to protecting individuals from aggression, coercion and deceit.

We oppose

all laws and regulations that attempt to protect individuals from the consequences of their own behavior. *While*

*not condoning such activities,* we advocate the repeal of all laws criminalizing gambling, possession and sale of

plant products, and sexual relations between consenting adults. All those presently incarcerated or ever

convicted solely for the commission of these *victimless* crimes should be pardoned and their records expunged.

*NEW:* 2. *Voluntary communities may enforce rules that prohibit certain activities to which all members subscribe, such as substance-free dorms.*

## VI. TAXES

1. The legislature should find more voluntary means of supporting state services, such as lotteries *and user fees.*

2. The personal income tax should be repealed.

3. The taxation of privately owned real property should be eliminated. In effect, it makes the state the owner of

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# Libertarians Delivering the Message

*A series of profiles of LPM members and how they make a difference by introducing our communities to libertarian ideas.*



***Erin Stahl***

**OFFICE:** St. Clair Shores City Council since November 4th 2003

**POSITIONS HELD:**Boards and Commissions Sub-Committee, Waterfront Advisory Board, Beautification Commission, Cultural Committee.

**CITY POPULATION:** 63,000 residents

**CITY BUDGET:** General budget \$24 million

**What made you decide to join the party and when?:** I was upset about voting for either Bush or Gore at the last election 2000 and started looking for other options. I saw Harry Browne on the 3rd Party Presidential debates, drove down to Indianapolis to see him in person. I distributed his literature at Finney High School in Detroit where I met the wonderful Gregory Creswell who brought me the headquarters. Everyone welcomed me with open arms and I loved the philosophy and energy, so I joined.

**What has been your involvement in the LP?** Secretary for the Macomb County Libertarians (2 years), Member of the BARC committee, At Large Director for the Michigan LP.

**What would you say was your key to winning this office?** A strong winning team—the Troika, dedicated friends, family, and fellow Libertarians helping me and motivating me every day to keep going. I also don't think I would have had the courage and strength if it wasn't for the Libertarian philosophy—something that keeps you focused instead of being just another politician. I also couldn't have done it without the LP Councilmen and Board members who paved the way for me and who continue to help and support me. I also ran for City Council 2 years ago, ran for State Rep last year and spoke out at every possible City Council meeting which set the foundation for me being known in the community.

**What has been your biggest political accomplishment in promoting libertarian-**

ism since being elected? Most of my first few months have been trying to "learn the ropes". But I think my biggest accomplishment so far is being known as the person who is fighting to bring neighbors together to work out their differences instead of relying on the city. This has been demonstrated at the last few meetings regarding neighbors helping each other regarding "blight" issues, fighting our mismanaged sidewalk program, fighting intrusive parking ordinances, and having neighbors talk to each other regarding residential construction projects.

"After becoming a Libertarian I was exposed to how much the government really rules over our lives. Now being on Council, I realize that the regulations imposed on our residents are actually 10 fold. The increase in regulations seem to go hand-in-hand with the increased demand for revenue. I've always believed that the power lies within our communities to make the necessary changes one at a time to restore our most basic rights, freedoms and liberties—this can only be done at the local level. Once people start relying on themselves, their neighbors, and their community for the non-basic needs, instead of the government, they don't want to be enslaved again. "



***2004 Libertarian Party of Michigan  
State Convention  
Saturday, April 17  
Lansing West Conference Center  
7501 West Saginaw Highway***

## **Who will be the 2004 Libertarian Presidential Candidate?**

**How does he stand on the issues?  
How will he bring his message to America?  
Find Out April 17th, at the LPM State Con-  
vention & Banquet**

Meet the Presidential Candidates And:

- \* Engage in Platform discussion
- \* Select the new LEC Officers
- \* Vote for our State Candidates
- \* Choose our delegates to the National Convention

## Calendar of Events

(cont from page 5)

Lansing Convention Center (Holiday Inn)  
7501 W. Saginaw Lansing MI 48917

Contact: Jamie Lewis Phone: (616) 254-2878 E-mail: [jkl620@yahoo.com](mailto:jkl620@yahoo.com)

April 29, 2004 - 7:00 PM "Take a Liberal Shooting" a fundraising event for the Libertarian Party of Oakland County. Everybody welcome. Come out and have a good time and being your friends. \$45/person, includes: range time, ammo, targets, use of various firearms, and prizes. <http://www.LpocMi.org/shootout.php> for more info and to pay via credit card, or, make your reservations in advance and pay at the door. Location: Double Action Indoor Shooting Ctr., 32411 Dequindre Rd., Madison Heights. (248) 588-4488. Contact: Mike Netski Phone: (586) 350-5596 E-mail: [michael@netski.org](mailto:michael@netski.org)

