



New Jersey Libertarian

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How to Grow the Middle Class

by Murray Sabrin

The decision by Amazon to pull out of building a New York City headquarters has ignited a debate over growth, ("[Amazon's Exit Reignites Debate Over Growth](#)," February 17).

According to the article Nick Hanauer, who was one of the early investors in Amazon and identified as a progressive activist and writer, decries tax incentives as an example of egregious trickle-down economics. Instead, he and a former Clinton administration advisor are calling for "middle – out economics."

Mr. Hanauer states confidently, "The thriving middle class is the cause of economic growth." This is incorrect. **A middle class is the result of investment and production.** Mr. Hanauer's own actions prove that. He invested in Amazon, because he obviously believed the new online book service would be success. He did not "invest" in Seattle's middle-class.

Despite Mr. Hanauer's mistaken assertions regarding economic growth, the truth of the matter is **there is no shortcut to creating a middle-class other than to have a vibrant free-market economy based upon investment and production.**

Murray Sabrin is a professor of Finance at Ramapo College of New Jersey and was the 2019 Libertarian Party candidate for US Senate ♦

NJLP Summer Picnic - July 13

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Will New Jersey Be Next to Legalize Recreational Marijuana?

by Patrick McKnight, liberty2point0.com

Over a year after reform advocates first began predicting swift legislative victory, the recreational use of cannabis remains illegal in New Jersey. When Governor Murphy and Senate President Sweeney agreed on a \$42 per ounce flat tax in February, legalization supporters once again hoped for quick adoption of New Jersey Assembly Bill 4497 ("A4497"). Once again, the much-publicized March 25th vote was called off due to lack of support. Now legislators have a limited window to act before the state budget deadline on July 1st.

Hopes for reform have ebbed and flowed since Governor Murphy was elected on a platform including legalization within his first 100 days. Despite his party controlling both the Senate and Assembly, the Governor has only been able to expand the medical program since taking office. That executive action doubled medical marijuana enrollment in just six months.

While the media has spilled considerable ink analyzing the political drama, actual details of the bill itself have received considerably less attention. A4497 attempts to incorporate lessons learned from other legalization regimes in Colorado, Washington, and California. Some critics argue certain provisions in the bill are too ambitious. Others wish the bill would go even farther. These

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disputes will need to be resolved before the ongoing 18-month saga finally comes to a vote in Trenton.

What's in the Bill?

A4497 generally employs a vice-regulation model common to most legalization regimes. Individuals would be permitted to lawfully possess up to one ounce of marijuana. The bill would establish a Cannabis Regulatory Commission. This powerful, five-person regulatory body would have overall authority to regulate and control the cannabis industry. Three members would be appointed by the Governor, one by the Senate President, and one by the Assembly Speaker. The commission would make bi-annual reports to the Governor and legislature.

One of the controversial elements of the bill are the much-debated expungement provisions. As currently written, nearly all cannabis-related offenses would be expunged. The only offenses not subject to expungement would involve possession of over five pounds or within close proximity to a school. Disorderly persons convictions may also be expunged. Drafters considered this provision significant because many cannabis offenses are pled down to this lesser offense. The bill would also prohibit law enforcement from using the smell of cannabis as probable cause or reasonable suspicion of a crime.

The language of the plan would allow for an "expedited" but not an automatic expungement system. A robust expungement program would be an immense logistical process and opponents suggest the legislation lacks adequate planning for its implementation. Other critics worry expungements could potentially extend to more serious offenses including weapons.

The bill proposes a Cannabis Control Commission to issue four tiers of licenses. Of no small controversy is the promotion of participation by disabled veterans, women, and minority licensees. Some supporters are insisting on stronger "social justice" provisions to require numerical set-asides for these groups. As written, the bill seems to consider participation by these groups as a non-binding goal. 15% of licenses would go to minorities, 15% to disabled veterans, and 25% to "micro-businesses." The bill does not include a cap on the total number of available licenses. "Impact Zones" are defined based on crime, poverty, and

cannabis arrests and receive preferential access to licenses.

Four tiers of licenses cover every step of cannabis production including growers, processors, wholesalers, and retail establishments. Licensees will be required to pass a mandatory background check and obtain a Labor Peace Agreement from the union in order to operate. As a practical matter, this will likely result in a requirement to exclusively hire union employees.

Over 60 New Jersey municipalities have already passed ordinances prohibiting cannabis sales within their city limits. These municipalities would need to take further action within 180 days of legalization. Beyond this 180-day window local governments cannot prohibit retail establishments within a five year opt-out period.

Also noteworthy in the bill is the proposal of Cannabis Consumption Areas. These may be authorized by local governments and would attach only to Class 4 licenses (retail establishments). Cannabis Consumption Areas could be indoor or outdoor, but the consumed cannabis must be purchased on the premises. Beyond these areas public use would be prohibited, although delivery would be allowed. The bill is silent on dram shop liability.

The bill attempts to limit most employment discrimination based on cannabis use, including hiring and firing. In particular, employers would not be allowed to consider previous cannabis arrests. However, the bill would still allow employers to consider cannabis use if deemed reasonably related to the requirements of the job. Nothing in the bill would require an employer to amend their drug free workplace programs. The bill would also prohibit discrimination in the issuance or denial of mortgages arising from cannabis use. Cannabis-use could not be the sole basis for child custody decisions, although it could still be considered among other relevant factors.

The bill includes provisions regarding labeling, packaging, and advertising. Labels would need to include warnings, as well as information about THC levels, weight, serving size, growth method including pesticide information, and strain.

