

LSLA News

December 2017 Issue

LSLA News

Greetings from the Libertarian State Leadership Alliance, the association of Libertarian State Chairs. Welcome to our occasional newsletter.

In this issue, we have:

Volunteer Needed: Secretary

Good People in Action: A lawful political revolution is overtaking Oxnard, California.

A Libertarian Joint Fundraising Committee: How joint fundraising legally works, and why it can be used to advance our FEC-Filing affiliates.

Postmortems: To anticipate the future, it sometimes helps to understand the past.

LSLA Business: Our 2018 Business Meeting, Our 2018 National Convention, A Treasury Report.

Secretary Needed!

Our former Secretary had new job-related time commitments and could not continue. Current and former state officers are eligible to serve. Please volunteer! Email phillies@4liberty.net to volunteer.

Good People in Action

We advance to scenic Oxnard California, and **good news** showing how good things can be done on the local level.

Oxnard Recall (oxnardrecall.com) gives us some details (edited for length):

Last year, the [Oxnard] City Council increased sewer rates 87%. In response, we voters rejected the City Council's abusive rate increases by overwhelmingly approving Measure M with 72% of the vote. Mayor Tim Flynn and Councilmembers Carmen Ramirez, Bert Perello and Oscar Madrigal supported a taxpayer-funded lawsuit to overturn Measure M in the courts – and advocated new, massive utility rate hikes on top of the increases voters already rejected."

Oxnard Recall added: "Worse still, they oversee a city hall plagued by scandal, mismanagement and financial malfeasance – including the unlawful skimming of millions of dollars annually from Oxnard's utility enterprises to the general fund. It's time for us to recall and replace Mayor Tim Flynn and Councilmembers Carmen Ramirez, Bert Perello and Oscar Madrigal with those who will demand accountability, deliver competent oversight, support transparency and won't circumvent voters."

Continued, Next Page

LSLA News is the occasional publication of the Libertarian State Leadership Alliance, the Association of Libertarian State Chairs. Issues are sent free to Libertarian activists as part of a program to support our state affiliates in building a stronger Libertarian Party. To request a free subscription, or to send comments on this material, email the LSLA Chair, George Phillies, phillies@4liberty.net

LSLA Officers

Chair—George Phillies
Vice Chair—David Demarest
Treasurer—Bo Brown
Secretary—Vacant
Political Coordinator—Michael Pickens

You can read the corruption allegations here: <http://www.oxnardrecall.com/faqs>

When other measures failed, Oxnard Recall wrote: "Petitions are currently being drafted for registration with the Oxnard City Clerk to demand a recall election. Once these petitions are approved and printed, we will gather signatures from Oxnard registered voters (we are hoping you will help with that)."

Having done that, Oxnard Recall wisely went dark. There is no reason to tell your opponents what is about to be done to them. We reach the closing good news, now two weeks old. The part visible to the public was:

"On Wednesday we delivered four full boxes to the Oxnard City Clerk. In those boxes were 68,000 signatures on petitions seeking the recall of four Oxnard City Council Members who voted to raise our wastewater rates by 75% -- an increase of over \$279 per year for an average household. ... There are 80,000 registered voters in Oxnard. To qualify four recall petitions for the ballot, we needed 48,000 signatures"

This is wonderful good news, showing how local activism can move a city in a positive direction.

A Libertarian Joint Fundraising Committee

The Joint Fundraising Committee gives a path for FEC-filing affiliates and National Committees to simplify and enhance fundraising efforts.

The path is simple. Each FEC-filing committee has a legal limit on how much money it can receive from a single donor. For example, an individual can give up to \$2700 to a candidate committee and up to \$10,000 to a party state committee.

FEC-filing committees join the Joint Fundraising Committee and share their donation limits with the joint fundraising committee. That share does not increase the amount of money I can give to any of those committees. However, suppose three state parties and one candidate committee have joined the Joint Committee. The three state committees each share a \$10,000 limit; the candidate committee shares its \$2700 limit. The total is \$32,700. Instead of writing four separate checks to the four

committees, a donor writes a check for \$32,700 to the Joint Fundraising Committee. The Joint Committee now mails each member committee its cut of the total, so each state committee gets its \$10,000, etc. Fundraising costs are subtracted from distributions on a pro rata basis. An extensive list of FEC rules deal with various amusing efforts to use joint fundraising to create loopholes that should not be there.

