



New Jersey Libertarian

Volume XLIII, Issue 2

Summer 2018

Chair's Message

Dear Fellow Libertarians,

With the Memorial Day weekend and the petition drop off deadline now in the rearview mirror, the summer season will be in full swing before we know it. While I hope the summer brings you plenty of fun in the sun and relaxation, it also means it is time for our party to get to work.

I am very thankful for all of our members who have decided to run for office, both within our local communities, as well as in the larger U.S. Senate and U.S. House races. While we can assume that the next several months will be very busy for them, it is important to remember that it is up to the rest of us to give them the support and assistance they need for success.

With this in mind, I am asking you all to take a little time between now and the election to help in whatever way you can. For many of us, this may be accomplished by making a monetary donation, but hopefully this will also include devoting some time to helping spread the Libertarian message to the public.

We are already receiving volunteers to help at the Monmouth County Fair in July and are hoping to add more events to this list shortly. So, before the summer flies by and we find ourselves in the heat of the election season, please join me in thanking our candidates, donating where we can, and keeping out a sharp eye for volunteer opportunities.

I thank you all in advance and hope to see you at our upcoming July 14th meeting and picnic.

In Freedom,

Kevin Lowery
Chair, New Jersey Libertarian Party

Sabrin Campaign Update

By Murray Sabrin

\$52,000 per second.....that's how fast the national debt is increasing under a Republican president and the GOP controlled Congress. Any claim that the GOP is the party of fiscal responsibility has been totally demolished.

The Democrats, the architects of the welfare state, have been allies with the GOP for decades for more spending, which means the federal budget will never be balanced under the "Washington party" --- the coalition of the two major parties that have ruled America for nearly 160 years.

There is a better way--phasing out the welfare state under my 100% tax credit for donations to nonprofits and houses of worship to help individuals and families become financially independent. As I have travelled throughout the state during the past two months, I have mentioned my proposal to individuals who have signed my ballot petition; the response has been virtually unanimous.

When I decided to enter the race in January my goal was to run a competitive campaign against Bob Menendez, the unethical, federal lawbreaker, who is one of the Senate's leading warmongers, and supports

In This Issue

.....

Sabrin Campaign Update	1
Less About the Gun	2
NJ Fiscal Suicide	3
Preventing Mass Shootings.....	4
Raritan Police Excessive Force.....	5
Libertarianism: A True Option	5
Letters to Editor	6-7
NJ UMR Demands More	7-8
NJLP Picnic Info.....	9

every big government spending program.

This sentiment is reflected in the latest poll, which revealed that 46% of voters are undecided. This is my opening to run more than a competitive campaign. If we work our tails off from now until Election Day, five months from today, and can get 75% of the undecided vote, I could win a three-way race with 34.5% of the votes cast on November 6.

Another confirmation that Menendez is vulnerable; an unknown challenger, ignored by the media, with no money, received nearly 40% of the vote against Menendez.

On the Republican side, Bob Hugin is not feeling the warmth of grassroots voters. His challenger who spent virtually no money received 25% of the vote. In other words, there are disenchanted Democratic and Republican voters who could vote third party this year. And with 2.5 million unaffiliated voters, we have a large pool of voters who could vote Libertarian in November.

Individuals keep asking how I will get into the fall debates with the two major party candidates. There is only one guaranteed way to get into the debates.

We must show immediately that we have widespread grassroots support...and that means raising enough funds to get the attention of the media, pollsters and pundits. This will get me invited to the fall debates.

I have said for the past few months to our volunteers that once the ballot petition drive is completed, if we raise \$500,000 we will have a very competitive campaign. If we raise \$1,000,000, we will run an extraordinary competitive campaign. And if we raise \$2,000,000 we will be virtually assured of a victory. Why?

With no paid staff, no physical headquarters, no political consultants, no pollsters, virtually all our donations will go toward getting our message out, Peace, Liberty, Prosperity, through social media, radio and television.

Our message is in sharp contrast to Democrats and Republicans who are responsible for:

- Endless undeclared wars
- Endless spying on Americans
- Endless federal debt
- Endless budget deficits
- Endless welfare spending
- Endless crony capitalism
- Endless Federal Reserve manipulation of interest rates

In the final analysis, both parties support big government at home and abroad and are responsible for the \$21 trillion national debt.