Finally, A4497 contains a safe harbor provision designed to comply with federal laws and the

Supremacy Clause. The bill explicitly states it does not compel violation of any federal laws.

Where Does the Bill Go from Here?

“Marijuana prohibition has failed,” said Sen. Nicholas Scutari, one of the chief architects of the bill. “It is time to end the detrimental effect these archaic drug laws are having on our residents and make adult use marijuana legal.”

There is no proposed date for a vote, but supporters are hoping to bring it to the floor before the end of May. New Jersey currently spends about \$127 million a year enforcing marijuana possession. Reform advocates often point to an ACLU study which indicates minorities are roughly three times more likely to be arrested for marijuana offenses in New Jersey.

Legal cannabis is expected to become a billion-dollar industry in the Garden State. ♦

2019 NJLP candidates

Jeff Hetrick for State Assembly (27th District)

Dan Valentine for Ocean County Freeholder

Thomas Fitzpatrick for Bound Brook Town Council

Gregg Mele for Bridgewater Mayor

Rich Bowen for Cherry Hill Town Council

Be sure to support our local candidates and state candidates at <http://njlp.org/statefund!>

Rights, Not Privileges

By Mike Guadagnino, IV

When talking about their political ideologies to either Republicans or Democrats, Libertarians often receive pushback on the basis that their proposals are too outlandish or unrealistic. In order to make progress and have productive discussions, it is key to get back to basics, or, in other words, keep it simple, stupid. One of the defining characteristics of the libertarian ideology is the belief that government should act as a defender of our rights not as a distributor of privileges.

Take, for example, marijuana legalization. Laws restricting the consumption of marijuana do not exist to defend liberty; if anything, they constrain it. On the other side of the equation, subsidizing

higher education with taxpayer dollars is a clear distribution of privileges; a college education, despite the opportunities it provides, is not a basic human right. When debating these policies, it is crucial to separate rights from privileges and concentrate the conversation on whether or not government is fulfilling its responsibility to its people.

Focusing a conversation on these fundamentals may seem foreign to people that don't tend to scrutinize government through such a lens. Growing up, we learn of FDR and the way he helped “level the playing field” for working class Americans. But rarely are we presented with the question of whether he was a promoter of liberty, the key value on which this country was built.

In order to make inroads with the majority of Americans that continue to remain content with the two-party system that greatly inhibits the potential for government to promote the 9th and 10th Amendments, we must re-focus the conversation. The difference between rights and privileges is an easier pill to swallow than widespread government overhaul. Invoking a fundamental change in how Americans view legislation and its ultimate consequences may be the key to re-focusing the public's demands of its representatives and ultimately spreading libertarianism as a philosophy of logic and reason. ♦

Almost every American President since Jimmy Carter has seen his reputation ravaged by Middle East debacles. Will Trump add his name to that list?

- James Bovard

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"Freedom" Means Being Free to Choose

by Mark Richards



I have to chuckle to myself when I see all the pro-choice people getting upset over some of the recent abortion restrictions enacted by states across the country. Why are they not pro-freedom on other issues?

For example, I would wager a guess that most who defend a woman's right to choose don't feel that way about gun ownership or the right of a religious business owner being free to serve, or not serve, who they wish. These people, who say abortion is a private matter between a woman and her doctor are usually the same people wanting the government to run healthcare. Why do they act surprised and outraged when politicians interfere in medical decisions? Did they really expect anything different?

We Libertarians have long known that both liberals and conservatives are hostile to individual liberty on all issues. We believe that abortion, like marriage or drug usage, should be totally private with government involvement being limited to enforcement and upholding of contractual

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agreements. This means no tax funded abortions with no exceptions.

Liberty means freedom of choice, even if 90% of the people don't agree with that choice. It seems like a simple enough concept, but it is evidently beyond comprehension of the big mouths on both sides of the abortion debate. ♦

Individual choices and family decisions regarding sex, marriage, contraception, pregnancy, abortion, family life and child rearing are too important to be left to government. These responsibilities and decisions belong to individuals relying, to the extent that he or she wishes, on the aid of family, friends, community, and religious guidance. Libertarians recognize that virtue, values, traditions, and culture exist in society only as a result of free choices and voluntary interactions among individuals.

- [NJLP Platform, Paragraph 4.0, Family Life](#)

Resignation Announcement

by Kevin Weatherby

It is with regret that I must submit my resignation as the South Jersey Regional Representative. I have accepted a job in Nashville TN and will be relocating with my family at the end of the month.

I plan to continue my fight for liberty when I get settled in Tennessee.

I wish you and the membership great success in the future. There is amazing growth potential for the party in New Jersey. I also want to thank the membership for welcoming me with arms wide open and helping me grow my passion for liberty! .

In liberty,
Kevin Weatherby

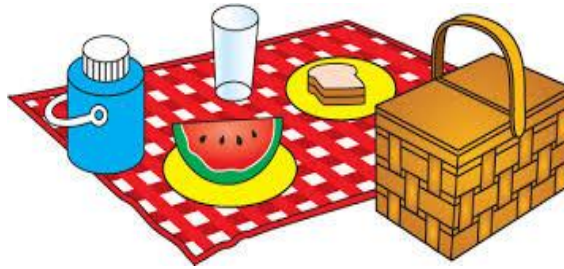
Help Wanted!

The NJLP Currently has several openings.

We seek an Editor for this newsletter. In addition, we seek an assistant Webmaster to assist with our website. The South Jersey Region is now seeking a Representative to the State Board.

If interested in any of these positions, contact Kevin Lowery at chair@njlp.org.

NJLP Picnic and Regular Business Meeting



Saturday, July 13, 2019 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 13th 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.

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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 _____

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