



A New Dawn for Freedom

Social and Activism Events

July 23-30 Roger's Campground Lancaster NH. Free State Project PorcFest www.freestateproject.org/festival

July 30 Plymouth, New Hampshire, New Hampshire Liberty Alliance Dinner 6PM www.nhliberty.org

August 20 State Organizing Committee (2PM) and Social Hour (3PM)

at the home of Rob Power, 158 Brookline St # 2, Cambridge LFMAugust05@robpower.com

September 10 Monson, MA **Liberty for Massachusetts Board Meeting** (2 PM) and **Social Afternoon** (3-6 PM; Potluck) at the home of Carol McMahan, 221 Bumstead, Monson 413 250 6608 for directions.

Background to Win

Once upon a time, 40 years ago, one of my next door neighbors was one of the most powerful men in our state legislature. He worked hard, thought effectively, and noted that notwithstanding all of these stories no one had ever offered him a bribe. He discussed, positively, the background of the men (few women in those days) who had been elected as State Representatives. Many of them were small businessmen, especially insurance salesmen and car dealers, people who knew lots of people and treated them well. Some of them were attorneys, though for the most part not really top flight attorneys. The state legislature was not paid all that much, after all.

Many of them, as a significant factor in running for

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Recruit Candidates?

State Organizing Committee Chair Steve Drobnis has proposed that Liberty for Massachusetts should promptly launch a campaign to recruit Libertarians to run for State Representative and State Senator. The objective is to take advantage of two important facts about Massachusetts politics: We have a one-party state with a few token Republicans. In 2006, highly unpopular Republican Governor Mitt Romney may well be running for re-election, dragging down Republican vote totals around the state.

The proposed first phase of the campaign is a post card mailing to Libertarians around the state, urging them to become a candidate or to help Libertarian candidate-volunteers. By building a serious core of people who are willing to try running for office, we will advance to building local support organizations

[Recruit Candidates?] *(Continued on page 3)*

PVLA Takes Stand On Marriage State Libertarians are Urged to Lobby Boston

At its July meeting, the Pioneer Valley Libertarian Association unanimously adopted a resolution on the marriage issue. The resolution reads:

For very many residents of Massachusetts, the question of who may marry whom is a religious matter. The Commonwealth should not insert itself into questions of religious doctrine. The Commonwealth should not enshrine the beliefs of a particular sect within the Constitution, while discriminating against the beliefs of others. This year, it might be the case that the State is in favor of your beliefs, but remember: Once that doorway is open, next year it may be your beliefs that the State is discriminating against.

The PVLA calls upon Massachusetts Libertarians to work to oppose State Constitutional Amendments that would infringe on the opportunity of people to marry each other.

Liberty for Massachusetts

(Continued from page 1) [Background to Win]

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office had realized that in your advertising you could dwell on your career. It was free advertising, at least, it was advertising for your company that other people were happy to pay for. For the Attorneys, running for office was just about the only legal way to advertise their businesses, this being in the dead days before it was legal for Attorneys to do orthodox advertising.

Treasury (condensed report)

April

Donations \$378.65
Printing (\$244.65)
Postage (\$134.00)

May

Donations and Dues \$156.00

June

Donations and Dues \$449.72
Bank Charges (\$2.50)
Newsletter Printing (\$244.65)
Postage (\$134.80)
GLBTP Outreach 1000 trifolds (\$103.06)

July

Donations and Dues \$135

Editor Aside: While *Liberty for Massachusetts* is monthly, the print and mail cost of *Liberty for Massachusetts* is zero for electronic members.

Political Facilitator Report

The **Pioneer Valley Libertarian Association** meets monthly with 8-12 people in attendance. PVLVA Member Bob Underwood is running for City Council and is on the ballot. The PVLVA Budget, largely for printing and mailing *Let Freedom Ring* and *Libertarian Strategy Gazette* varies between \$290 and \$500 per month.

The **Cambridge City Libertarian Club/Liberty for Eastern Massachusetts** meets quarterly. Three of its members are running for city council and are reasonably expected to be on the ballot. The **Worcester County Libertarian Association** has a monthly open meeting.

Counting affiliates, in some months we now raise and spend more money than the LP of Massachusetts.

LfM Officers

Steve Drobnis-Chair; Doug Krick-WCLA Representative; Jonathan Lombardi-Recording Secretary; Carol McMahon-PVLA Representative; George Phillies-Editor and Political Facilitator; Rob Power-Treasurer; Rick Rajter-Webmaster; Peter Sheinfeld-Cambridge Representative; Alvin See-Membership Secretary; Organizing Committee Members: David Roscoe, Robert Underwood, Shirley Underwood.

Some of these people happened to have records of community service. Rather, they had become in a variety of local organizations as a way to meet people who wanted insurance, needed another car, or would consider receiving legal assistance. A few of them had outstanding academic records. A good number worked respectably hard for their constituents.

However, that's not the only path to getting yourself elected. Consider the Massachusetts State Rep, a decade or so ago, who realized that his district was served by one MBTA station. Every morning and afternoon, he stood at one of the trafficked entrances, with a volunteer standing behind him holding a big sign "Meet Smith! Your Man for State Rep!" or words to that effect. He did this for a considerable number of weeks. Weekends, he walked door to door, knocking on doors and talking or leaving palm cards. His message was very simple, but he met large numbers of people. He won.