As a champion of individual liberty all my adult life, I would be the uncompromising defender of the Bill of Rights in the US Senate if I were elected on November 6.

The 59th anniversary of my becoming a US citizen is just a few weeks away. Please make a \$59 donation (or a multiple of that amount up to the legal limit of \$2700) today so we can show New Jerseyans are ready to support a candidate who will work tirelessly for **Peace, Liberty, Prosperity** as a US Senator.

You can make your donation today at sabrinforsenate.com/donate/

My proposal to give taxpayers a 100% tax credit for contributions to nonprofits and houses of worship to help individuals and families become financially independent is resonating with voters who I met over the past three months.

The political establishment and welfare bureaucrats hate this proposal because it reduces their power and puts people in charge of helping the less fortunate in our communities with the proven American way—voluntarism.

It is up to the people of New Jersey now to begin ending the stranglehold both parties have had on the federal government's endless spending, borrowing, printing money and undeclared wars.

Best wishes,

Murray

PS June 30th is the end of current financial reporting period for federal candidates. With a boatload of money in the bank by the end of the month, the pollsters, the media and pundits will not be able to ignore my campaign.

Less about the 'Gun' and more about the 'Violence'

by Kevin Lowery

On March 26th and June 7th, the NJ Assembly and Senate (respectively) voted to enact several new pieces of gun control legislation. These new laws turn countless law abiding citizens into criminals overnight by retroactively outlawing magazines that can hold more than ten rounds, allowing for the seizure of firearms based on the opinions of unaccountable mental health professionals without due process, solidifying New Jersey's unconstitutional justifiable need policy into law, as well as instituting several other redundant and overreaching legal measures. Simply put, these new laws are just the politicizing of recent tragedies in other states to continue the agenda of reducing and eliminating our Second Amendment rights here in New Jersey.

If our current political leaders had any true concern for their citizens they would stop talking about the ‘Gun’ and start addressing the real problem, the ‘Violence’. But it’s easy to say ‘Gun Violence’ and wage a public relations war on an inanimate object. Framing the conversation about the object moves the attention and ownership from the actors and places the blame on a tool that can’t think or act for on its own. Why do this? It is because if these ‘leaders’ focused on the actors, they would have to be honest about problems in our society and culture that are much more difficult to address.

And these problems are not limited to the catchall ‘mental health’ problems or ‘suicide epidemic’ that do occasionally get some airtime within the mainstream media. They include topics that are hard to quantify and define such as the effects of violence in media, first-person shooter video games and their increased realism, the lack of strong positive male role models for disassociated young men to look up to, the growth of individual isolation and bullying caused by the overuse of social media, the decrease of parental engagement in their children’s lives, and much more.

To begin to increase our understanding of some of these issues, I would highly recommend the book *Stop Teaching Our Kids to Kill* by Lt. Col. Dave Grossman. While this book focuses on video game violence and modern media, it is also an excellent eye opener to the sociological perspective of teenage mass murders. And of course, just as there are millions of gun owners who never use their firearms violently; there are millions of gamers who never engage in school violence. However, by starting to understand these aspects of the problem and how they are affecting our youth, we can start to understand how and when they link together to create a dangerous situation.

If we as a society, as neighbors and family members, can recognize these links and dangers, then we can start to proactively prevent them. We can engage with our youths, teach them to put down the video games and cell phones and to pick up a bow and arrow or other sport. We could teach them to get a break from the bullies by getting outside, reading a book, or just sitting down with their friends and family for some old fashioned conversation. If citizens like us start finding our own solutions to this problem, than perhaps our political leaders will be forced to move the conversation away from the gun, a mere object, and be made to address the violence and the hard question of why it occurs within our society. ♦

New Jersey’s Fiscal Suicide

by Dan Mitchell (originally published at <https://danieljmitchell.wordpress.com/>)

A couple of decades can make a huge difference in the political and economic life of a jurisdiction.

