



# Free? State LIBERTARIAN

## December 2020

Newsletter of the LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF MARYLAND

### Election Wrap-up

Due to the efforts to get back on the ballot in Maryland, we only had one candidate on the general election ballot: our presidential nominee Jo Jorgensen, along with her running mate Jeremy “Spike” Cohen.

Jo and Spike received (as of this writing) 33,488 votes, for 1.102%. This is the third best result for an LP presidential candidate in Maryland, behind Gary Johnson’s 79,605 votes in 2016 and 30,195 (1.115%) in 2012.

Nationwide Jo and Spike have received 1,850,591 votes (1.2%), and that figure may continue to increase. This is the second-best result ever for an LP presidential candidate nationwide, and Jo and Spike are to be commended for getting such a good result, considering:

- The national media gave them zero attention
- They didn’t have the political resumes or name recognition that Gary Johnson and Bill Weld had
- They were only able to raise a fraction of the money Johnson and Weld raised

Further, Jo and Spike worked to build and advance the Libertarian Party with new members and volunteers, and regularly promoted the LP – unlike past presidential candidates, with the exception of Harry Browne, with whom Jo was on the presidential ticket in 1996. Thanks to all of you who helped out with promoting the Jorgensen/Cohen campaign, whether through get-togethers, sign waving, distributing literature, or donating to the campaign both directly and through the Maryland Libertarian PAC. Our PAC was the second largest donor to the Jorgensen campaign (not including the candidate, who can contribute an unlimited amount to their own campaign).

The Maryland Libertarian Party is on the ballot through the 2022 elections. To retain party status, the party needs to have at least 1% of the registered voters in the state at the end of 2022, or get at least 1% in the race for Governor.

#### LP Presidential Candidate Results in Maryland Since 2000

2020	Jo Jorgensen and Jeremy “Spike” Cohen	33,488 (1.102%)
2016	Gary Johnson and William Weld	79,605 (2.9%)
2012	Gary Johnson and Jim Gray	30,195 (1.115%)
2008	Bob Barr and Wayne Root	9,842 (0.3%)
2004	Michael Badnarik and Richard Campagna	6,094 (0.2%)
2000	Harry Browne and Art Olivier	5,310 (0.3%)

#### Best results for Minor Party Presidential Candidates in Maryland Since 1992

1992	Ross Perot (Reform)	281,414
1996	Ross Perot (Reform)	115,812
2016	Gary Johnson (Libertarian)	79,605
2000	Ralph Nader (Green)	53,768
2020	Jo Jorgensen (Libertarian)	33,488

— Bob Johnston

Due to the current situation, no MdLP Holiday Party is currently scheduled ☹️

# Chair's Report



"Congratulations, I heard a Libertarian Party candidate was elected to a state office!"

This was a comment from my brother, who came up from Tampa for the Thanksgiving holiday.

He was referring to Marshall Burt [photo below], who was elected to the Wyoming House of Representatives on election day. Burt is only the fifth Libertarian Party candidate to be elected to a state legislature running solely on the LP ticket, and the first since 2000.

What is significant about my brother's comment is that he is not particularly into politics (he does vote for LP candidates when they are on the ballot). He does follow the news, though, and that is how he heard about Mr. Burt's victory. And if my brother is aware that a Libertarian Party candidate was elected to a state office, then millions of others are, too.

Not only that, Mr. Burt's phone is ringing off of the hook with Wyoming legislators – Democrats and Republicans – who want to co-sponsor some of his bills. Some solely because of the content of the bills, but many because they want to co-sponsor bills with not only a Libertarian, but a Libertarian Party official. Because Libertarians have credibility on so many issues; issues we have been pushing since the LP was founded in 1972.

In 2017 Laure Ebke, a former Nebraska Republican official, switched to the Libertarian Party and successfully spearheaded legislation to lower occupational licensing barriers. There were many legislators from both the Democrat and Republican parties that got behind the bill and helped pass it. In addition, she



has consulted with three Governors, two Republicans and a Democrat, on how they can work to remove occupational licensing barriers.

