



Free? State LIBERTARIAN

December 2012

Newsletter of the LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF MARYLAND

November 6, 2012 General Election

President/VP

Johnson/Gray 1,241,705 (0.99%, USA)
30,195 (1.1%, Md.)

U.S. Senator

Dean Ahmad 32,252 (1.2%)

U.S. Congress

1st: Muir Wayne Boda 12,857 (3.8%)
2nd: Leo Wayne Dymowski 9,344 (3.2%)
3rd: Paul W. Drgos, Jr. 11,028 (3.4%)
4th: Scott Soffen 6,204 (2.0%)
5th: Arvin Vohra 4,503 (1.3%)
6th: Nickolaus Mueller 9,916 (3.2%)
7th: Ronald M. Owens-Bey 8,211 (2.5%)
8th: Mark Grannis 7,235 (2.1%)

STATE OF MARYLAND - HOWARD COUNTY	
PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES Vote for One	U.S. SENATOR Vote for One
Barack Obama Illinois And Joe Biden Delaware	Ben Cardin
Mitt Romney Massachusetts And Paul Ryan Wisconsin	Daniel John Bongino
Gary Johnson New Mexico And James P. Gray California	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dean Ahmad
Jill Stein Massachusetts And Cheri Honkala Pennsylvania	S. Rob Sobhani
Write-in	Write-in
	REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS Vote for One
	John Sarbanes
	Eric Delano Knowles
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paul W. Drgos, Jr.
	Write-in

It's PARTY Time!

Celebrate the holiday season with our candidates, recap the election campaign, have fun!

December 6 (Thursday): 7:00 - 10:00 pm. MdLP Holiday Party. Pot luck, BYOB. Location: 11614 Arden Court, Laurel, MD 20723 (Stuart Simms' home). Neighborhood street parking (please don't block driveways). Please RSVP to sSimms*md.lp.org so Stuart can get a head count.

Be advised there is an Arden Way a couple of miles away that confuses some GPS directions.

From the north: head south on 29 and make a LEFT on Old Columbia Pike just past the exit for 216.

From the south: get to 29 and make the first right in Howard county (after 198). There is a golf driving range on the northeast corner of Old Columbia and 29. Once on Old Columbia, travel 0.2 miles to first right on Arden Court.

Chair's Report



The Libertarian Party and the Maryland LP had very good results this election! Gary Johnson, the LP's Presidential candidate, received over 1.2 million votes, the most ever for one of our Presidential candidates. Gary also obtained more votes than all of the other non-establishment Presidential candidates

combined, and almost tripled Green Party candidate Dr. Jill Stein. The LP gained or retained ballot access in 30 states and DC, the party's best-ever result, which will help save the party money.

The *Maryland* LP also had a good day on election day, as our U.S. Senatorial candidate Dean Ahmad received over 30,000 votes, the best showing for one of our statewide candidates, and the second-best ever for a statewide 3rd party candidate in at least 50 years – behind only Ralph Nader's 2000 Green Party Presidential run. Gary Johnson obtained over 30,000 votes here, also the second-best result for a 3rd party Presidential candidate behind Nader.

Our congressional candidates had a solid showing, with two of them, Muir Boda and Paul Drgos, receiving over 10,000 votes.

Just as significant is that the Democrats have made it clear that peace and civil liberties don't matter. The Obama administration has continued to pursue the policies of the Bush administration, including unconstitutional wars, the Patriot Act, the use of drones in killing innocent civilians, corporate welfare, bailouts for big business, and the War on Drugs.

And of course the Republicans have been awful on spending for a long time.

This is a great opportunity for the LP and MdLP to gain the upper hand on these issues, and show the public that *we* are the party of non-intervention and civil liberties as well as free markets.

What will *you* be doing to advance the cause?

Do you like to get out and talk with people about Libertarianism? Then please consider running for office. This is an effective way to get the message out, even if you don't have much in the way of resources.

Local races are ones we can win *now*. The LP has over 150 elected officials, mostly at the local and municipal level. In 2013, there will be seats available in 156 towns. Contact me if you are interested. Or think about running for county or state office in 2014.