- Two decades ago, Venezuela had not yet been subjected to the horror of Hugo Chavez and his [destructive statism](#).
- Three decades ago, the [pro-market success story of Estonia](#) was an enslaved part of the totalitarian Soviet Union.
- Four decades ago, the [Latin superstar of Chile](#) was still in a hangover stage from a disastrous communist government.
- Five decades ago, Ronald Reagan was a conservative governor of the [now-notoriously left-wing state](#) of California.

And here’s something especially amazing from a bit more than five decades in the past. New Jersey used to have [no state income tax and no state sales tax](#).

Yes, your eyes are not deceiving you. The [basket case of New Jersey](#) used to be a mid-Atlantic version of New Hampshire. But once the sales tax was imposed in 1966 and the income tax was imposed in 1976, it’s been all downhill ever since.

An [article](#) in the *City Journal* helps to explain the state’s fiscal decay:

“Brendan Byrne, a Democratic former governor of the Garden State, ...told mayors that the state would need a “large revenue package”... The heart of the package would be a new statewide income tax, which went into permanent effect in 1977. Byrne promised that the additional money would help relieve the high property-tax burden on New Jersey’s citizens... Four decades later, the plan has failed. ...politicians and special interests don’t see new streams of tax revenue as a means to replace or eliminate an existing stream, but rather as a way of adding to the public coffers. (For those who entertain fantasies of a value-added tax replacing the federal income tax, take heed.) New Jersey’s income tax started with a top rate of about 2.5 percent; it’s now around 9 percent.”

Needless to say, nothing politicians promised has happened.

Property taxes haven’t been reduced. They’ve gone up. The government schools haven’t improved. Instead, the [test scores in the state](#) are embarrassing. And debt hasn’t gone down. Red ink instead [has skyrocketed](#).

And what's amazing – and depressing – is that New Jersey politicians continue to make a bad situation worse. Here are some excerpts from a [Bloomberg report](#):

New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy proposed taxing online-room booking, ride-sharing, marijuana, e-cigarettes and Internet transactions along with raising taxes on millionaires and retail sales to fund a record \$37.4 billion budget that would boost spending on schools, pensions and mass transit. ...Murphy, a Democrat...has promised additional spending on underfunded schools and transportation in a credit-battered state with an estimated \$8.7 billion structural deficit for the fiscal year that starts July 1. ...Murphy said Tuesday in his budget address to lawmakers. "A millionaire's tax is the right thing to do — and now is the time to do it." ...The budget...would...restore the state's sales tax to 7 percent from 6.625 percent... Murphy's proposal would almost triple the direct state subsidy for New Jersey Transit, which has been plagued by safety and financial issues.

More taxes, more spending, followed by even more taxes and more spending.

I wonder if Greek taxpayers would want to tell their counterparts in New Jersey [how that story ends](#).

Assuming, of course, there are [any taxpayers left](#) in the Garden State. There's [already been a big exodus](#) of productive people who are [tired of being treated like fatted calves](#).

And don't forget that New Jersey taxpayers [no longer have unlimited ability](#) to deduct their state and local taxes on their federal tax return. So these [tax hikes will hurt much more](#) than past increases.

In any event, taxpayers [better escape](#) before the die. Though I know one guy who [won't be leaving](#).

P.S. Anybody want to guess whether New Jersey collapses before [California](#), [Illinois](#), or [Connecticut](#)? They're all in the process of committing slow-motion suicide. ♦

Stricter Background Checks, Even Closing Gun Show Loophole Won't Prevent Mass Shootings

by Nicholas DeSimone

Every recent measure from the Democrat's plan to ban the sale of semi-automatic rifles to Congressman Thomas Massie's plan to repeal the Federal Gun-Free School Zone Act and even President Trump's plans to arm teachers in schools and implement stricter background checks for mental illness have been suggested to prevent individuals from committing mass shootings.

While the background check system has prevented individuals from illegally obtaining guns from licensed dealers, the gun show loophole can allow individuals to purchase guns from unlicensed dealers. Attempts to close this loophole have been made in 19 states and Washington D.C. by requiring background checks on all handgun sales. However, guns, including the AR-15 are still widely accessible through unlicensed dealers.

The majority of guns used in 19 recent mass shootings were bought legally, with some of these individuals—possessing a history mental illness—able to pass federal background checks to purchase guns. Logic would follow that by making background checks stricter this would prevent people who have mental illnesses from illegally obtaining guns.