It is easier for elected Libertarian Party officials to get freedom-oriented bills passed because we don't have to play the two-party establishment game: where even though a politician may want to support a bill, they feel they can't because the politician pushing the bill is from another party, and you can't be seen helping the enemy.

"One of the things that I've taken upon myself is to try to encourage... there was a little over 100,000 people who voted for Shane Hazel, the Libertarian candidate, and I think those people can find a place and reason to vote for Republicans," he said (recently) on *Fox News*. That is a quote from Kentucky U.S. Senator Rand Paul, pleading with Libertarians to support Republican David Perdue in the Georgia U.S. Senate runoff election on 8 December. In Georgia, if the top-finishing candidate does not receive a majority of the votes, a runoff takes place a month later between the top two candidates. Georgia LP candidate Shane Hazel received 115,039 votes, enough to deny any candidate a majority and force the runoff, not to mention possible control of the U.S. Senate.

(To those who would accuse the LP potentially costing the Republicans control of the U.S. Senate, the Libertarian Party U.S. Senate candidate in North Carolina also beat the spread between the Republican incumbent and Democrat challenger, in which the Republican eventually was reelected.)

Rand Paul's plea demonstrates that Libertarians have a significant voting block. Not a majority or close to it, but enough to noticeably affect elections. In addition, the LP presidential nominee, Dr. Jo Jorgensen, received almost 2 million votes with no national media attention. We have the attention of the establishment, and we're not going away. And we can no longer be ignored.

— Bob Johnston

## Free? State Libertarian ISSN 1076-3155

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Check [LPmaryland.org](http://LPmaryland.org) regularly for the current event calendar, news, blog posts, and more! Be certain to submit all of your current event information to [Webmaster@LPmaryland.org](mailto:Webmaster@LPmaryland.org) 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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## If You Are Not a Subscriber

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# Remembering Kevin Zeese



I became aware of Kevin Zeese in 2006. This happened through my dear friend and Libertarian colleague, the late Doug McNeil. At the time, Kevin had come up with the idea of a unity ticket for his 2006 U.S. Senatorial run. The idea, as it emerged from Kevin and Doug, was to bring a stronger challenger to those who control the power structure in the State of Maryland. Key to the plan was that Kevin would have the nominations of both the Greens and the Libertarians, and would appear that way on the

ballot. It didn't take a whole lot of convincing from Kevin for me to see that this was an idea worth pursuing, and I became convinced that this was the way to go. To make a long story short, I remember taking to the floor at the Maryland LP convention and nominating Kevin as our U.S. Senatorial candidate. Kevin had preceded it with a fiery speech about personal liberty. While Libertarians and Greens agree on a number of big issues, there are still a few things that keep us apart. I think Kevin was concerned that those few things might keep him from getting the nomination. After all, in groups of committed individuals like Greens and Libertarians, there are those who feel the duty to maintain the purity of their principles, which is something to be admired, and it's fundamental. After I made my nomination and the vote was taken, Kevin got the nomination by a solid majority. He had asked me to please call him and let him know how things had gone. So, I called him, and with an anxious voice, he asked me, "How did it go?" I said, "You got it!" Then he still asked me, "How did it go?" and I said, "You got it, you're nominated."

Not long after, the Maryland House of Delegates held an emergency session in which they prohibited a candidate from

having the nomination of two parties. I saw this as, while not a desirable effect, an appropriate effect, revealing the true nature of the power monopolists in the State of Maryland. So I, for one, while not happy with who those people are and how they act, was not really disappointed. It was almost as if, "What a surprise!" I think that Kevin had very much the same reaction that I had. At that point, Kevin, being a man of his word, never stopped saying that he was the Libertarian candidate as well. I remember Kevin's several appearances in the late Ron Smith's show, in which he was almost a de facto co-host, and I was very pleased that the name Libertarian was repeated more often on the air in Baltimore than it had been, except for the time when Brian Wilson and Zoh Hieronimus were drive time hosts on Baltimore radio.