May 8, 2004 - 7:00 PM "Almost Banned Movie Night." A Libertarian Party of Oakland County fundraising event. Join us for a viewing of "Harry's War." "Harry's War" is the comedy/drama about a man who had finally had enough. Harry Johnson (played by Edward Herrmann) handles his tax problem like any sane patriotic American...he declares war on the Internal Revenue Service. It isn't for hate of paying taxes, but love of and defense for his "Aunt" Beverly (played by 1986 Oscar winner Geraldine Paige), who is being unjustly harassed by the IRS. Suggested donation: \$10/person. This movie was released in 1981 and almost immediately withdrawn from the theaters. The stars were audited in an apparent effort to further suppress it. Location: LPM Hazel Park Office. 619 E. 9 Mile Rd., Hazel Park. Contact: LPOC Events Coordinator Phone: (248) 591-9733 E-mail: [Events@LpocMi.org](mailto:Events@LpocMi.org)

May 27-31, 2004 Libertarian Party National Convention in Atlanta, Georgia-Many speakers will be featured including Ron Paul, Dean Cameron and James Gray plus a campaign Training Workshop featuring Barb Goushaw and Fred Collins. Contact: Jamie Lewis Phone (616) 281-9329 E-Mail [jkl620@sbglobal.net](mailto:jkl620@sbglobal.net) to be put on the delegate list. For more information, visit: [www.lp.org/conv/2004](http://www.lp.org/conv/2004)

# Platform Revision

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all lands by forcing individuals to pay rent to the state *or forfeit their title.*

4. The single business tax and the personal property tax on Michigan businesses should be repealed.
  5. Tax favoritism should be illegal. Abatements, subsidies, *credits, or other incentives* to businesses based on geographical area, job creation, *or any other criteria* deny equal protection under the law.
  6. Sales tax on used merchandise that is resold results in double taxation and should be eliminated.
  7. The addition of sales tax to products already subject to specific state taxes, such as gasoline and cigarettes, should be ended. This practice results in *double taxation, as consumers are paying a tax on a tax.*
- NEW 8. We oppose any sales or use tax on the Internet.

## VII. ECONOMY

1. We believe in *the free market, thus* the complete separation of the economy and the state.
2. No commercial enterprises should be granted legal monopoly status, such as the so-called natural monopolies like electricity, natural gas, water supplies, telephones, and cable television. The Michigan Public Service Commission should be abolished and all rate regulation in these industries ended. The right to offer such services in the marketplace should not be curtailed. We call on the legislature to end the state monopoly on lotteries.
3. State regulation of industries such as insurance and communications, and professions such as medicine and law, should be ended. *They should be regulated by trade or consumer groups.*
4. The condemnation of private property for public use *should only be allowed when necessary for the protection of the rights of the citizens.*

## VIII. Welfare and Charity

Providing for the needy by forcibly taxing others is contrary to the legitimate function of government,

which is to protect the rights of everyone.

*Disbursing charity from a welfare system costs society more than it*

*gains. It is inefficient, open to fraud and abuse, and creates resentment.* Traditional, *voluntary* sources of emergency support from families, churches, and private charities *have always been more humane, more*

*effective, and willingly borne by the givers.* Therefore, we advocate dollar-for-dollar tax credits for all charitable contributions to encourage a transition from public welfare to private support.

## IX. EDUCATION

1. Education is a parental responsibility and best handled at the most local level. While we advocate the separation of school and state, *regional cooperation in funding and administration should be encouraged for* economies of scale.

2. We support all measures that enhance *the educational choices available, such as charter schools, tax credits*

*for private school tuition, and home schooling.*

3. Compulsory attendance and truancy laws should be repealed. *Students cannot be forced to learn, and* teachers should not be forced to act as juvenile delinquency officers.

4. All individuals, regardless of age, are entitled to the protections of the U.S. and Michigan constitutions.

Random drug tests, locker searches without probable cause, censorship of student publications, corporal punishment, or any similar actions violate those rights.

5. All votes relevant to school operations, including millage proposals, bond issues and school board elections, should be placed only on the regular, biannual ballot.

## X. ENVIRONMENT

1. Aside from public safety, there is no greater concern for the people of Michigan than having a safe, healthy environment. We look forward to the day when all

property not required for police and court functions is

returned to private ownership and control.

2. We call for the restoration of every individual's ancient, common law standing to sue for trespass any individual, business, government or other group that pollutes his or her property.

3. We oppose creation of new government parks or wilderness and recreation areas. Such parks and areas that already exist should be transferred to non-government ownership. Pending such transfer, their operating costs should be borne by their users rather than by taxpayers.

4. We support efforts to hold all individuals, businesses and governments accountable for the pollution they cause. With respect to so-called orphan sites, where those responsible for contamination of ground or water

either can not be found or can not be made accountable for the damage they caused, we support the use of the

Natural Resources Trust Fund currently earmarked for expansion of State parks to be redirected to clean up.

## XI. HEALTH CARE

1. The most fundamental property right is an individual's right to own and control his or her own body. All

individuals have the right to determine their own health care needs and treatment. Government *has no constitutional authority* to interfere with the practitioner/patient relationship.

2. The right of people to *extend or end* their lives *with dignity should not be infringed*. We support the freedom to use living wills and durable medical powers of attorney.

## XII. SECESSION

We recognize the right to political secession.

Exercise of this right, like the exercise of all other rights,

does not remove legal and moral obligations not to violate the rights of others.

## XIII INCLUSION

The Libertarian Party of Michigan ratifies and hereby includes in this document the platform of the national Libertarian Party.