Let's assume that all gun show loopholes are closed and we rely on stricter background checks for mental illness, as suggested by gun control advocates. There are few concerns with this.

First, what types mental disorders would prevent a person from owning a gun: depression, acute stress disorder, bipolar disorder, or anxiety/panic disorder? All of these mental illnesses have one thing in common; they all rely on self-report for accuracy so when determining who is classified to have one of these mental disorders there's much room for inaccuracies.

Additionally, if a person is not properly diagnosed as having a mental disorder, doctors could be held liable. This would only prompt doctors to over diagnose people as having mental disorders to avoid any legal or social ramifications, which would begin to raise questions once law-abiding citizens get denied access to firearms.

Furthermore, it's possible that a person may be able to recover from anyone of these mental disorders and resume a normal, healthy functioning life free of mental illness. Will these individuals then be able to ever purchase firearms to protect themselves or their families?

Second, one way to avoid failing a background check for mental illness: don't initially seek treatment. It's that simple. If someone has future plans to purchase firearms

"The laws that forbid the carrying of arms are laws of such a nature. They disarm only those who are neither inclined nor determined to commit crimes.... Such laws make things worse for the assaulted and better for the assailants; they serve rather to encourage than to prevent homicides, for an unarmed man may be attacked with greater confidence than an armed man."
- Thomas Jefferson,

and is aware of stricter background checks, they'll just avoid seeking treatment altogether.

If that weren't enough to demonstrate the ease to which people could avoid background checks, the free market's ability to circumvent gun control has shown that innovation will enable just about anyone to be able to manufacture guns in the comfort of their own home with or without a mental illness, with or without the gun show loophole.

Some people assume that effective mass shootings have to be committed by the popularized AR-15 but two handguns can be just as effective at mass shootings in close proximity to crowds of people. With 3D printing of guns becoming more sophisticated, handguns have never been more accessible. Defense Distributed's Cody Wilson developed a machine called the Ghost Gunner, which can mill out unfinished metal handgun frames that only need a digital file that is freely shared on the Internet and the machine sells for under \$1,700.

Stricter background checks and closing gun show loopholes will not prevent individuals from obtaining guns and committing mass shootings. These "safeguards" are easily avoidable, especially as technology progresses. Today, all you need is a machine, a digital file and a few parts from the hardware store and any gun control effort is rendered virtually useless. ♦

Raritan Township Paid Out \$200,000 to Settle Police Excessive Force Lawsuit

by John Paff

On May 3, 2017, Raritan Township (Hunterdon County) agreed to pay \$200,000 to settle [a lawsuit](#) filed by a Florida man who said police attacked him after he drove to the scene where officers had pulled over and harassed his daughter.

In his lawsuit, Dennis Shuman claimed that on August 5, 2012, after he came to the scene of his daughter Alexa's traffic stop, Officer David Carson "threw him with great force against the hood of his patrol car" when Shuman tried to call the police chief about Raritan Police allegedly harassing and intimidating Alexa. He said that Carson then "threw him to the ground and continued to beat and attack him" while other officers joined in or failed to intervene. Shuman claimed that he was falsely arrested for Obstruction of the Administration of Justice and Resisting Arrest and that Chief Glenn Tabasko and Lieutenant Nicklas Buck conducted an Internal Affairs investigation into the matter that was "a sham and a farce."

Shuman claimed that he came to his daughter's aid because she had been continuously harassed and

intimidated by Officers Carson and Aaron Roth. He said that between June and August 2012, Carson, Roth and other Raritan officers would "make U-turns and follow Alexa Shuman without stopping her and that on six occasions the officers "passed the driveway of Alexa Shuman's home with flashing lights and sirens activated after which they were deactivated." He said that officers would pull over his daughter for offenses including making a "too quick right turn," "touch[ing] the white line" and "turning without the appropriate turn signal."

According to the lawsuit, one of the traffic stops resulted in a drug possession arrest of one of Alexa's companions. According to an [August 10, 2014 Courier News article](#) on the matter, Alexa, two months prior to the August 2012 stop, "was charged twice in one week for possession of marijuana under 50 grams." The Courier News article contains a video of the traffic stop and the altercation between officers and Shuman.