The Joint Fundraising Committee may either be one of the members, or it may be a new political action committee with its own donation limit. Except for fundraising expenses, a Joint Fundraising Committee cannot spend money to do politics: It must send the funds it raises to its member committees. In the earlier example, if I write a check for \$32,700 to the joint committee, the joint committee must send \$10,000 to each of the three state committees and \$2700 to the candidate committee (less any fundraising expenses.) Exception: the Joint Fundraising Committee could be a PAC with its own \$2700 donation limit.)

In distributing money to members, the fundraising agreement specifies how the money is to be distributed. For example, the distribution rule in the above case could specify that funds are to be distributed evenly to the four committees, until the candidate committee cap is hit at \$2700. Moneys raised above \$2700 per committee would then be split among the three state committees.

Readers will note that this arrangement is a path for using inactive committees to funnel money to our smaller state committees, in a lawful way. An advantage of a Libertarian Joint Fundraising committee is of course, that the money gets spent on building state parties. Furthermore, unlike a Presidential Candidate Joint Committee, a Libertarian Joint Committee can run continuously year after year, building up state parties every year.

Postmortems

The idea behind a political postmortem is that one has run a political campaign and then tries to figure out what went right or wrong. Years ago, I collected a number of these
<http://www.libertarianleaders.org/index.php/support-pages/results>
<http://cmlc.org/methodsexperience.htm>
There are still useful lessons in these.

For 2016, postmortems are starting to appear. An excellent analysis of Presidential vote totals is due to Sean Trende https://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2017/01/20/how_trump_won_-_conclusions_132846.html

Some of these are “what my Democratic Party did wrong”, such as Autopsy The Democratic party in Crisis <https://democraticautopsy.org/democratic-party-in-crisis/>

Here we are going to look at another study <https://www.voterstudygroup.org/publications/2016-elections/executive-summary>

They concluded that the Republicans have a fragile coalition split five ways. The Democrats are more unified, but their donors and activists pull to the left, while the voters they need are more to their right. Libertarians hope that both of these parties blow up, so we may become the new majority party.

Of more interest is the two axis analysis, social and economic issues, by Lee Drutman. The figure is below. He asked where people lie on liberal-

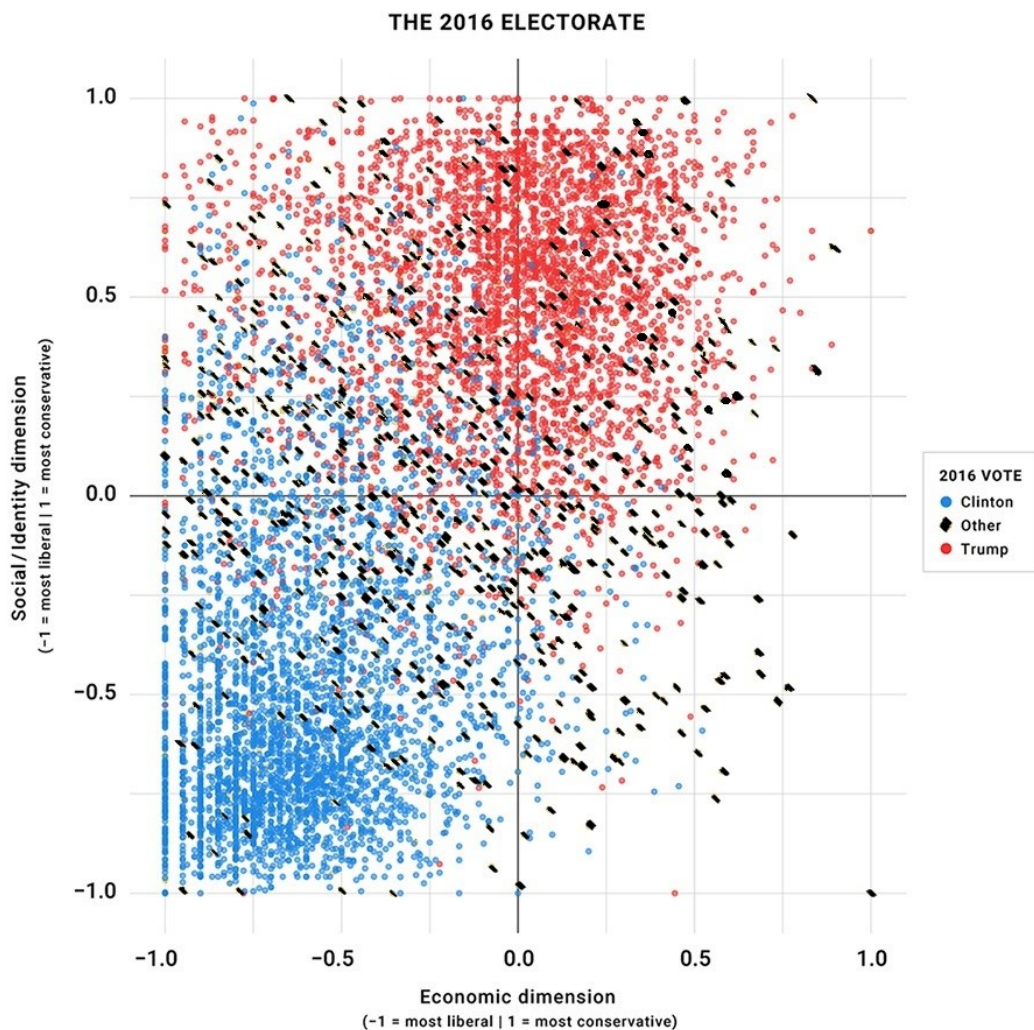
conservative social and economic issues. His definition of liberal is more modern than some; it focuses to a fair extent on identity issues.

