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From the Chair

A few words from Chair William Hunt.

Serendipity would be the word I would use to describe the 2016 election cycle in the East Bay of Rhode Island. When I attended my first Libertarian meeting in the spring of that year, I had my mind made up that I was going to run for my state representative seat in District 68. The only question I had was if I was going to run as a Libertarian or an Independent.

I had self-identified as a Libertarian since the Ron Paul Revolution in 2008, but never felt compelled to get involved with the state or national party. Running as an Independent seemed the safest route, but the ambiguity of running unaffiliated and the thought of taking on the entire campaign myself seemed daunting. I figured I'd attend a meeting before I filed my paperwork, and if they could offer me any support it would be better than nothing.

Much to my surprise, not only were there two other Libertarian candidates (Analee Berretto and Daryl Gould) planning on running for state representative that year, they happened to be running in the districts just north and south of me—Districts 67 and 69. This contiguous bloc in the East Bay was the catalyst for the reformation of the Libertarian Party in Rhode Island, and set the foundation for what we have built today.

A lot has happened since 2016, specifically in the political arena. It is no small task to put your name on the line and run for political office at any level, so it is not surprising we have had trouble finding candidates. After the inevitable collapse of the government shutdowns and mandates, we were hopeful that we would have a larger slate of candidates in 2022. But unfortunately, even the two candidates we endorsed at our April convention have had to withdraw from the race for personal reasons unrelated to the party.

On a brighter note, the 2022 Libertarian National Convention occurred over Memorial Day Weekend in Reno, NV. Rhode Island's three delegates were there to take part in the spectacle, and I'm happy to share that the delegates to this year's national convention were able to get some important work accomplished for the party. Additionally, a new chairperson (Angela McArdle) and a slate of candidates largely supported by the Rhode Island delegation, were elected to the Libertarian National Committee—including our former state Chairman Pat Ford, who was elected as Region 8 Representative. Congratulations Pat!

There is a lot of new energy and excitement about the upcoming election cycle and the 2024 presidential race. I can tell you that the new national LP leadership is focused on supporting local candidates and specifically putting the foundation in place to ensure ballot access in 2024. We are actively seeking replacement candidates—specifically for the governor's race. If you are reading this and feel the inspiration to put your name on the line to get us 5% of the vote, please let us know. Our biggest hurdle to getting candidates to run as Libertarians is the fact that we are not a state recognized official party. We need 5% of the vote in a Presidential or Gubernatorial election to allow people to officially register and run as a Libertarian in the state of Rhode Island.

June 27 through 29 is the state's official declaration of candidacy filing period. I am hoping there are a number of people who are on the fence like I was back in 2016. If you are reading this, now is the time to get off the fence and contact us at <https://lpri.us/contact-page/> and let us help you help the party. Not everyone is willing to put their name on the top of the ballot in a Governor's race, but the candidates of today will help to run and grow the Libertarian Party of Rhode Island as our fight continues.

-Billy Hunt
Chairman, LPRI

From the Floor

A place for LPRI members to have their voices heard.

LPRI members gathered at East Providence Lanes on June 20 for a party meetup.



Meet-ups are a great occasion to get to know other party members and discuss libertarian issues. Interested in hanging out with other like-minded individuals in a casual, social setting? Want to learn more about how to volunteer with the party? Check out the Events page on our website to find out when our next meet-up will be held.

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Have something to say about recent political events? We want to hear from you!

Send us your opinions, comments, and other miscellaneous musings about libertarian topics: communications@lpri.us. Use "From the Floor" in the subject line.

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We Want You to Run for Office

And LPRI is here to help make the process of declaring your candidacy as smooth as possible.

We know running for office can be daunting. There's lots of paperwork to fill out and deadlines to manage. And it involves dealing with government, something none of us do happily.

But LPRI is here to help make running for political office easier. Our Executive Committee has experience running and supporting campaigns for political office and can be a great resource.

Step one of your campaign is declaring your candidacy. To make that as easy as possible, we've sourced that form and already filled out the "libertarian" label.

All you have to do is visit our [website](#), download the form, fill out the rest of your information, and return it to your local Board of Canvassers (listed by town on the second page) if you're running for state or local office or to the Department of State (the address is on the form) if you're running for state-wide or federal office.

For the 2022 midterm election, the candidate filing deadline is in late June. There's still time to run! And we're happy to help if you have any questions.

Political candidacy not for you? That's okay too. We need volunteers to help with a wide variety of tasks: from collecting signatures, to knocking on doors, to helping recruit more members, and more!

There are a number of open positions within our organizational chart and we're always looking for people willing to help with the work of existing committees. Click below to volunteer or donate if you're feeling charitable:

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