It was a tremendous effort. In the biggest debate that he had, the *Baltimore Sun*, being the *Baltimore Sun*, would not publish the picture of Kevin, Michael Steele and Ben Cardin without mutilating it by leaving Kevin out. As someone said, it was two people and five arms. It was a bizarre testament to what passes as fair journalism in our main daily news, for those who have eyes to see and ears to hear.

It was a victory, and Kevin was responsible for it and I'm glad I was a part of it, representing his opposition to the wars, opposition to victimless crimes, to corporate welfare and political monopoly – to name some of the big ones. These are all Libertarian values that Kevin consistently represented. I'm very glad that I was able to participate in several of his public events. I thank God I've been able to.

I, along with the many Libertarians in Maryland who knew Kevin, was shocked and saddened to lose him so suddenly. God speed, Kevin Zeese. See you later.

— *Lorenzo Gaztanaga*

*In its September 16<sup>th</sup> issue, the Baltimore Sun reported: "Mr. Zeese, an attorney who turned his passion for ending the war on drugs into a career as an activist and a run for a seat in the U.S. Senate, died Sept. 6 of a heart attack at his home in Baltimore. He would have turned 65 next month."*

*The photo to the immediate right is from the newspaper obituary; at the far right is a picture from our 2006 convention.*



## Minutes of the Central Committee of the Libertarian Party of Maryland — Saturday, 18 July 2020

**Opening:** The Libertarian State Central Committee of Maryland met on the grounds of Dave Sten's home in North East, Maryland. The Agenda and Treasurer's report were distributed. The meeting was called to order at 4:44 pm by chairman Bob Johnston.

**Attendance:** the Credentials Committee consisted of: Robert Glaser; Stuart Simms; and Dean Ahmad. It validated that 29 Central Committee members were in attendance for the meeting. No proxies were represented. The Central Committee rolls consist of 54 members.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the 15 March 2020 Central Committee meeting were accepted as submitted.

**Chair's Report:** Bob Johnston thanked Dave and René for hosting the picnic; he reports that we have 123 members and 13,900 registrations. We settled a lawsuit against the BoE to accept 5,000 petition signatures by Aug. 3; we have 4,700 on hand, need about another 1,800. We have 8 U.S. House seats and some Balto. City and Cecil county offices up for election. Has formed a PAC and are \$200 away from the maximum \$2800; more received immediately.

**Susan Hogarth, incoming LNC regional rep:** traveled from NC, discussed the Orlando convention.

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

**Dan Fishman (LP Director):** entreats us to email 10 friends to sign our petition. We now have over 20,000 national members. Promotes National lifetime membership, presented David Lasher with a lifetime pin; David Lasher, Jim Lark, and Dan Fishman donated funds to make Bob Johnston a lifetime member also.

### Constitutional Amendment

Append the following sentence to V6B: "A written petition of twenty percent or more of the members of the State Central Committee may call a meeting of the State Central Committee for a specific stated purpose." This was approved at the last CC meeting and this vote is up or down for final adoption. The Investigating Committee reports: We support proposed amendment provided it be amended to read: "A written petition of twenty percent or more of the members of the State Central Committee as of the close of the previous Central Committee meeting may call a meeting of the State Central Committee for a specific stated purpose." Reason: The added phrase will avoid disagreements over the number of signatures needed or the eligibility of signers in a prudent manner. Approved on a voice vote.



**Presidential Electors:** The following 10 were nominated as Presidential Electors committed to Jo Jorgensen: Eric Blitz, Doug Stanley, Kyle Wagner, Muir Boda, Dean Ahmad, Brian Krahling, Chris Gannon, Robert Glaser, Phil Dassing, and Paul Eads; approved on a voice vote without dissent.