## XIV OMISSIONS

Our silence about any other particular government law, regulation, ordinance, directive, edict, control, restriction, regulatory agency, or activity should not be construed to imply approval.

# Campaign Finance Information for LPM Affiliates

*continued from page 4*

(Newsletters should not be used for Libertarian outreach, even if there is no campaign finance problem. For outreach, use material that is outreach material.)

If your affiliate has been using the same fund for candidate support and administrative purposes, I strongly suggest that it use the existing fund for candidate support and create a new fund exclusively for administrative purposes.

Even some large affiliates, like Oakland and Wayne, do not have local campaign committees. They rely on methods 1, 2 & 3.

If you want to start a local LP campaign committee, here is how:

1. Select a name for your campaign committee.

State law allows two types of local political party campaign committees: county committees and congressional district committees. For a single county affiliate, choose a name like "Oakland County Libertarian Fund." Multi-county affiliates can select one county for the name. For example, the Tri-Cities affiliate could choose the name "Saginaw County Libertarian Fund." Or the affiliate can select its congressional district. For example, the Upper Peninsula affiliate could choose the name "District One Libertarian Fund." Two affiliates cannot choose the same name. Thus if the Upper Peninsula affiliate chooses the name "District One Libertarian Fund," the Traverse Bay affiliate could not choose the same name.

The name of your committee does not limit your campaigning. You can solicit contributions from all U.S. citizens, even if they do not live in Michigan. And you can use the money to support any candidate in Michigan.

2. Select a treasurer. The campaign committee treasurer also can be the administrative fund treasurer.

3. Contact: Bureau of Elections, 430 W. Allegan, Lansing MI 48918. 517-373-2540. Ask the Bureau to send you:

a. Michigan Campaign Finance Political Party Committee Manual.

b. Campaign Statement Instructions for Political Party Committees.

c. Political Party Committee Campaign Statement Forms. Make copies of the blank forms, fill in the copies, and makes copies of the completed forms.

4. Submit a Statement of Organization.

5. Get an IRS identification number. You cannot use the affiliate's administrative fund identification number. File IRS form SS-4, Application for Employer Identification Number. You can do this online at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov). On the left frame, click "business;" then click "employer ID number." On line 8a of the form, check "other nonprofit" and write "political committee." On line 9, check "banking" and write "deposit contributions." On line 14, check "other" and write "political committee."

6. Open a checking account. You cannot use the affiliate's administrative fund checking account.

7. Keep proper records of contributions and expenditures.

8. If contributions or expenditures exceed \$1000 in a year, file reports with the Bureau of Elections.

Note: If contributions to or expenditures on behalf of federal candidates collectively exceed \$1000 in a year, you must also register with the Federal Election Commission.

# World's Smallest Political Quiz

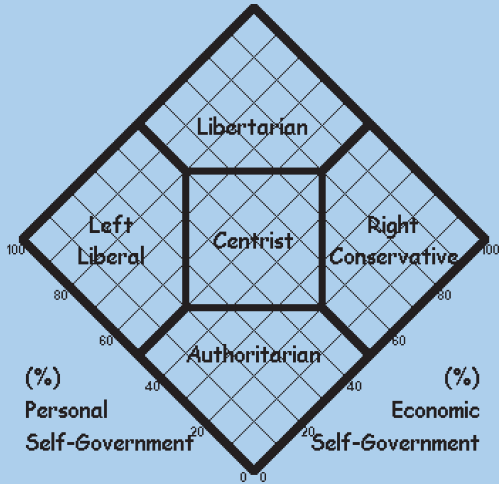
## Personal Issues

Military service should be voluntary. (No draft) **Y M N**  
 Govt. should not control radio, TV, the press or the Internet **O O O**  
 Repeal regulations on sex for consenting adults **O O O**  
 Drug laws do more harm than good. Repeal them. **O O O**  
 Let peaceful people cross borders freely. **O O O**  
 Add 20 for Y, 10 for M, 0 for N

## Economic Issues

Businesses and farms should operate without govt subsidies **Y M N**  
 People are better off with free trade than with tariffs. **O O O**  
 Minimum wage laws cause unemployment. Repeal them. **O O O**  
 End taxes. Pay for services with user fees. **O O O**  
 All foreign aid should be privately funded. **O O O**  
 Add 20 for Y, 10 for M, 0 for N

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Take the **WORLD'S SMALLEST POLITICAL QUIZ**. Then, use the Self-Government Compass to find your political position. Mark **Y** when you agree with a statement, **M** for Maybe, Sometimes, or Need-More-Information, or mark **N** for No.

*If you score Libertarian, we invite you to join the Libertarian Party.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\$25 Michigan & National

\$35 Tri-Level (County, Michigan & National)

I certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving social or political goals.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Signature required for national membership)*

Please charge this to my credit card (Visa or Mastercard only):

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

My check or money order (payable to LPM) is enclosed.

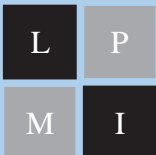
Mail to: **Libertarian Party of Michigan**  
**PO Box 27065**  
**Lansing, MI 48909-7065**



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