



# LIBERTARIAN

Libertarian National Committee  
**2018 ANNUAL REPORT**



**Libertarian National Committee (LNC)**

as of March 20, 2019

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**The most important Libertarian in your community is you.** Your friends and neighbors will shape their opinion of our party and our movement based on knowing you. If you show others who we are and what we believe with kindness and respect, they will be ready to try something better than the same old tired red-and-blue politics.

Be good to each other and take time to recharge after an exciting election. **Together, we will make history in the new year.**

**– Nicholas Sarwark, LNC Chair**

**The Libertarian Party is amid an exciting time of growth and success, and our achievements in 2018 show how Libertarian ideas speak to more people than ever – people who are willing to take bold action to advance individual freedom.**

## Election

One of the most significant hallmarks of that success is voter registration, with a **92 percent increase in registered Libertarians during the past decade**. Those voters are a driving force behind the success of Libertarian Party candidates. We had about 40 percent more Libertarians seeking public office in 2018 than in 2016, and out of those 833 candidates we had 55 electoral victories in 16 states – **Arizona, California, Florida, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, and Wisconsin**.



Those victories surpassed our 2016 election rate by 59 percent, and **there are 180 Libertarians now holding elected office** as of January 2019.

By implementing fiscally sound and socially accepting policies at the local level, these Libertarian officeholders are showing that real, lasting change happens from the bottom up, not from the top down. Nowhere is this truth more evident than in Riverside County, Calif., where the Libertarian Party had perhaps its biggest electoral victory when **Jeff Hewitt** won his race for the Board of Supervisors in November. Hewitt now has one of the five critical votes governing a region with a \$5 billion budget and a population larger



**Jeff Hewitt**

County Supervisor, Riverside County, California

Jeff Hewitt, who was elected in November 2018 to the Riverside County Board of Supervisors in California, delivered the Libertarian Party's 2019 State of the Union Address, which can be viewed online: [LP.org/sotu2019](http://LP.org/sotu2019)

than 15 different states, and he represents more constituents than any other Libertarian elected official in the party's history. Hewitt's victory follows his many years of substantial and successful reform as the mayor of Calimesa and a member of the city's planning commission.

## Ballot Access

The 2018 election also brought a tremendous advantage for our 2020 campaigns, because we now have ballot access for our 2020 presidential ticket in 33 states and Washington, D.C.! Libertarian candidate vote totals were high enough in November to secure the party's ballot access for the 2020 election in **Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas, Wyoming, and Washington, D.C.**, allowing us and our state affiliates to focus resources on our candidates rather than on the costly and painstaking process of petition qualification.

The more than 90,000 votes that **Larry Sharpe** received for governor of New York won Libertarian ballot access in that state for the first time in history. Ballot access victories also came from judicial rulings. A federal district court judge ruled

**The 2018 elections saw one of the highest-ever turnouts for a midterm election. It also saw Libertarian candidates breaking records across the country and making history. **Bethany Baldes** came within 53 votes of unseating the incumbent speaker of the Wyoming House of Representatives. **Larry Sharpe** received more than 90,000 votes for governor of New York, winning ballot access in that state for the first time in party history. Although not enough of our candidates won the offices they were running for, Libertarian candidates were indeed elected across the country.**

**Even with some setbacks in a few states where our candidates were swamped by the 'blue wave,' we still have ballot access in more states coming out of a midterm election than ever before, allowing us to focus more resources in 2019 on other forms of political activity than attaining ballot access. Our overall growth in votes and voter registration has placed us in a position to accelerate our growth going into the 2019 and 2020 elections.**

