

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STATE COMMITTEE
OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF NEW YORK
HELD ON SUNDAY, JUNE 28, 2026
ON THE ZOOM MEETING APP AND PORCUPINE APP**

MEMBERS PRESENT (22)

Mark N. Axinn (JD1)
Paul M. Grindle (JD2)
Justin N. Carman (JD3)
Daniel J. Castello (JD5)
James B. Fitch (JD5)
Erinn Rose Leatherman (JD5)
Mark S. Braiman (JD6)
Charles E. Dorgan (JD6)
Samuel J. Hordeski (JD6)
Steven G. Becker (JD7)
Sean C. Phelan (JD7)
Andrew M. Kolstee (JD8)
Duane J. Whitmer (JD8)
Pietro S. Geraci (JD9)
Catrina Rocco (JD9)
Jonathan H. Gunther (JD10)

Vincent J. O'Neill (JD10)
Blay Tarnoff (JD10)
Susan B. Overeem-Cummings (JD13)
David B. "Chance" Haywood (ex-officio)
Richard F. Purtell (ex-officio)
Christopher Skelly (ex-officio)

MEMBERS ABSENT (10)

Morry C. Davis (JD1)
Gary S. Popkin (JD2)
Evan D. Lebrecht (JD3)
Justin M. Pelletier (JD7)
Maura E. Botsford (JD8)
Wendi E. Szabo (JD8)
William K. Schmidt (JD9)
Christian L. Padgett (JD10)
Robert E. Schuon (JD10)
Irwin Mark Weinblatt (JD11)

The meeting was **called to order** at 6:10 p.m. by Duane Whitmer, Chair.

Secretary Andrew Kolstee conducted a roll. Twenty (20) of thirty-two (32) voting members of the State Committee present at the time of the roll call. Charles Dorgan and Susan Overeem-Cummings later entered the meeting. The Secretary determined that a quorum was always present during the meeting.

Chair Duane Whitmer issued opening remarks. He was in the town of Scriba recently. Someone had recorded a meeting from their seat, and the county attorney tried to have them arrested. In Chautauqua County, the county attorney is looking to limit FOIL requests because they are getting too many requests and are looking to hire another position for \$105,000. He also mentioned a Board of Assessment Review in the town of Avon.

Motion by Christopher Skelly to **adopt the agenda (Exhibit 1)** was seconded by Andrew Kolstee. Chance Haywood objected, due to a lack of a Treasurer's report on the agenda. Andrew Kolstee added the report to the agenda. The **agenda was adopted** without objection.

Chance Haywood issued a Treasurer's Report in writing (**Exhibit 2**). The Humanitru CRM was discussed.

The Chair opened nominations for the Elections Oversight Committee.

Andrew Kolstee nominated Justin Carman (JD3) and he accepted the nomination.

Andrew Kolstee nominated Catrina Rocco (JD9) and she accepted the nomination.

Justin Carman (JD3) and Catrina Rocco (JD9) were elected to the Elections Oversight Committee without objection.

Communications Director Christopher Skelly issued a report in writing (**Exhibit 3**). He reported on social media statistics.

Fundraising Director Mark Axinn issued a report. There was not much to report, but he donated. He is hoping that the new Executive Director can help with fundraising. Chance Haywood mentioned that the Libertarian Party of New York is not receiving the updated list from the National Libertarian Party. Fundraising was further discussed.

IT Director Justin Carman issued a report. He is working with Catrina Rocco to set the website up for registrations for the convention.

Legislative Affairs Director Richard Purtell issued a report. The legislative session has ended. He is still pursuing redefining the distinction between independent petitions and minor party petitions. He said that four members of the election law committee have expressed support. Catrina Rocco is urging members to go to their county committees and to talk to their local officials.

Outreach Director Pietro Geraci issued a report in writing (**Exhibit 4**). There is an individual in Broome County who may put together a college Libertarians group there. He also said that Ranked Choice Voting is likely to be on the ballot in Albany. He also mentioned a documentary.

Political Director Paul Grindle issued a report. He has spoken with candidates recruited by Duane Whitmer and is running them through major party primaries. There is also a disagreement between a longtime Libertarian Party member and the Westchester-Putnam Libertarian Party regarding incumbent Putnam County Executive Patrick Byrne, who has secured the Libertarian Party ballot line, against the wishes of the Westchester-Putnam Libertarian Party. Byrne was unable to secure the Conservative Party ballot line. The affiliate supported the Working Families Party candidate. Catrina Rocco reported that Patrick Byrne allegedly submitted a request to the Putnam County Board of Elections to be dropped from the Libertarian Party ballot line. She is exploring potential legal action after consulting the Board of Elections.

Volunteer Director Catrina Rocco issued a report. There are only 13 volunteers on her list, and she is looking to do another call for volunteers.

Conventions Oversight Committee Chair Catrina Rocco issued a report.

Motion by Andrew Kolstee to **amend the Rules of the Libertarian Party to adopt Kolstee Amendment A as follows** was seconded by Mark Axinn and debated. Mark Braiman objected for the reason that the Madison County Libertarian Party has already scheduled their State Committee representative elections.

6.5.2.1. **CANDIDATE REGISTRATION.** Any LPNY Member is eligible to be a candidate for the State Committee. Each candidate must register their candidacy with the Elections Oversight Committee, which shall review each candidate's eligibility and provide the final list of candidates to the County Affiliates within the respective Judicial District. The deadline for registration shall be ~~April 30~~ **three (3) months before the scheduled organization meeting** in the year of the election of the State Committee.