If you don't want to run for office, then you can help our candidates. Raising campaign funds, putting out fliers and yard signs, designing logos, t-shirts, and bumper stickers.

You can also advance the cause by getting involved with outreach events. There will be several taking place next year, starting in the spring.

The MdLP has a great opportunity to advance the cause of liberty over the next couple of years. There is little difference between the two legacy parties, and both the state and national LP's have established themselves as the alternative to the establishment. Ron Paul has shown that there is a significant market for liberty, particularly with young people. And with the continued growth of spending, deficits, and the police state, voters will eventually be looking for an alternative to the establishment parties. The LP and the MdLP are positioned to be the alternative.

Thanks to those of you who ran for office, and also to Eric Blitz, Erin Carrington Smith, Tim Sutton, and Susan Gaztañaga for assisting with the campaigns, and those of you who also helped out and donated money to the candidates.

Note on ballot access: Several people have asked if Gary Johnson or Dean Ahmad's results affected our ballot access; neither did. Even before the election, the state party has had ballot access through the 2014 elections. If we don't have at least 1% of the registered voters in the state (roughly 35,000; we currently have over 11,000), then our 2014 gubernatorial candidate must receive at least 1% of the vote to retain recognition without another petition drive.

— *Bob Johnston*

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Check www.MD.LP.org regularly for the current event calendar, news, email listserves, photo album, and more! Be certain to submit all of your current event information to LPMD.Event@ICEngineering.com to get the information online.

Content Policy

The views expressed by contributors to this publication are not necessarily the views of the Libertarian Party of Maryland, its Executive Board, or the Central Committee. The *Free? State Libertarian* is a first amendment publication, and welcomes diverse participation from many sources.

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Petition Drive Completed

As reported in the last issue, we lost the ballot access lawsuit that was argued in the Court of Appeals in early March. Bob Johnston turned in 5,636 raw petition signatures on Monday, August 6 (the state's deadline). The BoE validated 3,879 of those, bringing our total to 11,113 valid signatures. We are back on the ballot through December 2014! The success of the drive is in large part due to the last minute influx of paid circulators funded by the National LP, which augmented our volunteer signature gatherers.

This cycle was particularly drawn-out. The see-saw back-and-forth of our recognition status saw the original submission rejected due to new stringent signature and other requirements, the party reinstated by a Circuit Court judge, an appeal by the Board of Elections, argument before the Maryland Court of Appeals, a unanimous re-decertification by that court, the submission of more petition signatures, and finally the re-re-recognition of the Party's status by the BoE. However, possibly due to the particular circumstances of this cycle, or hopefully a revised understanding of the

underlying legislation, the BoE did not effectively dump all of our registered voters as has happened many times in the past. After the Court of Appeals' decision, the BoE temporarily changed the designation of registered Libertarians into a new category *Others - Libertarian* instead of *Unaffiliated*. During that time period those voters effectively were Unaffiliated; however, once we regained state recognition with the additional petition submission, the BoE automatically changed voters' *Others - Libertarian* political party status back to full-fledge *Libertarian*. This is very important, as we can continue to build our voter base in the state without having to start over every cycle. As a result, we continue to break state records and have widened our lead over the fourth-place party in Maryland, the Green Party.

Obtaining state recognition permitted us to run a full slate of candidates in 2012, which in turn strengthens our visibility and improves our ability to maintain official recognition in future election cycles. *Success breeds success!*

Number of Maryland voters officially registered Libertarian:

11,256

Party Spokesperson Lorenzo Gaztañaga

443-414-6539

BaltimoreCity*md.lp.org

State Executive Board Officers

Chairman	Bob Johnston	443-310-5373	Chair*md.lp.org
Vice Chairman	Mark Grannis	301-841-7530	Vice-Chair*md.lp.org
Secretary	Robert E. Glaser	410-363-6626	Secretary*md.lp.org
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At Large	Arvin Vohra	301-320-3634	Arvin*ArvinVohra.com
At Large	Eric Blitz	410-812-7265	EricBlitz*md.lp.org

The executive board meets monthly. All meetings are open. Check the website or contact an officer for date and location.