Shuman said that after his daughter called him from the scene of the August 5, 2012 traffic stop he "travelled by car several minutes to the scene" because he was concerned for his daughter's safety. Upon arrival, he started crossing the street to speak with Carson when the officer ordered him back to his car because he was "in an active roadway." Shuman claimed that when he "began to obey and was walking back across the street" he was at the same time calling Chief Tabasko on his cell phone. It was at this point that Carson allegedly grabbed Shuman by the arm and threw him against the hood of the patrol car and then to the ground while shouting "stop resisting!" When Alexa exited her car to aid her father, Carson reportedly told her to "get back in the car or you're next." A short while later, Roth and Sergeant Scott Lessig arrived at the scene and pinned Shuman to the ground.

Shuman said that Lessig applied the handcuffs too tightly and refused to loosen them, causing injury. He also said that his encounter with police caused several tears in the left retina, a chipped fracture of the left elbow and nerve damage to his left hand and arm.

Shuman said that on the advice of his attorney he pled guilty to the obstruction charge in municipal court but obtained a "civil reservation" that prevented the civil court from using his plea against him.

None of the lawsuit's allegations have been proven or disproven in court. Settlement agreements typically state that payment does not constitute an admission of wrongdoing by any of the defendants. All that is known for sure is that Raritan or its insurer, for whatever reason, decided that it would rather pay Shuman \$200,000 than take the matter to trial. Perhaps the defendants' decision was done to save further legal expense and the costs of trying what were in fact exaggerated or meritless claims.

Or, perhaps the claims were true and the defendants wanted to avoid being embarrassed at trial. This is the problem when cases resolve before trial--it is impossible to know the truth of what really happened. ♦

Libertarianism - A True Option for the Garden State

By Maria Bell, Chair NJLP North Region

I think we are all in agreement that New Jersey has changed markedly in the last ten years. As an immigration gateway, our state sees a regular dynamic shift that makes defining who and what New Jersey is difficult. Our personal stories and memories may no longer be relevant. As a transplant to NJ, I can identify with the goals and challenges of an immigrant from an even more alien landscape. I was looking for progressive work options as do many others that come here. Physical safety, inflationary protection and political freedom were not significant concepts on my own note but are common among the reasons given as to why America is attractive. Finding a place to call home, a “comfort zone”, has led to ethnic pockets within our communities. The downside to this grouping is isolation – discovering the diversity of American life is undercut.

The political ramifications of this social closure must be considered in how our Party markets itself. The approach must be flexible to find communal perspectives but also reflect how we are different. The promises of our Constitution are not well understood and many immigrants come from places where their Federal documents espouse a much different worldview. Socialism, corruption, tribal structures, and more form at least part of the thought framework as one adapts to life here.

The challenge facing the Libertarian Party is how to convince such a person not to wish for the ideal version of what was left behind but to desire real freedom, those ideas of our Constitution that discuss self-determination. Language and easy political promises of safety and social security are our obstacles when we speak of self-reliance and personal responsibility. Everyone likes to feel empowered but looking away from a central authority for those choices often means introducing foreign ideas.

I feel our best approach is to cultivate and maintain a continuous mainstream media presence. Addressing issues important to a community grouping, and tying the answer back to our Party’s model, will provide common ground for discussion. The goal is to create awareness that Libertarianism is a true option in New Jersey – that there is a philosophical core, fellowship and political alternatives worthy of pursuit. ♦

Letter to the Editor: Libertarian Convention was Great Success

by Mark Richards

Published in The West Milford Messenger, 4/5

The New Jersey Libertarian Party Convention on March 24th at the Rutgers University Inn was a great success, I'm happy to report.

Professor Murray Sabrin, who teaches economics from the free-market perspective at Ramapo College was nominated to be our candidate for US Senate this year. Jim Tosone was nominated to be our candidate for Congress here in the 5th District this November, opposing the incumbent Josh Gottheimer.

Among the speakers at the convention was Scott Horton author of the book "Fool's Errand " detailing how the government and the media have mislead the American public with regard to the never-ending war in Afghanistan from the Bush years right up to Donald Trump's Presidency.

