

Report of the Credentials Subcommittee of the Libertarian Party of New York for the Organization Meeting of September 26-27, 2020

The State Committee of the Libertarian Party of New York consists of 68 according to their Judicial District. The following 53 individuals were duly elected to the State Committee of the Libertarian Party of New York:

Judicial District 1

- Mark Axinn
- Michael Madrid
- Ilya Schwartzburg

Judicial District 2

- Tucker Coburn
- Gary Popkin
- Gilbert Mildonnet

Judicial District 3

- William Cody Anderson
- Jay A. Carr
- Todd Haggerty
- Lora L. Newell

Judicial District 4

- Robert M. Arrigo
- Frederick A. Cole, Jr.
- Nathan B. Dunn
- John A. Janes
- Brandon Lyon
- Karyn A. Keniry-Thompson

Judicial District 6

- Mark Braiman
- Timothy O'Connor
- Christopher Olenski
- Rich Purtell
- Thomas Quiter
- Dustin Tait

Judicial District 7

- Steven G. Becker
- Kari Bittner
- Eric A. Cooper
- James M. Dayton
- Mark E. Glogowski
- Andrew C. Hollister
- Sean C. Phelan
- James P. Russell
- Kevin Wilson

Judicial District 8

- Erin M. Becker
- Francis Law
- Kathleen M. Ligammari
- Andrew M. Kolstee
- Peyton D. Kunselman
- F. Patrick Mahoney, Jr.
- Nicholas P. Phelps, Jr.
- Tara Scrivano
- Duane J. Whitmer

Judicial District 9

- Daniel P. Donnelly
- Pietro S. Geraci
- Robert J. Greibesland
- William K. Schmidt

Judicial District 10

- Deepak Bansal
- Gary Donoyan
- Kenneth Epstein
- Carmen Horan
- Bobby K. Kalotee
- Satinder Kaur
- Mahavir Singh

Judicial District 11

- Michael Arcati
- Gabrielle Cordova

Joseph Candela II, who was elected to the State Committee as a member of Judicial District 9, vacated his seat as he changed his enrollment to a party other than the Libertarian Party.

There are 15 vacancies on the State Committee: one (1) in Judicial District 1, one (1) in Judicial District 2, six (6) in Judicial District 5, one (1) in Judicial District 7, one (1) in Judicial District 9, one (1) in Judicial District 11, two (2) in Judicial District 12, and two (2) in Judicial District 13.

The following names were submitted to the Credentials Subcommittee as candidates to fill the vacancies on the State Committee:

Judicial District 1 (1 vacancy available)

- Rebecca Lau, submitted by Christopher Olenski

Judicial District 2 (1 vacancy available)

- Matthew Morgan, submitted by Gary Popkin

Judicial District 5 (6 vacancies available)

- Maria Borell, submitted by Christopher Olenski
- Milva Dordal, submitted by Lora L. Newell
- Jared Ey, submitted by Christopher Olenski
- David Fite, submitted by Thomas Quiter
- Katie Martin, submitted by Christopher Olenski
- Craig Miles, submitted by William Cody Anderson
- Sean Stevens, submitted by William Cody Anderson

Judicial District 7 (1 vacancy available)

- Anthony D’Orazio, submitted by Mark Braiman

Judicial District 9 (1 vacancy available)

- Anthony Pellegrino, submitted by William K. Schmidt
- Anthony Verna, submitted by William Cody Anderson

Judicial District 11 (1 vacancy available)

- Brianna Coyle, submitted by Mark Braiman
- Romo Hallahan, submitted by Thomas Quiter
- Jose Garcia, submitted by Thomas Quiter
- Irwin Mark Weinblatt, submitted by Ilya Schwartzburg

Judicial District 12 (2 vacancies available)

- Aaron Commey, submitted by Daniel P. Donnelly
- Enmanuel Torres, submitted by Daniel P. Donnelly

Judicial District 13 (2 vacancies available)

- Richard Bell, submitted by Mark E. Glogowski
- Susan Cummings, submitted by Ilya Schwartzburg

Statements from Candidates Nominated to Fill Vacancies

Sean Stevens – Judicial District 5

I have been a Libertarian since 2008. I have run for office 3 times as a Libertarian only candidate. I have kept all the social media accounts, email accounts open and running for the Oswego County non-official Libertarian chapter, I was the Temporary County Chair for 2 years. I have a strong desire to help and mentor other candidates with a different but proven approach to break out of the typical Libertarian stereo type and secure votes, I received 35% of the vote last election as a straight Libertarian candidate in a republican dominate area, with an all republican council for over 10 years. I have a great understanding for my district and the needs for my area.