### Proposed Constitutional Amendment

In V6B, replace: "A written petition of twenty percent or more of the members of the State Central Committee may call a meeting of the State Central Committee for a specific stated purpose." with "A written petition of twenty percent or more of the members of the State Central Committee as of the close of the previous Central Committee meeting may call a meeting of the State Central Committee for a specific stated purpose." Approved unanimously on a voice vote. The Investigating Committee is Bob Johnston, Dean Ahmad, Eric Blitz, David Dull, and Brian Krahling.

### Chris Gannon presented two alienated parents resolutions:

#1 The Maryland Libertarian Party condemns inappropriate governmental interference in parental custody including but not limited to incentivizing unreasonable child support orders via Title IV-D funding and parental alienation without due process. #2 Libertarians stand with wrongfully alienated parents advocating for their inalienable right to equal shared parenting. Both passed unanimously on a voice vote.

**David Dull on Orlando Convention:** There was discord and division at the beginning, but solidarity at the end; Alex Merced respected all. There were 11 MdLP delegates present in Orlando. Presented Dean Ahmad with a retired *Maryland* stanchion from the national convention.

**Nominations for Public Office:** Leo Dymowski for Circuit Court judge in Baltimore county; approved on a voice vote.

**Phil Dassing:** expresses thanks for help in Orlando.

**James Lark, outgoing LNC regional rep:** Dr. Lark was disgusted at ugliness he viewed from Orlando; we need the highest standards of intellectual honesty, sees dishonesty on social media; we must treat people right, with respect. Our liberties are vanishing at a great rate, we can't afford to let silly things come between us. Bob Johnston nominates James Lark for lifetime MdLP membership; approved.

**Announcements:** Robert Glaser has license plate applications and extra newsletters on hand, and MdLP caps for sale. Kyle O'Donnell offers Jorgensen signs and more.

**Adjournment:** the meeting adjourned at 6:08 pm.

— Robert E. Glaser

### Picnic/CC meeting photos

From far left: David Dull presents Dean Ahmad with the Maryland stanchion retired from use at the National Conventions; Susan Hogarth takes over from Jim Lark as our regional representative on the LNC.

## Minutes of the Initial Governing Body of the Libertarian Party of Maryland — Saturday, 17 October 2020

The Initial Governing Body of the Libertarian Party of Maryland met on the grounds of Robert Glaser's home in Owings Mills, Maryland. The meeting was called to order at 10:12 am by chairman Bob Johnston. Of the 25 members, 8 were present plus 17 proxies were presented. Robert S. Johnston III as Chairman, Krystal Woodworth, Robert E. Glaser, Eric Blitz, Michael Linder, Stuart Simms, and Phil Dassing were nominated as officers; all were subsequently elected unanimously by a voice vote. The Libertarian Party of Maryland's Constitution as submitted to the Board of Elections (revision date 18 July 2020) was approved unanimously through polling. The meeting adjourned at 10:16 am.



## Minutes of the Central Committee of the Libertarian Party of Maryland — Saturday, 17 October 2020

**Opening:** The Libertarian State Central Committee of Maryland met on the grounds of Robert Glaser's home in Owings Mills, Maryland. The meeting was called to order at 10:17 am by chairman Bob Johnston.

**Attendance:** the Credentials Committee consisted of: Robert Glaser; Michael Linder; and Jonathan Woodworth. It validated that 13 Central Committee members were in attendance for the meeting. 26 proxies were represented. The Central Committee rolls consist of 53 members. The following resolutions (as modified) were submitted by Phil Dassing:

**Resolution 1.** Initiative 81 is a referendum organized by Washington D.C. residents with the help of Decriminalize Nature DC to make

enforcing bans on psychedelic plants the lowest priority for police. This change would help thousands of D.C. residents suffering from anxiety, PTSD, addiction, or depression who currently fear arrest or prosecution for pursuing healing through natural, entheogenic substances. The initiative has the support of prominent medical professionals, police officers, and D.C. residents. The Libertarian Party of Maryland endorses Initiative 81. *Passes on a voice vote.*

**Resolution 2.** The Libertarian Party of Maryland endorses Decriminalize Nature Baltimore. *Passes unanimously on a voice vote.*

**Adjournment:** the Central Committee meeting adjourned at 10:31 am.

— Robert E. Glaser

Below is a picture of the all-time Maryland LP vote-getter, Leo Dymowski, with all-time New York LP vote-getter Larry Sharpe, together in upstate New York over the summer:



August 3: Jo Jorgensen joined Bob Johnston to turn in the petitions which put us on the ballot through 2022. Go to the Audio/Video file section on the website for Jo's talk.