While many misinformed people were out marching for the curtailment of the Bill of Rights via more gun control laws an ever-growing number of us gathered together to defend individual liberty as well as historical truth on that same weekend, which tells me that not all people are so easily manipulated by the lies fed to them by politicians and their media allies, isn't it about time more of you stood up for liberty and joined with us. ♦

Letter to Editor: Right to Earn a Living is Paramount

by Emerson Ellett

Courts around the country are beginning to recognize that the right to earn a living without undue government interference is a constitutionally-protected right. Lawsuits initiated by the Institute for Justice have resulted in economic freedom victories for independent taxi drivers, home bakers and hair braiders, among others.

The New Jersey legislature, to its credit, has a bill that would free hair braiders from the current requirement for them to take 1200 hours of training in a cosmetology school. Unfortunately, the bill would also establish another bureaucracy within the Division of Consumer Affairs to monitor the braiders, by issuing and renewing registrations and setting criteria to which hair-braiding shops must adhere.

Removing the need for a license, on the one hand, but replacing it with restrictive regulation overseen by the very board that requires licensing and 1200 hours of

training, is not removing barriers but substituting one set of barriers with another.

We are optimistic that the legislature - upon realizing the error of removing licensure while replacing it with oppressive regulation - will amend the bill accordingly. ♦

Letter to the Editor: Council members pay 'lip service' to principles of liberty

by Mark Richards

Published in The West Milford Messenger, 5/9

It comes as no great shock to me that our council members don't want to discuss marijuana legalization and consider it an "inappropriate" topic.

This once again shows that the majority of council members only pay "lip service" to the principles of individual liberty, limited government and the right to choose.

My fellow Libertarian, Michael Chazukow is to be commended for having the courage to bring this matter before the council, what a shame that only two members seemed to show an interest in discussing it at a future meeting.

Why are the others so fearful of standing up for the right of individuals to control their own lives and bodies without being told how to live by government? Freedom is an issue that you can't play "pick and choose" with, either you're consistently pro-choice on all issues or you're not, I guess we can put most of the council in the anti-choice category, a sad commentary indeed.

Come November, there may be some surprises in store for a lot of politicians around the country, hopefully that will include West Milford. ♦

NJ Marijuana Coalition: Legalization Bill Needs More Work to Advance Racial Justice

by NJ United for Marijuana Reform

NJ United for Marijuana Reform appreciates Sen. Scutari for putting a proposal forward, but bill falls short on necessary racial and social justice priorities

Leading advocates for marijuana reform in New Jersey today offered a mixed reaction to the introduction of Senator Nicholas Scutari's marijuana legalization bill in the Senate.

New Jersey United for Marijuana Reform (NJUMR), a coalition of leaders and organizations in the New Jersey law enforcement, civil rights, and medical communities, were grateful to have a bill up for discussion in S2702, the New Jersey Marijuana Legalization Act, but NJUMR steering committee members urged lawmakers to go back

to the drawing board to meaningfully address the racially disparate harms of the war on drugs.

The following is a joint statement from the steering committee of New Jersey United for Marijuana Reform:

“The legalization bill that’s just been introduced is a step in the right direction, but not yet the bill that New Jerseyans deserve, and we know our lawmakers can do better.

“We will continue working with our elected officials, with the strong support of New Jerseyans across the state, to get to a bill that can remedy past harms, expand individual freedoms, and create an inclusive marketplace where people harmed by the drug war can thrive.

“We applaud the efforts of Governor Murphy, the Senate, and the Assembly, who have been working hard to craft policies to legalize marijuana for adults in New Jersey. Senator Scutari’s bill, though an improvement on previous versions, does not get us close enough to advancing racial justice or repairing the devastation wrought by the war on drugs.

“We welcome the language in the bill that aims to address equity in licensing and on-site consumption, but the specifics of those proposals and the bill as a whole still miss the mark.

“To even begin advancing racial justice in the aftermath of the drug war, we need several provisions – provisions that the bill does not have.

- We need automatic expungements, which the current bill does not have.
- We need to give a fair shot at getting licenses for people with prior criminal convictions, which the bill currently excludes.
- We need real investment in communities hit hardest by the war on marijuana, which the bill lacks.
- We need home-grow options, omitted in the bill.