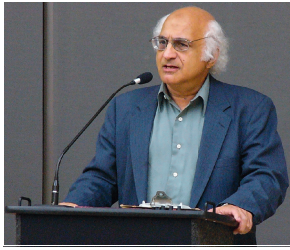
County Affiliates

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www.LP-CC.org	Cecil County	Dave Sten	410-287-2823	Cecil*md.lp.org
	Wicomico County	Muir Boda	410-603-3347	Wicomico*md.lp.org
	Harford County	Michael Linder	410-569-2186	Harford*md.lp.org

Campaign Recap, Senate Race

“In the long run men hit only what they aim at.”

— Henry David Thoreau



Now that the election is over, I must begin by congratulating Ben Cardin for his victory. He won what he wanted, to remain in power for another six years. And we won what we wanted: I promoted liberty by speaking the truth about the issues that the other candidates avoid: ending corporate welfare (bailouts, etc.), restoring civil liberties (end of Patriot Act, stopping or repealing the authorization of military action against the American people), fiscal responsibility (ending the deficit and reducing the debt) and ending the wars.

We won because I had the opportunity to speak the truth at places of worship, before business groups, on radio and TV, at rallies and polling places. Especially meaningful to me was my lecture to students at St. Mary's College because it is the young people who are going bring this long-term campaign its final victory. My happiest moment was when a young teenager at the Frederick mosque said he wanted to hand out literature for me on Election Day. When someday in the future he or some other young man or woman inspired by the campaign is elected to the U.S. Senate to implement the Libertarian platform, then I shall say, we did that, in this election of 2012. We have won. While our campaign for this particular office has ended, our campaign for liberty continues.

We achieved three other incidental goals as well:

- We increased the number of registered Libertarians in Maryland to above 11,000 (11,256 to be precise).
- I was included in the major candidate forums, including debates on WOLB radio and WCBC radio, and forums at the Islamic Center of Maryland and before the Women Owned Business Association and the Pasadena Business Association.
- I obtained more than 1% of the votes – 1.2% to be precise, a record breaking 32,252 votes for the Maryland Libertarian Party [unofficial total as of press time, more votes than any third party statewide candidate except for Ralph Nader's 2000 Presidential bid].
- This is the first time in history that a Libertarian candidate in Maryland has exceeded 1% in a statewide race. Our success is a roadmap to follow in the gubernatorial elections where exceeding 1% would enable us to maintain ballot status.

The success of this campaign hinged on the support that I received from my core campaign staff: Treasurer Robert S. Johnston III, Campaign Chair Lorenzo Gaztañaga, Campaign Manager Susan Gaztañaga, Campaign Consultants Doug McNeil and Bill Buzzell, Media Coordinator Christopher Doscher, Web Designer Teri Murphy, Appointment Secretary Scott Spencer, Issues Committee members Lorenzo Gaztañaga, Jack Jones, Mike O'Mara, Barry Chodack and Bill Buzzell, Mailing Coordinator Jack Jones and Outreach Committee members Gabriel Rockman and Yusef Amin. I thank the other Libertarian candidates, especially those who actively campaigned. I am also grateful to Mahdi Bray who offered to do fundraising even though health issues prevented him from doing so.

I also want to thank the many Ron Paul supporters who joined in my campaign, Michael Hargadon, Rob McKay, Jason Laird,

Christian Woehrle, Dean Harding, Clint Brown, Stan Kadavre, and Elizabeth Myers among them. The same for the many donors who provided the “mother's milk of politics” we needed for this campaign, and the many people who manned the polls for me at early voting and on Election Day. Above all, I thank my devoted wife Frances for her grace and cheerful patience.

As for my actually going to the U.S. Senate, I am pleased to inform you that I arrived at Hart Office Building on Thursday, November 8, to report for duty. No, I was not being sworn in as a U.S. Senator. After leaving a message of congratulations with Ben Cardin's secretary (I hoped to congratulate him personally, but she said she didn't know if he was in or not), I went across the hall to resume my day-job as President of the Minaret of Freedom Institute by conferring with Congressional and State Department staffers on the situation in Syria and Lebanon. It was an off-the-record meeting, so I can't tell you what transpired, but I assure you I argued for liberty.

