



New Jersey Libertarian

Volume XLX, Issue 2

Summer 2025

Summer General Meeting Announcement

Announcing our Summer General Meeting.

Date: Sunday, September 14th, 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM. Meeting is expected to start promptly at 4:00 PM and last until 5:30

Online Location: Join the meeting and see our agenda at njlp.org/summer25meeting

In Person Location: Come join us at Jay Edgar's house at 8 Arneytown Hornerstown Road in Cream Ridge NJ for additional fellowship. Bring drinks and food to share. Call 848-525-0578 for directions.

Topics to be discussed include the filling of the vacancy of our VP of Programs and a Bylaws change.

NJLP Holds Annual Picnic

By: Jade Pao



The annual NJLP summer picnic was held on August 10 at Jamesburg's Thompson Park. Thank you to everyone who helped to make this year's picnic a fantastic success! I especially want to extend my gratitude to all the incredible volunteers who generously brought and prepared the delicious food we shared -- your hard work and mastery of the grill were the highlight of the day. I believe that by bringing everyone together—members, family, and friends—we are not just enjoying a day in the park but are also planting the seeds of community. Your participation helps us spread our message of liberty to the next generation. I hope this day has instilled a sense of togetherness and shared values that will continue to grow for years to come.

Bylaws Committee Recommendation

By: NJLP Bylaws Committee

The 2025 Bylaws Committee is proud to submit the following proposal for consideration during our next General Meeting.

Proposal: Update Bylaws Paragraph 6b1 State Convention as follows. (Underlined text indicates an addition, strike out a deletion.)

The State Convention is an annual General Meeting with the sole power to set dues; to

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adopt, amend, or discard the NJLP Platform; and to elect the officers and other State Board members. It shall be held once a year, no earlier than ~~January 15~~ ~~February 1~~ nor later than March ~~15~~ ~~31~~, at the call of the State Board.

Rationale: Due to recent law changes raising the signature threshold, our March convention no longer gives candidates enough time to get their team together and gather signatures before the early June deadline. This year, Vic Kaplan for Governor had 80 days to collect 4000 signatures, that is an average of 50 signatures a day. Each year collecting signatures gets harder. Luckily this year, Vic was able to use his personal funds to hire professional petitioners, but this isn't a realistic expectation to have for our candidates moving forward. Moving the date also gives our candidates more time to raise their name recognition while the two parties are in their primaries.

This motion passed the Bylaws committee 6 to 0.

Potential Dues Increase

By: Jay Edgar

As Treasurer, I develop our annual budget. Our expenses have increased while our dues and donation income have remained the same. A large portion of our increase in expenses is a Bylaws change made last year that has more than doubled our dues sharing agreement with our regional organizations. Half of our lowest cost membership (\$20) currently goes towards dues sharing with our regions.

Meanwhile, the cost of printing this newsletter has increased drastically. We have been left with little money for member communication and outreach. We may need to raise our minimum dues level to keep up with our increasing expenses. The downside is that any increase in dues will be met with less people willing to join the party.

Currently our minimum dues are set at \$20. What should this be? Let us know at info@njlp.org. Per our bylaws, dues can only be modified at our annual Convention.

Another option would be additional fundraising. Our dues currently make up just over 40% of our total income. Donations made at njlp.org/donate/generalfund will help us avoid raising our dues.

Medical Freedom: A Core Principle of Liberty

By: Michael Guadagnino III

There can be no true liberty or personal freedom if you are not in control of what goes into your own body. Every individual is born with natural rights—chief among them is bodily autonomy. The Non-Aggression Principle (NAP), a foundational concept in libertarian philosophy, prohibits the use of force or coercion against others or their property. So how does this apply to medical freedom?

While I won't rehash the intense government pressure and mandates that occurred during the pandemic, it's important to recognize that many of those policies still cast a shadow today. To be clear, this is not an anti-vaccine message. If you choose to receive a vaccine, that is entirely your decision. It's your body. Likewise, if you choose not to get vaccinated, that too is your right. Medical decisions should remain between you, your doctor, your partner—or just you alone, if that's what you prefer. It is, after all, your body.

During the pandemic, many people said they were doing their own "research." While technically that word implies conducting experiments or laboratory work, what most were really doing was reviewing available data, asking questions, consulting knowledgeable sources, and thinking critically. That's not only reasonable — it's responsible. Everyone deserves to make health decisions based on the best available information. In 2021, such information was limited and often clouded by government pressure. Today, more data has emerged, and with it, a clearer view of the risks and consequences tied to those decisions. Still, the choice remains yours.