“People of color have disproportionately borne the brunt of marijuana arrests, and they still bear the brunt of those arrests. Legalization needs to ensure that the people most affected by the drug war are able to escape the devastating effects of an arrest and have opportunities within the legalized marijuana marketplace.

“Simply put: This bill falls short of what New Jersey needs. We look forward to working with New Jersey’s leaders to create a better one.”

New Jersey’s latest cannabis legalization bill (S2702) states, “New Jersey cannot afford to sacrifice its public safety and civil rights by continuing its ineffective and wasteful marijuana enforcement policies.” This sentiment

has been expressed by legalization advocates for decades. But the long-anticipated bill has received a cool reception.

New Jersey United for Marijuana Reform (NJUMR), a coalition of leaders and organizations in the New Jersey law enforcement, civil rights, and medical communities, issued a statement applauding the effort by state lawmakers, but has not given support to the bill. The statement concludes that, “Simply put: This bill falls short of what New Jersey needs. We look forward to working with New Jersey’s leaders to create a better one.” ♦

NJ Marijuana Coalition: Bill Needs More Work to Allow Individuals to Grow

by Mike Chazukow

Two main points that were not addressed in S2702 that NJUMR wants included are the automatic expungement of prior criminal records for cannabis arrests and options for individuals to grow cannabis at home. These are conditions all advocates would like to see included, but many support the passage of this bill into law and fighting for those conditions in the future.

Governor Murphy said he wanted legalization in his first 100 days in office but that didn’t happen. At the time of this writing, there are approximately two weeks remaining before the legislature takes its summer recess. Many in the public are growing impatient and anxious over the delay, as the debate seems likely to extend into the Fall.

The question of supporting an imperfect bill or holding out for one that truly empowers freedoms is a debate that will continue through the ages. Although an imperfect legalization is preferable to criminal prohibition, this Libertarian is joining NJUMR in urging revisions to the bill.

Without the right to grow for individuals, and especially for medical patients, this bill is better designed for corporations and businesses to make profits and generate tax dollars instead of protecting the civil rights of individuals who want to use this plant.

As the bill is currently written, gardening without a license is still considered a crime. Until that point is addressed, NJ would not have legalization, we would have corporatization.

Michael Chazukow is a member of the Board of NORML NJ (National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws – New Jersey Chapter) which is part of the NJUMR steering committee. He also serves as the Northern Regional Representative to the Board of the New Jersey Libertarian Party (NJLP) and is a Libertarian candidate for town council in West Milford, NJ. ♦

NJ United for Marijuana Reform Needs to Stay Focused on Ending Prohibition

by Jay Edgar

As a libertarian, I support many of the efforts of various groups, yet cringe when they either can’t focus on the topic or wrap their worthy message in un-libertarian principles.

An obvious example is the organization NJ United for Marijuana Reform. On their demands for legalization they place a call to “tax and regulate” in equal place with legalizing marijuana. Now NJUMR wants to hold up the entire bill with a demand to increase spending on infrastructure in the inner cities.

The legalization of marijuana will have tremendous positive benefits to inner city areas that have been hit the hardest by prohibition. NJ UMR’s mission creep distracts from the goal and alienates supporters and endangers the possibility of these benefits becoming a reality.

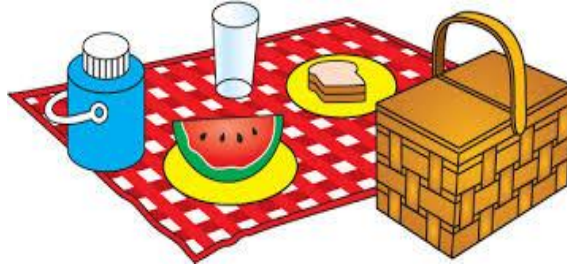
[Scutari’s bill, S2702](#) is quite comprehensive at 117 pages. It suffers from the problem of most bills, its too long and creates too much bureaucracy. It creates a new Marijuana Enforcement Division, multiple new taxes, attempts to fix multiple problems with the medical marijuana laws. It also attempts to address socioeconomic factors in granting of retail licenses and limiting ownership of marijuana facilities based on where marijuana arrests have occurred. The bill is written poorly and tries to do too much.