As I said, the campaign for liberty continues. You can continue the campaign, too, by joining the Libertarian Party. And it is not too late to donate to my campaign and pay for the last minute printing of flyers distributed at the polls and for the mileage for all that travel I did around the state.

May God guide us all closer to Truth.

— I. Dean Ahmad, Ph.D.



Above: Susan Gaztañaga, Jack Jones, Dean, Ben Parker, and Lorenzo Gaztañaga at Greenbelt Information Day on Sept. 1. Below: Election night dinner at the *Sadaf Halal Restaurant* in Rockville. Dean, Gabriel Rockman, Jack Jones, Samira, Ben Parker, Darlene Nicholas, Tony Spezio, and Ron Kean attending.



Campaign Recap, continued

First Congressional District



As another election season closes and I have finished my third campaign for public office, I look back on the unexpected run for Congress I had this year. Initially I had planned to take the year off from politics and possibly get involved with Governor Gary Johnson's bid for the presidency, while planning for a run at local or state office in 2014.

First and foremost, I am humbled that over 12,800 people cast their vote for me and felt confident enough that I could serve them well in Congress. I am truly honored by the overwhelming support from family, friends, col-

leagues and those who I deal with professionally. What is even harder to comprehend is the amount of respect and encouragement I have received from people that I respect.

I traveled as much of the district as I could in this election. Debating Write-In Candidates Dr. John LaFerla and Mike Calpino was an incredible experience. Calpino and I even traveled to forums together and are still very good friends, even though we were opponents in this election.

The opportunities to discuss solutions in several formats, including Keith Thompson's show on WCTR in Chestertown, provided me an opportunity to present the Libertarian position on environmental issues. Phil Tilghman interviewed me on PAC-14 here in Wicomico County, and we discussed ending the War on Drugs – on which I received an unexpected positive response from not only Phil himself, but many people in the community here. A rational discussion on some of these issues, often hot button issues, is what many people want.

One voter here in Salisbury told me that he and his wife voted for me. His wife is a biologist and an environmentalist and he told me that she spent over three hours researching the positions of my opponents and mine on the issues. She determined that on the environment I was the most specific and straightforward, and that my solutions were to acknowledge the root causes and address the issues that could logically and scientifically be accomplished. She found that approach on all the issues between me and my opponents, which swayed her vote to me.

I wish every voter in the First District had taken their time and researched like she did.

The *Daily Times* after Election Day had quoted a voter that stated I brought more to the table than Harris and LaFerla.

When I hear those stories and the hundreds of messages from people I have received, I do believe that ultimately the message of Peace, Free Markets and Individual Liberty, when presented, reaches people. When brought down to the personal level and solutions through Liberty Principles are presented, it changes hearts and educates minds. Change through education is our greatest tool and one that can be very powerful.

I am so very honored to have represented the Libertarian Party in the First District and to have been a part of that education pro-

cess in some small way. 12,857 voters in the First District responded to the message of Liberty and I am proud to have been that standard bearer this election cycle. It most certainly would not have been possible if not for the groundwork laid by Dr. Richard Davis in 2008 and 2010. I am appreciative of his support and the work he has done.

— *Muir Boda*

Third Congressional District

First of all, I want to thank the Libertarian Party for giving me an opportunity to run for this prestigious office. I want to thank all of my supporters. I want to single out my campaign manager, Timothy Sutton, without him I do not believe I would have been able to finish the race. I also want to thank his wife Stacy Sutton for creating some brilliant graphics that I used in the campaign. Thanks are also due to my parents and family for their support.



This race was an incredible learning experience. I met a lot of wonderful people along the way, including many inside the Libertarian Party. When people pay attention they understand and embrace the message of liberty. However, winning the attention of the masses is an incredibly difficult endeavor. We didn't have any money, experience, or connections. What we had was determination and desire. We responded to every call, we did every interview, we showed up whenever and wherever we were asked. This goes a long way. It will never go far enough to get enough people to overlook the "D" and the "R" next to the other candidates' names, but it is a start. We learned some of what can work and who to call. We learned which outlets are supportive and which are afraid of change and anything that contradicts their notion of the story.