This same principle applies to childhood vaccines. Parents have the natural right to make informed choices about their child's health. If a vaccine is truly effective, it should provide protection regardless of another child's vaccination status. Libertarianism is built on the idea that you—and by extension, your family—have the freedom to make personal decisions without coercion.

Coercing medical choices undermines the very foundation of liberty and personal freedom. Whether it's your own body, your child's, or your

neighbor's—everyone deserves the right to decide what's best for themselves.

*Dr. Michael Guadagnino holds a Bachelor's Degree in Biology from the New York Institute of Technology and earned his Doctor of Chiropractic degree from New York Chiropractic College. He served as Vice President of Public Relations for the New Jersey Libertarian Party from 2017 to 2022. Dr. Guadagnino is the author of the best-selling book *Fitness Over 50, 60, 70 and Beyond*, available on Amazon and other major platforms. He also shares health and wellness insights on Instagram at @Dr._Guadagnino. As a regular guest contributor, Dr. Guadagnino will be writing on health care topics through the lens of personal freedom and individual liberty.*

NJLP State Board

Chair, Bruno Pereira	chair@njlp.org
Vice-Chair, Ken Kaplan	vicechair@njlp.org
Treasurer, Jay Edgar	treasurer@njlp.org
Secretary, Jade Pao	secretary@njlp.org
VP Marketing, William Sihr	vpmarketing@njlp.org
VP Membership, Vic Kaplan	vpmembership@njlp.org
VP Programs, VACANT	vpprograms@njlp.org
South Rep., Paul Baratelli	southrep@njlp.org
Central Rep., Joanne Gorelick	centralrep@njlp.org
North Rep., Stephen Honeywell	northrep@njlp.org

Freedom, Not Tariff, Is the Most Beautiful Word in the Dictionary

By: James A. Dorn

Originally published at [cato.org](https://www.cato.org)

President [Trump](#) likes to say, “The word tariff is the most beautiful word in the dictionary”; tariffs “make our country rich” and “cost Americans nothing.” Yet, nothing could be further from the truth. Protective tariffs restrict the range of alternatives open to people by limiting mutually beneficial exchanges; they misallocate scarce resources; and weaken the dynamic gains from trade. Most important, they expand the power of the state, erode the rule of law, and attenuate individual freedom.

Free Trade as a General Principle

Unlike President Trump, James Madison, the chief architect of the Constitution, accepted free trade as a general principle. In April 1789, he declared:

I own myself the friend to a very free system of commerce, and hold it as a truth, that commercial shackles are generally unjust, oppressive and impolitic—it is also a truth, that if industry and labour are left to take their own course, they will generally be directed to those objects which are the most productive, and this in a more certain and direct manner than the wisdom of the most enlightened legislature could point out. ... Thus all are benefitted by exchange, and the less this exchange is cramped by government, the greater are the proportions of benefit to each. The same argument holds good between nation and nation, and between parts of the same nation [[Madison 1789](#)].

Much later, in his letter to Thomas Cooper (March 22, 1824), Madison reiterated his adherence to free trade as a general principle:

I have always concurred in the general principle that the industrious pursuits of individuals ought to be left to individuals, as most capable of chusing [sic] and managing them. And this policy is certainly most congenial with the spirit of a free people [[Padover 1953](#): 273].

Madison did consider exceptions to the general principle of free trade, such as during war. But he was always alert to the dangers of special interests capturing the state for their own advantages and perpetuating protectionist measures. On March 23, 1824, in another letter to Cooper, he stated:

In every doubtful case, the Government should forbear to intermeddle.... In Governments, where the will of the people prevails, the danger of injustice arises from the interest, real or supposed, which a majority may have in trespassing on that of the minority [Padover, p. 274].

Protectionism Is the Enemy of Freedom

Tariffs expand the scope of government, politicize economic life, increase uncertainty, and reduce individual freedom. Government officials gain arbitrary power while market participants face fewer opportunities for mutually beneficial exchanges and greater uncertainty as the rules of the game change.

Tariffs are levied on US importers as goods—both final and intermediate—subject to the tariff enter the country. Importers and consumers typically end up paying the tariffs, as they cut into profit margins and drive consumer prices up.