# Community Activities

On September 10, the Audubon Naturalist Society at Woodend Nature Sanctuary in Chevy Chase celebrated the naming of the **Dorothy E. and Gerald Schneider Library**. You can watch the ceremony at [youtube.com/watch?v=DQ8XssFBLgc](https://youtube.com/watch?v=DQ8XssFBLgc)



The *Washington Beacon* published **Gerald Schneider's** letter to the editor in its July issue:

Beacon publisher Stuart P. Rosenthal nicely reviewed personal responses to the coronavirus pandemic in the June issue. But I would add political and economic lessons that come from this epidemic. Two of special import:

First, "unalienable rights" mentioned in the Declaration of Independence, and partly codified in the Bill of Rights, are alienable. The president, governors, mayors and county executives assumed dictatorial legislative and judicial powers never constitutionally given. Separation of powers and checks-and-balances restrictions have been dishonored. Elected officials forget we have a Bill of Rights, not a Bill of Government Dictates!

Second, financial losses from the coronavirus business shutdown may cause more illness and death than the pandemic does. Not being able to make ends meet leads to despair and stress that promotes illness. Suicides may also increase. The highest suicide rates in the U.S. were recorded during the Great Depression of the 1930s, as an example.

A view of the July 18 picnic in North East – great weather yet again!



The *Baltimore Sun* on September 26 printed an op-ed by Kevin Bruffey, "For president, vote Libertarian."

**David Griggs** continues his prolific success in getting published. On June 24, the *Baltimore Sun* printed his letter "Punish those who wrongly imprison the innocent" about prosecuting the prosecutors. The *Washington Post* published his July 12 letter "Demand the end of the war on drugs." The *Baltimore Sun* printed his letters August 15 "Why so little attention given to Libertarian candidate for president?"; August 22 "Counting ballots before Election Day causes concern"; September 7 "Voting too early risks wasting your vote"; and on October 3 "Argument against voting third-party is bogus."

**Your Secretary/Editor** continues to be blocked by the *Baltimore Sun*. They didn't print this August 21 letter: "Lynne Agress bemoans (Women's vote was a long time coming, 8/21/2020) the lack of a woman president. It is not necessary to rely on a double impeachment to elevate Nancy Pelosi to that rank. All she need do is vote on November 3rd for Dr. Jo Jorgensen."

Nor this letter on September 19 "Another option for President looks pretty good right now": Robbie Leonard [Secretary of the Maryland Democratic Party] promotes Joe Biden as a script-following alternative to Donald Trump in his 9/18 letter. I agree, except that he has the wrong "Joe" -- errh, I mean "Jo." It's time to tear up the script and replace it with one that respects rights and individuality. This is what Libertarian presidential candidate Dr. Jo Jorgensen will do. For those disappointed that their female candidate lost in 2016, here's your chance for a reprieve! Even though Jo will be on all 50 state ballots plus DC (which is incredibly difficult to accomplish), she is not allowed into the upcoming debates. People erroneously believe that the governing commission is non-partisan. It used to be when the League of Women Voters ran it, but they exited from that role when they lost control and could not enforce fair rules. Currently the Republican and Democratic Parties run the debates and lock everyone else out. Perhaps they are afraid of the truth.