**– Nicholas Sarwark, LNC Chair**

## Libertarian Party candidates elected to office during 2018

**Levi Tappan (AZ)** – Page City Mayor  
**Scott Wooden (CA)** – Del Mar Union School Board  
**Kent Fowler (CA)** – Feather River Recreation and Parks District Board  
**James Guadagni (CA)** – Liberty Elementary School Governing Board  
**Vern Dahl (CA)** – Lucia Mar Unified School District Board  
**Jeff Hewitt (CA)** – Riverside County Supervisor District 5  
**Robert Dickson (CA)** – Timber Cove Fire Protection District Board  
**Arman Gorbani (CA)** – West Los Angeles-Sawtelle Neighborhood Council  
**James Chipman (FL)** – Batram Springs Community Development District  
**Steven Milligan (FL)** – Bradford County Soil and Water Conservation District  
**David DeForest (FL)** – Charlotte County Soil and Water Conservation District  
**Michael Cassidy (FL)** – Clay County Soil and Water Conservation District  
**Clarence Strong (FL)** – Coconut Cay Community Development Council  
**Sacha DuBearn (FL)** – Coconut Grove Village Council  
**Samantha Bruntjen (FL)** – Collier County Soil and Water Conservation District  
**Rob Tolp (FL)** – Collier County Soil and Water Conservation District  
**Brandon Kneeld (FL)** – Davenport City Council  
**Martin Sullivan (FL)** – Frostproof Mayor  
**Thomas Warfel (FL)** – Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District  
**Shawn Elliott (FL)** – Indian River County Soil and Water Conservation District  
**Wayne Barricklow (FL)** – Martin County Soil and Water Conservation District  
**Larry Allen Schneck (FL)** – Osceola County Soil and Water Conservation Dist.  
**Jose Vigoreaux, Jr. (FL)** – South Dade Soil and Water Conservation District  
**Jeremy Weinstock (FL)** – South Dade Soil and Water Conservation District  
**Larry Goolsby (FL)** – Wakulla Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor  
**Martha Bueno (FL)** – West Kendall Community Council Board  
**Thomas Laehn (IA)** – Greene County Attorney  
**Cheryl Heacox (IN)** – Clay Township Advisory Board  
**Dean Hartley (IN)** – Franklin Township Board  
**Terry Coffman (IN)** – Liberty Township Advisory Board  
**Jamie Owens (IN)** – Liberty Township Trustee  
**Cory Fitzpatrick (KY)** – Boyd County Magistrate District 3  
**Shane Walker (KY)** – Graves County Magistrate District 1  
**Trevor Applegate (KY)** – Mason County Magistrate District 4  
**Shannon Denniston (KY)** – Montgomery Justice of the Peace District 2  
**Art Torrey (MA)** – Billerica Town Meeting Representative Precinct 11  
**David Blau (MA)** – Walpole Town Meeting Precinct 6  
**Vince Workman (MN)** – Burnsville City Council  
**Olga Parsons (MN)** – Crystal City Council Section 2  
**Nick Roehl (MN)** – Plymouth City Council Ward 2  
**Shawn Ruotsinoja (MN)** – St. Bonifacius Mayor  
**Ismaine Ayouaz (MO)** – Crestwood Alderman Ward 4  
**Keith Ottersberg (NE)** – Wymore City Council  
**Richard Manzo (NH)** – Goffstown Budget Committee  
**David Greer (OK)** – Dougherty City Council  
**Artie Buxton (SC)** – Florence County School District  
**Cole Ebel (TN)** – Carthage City Council  
**Joshua Beale (TN)** – Montgomery County Commissioner District 14  
**Erika Ebel (TN)** – Smith County Commissioner District 4  
**Stephen Chambers (TN)** – Trousdale County Mayor  
**Larry Bush (TX)** – Jarrell City Mayor  
**Jerry Albert (VT)** – Bennington Justice of the Peace  
**Dave Ripp (WI)** – Dane County Board of Supervisors District 29  
**Brian Christian (WI)** – West Bend Alderman District 2  
**Brian Defferding (WI)** – Winnebago County Board of Supervisors District 6

that South Dakota's laws regulating third-party ballot access were unconstitutional, violating the First and Fourteenth Amendment rights of the Libertarian Party. Oklahoma changed its ballot-retention percentage requirement to apply to any statewide race, not just governor or president, which will make it much easier to remain on the ballot there.

**We now have a better ballot access position than any third party has achieved at this stage in the election cycle in more than a century.** This will substantially reduce the burden we've so often had in past years for achieving full ballot access throughout the United States, making it much easier to achieve our goal of ballot

access in all 50 states and Washington, D.C., for our 2020 presidential ticket. **We had only 17 states with ballot access at this point after the 1992 midterm election – half as many as today.** All the resources we would have had to spend fighting the uphill battle of attaining ballot access in those states can now be spent more efficiently doing the real work of spreading Libertarian ideas.