With free international trade, countries gain by being able to consume more goods than they could produce domestically. Specialization and the division of labor, according to differences in opportunity costs among countries, are limited by the extent of the market, as every beginning economics student knows. Imposing tariffs not only distorts relative prices and leads to a misallocation of resources, it reduces the so-called dynamic gains from trade—that is, the gains due to broadening market exchange, spreading new ideas that improve people’s lives, giving individuals a wider range of opportunities and choices, and thus fostering a competitive environment conducive to innovation and entrepreneurship (see [Yeager and Tuerck 1966](#): 58–59, 62–63). It is not surprising that free trade and free people tend to go together.

Peter Bauer, a pioneer in development economics, emphasized that “the principal objective and criterion of economic development” is “the extension of the range of choice—that is, an increase in the range of effective alternatives open to people” ([Bauer 1957](#): 113). His adherence to the principles of free trade and free people reflected his deep respect for the dignity, rationality, and capabilities of poor people around the world ([Dorn 2002](#): 356).

Misguided Trade Policy

The purpose of trade is not to create jobs but to create net benefits for those involved in the exchange. Of course, the exchange must be voluntary. The role of government is to protect private property rights, including the right to exchange, under a just rule of law. Protectionist policies enlarge the power of the state and undermine the principle of freedom. That is why one should be skeptical of political rhetoric, such as that used by President Trump and his advisers, that promotes tariffs as “beautiful” vehicles to “make our country rich” and that “cost Americans nothing.”

The gains from trade are evident in the massive literature on that subject (see, e.g., [Lincicome and Packard 2024](#)). It should also be evident that, although the parties to the voluntary exchange gain and others can also gain from the dynamic benefits of free trade, some people will lose their jobs and businesses will close as consumers exercise their free choice in a market system. Countries that try to

stop the competitive market process will lose both freedom and wealth.

Weaponizing trade with tariffs and other protectionist measures for political gain is not the way to riches and a harmonious society. Rather, those objectives can better be achieved via a “simple system of natural liberty.” As Ada [Smith](#) argued in 1776:

[Without trade restrictions] the obvious and simple system of natural liberty establishes itself of its own accord. Every man ... is left perfectly free to pursue his own interest in his own way.... The sovereign is completely discharged from a duty [for which] no human wisdom or knowledge could ever be sufficient—the duty of superintending the industry of private people, and of directing it towards the employments most suitable to the interest of the society.

If President Trump really wants to “Make America Great Again,” he will need to make freedom, not protectionism and tariffs, the center of his policy agenda.

Pemberton Mayor Recall Effort

By: Lana Leguia

“Just let him finish his term instead of wasting tax dollars on this!”, in the light of their Mayor’s recall, one person wrote online. Jack Tompkins, whose term ends December 2026, has been terrorizing the residents of Pemberton Township since his election. According to the investigative report issued by the township on April 26 of this year, he has committed “serious acts of sexual harassment against female employees... a disturbing pattern of retaliatory conduct and threats of retaliation... and inappropriate flirtatious interactions with minor female employees employed by the township.” Despite multiple demands of resignation from residents and being officially censured during a 5-0 vote in July, his ego has prevailed, never giving comment on his actions while refusing to resign. Unsurprisingly, the Republican Party is completely silent on the matter. Neither calling for his resignation nor publicly disavowing his behavior. It is clear they are prioritizing political self-preservation.

The NJLP Political Affairs committee along with the Southern Region have been coordinating his recall. An official committee has been formed, our intention to recall has been approved by the township and a petition is now being circulated to collect nearly 5000 signatures. Once the signatures have been collected a special election will be called. A special election is

estimated to cost \$110,000, to be paid from taxpayer funds. Jack Tompkins has cost the township \$900,000 in settled lawsuits, has caused municipal employees and volunteers to quit, and, in retaliation of criticism, cancelled beloved, revenue generating carnivals and events. By the end of his term, he will have cost the town far more than the cost of a special election.

Dustin Maggard, who is both the Chair of the Southern Region and the Chair of the Recall Committee urges "Action has to be taken to stop him from costing our township huge sums of money, the constant allegations of abuse, and negative press coverage of our otherwise great town. Our mission as Libertarians is to promote human liberty by fighting for your rights, enacting conservative fiscal policy and pushing back against bad politicians like Jack Tompkins."

