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FW: To Those Who Would Make Kings

1 message

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Tue, Oct 13, 2026 at 7:36 AM

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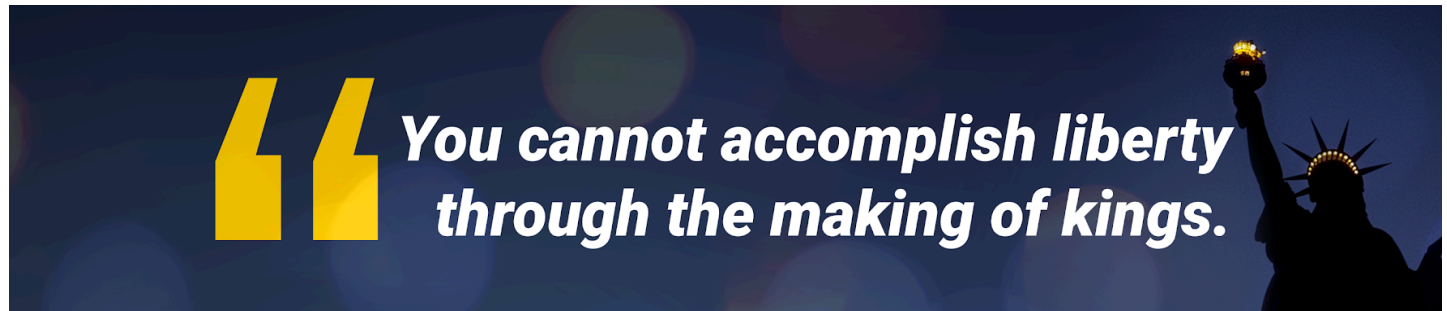
To: "Inc-public@googlegroups.com" <Inc-public@googlegroups.com>

From: Keith Thompson <keith.thompson@lp.org>

Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2026 1:36:22 PM (UTC+00:00) Monrovia, Reykjavik

To: LNC Public <Inc-public@lp.org>; Inc-public_forward <Inc-public_forward@lp.org>

Subject: To Those Who Would Make Kings



It has been said that the Libertarian Party should invoke the “kingmaker strategy,” where we withdraw or withhold candidates to help a perceived lesser evil win.

Few championed this cause more than the former leadership of the Libertarian Party of Colorado – birthing what they called the “Liberty Pledge.” In 2023, Colorado’s Libertarian and Republican Party Chairs entered an arrangement whereby the LPCO would have candidates withdraw or not run in exchange for a pledge from old-party candidates to do certain things, like stand against war.

In February 2024, LPCO candidate Eric Joss rightfully called Republican Gabe Evans “**clearly no friend of liberty.**”

However, a few short months later, Evans would sign the pledge, presumably with his fingers crossed, and the LPCO's leadership at the time pressured Joss to drop out and support Republican Gabe Evans.

Having cleared the way for a Republican victory, LPCO leadership talked of a new era of cooperation between Libertarians and Republicans. The LPCO Chair at the time said in a broadcast this was “a huge success,” doing a victory lap - before leaving to become a Democrat.



Colorado Libertarian endorses Republican Gabe Evans, exits competitive 8th CD race | TRAIL MIX

By Ernest Luning & Colorado Politics

Published September 6, 2024 11:30am | Updated April 23, 2025 6:18am

A prominent group in the LP called this “a strategy to play kingmaker in larger elections,” supporting the idea that we should extract concessions in exchange for dropping out and endorsing old-party candidates.

We are now seeing the fruits of that strategy, with “Libertarian”-backed Gabe Evans having signed the pledge and won his race, only to pivot from a pledge of non-aggression to supporting Trump’s war in Iran and his unilateral import taxes.



**Libertarian-Endorsed Republican
Gabe Evans supporting ICE detentions**

There is an idea in the Party that we should drag concessions from the failed old parties of big government – and in a way they're right – we should leverage our power.

But *how* you leverage political power makes all the difference.

Clearing the way for old-party candidates to win, sometimes even endorsing them, does not force them in our direction – it doesn't change their hearts or bestow upon them principles. It extracts a campaign promise and nothing more.

But there is a way:

Run candidates in every election in which we can field them.

Fight for ballot access in every state.

Field unapologetically Libertarian candidates who understand that taxation is theft, that government is force, and that no one has the right to run your life but you – candidates who support gun rights and gay rights, the rights of migrants and of citizens – candidates who support everyone's freedoms, every time, everywhere.

Across the country we have seen many Libertarian victories, and we increasingly see aside "Libertarian," the word "*incumbent*."

But even when we don't win, we can cover the spread between victory and loss. This margin is a weapon to be wielded, not to be thrown away to the first campaign promise whispered our way.

Running solid, consistent candidates forces the old parties to adopt our policies, forces them to move our way - not because they said so, but because they must.

A kingmaker strategy can only make kings, but principled consistency *breaks* them.

I am thrilled to see the Libertarian Party of Colorado correct course and [slam Gabe Evans for breaking his pledge](#). We cannot stand as a new Party if we're cowering to the old ones, and Colorado has not only pulled support for Gabe Evans, but they did the right thing and denounced the so-called "Liberty Pledge" kingmaker scheme in whole.



Libertarian Party of Colorado Denounces and Nullifies "Liberty Pledge"

The recently elected State Board of the Libertarian Party of Colorado has formally denounced and nullified the so-called "Liberty Pledge," following a vote taken during its Monday evening meeting.

During the 2024 election cycle, the Liberty Pledge was used by the previous Libertarian Party leadership as a mechanism to support Republican candidates who were claimed to hold "libertarian-leaning" views. In several races, the Libertarian Party leadership showed support for Republican candidates who signed the Liberty Pledge.

The current State Board determined that the Liberty Pledge conflicts with the Libertarian Party of Colorado's bylaws, which were adopted by party members. Those bylaws explicitly state that the Party and its Board may endorse only Libertarian Party nominees for partisan public office.



Libertarian Party Slams Gabe Evans for Breaking Pledge and Supporting Iran War

by
Jason Salzman

posted on
October 12, 2026

The Libertarian Party of Colorado slammed U.S. Rep. Gabe Evans on Thursday, stating in a news release that by backing Trump's war in Iran, Evans not only violated his oath to the U.S. Constitution, but also a deal he struck with Libertarians in 2024, under which the Libertarian Party backed Evans' candidacy in exchange for Evans' pledge to support specific Libertarian Party positions.

This cycle, the new LPCO leadership is running [Dave Wood for Colorado's CD8](#) against Gabe Evans, and this leadership won't pressure him to sell out for the empty promises of the failed old parties. Dave Wood is considered by many to be a Libertarian hero for serving over a year in prison due to his opposition to the draft, and liberty-minded voters would do well to support his campaign and vote for him in the upcoming election.

It is through running strong, principled candidates that we can win - both through outright victories and by forcing the old parties to adopt better positions. We cannot accomplish our goals through bowing to so-called lesser evils. Bowing to the so-called "omnipotent" state only signals weakness, undermines our purpose, and betrays our goal.

Our goal is not to make kings or support the failed old parties of the past.

Our goal is nothing less than a *world* of principle and non-aggression, a world in celebration of the diversity that freedom brings.

Our goal is nothing less than a world set free in our lifetime.

Sincerely,



Keith Thompson

At-Large Representative

Libertarian National Committee

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LP.org/ThompsonDonor

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