## Issue Leadership

Those ideas bring real, practical benefits to people's lives. Before the election, for instance, Nebraska's Libertarian **Sen. Laura Ebke** demonstrated just how much difference one legislator can make by **spearheading and passing statewide occupational licensure reform with nearly unanimous support.** This legislation allows countless people throughout the state access to jobs that were previously out of reach, behind a mountain of arbitrary regulations and red tape. After her enormous success, Ebke will continue to work on these issues in the coming years as a staff member at the free-market Platte Institute.

Libertarian Party messages of fiscal responsibility and social tolerance have also had extensive influence when it comes to issues like drug legalization, criminal justice reform, and economic planning. The rest of the country is gradually catching up to these ideas, moving the needle forward on socially acceptable policy outcomes, but **we've been ahead of the curve for decades.** The 2018 election included ballot initiatives to **legalize recreational marijuana** in Michigan and medical marijuana in both Missouri and Utah, **restore voter rights for nonviolent felons**, and **defeat destructive regulations** like California's proposed rent control law and price controls on dialysis clinics – both of which would have hurt the very people they were supposed to help.

**We're continuing to take bold stances in favor of individual freedom**, no matter which direction the populist winds are blowing at any given moment. At the 2018 Libertarian National Convention, we adopted a new platform plank advocating protection for the rights of sex workers, and strengthened our immigration plank to make it crystal clear that we value the free, unrestricted movement of people across political borders.





## National Convention

Speaking of the convention, we're pleased to report that **we had the biggest Libertarian National Convention ever in 2018, setting new records for both fundraising and attendance** – surpassing even the 2016 presidential nominating convention, which had set records of its own. This would be great news in any year, but it's especially noteworthy that this happened during a non-presidential election year.

Preparations are already under way for our **2020 Libertarian National Convention in Austin, Texas**, where we hope to set new records all over again.

## Candidate Strategy

Our new approach to recruiting candidates and focusing resources on strategic races in 2018 showed how targeted campaigning can bring even more electoral success within reach. **Apollo Pazell**, our campaigns advisor, identified a handful of races around the country with vulnerable seats and an ideal campaigning landscape. His team launched an intensive on-the-ground strategy in Wyoming that included visiting every constituent's doorstep at least twice – and ultimately came within only a few dozen votes of unseating the state House speaker-elect. With more strategic effort in similar campaigns, we can win even more races.

**Cara Schulz**, our candidate recruitment specialist, helps candidates get their campaigns up and running in record time. She serves as a resource to every prospective candidate, walking them through the steps and strategies involved in running a campaign. Biweekly conference calls and candidate newsletters keep everyone in the loop about the latest ideas in circulation, and Cara also makes herself available for one-on-one consulting to brainstorm strategies, insights, and tips for fundraising and outreach. Her approach in 2018 serves as a foundation that we will continue to build on in 2019.

We aim to have 200 Libertarian candidates on ballots nationwide in 2019, which would be a 100 percent increase above 2017. We also have a goal of 70 candidate wins in 2019, which would be a 46 percent increase over 2017. These plans are entirely achievable – especially thanks to our new candidate resources that make it easier than ever to run as a Libertarian, and our focus on bringing crucial resources to strategic campaigns.