The primary objectives of the Libertarian Party are to dismantle the system, shrink the state and bring liberty to our communities. We do this by working to get Libertarians elected, spreading the libertarian philosophy and being a thorn in the side of the corrupted two parties. This recall is a great way to show how blatantly disinterested the Republican Party is in being principled or helping their communities, as they cannot even call out one of their own to protect future elections. This is an opportunity to show them we are watching and how effective of an organization we are at combating entrenched political corruption in New Jersey.

Just like a candidate campaign that need volunteers and funds to collect signatures, print handbills and signs and other campaign related expenses and tasks - we need help. If you would like to volunteer or donate please visit recalltompkins.com or email vppoliticalaffairs@njlp.org to learn how.

Tyranny With Time - The LP's Old Age Crisis

By: Bill Sihr

This is the first third of an article written on August 14th, 2025 for The Torch, which is a new online Libertarian journal run by the team over at LP Allies. If you'd like to read the entire article its available at thetorch.media.

I first became aware of the Libertarian Party back in 2008. I was raised in a family of staunch Republicans but after 8 years of GW and how disappointed I was with the McCain candidacy, I decided that the GOP was not the place for me. Like many I discovered the LP through Ron Paul, and

after a chance encounter with an NJLP member while in undergrad, I formally joined the Party in 2010 (I literally turned 21 at my first Convention). A year later, I was on the State Board (which at the time made me the youngest to ever serve in the Affiliates' history).

Entering into the world of Libertarian politics was a major culture shock in many ways, but perhaps the most glaring difference was a visual difference; everyone was old. I was the youngest person in the room by about 15 years, and I had no other young people to caucus with. With my long hair, scruffy facial hair and alt-rocker look, I stood out amongst the balding, greying and wrinkled attendees. Now, some 15 years later, at the 2025 NJLP Convention, with my bald head, greying wizard beard and creased face, I am still among the younger attendees. This is a major problem, and one that is not exclusive to New Jersey.

The LP is no stranger to the issues with demographics. Despite white males only accounting for about 31 percent of the American population, the overwhelming majority of Libertarians would be categorized as such. Even if we ignore LPNH's appeal to ethno-nationalism on X and chalk this up to happenstance, this fact has always been a barrier for women and people of color. This exacerbates popular charges of sexism, racism and color-blindness (The Individualists has a great chapter on Libertarianism and race that is a must read in my opinion). What we don't seem to discuss is the advancing age of our membership. Official Party demographics are hard to come by for those not in leadership (I'd love to see them), so I will appeal to social media statistics. The NJLP's Facebook account has almost 13,000 followers. Of those followers, the largest demographic are 35-44 year olds at 28.8 percent, followed by 45-54 at 22.5 percent, then 25-34 at 19 percent, 55-64 at 14.9 percent and 65+ at 13.5 percent (all overwhelmingly male). Notice anything missing? 18-24 year olds, who are historically the most politically active, dedicated and radicalized. The backbone of most campaign activity, in terms of fielding, petitioning and activism. How much of the NJLP's audience are in this bracket? 1.3 percent. Again, I can only speak for NJ here, but I suspect that these metrics aren't wholly unique.

The aging of the human population is a big topic in itself, but for our purposes this demographic imbalance is a serious political concern. We are a Party that has historically been the home for the rebellious, free-thinking and spirited; all qualities that

speak to the young and idealistic, but our ranks are primarily populated with Boomers and early GenXers. Less anyone thinks otherwise, this is not an ageist critique from a millennial, but a real concern. In a real sense, if the Libertarian Party continues to ignore younger people, we will go extinct, and much sooner than later. In fact, I give it 10-15 years before our membership implodes. Not from ideological schisms, dues dwindling or executive mismanagement. It will be due to ineffective youth recruiting and the permanent expiration of current membership. Who then will continue our traditions and ideology?

I have raised this alarm with my own Affiliate many times; usually in response to our own Membership woes and to the problematic choices made by some of our activists. Oftentimes, the responses range from disinterest to hostility. I've even had someone defend our demographics by blaming young people. "All young people are crazy socialists!" he said, as if any group of individuals, regardless of their demographics can be said to be identical. They see popular depictions of modern American youth culture as being a lost cause, or one not fit for Liberty, without even realizing that is exactly what our opponents want us to believe.