Anthony Pellegrino – Judicial District 9

Members of the State Committee and Fellow Libertarians,

In a year when a voice for limited government is needed the most, the Libertarian Party faces a disadvantage. Donald Trump has positioned himself as the small "L" libertarian in the race against Joe Biden. The coalition on the Left represents mob rule and mandates, not to mention the economic planning and military adventurism we have come to expect, while Trump flaunts the regulations he's cut, and the taxes he has lowered. While the Democrats "cancel" every-day Americans and cozy up to neocons, Trump condemns censorship and foreign intervention. And the Republican Party has followed his lead. This leaves our Party with fewer practical distinctions than in prior elections.

Monumental change has taken place in our country, but principles must remain the same. We are Libertarians because we understand the transcendence of human rights. To change our stances drastically is to forsake our principles and reject "libertarianism." Right now, there is an effort being made to change the Libertarian Party into something that is not libertarian.

I think of myself as a man who embraces change, but if we pivot on fundamental issues, we do so at our peril. If we embrace universal basic income, a system of taxation and wealth redistribution, what other coercion will we justify? If we embrace Medicare-for-all, we are rejecting the wisdom of laissez faire economics. More government solutions to government-created problems. I'm not here to convince you these are bad ideas. I am running to appeal to the libertarians that if we embrace the ideologies of the day, we will lose voters to the Republican Party and lure in activists who entertain nonvoluntary policies.

I sometimes fail to appreciate just how many small-L libertarians are in this country. We are united, occasionally, but only when we stand on principle. Our failure as a Party is not when we fail to appeal to a certain demographic or to social justice. We are here as a check against the statist duopoly every time the threat of tyranny resurfaces. We fail when we turn our backs on that mission.

In 2018 I served on the State Committee as Finance Director and helped our Party raise over twenty thousand extra dollars in donations to secure ballot access and shortly after I crafted our very first budget as an organization. As Events Director for Larry Sharpe's campaign, I threw together countless profitable events, including comedy show fundraisers and the election night party, on top of phone banking and canvassing. Since then, I founded the George Washington Liberty Caucus and I chair several meetings each month with our members. If I am elected to represent Judicial District 9, I will bring my skills and my determination to the State Committee and we will create a more successful Libertarian Party.

Anthony Verna – Judicial District 9

I am Anthony Verna and I am running for the seat on the State Committee from Judicial District 9. As someone who has been registered as a Libertarian in both New York over the last 5 years and New Jersey over the previous 10 years, I have seen our party grow by leaps and bounds. I want to help continue that growth.

1. In order to continue growth, we must narrowly target the issues that are easily winnable and show that we can win those issues as a party. This can begin with the government overreach that the State of New York habitually exhibits and demonstrate: from confusing executive orders (whose power derives from the state Assembly forgoing its duties as a lawmaking power), to the state entering industries that are not needed, to wasting taxpayer money on pet projects that do not help the state economy. The Libertarian Party of New York can easily find wins in the state which can help to grow the party and show others that we are the beacon of liberty that we say we are.
2. I want to help elevate the discourse at the state committee level. As an attorney who litigates mostly on the federal level, I understand what it takes to find solutions and get multiple parties on the same page as it is a part of my law practice on most days. Being a part of the State Committee means understanding that everyone who comes to the party has an idea of what “liberty” truly means, where to begin with adding more liberty to our quotidian lives, and how our solutions to these problems, which the State of New York has brought upon itself, could differ. I do not want to argue or fight with others in the party – I want to discuss and come to a consensus so that we can, as a party, bring the message to the State of New York.
3. As secretary of the Westchester County party, I have helped to bring a mix of views and ideas in our meetings, with meetings being a mix of the need to govern and do party business and have guest speakers that further the cause of liberty.

Romo Hallahan – Judicial District 11

Hi. I’m Romo Hallahan and I am running to fill the JD11 State Committee vacancy. You may not know me personally, but I have been a member of the LPNY since 2009 and a consistent Libertarian voter. I am running with the goal to lessen toxicity and expand the community. Queens and the Boroughs have often been overlooked by the State party, and even Statewide candidates. On the State Committee I would vote to make sure that the rules and the platform speak to voters of the city without sacrificing foundational principles of libertarianism. There are nearly 1 million unenrolled potential Libertarian members in NYC. I want to change the longtime propaganda view that we are just “Republicans who like weed”. Often called “Not the Usual libertarian” and an avowed thick libertarian I would be an asset on the State Committee to expand on how we can reach out to younger and more left leaning voters. We can do this by honesty, transparency, and going forth with empathy as an important part of party structure and outreach. Libertarianism and the Party is a big tent and I plan to make sure all 3 rings of this circus get to play.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrew M. Kolstee
Chair, Credentials Subcommittee