## Affiliate Support

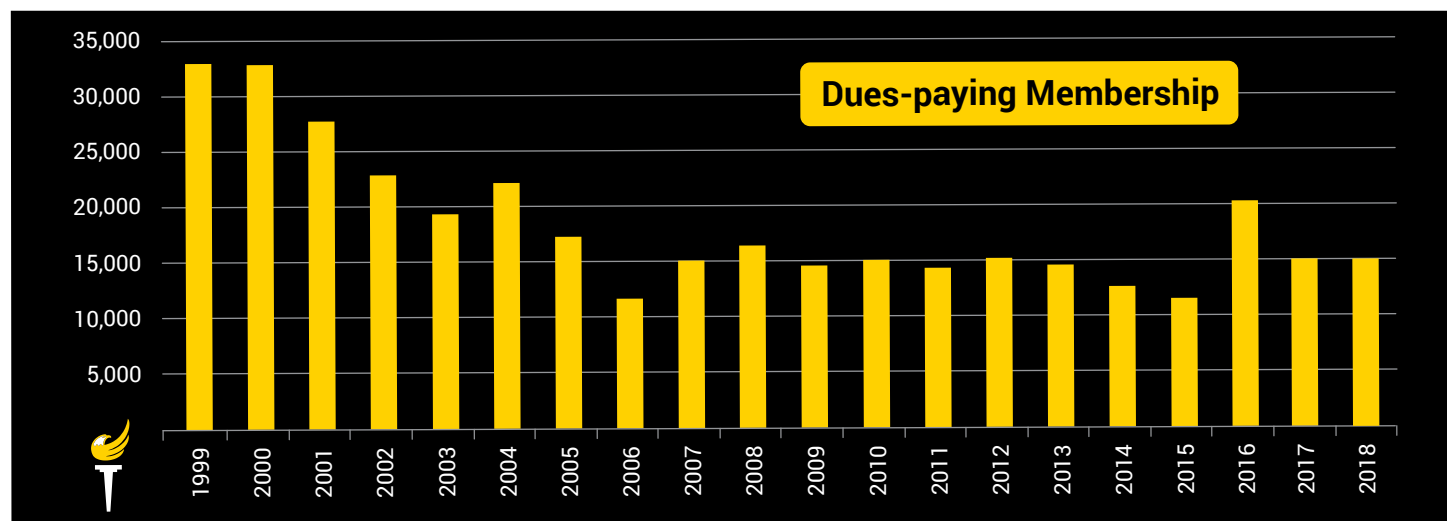
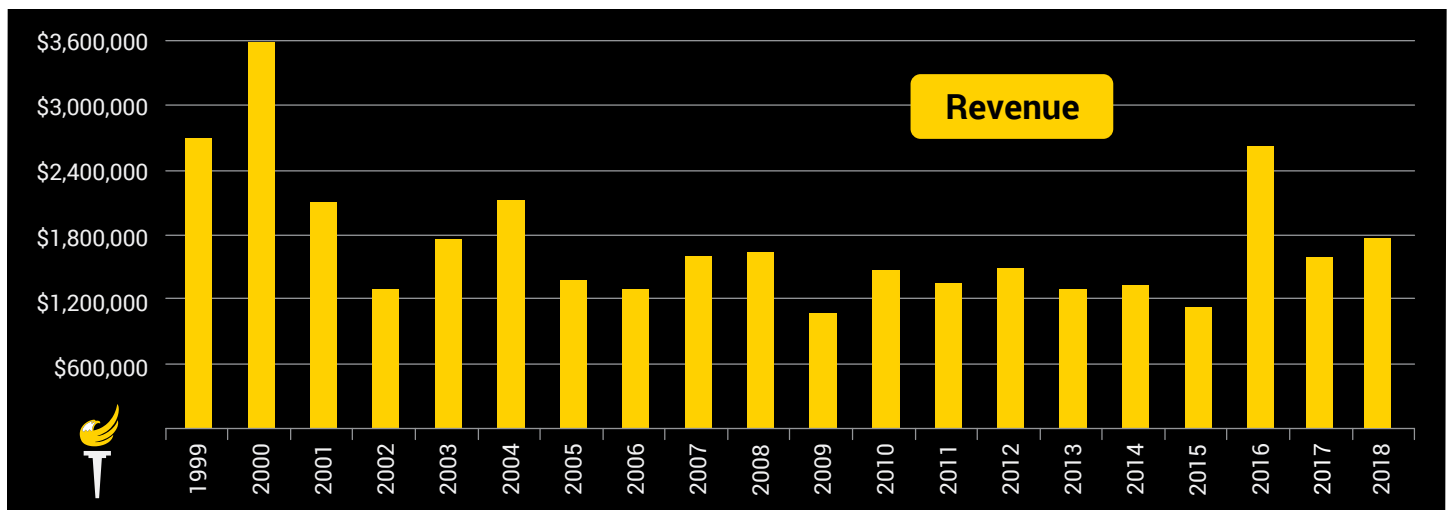
Starting about a year and a half ago, the Libertarian Party's State CRM Project has been leveraging economies of scale to help make state affiliates more efficient and effective. We have built, and been further finessing, a database that is specially tailored for Libertarian outreach and organizing. As of January 2019, 20 state parties are using this database.