This echoes a disposition towards elitism and self-imposed isolationism that seems to thrive in modern liberty circles, and one that is shooting us in the foot. None of us are unfamiliar with the No True Scotsman fallacy, and most of us are likely guilty of appealing to it more than a few times, but before that was limited to policy debates and leadership tests. Now, despite our overt rejection of any sort of collectivised or holistic thinking, far too many of us are dismissing whole groups of people as unreachable. We've already seen far-right influences dismissing African Americans as being predisposed to yearn for authoritarianism, despite the obvious falsity of it, but now I am seeing the same sort of casual dismissal being directed at anyone without a receding hairline and urinary complications.

It's undeniable that younger people are generally more receptive of leftist ideas. A Pew Research Center report from 2022 said that only 40 percent of 18-29 year olds held a "positive" view of capitalism; another study found that the same age group had a 62 percent favorable view of socialism. Many will point to this as some kind of proof that young people are a lost cause, but that is far from the truth. Young people haven't failed; we have. Both the big L Libertarian 'we' and the general 'we'. We have failed to properly educate young people, be open to them

and give them a reason to believe in us. It is a failure in our activism, our messaging and our conduct. Why is it that Libertarians are so comfortable with assigning blame to others, but refuse to accept it when appropriate? We need to follow our own instruction here and accept the blame for this. It's our fault we are in this predicament. The question is, how do we fix it? It starts with identifying our failings. (Continued at thetorch.media)

Private Property Under Attack in New Jersey

By: Jay Edgar

New Jersey is seeing a disturbing rise in eminent domain abuse and government overreach against private property owners.

In Cranbury, officials are [trying to seize a 175-year-old, 21-acre family farm](#). Their justification is to satisfy NJ affordable housing mandates. The township has already begun condemnation proceedings to take 12 acres for the purpose of building 130 apartments—robbing a family of land they've stewarded for generations.

Toms River has backed off on its [proposed ordinance to seize the 160 year old Christ Episcopal Church](#) to create a public park and pickleball courts. Vocal public opposition has caused the mayor to remove discussion of the ordinance from the July 30th meeting until further polling of residents is completed.

In Perth Amboy, the [city has declared a tire shop and a four family building as "blighted"](#) to justify taking the properties. The properties are being labeled as "areas in need of redevelopment" for the creation of a warehouse. The Institute for Justice has filed suit against the city in June on behalf of the property owners.

In Evesham, the Pinelands Commission is looking to take away the development rights to 780 acres that adjoin the already preserved Black Run Reserve. They seek to change the designation of the private land from "rural development" to "forest area." The developer was planning on building 270 single family homes on a portion of the property. No compensation at all is being offered for the taking to the owner of the land.

These cases expose a dangerous contradiction: in some towns, governments seize land to force more housing; in another, it blocks housing altogether. The common thread is coercion. Instead of working with property owners through fair, voluntary, and

creative solutions, too many officials take the easy way out—by taking what does not belong to them.

NJLP Faces NJ Election Law Enforcement Fines and Penalties

By: Jay Edgar

Each quarter, the NJ Libertarian Party is required to submit financial reports to the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (NJELEC). These reports must detail all expenses, disclose any donor whose total contributions exceed \$200 in a calendar year, and provide the combined total of smaller, non-reportable donations.

Recently, NJELEC filed a complaint against us regarding our 2023 filings, citing incomplete information, late submissions, unreported donations, and unreported expenses. I have since gathered all relevant data, corrected the filings, and resubmitted them. NJELEC has accepted the updated reports, and we are now awaiting word on whether a fine will be imposed. We are represented in this matter by attorney Walter Luers.

On a personal note, I find the very premise of these requirements deeply troubling. Forcing us to expose our donors is, in my view, an assault on liberty and a violation of free speech. Nonetheless, as Treasurer, I remain committed to fulfilling my duties by ensuring our reports are accurate and timely.

All reports can be found at njelecefilesearch.com/SearchPACReports by searching for 'NJ Libertarian Party'.

Trump pick for US attorney for New Jersey has 'no lawful authority,' judge rules

By: Dana DiFilippo. Republished from newjerseymonitor.com under Creative Commons agreement

A federal judge has rejected the Trump administration's attempt to keep Alina Habba as U.S. attorney for New Jersey and override the judges who last month named Habba's top deputy to the post.