*Congratulations to our public advocates. Every time a newspaper prints your letter and you note yourself as a **Libertarian**, it tells readers that our party exists! Please send in reports of your success, too!*

## Executive Board Resolution (November 18)

WHEREAS, the Libertarian Party of Maryland affirms that individuals have the ability and sole responsibility to evaluate the risks and consequences of their actions and decisions about their own property; and

WHEREAS, the Libertarian Party of Maryland recognizes the danger of suspending individual liberty; and

WHEREAS, the First Amendment of the Constitution guarantees the right of free assembly.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Libertarian Party of Maryland resolves that they condemn Governor Larry Hogan's actions in threatening Maryland residents with fines and misdemeanor charges for engaging in acts of free assembly and by doing so is infringing on these individual rights.

## State Executive Board Officers

Chairman	Bob Johnston	443-310-5373	Chair*LPmaryland.org
Vice Chairman	Krystal Woodworth		Vice-Chair*LPmaryland.org
Secretary	Robert E. Glaser	410-363-6626	Secretary*LPmaryland.org
Treasurer	Eric Blitz		Treasurer*LPmaryland.org
At-Large	Michael Linder	410-569-2186	AbingdonMike@yahoo.com
At-Large	Stu Simms		StuSimms*LPmaryland.org
At-Large	Phil Dassing		Phil.Dassing*LPmaryland.org

The executive board meets monthly. All meetings are open to Central Committee members. Contact the Chairman for date, time, and location.

## Local Groups

Anne Arundel County: David Dull David.Dull\*LPmaryland.org  
Baltimore City: Scott Spaulding sSpaulding\*LPmaryland.org  
Baltimore County: Doug Stanley Doug.Stanley\*LPmaryland.org  
Carroll County: Vacant  
Frederick County: Brian Krahling Brian.Krahling\*LPmaryland.org  
Harford County: Chris Gannon Chris.Gannon\*LPmaryland.org  
Howard County: Christopher Stanton ChrisStanton\*LPmaryland.org  
Montgomery County: Kyle Walker kWalker\*LPmaryland.org  
Prince Georges County: Matt Beers Matt.Beers\*LPmaryland.org  
Southern Maryland: Vacant  
Upper Eastern Shore: Krystal Woodworth kWoodworth\*LPmaryland.org  
Mid Shore: Tim Miller Tim.Miller\*LPmaryland.org

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Maryland voters registered Libertarian:

**14,848 (0.36%)**



## Libertarian Party of Maryland

## Membership Form

Name: .....

Address: .....

City, State, Zip: .....

County: .....

Email: .....

Phone (day): .....

Phone (evening): .....

Phone (other): .....

Federal law requires political committees to report the name, mailing address, and occupation and name of employer for each individual whose contributions aggregate in excess of \$200 in a calendar year. Political contributions are not tax deductible.

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_ Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Anyone may become a member of the MdLP. To become a voting member of the Central Committee, your voter registration must be Libertarian, unless registration as a Libertarian is not permitted; and not be currently registered as affiliated with any other political party: certify your registration status and your agreement with the non-aggression principle with the state Secretary. For more information, contact Stuart Simms at StuSimms\*LPmaryland.org.

### Payment Information

**Maryland/county-only dues \$ 20.00**

**Additional donation:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Payment:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Monthly Credit Card Donation: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Check ☐ Mastercard ☐ VISA ☐ Discover

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### I'd like to volunteer for:

- ☐ Envelope stuffing
- ☐ Outreach programs
- ☐ Computer work
- ☐ County organization
- ☐ Campaign help
- ☐ Public Relations
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Libertarian Party  
of Maryland  
P.O. Box 176  
Abingdon, MD  
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## COMING EVENTS

Stay up-to-date on MdLP activities with our online calendar-of-events: visit [LPmaryland.org/events/](http://LPmaryland.org/events/) (often!). Check page 7 for contact numbers not listed here.

January 13 through April 12, 2021: Maryland General Assembly in session. Contact Eric Blitz about helping with legislation.

February 14, 2021 (Sunday): Frederick Douglass and Terry Atwood memorial day (MdLP CC resolution 2/20/1999)

TBD 2021: MdLP annual convention

April 15, 2021 (Thursday): Tax Day protests.



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# 1-800-MLP-1776

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“Individual Liberty is Our Top Priority”  
Call 1-800-MLP-1776 if you agree

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