## Fundraising

Thanks to the generous support of our donors and activists, 2018 was a fundraising success. **We brought in \$1,771,997 in revenue last year**, which was 19 percent more than the average of the prior 10 years, excluding 2016, which was an outlier. Expenses were also high in 2018 for the Libertarian National Convention in New Orleans, multiple ballot access lawsuits, campaigning efforts, and much more. The LNC has passed a more conservative budget for 2019.

## Looking Forward

**We want to shatter all previous Libertarian Party records during the 2020 election.** It will take dedication, careful strategy, and hard work from all of us to make that happen. Now is the time to prepare, to rally support, to invest in party infrastructure, and to spread Libertarian ideas to voters who are receptive to the ideas of sound and responsible government. **Thank you to all our many donors, members, activists, leaders, candidates, and volunteers for making 2018 such a successful year. We look forward to working with you again in 2019.**



# 2014–2018 Balance Sheet Summary

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Total Assets</b>	1,131,597	1,174,064	1,296,837	1,241,775	1,001,873
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	551,629	565,754	413,938	406,572	403,853
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	579,967	608,310	882,899	835,203	598,019

# 2014–2018 Revenue & Expense Summary

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Support and Revenue</b>					
Membership Dues	492,324	368,631	805,821	554,688	583,082
Donations	453,272	148,383	678,854	202,439	299,027
Recurring Gifts	342,279	323,457	350,931	360,045	360,199
Board Solicitation Major Gifts	42,475	73,400	0	53,613	58,932
Convention Revenue	114,820	0	291,294	0	280,892
Project Program Revenue	72,248	24,206	16,210	89,025	73,978
Brand & Promo Materials Rev	19,380	30,360	316,269	61,902	67,852
Ballot Access Donations	45,954	135,292	149,819	130,474	46,453
Publications Materials Other	7,959	13,967	15,186	6,344	210
Other Revenue & Offsets	1	55	607	627	1,372
<b>Total Support and Revenue</b>	1,590,712	1,117,751	2,624,990	1,459,157	1,771,997
<b>Cost of Support and Revenue</b>					
Fundraising Costs	125,461	101,756	200,931	182,755	155,448
Membership Fundraising Costs	108,366	95,903	129,798	207,658	217,133
Direct Costs	120,936	0	218,607	0	275,604
Convention	8,831	22,828	5,830	0	9,201
Ballot Access Other Project Fundraising	5,945	81	1,175	9,732	60
<b>Total Cost of Support and Revenue</b>	369,539	220,568	556,341	400,246	657,446
<b>Net Support Available for Programs</b>	1,221,173	897,183	2,068,650	1,058,911	1,114,551
<b>Program Expense</b>					
Administrative Costs	276,911	250,039	361,626	355,873	333,519
Compensation	526,069	411,146	489,582	507,566	534,820
Affiliate Support	4,883	18,737	45,026	55,356	83,274
Brand & Promo Materials Exp	12,578	40,796	368,331	73,924	50,663
Campus Outreach	0	732	0	750	0
Candidate, Campaign & Initiatives	289	6,804	36,948	18,513	102,022
Ballot Access Petitioning Related Exp	106,696	107,502	393,092	130,818	148,173
Litigation	11,047	1,839	6,841	5,153	4,414
Media	119	145	5,367	10,313	31,078
Member Communication and Materials	60,395	39,396	81,340	61,035	50,484
Outreach	6,098	4,541	6,169	6,027	8,361
Project Program Other	2,500	7,261	0	739	4,927
<b>Total Program Expense</b>	1,007,585	888,938	1,794,323	1,226,067	1,351,735
<b>Net Operating Surplus (or Deficit)</b>	213,588	8,245	274,327	-167,156	-237,183



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