U.S. District Judge Matthew Brann said Thursday that Habba, President Donald Trump's former personal lawyer, has served as the state's top federal prosecutor "without lawful authority" since July 1 and voided all actions she has taken in that role since then.

"The Executive branch has perpetuated Alina Habba's appointment to act as the United States Attorney for the District of New Jersey through a novel series of legal and personnel moves. Along the way, it has disagreed with the Judges of the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey and criminal defendants in that District about who should or may lead the office," Brann wrote in his [77-page opinion](#). "Faced with the question of whether Ms. Habba is lawfully performing the functions and duties of the office of the United States Attorney for the District of New Jersey, I conclude that she is not."

Attorney General Pamela Bondi vowed to "immediately appeal."

Habba "is doing incredible work in New Jersey — and we will protect her position from activist judicial attacks," Bondi [posted](#) on social media Thursday night.

Several criminal defendants had challenged Habba's authority and sought dismissals of their cases after a tug-of-war erupted over the position last month when the Senate did not act to confirm her. A panel of federal judges in New Jersey [named her first assistant](#), Desiree Leigh Grace, to the job, enraging Trump officials, who fired Grace and reinstated Habba. Brann, the chief judge of the Middle District of Pennsylvania, was tapped to decide the case after a defendant's attorney successfully requested a venue change.

After hearing [four hours of arguments last week in Williamsport](#), Brann ruled that Habba's tenure as interim U.S. attorney ended July 1, 120 days after Bondi appointed John Giordano as interim U.S. attorney.

A federal law known as the Preserving United States Attorney Independence Act gives the Senate 120 days to confirm an appointee and tasks federal judges with acting if that clock runs out without Senate action. Giordano served three weeks as interim U.S. attorney for New Jersey before Trump announced March 24 on social media that he appointed Habba to the job and she was subsequently sworn in on March 28.

Habba's tenure has been turbulent, with New Jersey's senators — both Democrats — accusing her of using her position to politically attack Trump foes. She has [prosecuted two Newark Democrats](#), Mayor Ras Baraka and Rep. LaMonica McIver, over a May 9 episode at a migrant jail in Newark (her office dismissed the charge against Baraka days

after they filed it). And she has said she is investigating two other Democrats, Gov. Phil Murphy and Attorney General Matt Platkin, over the state's policy of providing sanctuary for some undocumented immigrants.

Brann banned Habba from further prosecutions.

"Because she is not currently qualified to exercise the functions and duties of the office in an acting capacity, she must be disqualified from participating in any ongoing cases," he wrote.

While the ruling was a resounding loss for the Trump administration, it's unlikely anything will change yet, because Brann stayed his decision pending an appeal.

Last week in court, he predicted the case likely would ultimately be decided by judges in higher courts than his.

Plainsboro and Jamesburg Land Use Board Attorney Face Ethics Complaint Unaccounted Funds

By: John Paff. Originally published at transparencynj.com

The land use board attorney for both Plainsboro Township and the Borough of Jamesburg (both in Middlesex County, NJ) is facing an ethics complaint issued on March 31, 2025 that alleges mishandling of client funds and failure to maintain proper trust account records.

Michael P. Balint, 74, currently serves as attorney to the Plainsboro Township Zoning Board of Adjustment and to the Jamesburg Borough Land Use Board. Minutes of both boards show that Balint has served in these positions for more than a decade. Balint is compensated under a January 15, 2025 Plainsboro [professional services contract](#) at \$175 per hour plus a \$150 monthly retainer. In Jamesburg, Balint is compensated under [a January 9, 2025 appointment resolution](#) at \$165 per hour with a \$400 monthly retainer. His litigation rate for Jamesburg matters is \$175 per hour.

The [pending ethics complaint](#) (Docket No. XIV-2024-0261E) stems from a December 2023 random audit of Balint's attorney trust account, which revealed multiple recordkeeping deficiencies and \$151,443 in unidentified funds. Balint subsequently accounted for roughly \$88,748 of that amount, but as of late October 2024, \$62,694.56 remained unaccounted for and improperly held in his trust account.

The attorney, through [an answer to the complaint](#) filed on May 1, 2025, is representing himself in the disciplinary matter and largely admits the underlying facts but pleads for leniency, citing his age, health issues, and intention to retire later this year.