I saw my daughter handing out flyers and asking people to vote for her dad. That was a proud moment. I spoke to voters and one in particular at an early voting center that made me proud to run. Heck, he didn't even vote for me, but it was a wonderful conversation. Seeing my name on TV on election night was another proud moment. These things made me sure that the time and effort that we put in was not spent in vain.

11,028 votes is something we can build on. We can build on the knowledge gained in this trip. I look forward to continuing the journey for freedom, liberty, and America.

— *Paul W. Drgos, Jr.*

Paul Drgos Jr. with daughter
Sophia at the Fell's Point
Fun Festival on October 6



Earle Pearce, 1951 - 2012

Newer members of the Maryland Libertarian Party – by which I mean newer than about 2006 – may never have met, or even heard of, Earle Pearce, who passed away suddenly on the evening of October 27, 2012. Financial difficulties, including the lack of a car or even a scooter, combined with failing health, had prevented him from being as politically active as he was during the heady years from 1992 to about 2000, when he was instrumental in reactivating the Baltimore City Libertarian Party. A rally he organized to protest the state troopers' raid on The Block (Baltimore's red light district), which attracted a significant amount of media coverage, got us off to a great start.

Earle took the lead in developing a Libertarian platform for Baltimore City, and started the first *Libertarian Drinking and Debating Society* (LDDS). The idea was that, if you went to a particular bar (Second Chapter Sports Bar in the Highlandtown area of Baltimore City), at a designated time and day of the week (7:30 pm on Thursdays), you would find libertarians there (small l and large L) with whom to discuss anything and everything. The only formality was to raise your glass in a toast to liberty at some point during the evening. During the time that Steve Boone was active in Maryland, the LDDS gave birth to a number of good initiatives, such as the Libertarian summer road show.

While Doug McNeil was perfecting and teaching the art of writing letters to the editor that get published, Earle was perfecting his technique for employing talk radio to further the cause of liberty. He cultivated a relationship with WCBM talk show host Zoh Hieronimus that led to her accepting an invitation to speak to our state convention. He got Alan Keyes to come to a monthly meeting at our home. All of this and more earned him the Samuel Chase Award in 1998.

During the 2000 census, he founded the Campaign for Humanity that urged people to “just say ‘human’ when asked about your race.” It was cited in the Baltimore's Best issue of *City Paper* as “best new movement.” His keen mind crafted a brilliant proposal for prison reform, as well as an innovative (and entirely legal) plan to run for Sheriff of Baltimore City and deputize private citizens to carry sidearms (after training and qualification) to achieve the dual benefit of circumventing Maryland's “may issue” policy and bringing down crime in Baltimore. At the time, ballot access law was much more difficult, and we couldn't get him on the ballot.

Possessed of a fine Irish tenor voice, he loved karaoke, and it was through his singing that he met Nancy, his “third and final wife,” as he liked to say. Those of us who attended will never forget their karaoke wedding, in which they sang their love to each other, and Earle and Lorenzo turned “For All the Girls I've Loved Before” around, with Earle, not Lorenzo, singing the Julio Iglesias part.

Soon after hearing the news of Earle's passing, Doug McNeil e-mailed us, “Earle was a fine man, and it was a privilege to have known him. [He] may be gone, but his activism helped our cause a lot, and he can serve as an inspiration to others. He did for us, and he still can, even to those who didn't know him.”



“Earle was an anarchist,” Doug recalls, “as is a minority of our party. He was not like the left anarchists, who want there to be no government so they can loot everybody else. He was a principled libertarian anarchist, who thought that the cause of liberty would be best served if there were to be no government at all. I remember that once I told him about a t-shirt that I saw, which read, ‘There's no government like no government.’ He absolutely loved it.”

“Of course Earle knew that I was a minarchist, one who believes that some much smaller level of government is the best way to go. And he once said to me, ‘Well, Doug, you and I will walk along the same road for a long time. And then at some point, you'll stay where you are, and I will continue to walk on.’ Hah!! He had a wonderful sense of humor.”