Last year, we had a senior Democrat lose his seat to another Democrat. Why? The abortion and gay rights issues. A social conservative Democrat was replaced with a socially liberal Democrat. That change sent large scale messages to the Democratic Party leadership.

It also demonstrated that there are large areas where the same Democrat has held the same office for a long time, riding on incumbency and a social conservative message, where social conservatism has plausibly become an obsolete position no longer in line with the desires of the voters. Those legislators often face no challenge. The Republicans are not going to challenge a social conservative Democrat, not as the voice of change.

All these places offer real advantages to Libertarian candidates, who can offer a social liberal/fiscal conservative message that progressive Democrats cannot readily match.

But none of these places will offer any advantage to a Libertarian candidate, unless we have a candidate in place and running, whether for state rep or city council. Candidate recruitment and support are central to what real political movements do for their candidates. That's why we have *Liberty for Massachusetts*.

(Continued from page 1) [Recruit Candidates?]

to help them and help our future candidates.

Massachusetts State Senate and State Rep districts are mostly small enough that a single person or a few activists can work them effectively. A serious candidate running to win will need to give up working for several months of full time 70 hour a week campaigning and fundraising. However, candidates who can only make a lesser time involvement can still show the flag and increase press and public awareness of our party.

Liberty for Massachusetts will need to provide active support for these candidates to show that activism and volunteerism are vigorously rewarded by real libertarians who actually care about politics. That support may have several pieces:

An important part of the effort will be a branding plan for lawn signs and bumper stickers. If ten candidates each order 250 lawn signs, all the same except for their name, that's effectively a 2500 lawn sign order with nine plate changes. Plate changes are cheap: by pooling orders, candidates can get lawn signs at a fraction of the costs. A uniform design motif means that each candidate's signs tend to support all the other candidates.

Liberty for Massachusetts can also help with contacts to local activists. While we do not have the current list of National Party members, we do have a very extensive list of Massachusetts Libertarians available to us. Those are people that candidates can contact. These are people that by and by we will be contacting, urging them to *Stand Up for Liberty! And run for office.*

Printing and palm card design are central to outreach.

As a candidate, you may not be able to reach every resident, but you can knock on lots and lots of doors and leave behind an attractive record of your presence. *Liberty for Massachusetts* activists include in their numbers people whose professional expertise is marketing and development.

Money is the lifeblood of politics. Unfortunately, *Liberty for Massachusetts* is presently not a political party or a PAC, so it cannot give its own money to candidates. However, *Liberty for Massachusetts* activists include principal officers of major state and Federal libertarian Political Action Committees and 527 organizations, so if you do have a campaign, there are legal paths whereby which Massachusetts libertarians can supply your campaign with first dollar money.

How To Join

Mail your name, address, and dues to:

Liberty for Massachusetts, 30 East Chestnut Street, Sharon MA 02067. Dues are \$20/year (\$10/year if you agree to receive publications electronically and send us a valid email address).

Massachusetts Residents: Please indicate if your want to be a **Voting Member** (your address is available to other voting members) or an **Associate Member** (we keep confidential the address data you send us.) People who live outside Massachusetts become **Corresponding Members**.

We're here to help each other help everyone. Please indicate activities, events, and working groups for which you would like to volunteer.

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Cut off and mail to Liberty for Massachusetts, 30 East Chestnut Street, Sharon MA 02067

Join Liberty for Massachusetts

Liberty for Massachusetts dues are only \$20 per year (\$10 per year if you agree to receive communications electronically).

Your Name: _____

Your Volunteer Political Activism Interests: _____

Voting Address (You do not have to be a voter): _____

Mailing **Address** for LfM (or say 'same'): _____

(Optional) Other Contact data: _____

Phones, Fax _____

Email (Not optional if you want the \$10 Dues Discount): _____

Dues: \$20 for Membership

-\$10 Discount if you agree to receive communications electronically and give us your valid email address.

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How the Democrats Captured the Statehouse

One of our correspondents describes how the Democrats took over the State Legislature in 1948. As described by Tip O'Neill, the key parts of the effort were (i) **running** a candidate **for every seat**, (ii) giving that candidate **munificent financial support**, and (iii) having an **extensive grass-roots operation** in place. To find candidates, the State Democrats worked through every district, selected the most popular person of any party, and asked that person to run as a Democrat. It worked often enough.

In 1948, the Democrats also had a major issue, namely that they were opposed to the legalized sale of contraceptive means to married couples. In recent years, the state Republicans have tried using the anti-abortion plank the way the Democrats used the anti-contraception plank, applying an anti-abortion test to their candidates, with *startling success* for candidates on all levels. Unfortunately

for the Republicans, the *startling success has been for their Democratic opponents*, so that Bob Dole failed to score 30% of the vote against Bill Clinton, while the Republican membership in the State Senate fell to 7 (now 6), and support for Massachusetts Republicans among college-educated women reached all-time lows.

There are valuable lessons here for Libertarians in every state. In particular, issues are not enough. You also need good candidates, a serious campaign that attempts to win every race, ample fundraising, and good grass-roots organization everywhere. To reach this situation, run and win local races, building up your local organizations. Run and win statewide campaigns, using the statewide campaign to build local organizations. Start with local education, educating people who will active politically.

But you have to start. You have to Stand Up for Liberty! and act, or nothing will happen.

Liberty for Massachusetts
30 East Chestnut Street
Sharon MA 02067