“Adopt a tiered system under which the permitted size of a marijuana growers’ mature marijuana plant grow canopy increases at the time of licensure renewal, except that the permitted size of a marijuana growers’ mature marijuana plant grow canopy may not increase following any year during which the division disciplined the marijuana growers for violating a provision of or a rule adopted under a provision ...” – nonsense from page 27 of bill S2702

Meanwhile Senator Michael Carroll’s bill, [A1557](#), accomplishes just two goals: legalizing marijuana for adults and provides a mechanism for the expungement of past convictions for marijuana offenses in a bill that is more than half the size of S2702.

At one time the NJ Libertarian Party State Board voted to hold our noses over the calls to tax and regulate and officially endorsed the efforts of NJUMR. I wonder if its time to reconsider that endorsement with their priorities moving away from ending prohibition and towards taxing and regulating. ♦

NJLP Picnic and Regular Business Meeting



Saturday, July 14, 2018 3:30 PM

Jay Edgar's House

8 Arneytown-Hornerstown Road, Cream Ridge, NJ

Come hang out with fellow freedom lovers. The NJLP Summer General Membership Meeting will be on Saturday July 15th starting at 3:30 PM at Jay Edgar's home in Cream Ridge. The picnic will start around 4:30 PM following the General Membership Meeting.

Some food will be provided, but please consider bringing your favorite dish to share. Gas grills and tubs of ice with cold soft drinks will be provided along with snacks and picnic utensils. Extra lawn chairs would help. A \$10 donation to help cover our costs is encouraged.

There will be room to set up tents for those who want to stay late. There is also a hot tub on the premises!

Jay's house is five miles west of Great Adventure near the intersection of Routes 539 and 537. Call 848-525-0578 if you get lost. Use caution using back roads from the south, Arneytown Hornerstown has a closed bridge at Crosswicks Creek.

Directions to Picnic Location:

Take the Parkway exit to exit 98 and follow Route 195 West to Exit 16. Or take the Turnpike exit 7A to Route 195 East to Exit 16. Then follow Route 537 West for 6 miles (passing Great Adventure). Make a right at the light onto Route 539 North. Arneytown-Hornerstown Road is your next left in ½ mile. House is on the right across from the church.

Alternative from the West, the NJ Turnpike, or Route 295:

After getting on 195 East take exit 8 (Route 539/Hightstown/Allentown). Keep right for 539 South towards Allentown. Make the first left (539 Bypass/526 East). At the stop sign make a left onto Allentown-Lakewood Road. In 1.8 miles turn right at the light onto Sharon Station Road. Arneytown-Hornerstown Road is 4.6 miles on the right. House is on the right across from the church.

The New Jersey Libertarian

Summer 2018 Volume XLIII, Issue 2
©2018 The New Jersey Libertarian Party
ISSN 1093-801X
Editor, **Vacant**

NJL Advertising Rates

Full Page	\$60
Half Page	\$30
Quarter page	\$20
Eighth page (business card)	\$10

The *New Jersey Libertarian* is the official monthly publication of the New Jersey Libertarian Party. Opinions, articles and advertisements published herein do not necessarily represent official NJLP positions unless so indicated. Material appearing in the *NJL* may be reproduced, as long as credit is given the author, the *New Jersey Libertarian*.

Commentary and advertising should be submitted to the editor. Contact us at:
New Jersey Libertarian: editor@njlp.org. PO Box 56 Tennent, NJ 07763



New Jersey Libertarian Party - - - - -

Are you a current member? Please consider joining.

I'd like to join the NJ Libertarian Party! I have checked the level at which I want to join and have enclosed the corresponding dues. I certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force to achieve social or political goals.

(Signature required for membership only) X _____

Check here to use address from mailing label

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

\$500 Life Membership

\$100 Patron Membership

\$50 Sustaining Membership

\$35 Supporting Membership

\$15 Regular Membership

Newsletter subscription is included with membership. Check here to only receive the newsletter on line.

Make checks payable to NJLP and send to NJLP, PO Box 56, Tennent, NJ 07763

You can also renew on-line at <http://njlp.org/joinus>



New Jersey Libertarian Party

P.O. Box 56

Tennent, New Jersey 07763

www.njlp.org