“But Earle clearly recognized that if there is no government at all, then that may create a vacuum that might be filled by warlords, or other strongmen, that might impair liberty. So he drafted a libertarian Constitution of the United States of North America, and all of us in the Baltimore LP had a very instructive time

discussing his proposal in detail. Earle contributed a lot to the party during those years. He was an inspiration to many of us, and he will be greatly missed. The world is a poorer place because he isn't in it anymore.”

The rest of the *Ahmad for U.S. Senate* campaign is dedicated to Earle Pearce [article written prior to Election Day]. When I spoke with Earle on the phone just a week ago, he told me he would be spending all of Election Day at his polling site, handing out literature for Gary Johnson and for Dean. Will you now take his place? Let's all turn out to work the polls on Election Day to help the MdLP attain the highest number of votes and the best percentage in our over twenty-year history – for Earle.

— Susan Gaztanaga

Chair, Libertarian Party of Baltimore

Race: Just say “Human”

Minutes of the Central Committee of the Libertarian Party of Maryland – Saturday, 28 July 2012

Opening: The Libertarian State Central Committee of Maryland met at Arvin Vohra's home in Bethesda, Maryland. The meeting was called to order at 4:25 pm by chairman Bob Johnston.

Attendance: the Credentials Committee consisted of: Robert Glaser; Mark Grannis; and Tony Spezio. It validated that 18 Central Committee members were in attendance for the meeting. No proxies were represented. The Central Committee rolls consist of 40 members.

Minutes: The minutes of the 3 March 2012 and 19 May 2012 Central Committee meetings were accepted as submitted.

Treasurer's report: was accepted as submitted by Michael Linder.

Chair's Report: Bob Johnston reports that we have 96 members to date; Stuart Simms is taking up membership duties; we have 10,368 registered voters as of June 30. Ballot Access: we need to turn in 2766 valid signatures by Monday August 6; we currently have 3300-3500 raw sigs and paid petitioners are working on more.

National Rep. Jim Lark: we could get 50 states on the ballot; National is spending a lot of money on ballot access.

Gary Johnson Maryland coordinator Eric Blitz: the campaign is working on refining television advertising which now is online; shortening them down to the 30 second spots needed for broadcast media. Need money to do effective advertising; could use some more volunteers, needs district directors, will be back at U.Md.;

yard signs and bumper stickers available; one million dollars was donated to a PAC supporting Gary.

Candidates: Leo Dymowski reports that things are working out; he can tell the truth as a candidate. Arvin Vohra is filling out voter guides, doing outreach on a libertarian radio show, and suggests that we emphasize media outlets that are amenable to Libertarians. Mark Grannis is gearing up for a big push after Labor Day, signs worked best for him last time so is ordering more; working on data mining targeted internet ads and doing book signings. Dean Ahmad's campaign got off to a rocky start due to our ballot access blip, but things are looking rosy; working on arranging meetings at mosques, the campaign staff is working hard; keep up with website; working on brochures, have prototype bumper stickers; is filing questionnaires, have outreach staff, need volunteers, including those to hand out literature at the polls. Muir Boda will be in a debate with his district 1 competitors on October 21.

Announcements: a reminder of upcoming events: Chesapeake Pride Festival Aug. 4, Reisterstown parade Sept. 8, Essex Day Sept. 16, Fells Point Oct. 6/7. Tony Spezio notes that next Friday there is a protest in DC on the healthcare law. Robert Glaser has forms with him for MdLP license plates, and MdLP caps for sale.

Adjournment: the Central Committee thanks our host and hostess; the meeting adjourned at 6:03 pm.

— Robert E. Glaser



There was a good turnout at the MdLP annual picnic in Bethesda on July 28. Host and grillmaster Arvin Vohra at right.

Tanuja Paruchuri moved to Dallas and therefore resigned from the Executive Board. Eric Blitz was appointed in her place on August 28. Mark Grannis is the current Vice-Chair.



Dundalk Independence Day Parade – July 4



On Question 6 (Gay Marriage):

Baltimore Raven Brandon Ayanbadejo respects the opinion but disagrees with it. “The disconnect is that religion is not law,” he said. “And some guys have trouble seeing the difference.”

The Italian politician noted that for most Americans, deciding on a president Tuesday was a \$2 billion choice – between Barack Obama and Mitt Romney. “And so,” he noted, “most Americans have no idea that there were other candidates for president on the ballot.”