The [Office of Attorney Ethics \(OAE\)](#) is the arm of the New Jersey Supreme Court that investigates and prosecutes attorney disciplinary matters. All attorneys licensed to practice in New Jersey are required to comply with the [Rules of Professional Conduct \(RPC\)](#) (Scroll down to Part 1 Appendices (RPC) – Rules of Professional Conduct), which set forth the standards of legal ethics and professional responsibility.

The OAE alleges violations of RPC 1.15(b) for failure to promptly deliver funds to an entitled party, RPC 1.15(d) for failure to maintain required records, and RPC 8.1(b) for failure to fully cooperate with the ethics investigation.

In his May 1, 2025 answer to the ethics complaint, Balint acknowledges the complaint's allegations and admits that he failed to timely comply with trust account obligations. He claims to have now remitted the remaining \$62,694.56 to the Superior Court Trust Fund but acknowledges this was done only after receiving the ethics complaint. Balint states that his office records are now properly maintained and attributes his past lapses to health problems and being overwhelmed by work.

Balint has previously been disciplined in three prior matters:

- [DRB 00-244](#): Reprimanded by Supreme Court order dated 12/04/2001 for negligence, lack of diligence, and failure to communicate and failure to expedite litigation.
- [DRB 00-404](#): Reprimanded by Supreme Court order dated 12/04/2001 for negligence, lack of diligence, and failure to communicate, failure to properly safeguard client funds, failure to expedite litigation and unauthorized practice of law.
- [DRB 01-303](#): Reprimanded by Supreme Court order dated 06/18/2002 for negligence, lack of diligence, negligent misappropriation of funds, failure to safeguard client funds and recordkeeping violations.

Balint, Plainsboro Township Administrator Anthony Cancro, and Jamesburg Borough Business Administrator Michael Capabianco were each contacted for comment prior to publication of this

article. Mr. Cancro responded that Plainsboro officials have no knowledge about the allegations and cannot comment. Mr. Capabianco responded that this was the first time he had seen the information and that the Borough of Jamesburg has no comment on pending ethics complaints but wishes to assure the public that Borough escrow funds are not party to the matter. Mr. Balint responded that he did not realize this matter would become public but acknowledged that he “should have known that things happen.” He stated that he does not wish to comment further at this time and is waiting for the decision by the Office of Attorney Ethics.

The pending charges against Balint are only allegations that have yet to be proven, although he has admitted to many of them. The categories of discipline that can be imposed against an attorney who violates the Rules of Professional Conduct are, ranked from least to most severe: Admonition, Reprimand, Censure, Term Suspension and Disbarment.

From the Archives: Editorial September 1975

By: Kathy McAdam

We are at a crucial time in the life of the fledgling Libertarian Party and many of us are deeply concerned about the future of the organization. Is the LP becoming increasingly concerned about vote totals, publicity for our candidates, media reaction, and membership counts and less dedicated to the pursuit of liberty? Are we in danger of betraying our long-range goals by side-stepping issues and soft-pedaling our ideas because we are afraid that the

media will misrepresent or attack us or that the general public will not understand? Are we becoming so overwhelmed by immediate day-to-day tactical problems that we are forgetting that the real issue is freedom or slavery?

It is extremely important at this time that we carefully, scrupulously examine our own internal problems -- that we encourage discussion and debate so that we can learn from our mistakes. We must nurture honesty and openness within our organization.

How will it benefit the LP to conduct highly visible and well-organized campaigns if we lose the idealistic, dedicated, hardcore libertarians! We will be left with an organization that has lost its heart and soul. Our allegiance is not to any organization or to any candidate but to the ideal of liberty.

We have a glorious vision to impart to people the vision of a free society! If we hedge or act hesitantly and apologetically about our ideas, people will only wonder what is wrong with our goals. We must proclaim our ideals openly, confidently, and proudly -- realizing that some people may not completely understand all at once and that others may deliberately misrepresent us. No one will ever be able to grasp just how wonderful freedom can be if we are hesitant about proclaiming its virtues.

Let us ever be true to the Spirit of 76 which inspired the first libertarian revolution and eagerly dedicate our efforts to ensure the success of the second libertarian revolution.

Kathy McAdam was a long-time party activist and past editor of this newsletter. She passed in 2021.

The New Jersey Libertarian

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The New Jersey Libertarian Party
Editor, **Vacant**

NJL Advertising Rates

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P.O. Box 56

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