Here economic issues are horizontal, social issues are vertical. Each point is a sampled voter. Clinton voters (blue) are lower left. Trump voters (red) are top middle, with conservatives to the right and populists to the left. Third Party voters, mostly libertarian (black) are all over the place, but there are few voters (<4%) in the Libertarian quadrant. The graph shows where we are. There are not many of us.

We need to fix that.

LSLA 2018 Business Meeting

We anticipate that the 2018 LSLA Business Meeting will be held at the 2018 Libertarian Party National Convention, next Summer in New Orleans. With thanks to Sam Goldstein for making arrangements at the LNC end, we tentatively expect the meeting to occur on July 1, 2018 from 6:45pm to 7:45 pm. Mindful that many state chairs are unable to attend



this meeting, it would alternatively be possible to amend our bylaws to do the actual election by mail ballot.

Our LSLA Bylaws provide:

Article 3: Membership

Voting Members shall consist of the Chairs of the Libertarian Party Affiliates. ... If an Affiliate Chair is unable to vote or participate in a meeting, a person empowered by the Affiliate to act on behalf of the Affiliate Chair for the purpose of conducting LSLA business, in accordance with that Affiliate's rules or bylaws, may vote or participate on that Chair's behalf.

Treasury Report:

Bank Accounts - Checking, \$5,020.23; Savings \$176.34

PayPal Account - \$181.57

Total cash on hand: \$5,378.14

LSLA National Convention

In 2018 the LSLA anticipates having a national convention and a business meeting.

The first will be in Colorado as part of the Colorado State Convention, currently expected to be March 24 and 25. The preliminary plan is that we will have our events on Saturday; they will have their events on Saturday and a business meeting on Sunday. These details are preliminary. We are looking for event panelists.

The business meeting will be in New Orleans during the 2018 LP National Convention.

We are in discussions with the Memorial Day UnConvention about having panels at their event.

Volunteers Needed

Your LSLA has projects it needs to carry out, if only we had the warm bodies to carry them. Enhancing our web site. Supporting our Territories in organizing Libertarian political parties. Political messaging to move the Overton windows. And more. We even have limited funds that could possibly be used to support your ideas. If you are

interested, please contact our National Chair George Phillies, phillies@4liberty.net 508-754-1859.

Booths at the LP National Convention

The Libertarian Party National Convention has traditionally features booths for candidates, organizations, and purveyors of Libertarian wares. However, the National Committee cannot take money from corporations or non-FEC-filing organizations. The solution is to have the LSLA rent out tables for those groups, and then keep the money. For the 2018 National Convention, LSLA booth rental operations are being conducted by heroic LSLA Volunteer Leigh Lachine.

Territorial Organizing

Mindful that residents of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Marianas, and the U.S. Virgin Islands are American citizens, we have begun a program to organize Libertarian political activist groups in each of those places. Facebook organizing seemed to be a first step. Some progress has been made. There is at present a libertarian political discussion group on Puerto Rico that we have tried to contact. Naturally, this effort began just before hurricanes started rolling through the Caribbean, so progress has been delayed.

About the LSLA

The Libertarian State Leadership Alliance is the Association of Libertarian Party affiliate chairs, including the 50 State Chairs and the DC Chair. The LSLA is organized to provide supporting infrastructure and tools, coordinate activities, and share knowledge among Libertarian Party Chairs and Affiliate Parties.

We provide support with our yearly National Convention. We provide support with events at the LNC National Convention. We provide support with our newsletter, the one you are reading here, now sent to almost a thousand Libertarian Party activists across America. We provide support with our web site LSLA.org.

For videotapes of our last National Convention:

www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLjnA1DE9KX64MeH2WFtvtTcqFkk_f2kMq