— Dan Rodricks

Erin Carrington, Eric Blitz, and Kirin at the Fells Point Fun Festival on October 6.



Gary Johnson supporters at Shawan Road residence in Hunt Valley on July 25.

Is this the “real” Harold in *Person of Interest*?

James Bamford: Well, Bill Binney’s a very interesting person. He worked for NSA for almost 40 years, and he rose to an extremely high position. He was the person who basically designed and implemented the NSA’s worldwide eavesdropping system. He left soon after 9/11, when he discovered that system that he developed was being turned inward on the American public. In other words, the system that he designed to eavesdrop on people in foreign countries around the world was now being turned domestically to eavesdrop on U.S. citizens, and that’s when he decided to leave the NSA after all those years and turn his back on the agency he’d spent his entire life at. So I was very lucky that he was willing to talk to me all about the system and how the NSA’s eavesdropping turned domestic and what its implications are for eavesdropping on U.S. citizens.

Steven Cherry: And tell us about his fear of the turnkey totalitarian state.

James Bamford: Well, what he had said was the agency had come – and he separated his fingers by about an inch – “this far” from a turnkey totalitarian state. And what he meant by that was that the system is now in place – it’s a system he created – where if somebody was to basically flip a switch, all that technology that he created and all that technology that’s now locked into the American communications system can be used in a totalitarian way. In other words, in the way George Orwell wrote about in *1984*, where you have a society where the government is eavesdropping on everybody’s communications and there’s no privacy left.

It hadn’t reached that point when he left; they had put the system in place, and they had begun eavesdropping domestically illegally for the first time, or actually for the first time since the Nixon administration. But the system is there now, and anybody that wants – if a president wants to do the same thing that President Bush wanted, to go against the law, to secretly eavesdrop on American citizens – it’s there to do.

Excerpt from <http://spectrum.ieee.org/podcast/telecom/security/police-states-and-domestic-terrorism>

And totalitarianism comes. This is no longer the assertion of those dropped on their heads as children. Daily we read of more weaponry for the police, more surveillance authorized by courts, more unlegislated powers for Homeland Security. Currency controls fall into place to prevent people from fleeing the country with their assets.
from http://www.fredoneverything.net/A_Surrender.shtml

Reisterstown Parade – September 8





In the News

The *Baltimore Sun* printed **Doug McNeil's** letter "Md. third-party candidates losing out" on July 27. He discusses the MdLP and Green Parties loss of official status by the Court of Appeals.

On October 3, **George Reynolds** appeared on a citizens panel broadcast on WTTG-5 in the nation's capital. He expressed his opinions after the presidential debate (that excluded Gary Johnson).

Muir Boda's letter to the *Baltimore Sun* was published on November 5: "An alternative in the 1st." See below.

Our candidates appeared at various forums throughout the state during the election season too numerous to detail here. Good job!

Congratulations to our public advocates. Please send in reports of your successes, too!

An alternative in the 1st

What if Congress was bought and sold by corporate interests?

What if tax loopholes and regulatory exemptions were bought and sold in the halls of Congress?

What if both major political parties have become ineffective at addressing the issues of the day?

What if the Constitution was actually designed to restrict government but we continue to elect people to Congress and the presidency who ignore it?

What if our use of drones kill more civilians than terrorists and create more enemies for America?

What if peace is cheaper than war? What if we had leaders that listened to and adhered to the guidance of our founders such as George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and James Madison?

What if we elected people to Congress who actually believe our government should be constrained inside the Constitution? What if those choices are actually on the ballot?

What if the private sector was freed from government regulations and an oppressive tax system? What if that actually created tens of millions of new jobs and made our manufacturing sector competitive with the rest of the world?

What if the 1st District of Maryland had someone else other than Andy Harris representing them in Congress who supports civil liberties? What if we had a congressman who would have vehemently opposed the Patriot Act, the National Defense Authorization Act, Cyber Intelligence Sharing and Protection Act and was not on the hook to special interest for hundreds of thousands of dollars?

What if that person was actually on the ballot? Well, I am.

Muir Boda, Salisbury

The writer is the Libertarian candidate in Maryland's 1st Congressional District.

Letters to the Editor

I have just read Gerald Schneider's recent letter to the editor. I must say that I agree with Gerry completely. As spokesperson for the Maryland Libertarian Party and a candidate on numerous occasions, what Gerry is speaking about is what I strive for, best expressed by what he wrote, "I want a dialogue culture to replace an argument culture. I want conflict resolution to take the place of political dogmatism and pontification." Gerry, I couldn't agree more.

God speed to you, and carry on the good work.

In liberty, *Lorenzo Gaztanaga*

P.S.: To replace the big government/higher taxes blurb, let's try this: Tired of crony capitalism and the constant war on everyone and everything? Call 1-800-MLP-1776

In answer to Robert Glaser's challenge, I propose using the phrase "Freedom Is A Primary Value" borrowed from the party's stated purpose [Program] to replace "Tired of BIG GOVERNMENT and High Taxes?" below the return address on state party newsletters. I also think consideration should be given to revising (or junking) the "Libertarian Party of Maryland Program" revised March 3, 2012.

A criticism of government shared by all libertarians I know is that governors never have enough information to efficiently employ central planning. This is a non-political observation of fact as best I know that economist-philosopher F.A. Hayek called the "fatal conceit" of governors who think they have all the answers. Has the state party fallen into the same trap as central planners do? Beyond a methodological advocacy of freedom – calling on all stakeholders in any situation to reach voluntary agreement on actions to be taken – what gives party members sufficient knowledge to prescribe how others should run schools or do anything else as specifically stated in the party's "Program?" Your thoughts on this are invited as I always have doubts about my own knowledge even as I promote specific ideas.

Sincerely, *Gerald Schneider*

Editor: I've used the above phrase as I could make it fit. Comments?

Re: Your letter in the July 2012 issue, "The iron-clad solution to pension abuse."

I agree with you that the best solution to pension abuse would be to just eliminate all specific laws about pension plans and special tax treatment. And depend on your family and kids and friends and whatever investments you made while working as your retirement plan.

But the specific problem you mentioned, "fund current operations with future taxes or earning" is the older "defined benefit" method. It does have the problem you mentioned, ballooning cost to your business in the future. And from that, difficulty selling your company.

It also has a bad risk for the employees. If your company goes bankrupt, they could wind up with little or nothing.

The newer Independent Retirement Accounts, (IRAs) don't have that problem. They are funded up front and the money is invested by a separate firm. Even the Federal Government is going partly that way. New Federal employers (for the last 30 years or more) have a three part plan. Social Security (like most private employers), Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS: a defined benefit, but with substantially smaller benefits than the older Civil Service Retirement System), and the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) which is a form of IRA where your money is invested in stocks and bonds and the like.

Actually Social Security is sort of half way. All it is invested in is Government bonds. But it actually doesn't have a guaranteed future payout. Congress can change the payout scheme any time they want, and it does. My favorite solution to the Social Security financial problem is to just move up the retirement age a year each year.

Sincerely, *Ralph Lake*

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Phone (day):

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**Libertarian Party
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P.O. Box 176
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www.MD.LP.org

COMING EVENTS

Stay up-to-date on MdLP activities with our online calendar-of-events: visit www.MD.LP.org/events/ (often!). Check page 3 for contact numbers not listed here.

Gallery Gang: Mondays while the Maryland General Assembly is in session January 14 through April 8, 2013 to lobby legislators before the session, attend, drinks afterward. Meet on the State House steps at *Lawyer's Mall* in Annapolis at 7:45 pm. Tony Spezio TheSpeez@yahoo.com

December 6 (Thursday): 7:00 - 10:00 pm. MdLP Holiday Party. Stuart Simms. See page 1

February 14, 2013 (Thursday): Frederick Douglass and Terry Atwood memorial day

March 2013: MdLP annual convention. Date TBD

April 15, 2013 (Monday): Tax Day protests

1-800-MLP-1776

Please check the first line of the mailing label to verify your MdLP status (see page 2)

"Freedom Is a Primary Value"
Call 1-800-MLP-1776 if you agree

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