Andrew Kolstee reported that the second notice for candidate registration had been sent out late, and that this delay would allow those who registered after the April 30 deadline to still be included as candidates. In response to a question about which candidates this affected, Andrew Kolstee identified them as Richard Purtell, Evan Lebrecht, Duane Whitmer, Theresa Corrigan, and Nicole Hewson.

Motion by Mark Axinn to **suspend the Rules of the Libertarian Party to permit the five individuals who had registered shortly after the deadline (Richard Purtell, Evan Lebrecht, Duane Whitmer, Theresa Corrigan, and Nicole Hewson) to be included as candidates for State Committee** was seconded by Christopher Skelly.

Andrew Kolstee raised a point of order, objecting that the motion was out of order on the grounds that the Rules of the Libertarian Party cannot be suspended. The Chair ruled the motion in order. Motion by Andrew Kolstee to **appeal the ruling of the Chair. The ruling of the chair was sustained 8-6-7:**

VOTES IN FAVOR (8)

Mark Axinn
Steven Becker
Mark Braiman
Charles Dorgan
James Fitch
Rose Leatherman
Vincent O'Neill
Richard Purtell

VOTES AGAINST (6)

Justin Carman
Paul Grindle
Chance Haywood
Andrew Kolstee
Susan Overeem-Cummings
Catrina Rocco
ABSTENTIONS (7)
Daniel Castello

Jonathan Gunther
Samuel Hordeski
Sean Phelan
Christopher Skelly
Blay Tarnoff
Duane Whitmer
DID NOT VOTE (1)
Pietro Geraci

The original motion to **suspend the Rules of the Libertarian Party to permit the five individuals who had registered shortly after the deadline (Richard Purtell, Evan Lebrecht, Duane Whitmer, Theresa Corrigan, and Nicole Hewson) to be included as candidates for State Committee** was objected to by Andrew Kolstee and Chance Haywood, and debated, and passed 10-3-8 (see **Appendix 1A** for the question on Porcupine):

VOTES IN FAVOR (10)

Mark Axinn¹
Steven Becker
Mark Braiman
Charles Dorgan
James Fitch²
Rose Leatherman
Vincent O'Neill³
Susan Overeem-Cummings

Richard Purtell

Catrina Rocco

VOTES AGAINST (3)

Paul Grindle
Chance Haywood⁴
Andrew Kolstee

ABSTENTIONS (8)

Justin Carman
Daniel Castello

Jonathan Gunther⁵

Samuel Hordeski

Sean Phelan

Christopher Skelly

Blay Tarnoff

Duane Whitmer

DID NOT VOTE (1)

Pietro Geraci

The motion to **amend the Rules of the Libertarian Party to adopt Kolstee Amendment A as follows** returned to the floor.

6.5.2.1. **CANDIDATE REGISTRATION.** Any LPNY Member is eligible to be a candidate for the State Committee. Each candidate must register their candidacy with the Elections Oversight Committee, which shall review each candidate's eligibility and provide the final list of candidates to the County Affiliates within the respective Judicial District. The deadline for registration shall be ~~April 30~~ **three (3) months before the scheduled organization meeting** in the year of the election of the State Committee.

Motion by Andrew Kolstee to **suspend the Rules of the Libertarian Party to consider the adoption of an amendment to Kolstee Amendment A** was seconded by Justin Carman and passed by voice vote.

¹ In the Porcupine question, Mark Axinn was unable to cast a vote due to technical difficulties; he voted verbally in favor of the motion.

² In the Porcupine question, James Fitch was unable to cast a vote due to technical difficulties; he voted verbally in favor of the motion.

³ In the Porcupine question, Vincent O'Neill was unable to cast a vote due to technical difficulties; he voted verbally in favor of the motion.

⁴ In the Porcupine question, Chance Haywood was unable to cast a vote due to technical difficulties; he voted verbally against the motion.

⁵ In the Porcupine question, Jonathan Gunther was unable to cast a vote due to technical difficulties; he voted verbally to abstain.

Motion by Andrew Kolstee to **amend the Rules of the Libertarian Party to adopt the amendments as follows** was seconded by Mark Axinn and passed without objection.

6.5.2.1. **CANDIDATE REGISTRATION.** Any LPNY Member is eligible to be a candidate for the State Committee. Each candidate must register their candidacy with the Elections Oversight Committee, which shall review each candidate's eligibility and provide the final list of candidates to the County Affiliates within the respective Judicial District. The deadline for registration shall be ~~April 30~~ ~~three (3) months before the scheduled organization meeting~~ **July 5** in the year of the election of the State Committee.

6.5.2.6. **VOTING DEADLINE.** The deadline for voting for Judicial District representatives shall be ~~July 31~~ **August 31** in the year of the election of the State Committee.

6.5.2.7. **RESULTS.** The minutes of the meeting of the County Affiliate in which the election(s) occur must be provided to the Elections Oversight Committee, which shall be used to certify the results. The certification must be completed before ~~August 31~~ **September 30** in the year of the election of the State Committee.

Motion by Mark Axinn to **adjourn** was seconded by Daniel Castello and passed without objection.

The meeting was **adjourned** at 7:57 p.m.

Andrew M. Kolstee
Secretary

Exhibit 1 (page 1 of 2)

LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF NEW YORK AGENDA OF THE STATE COMMITTEE MEETING OF SUNDAY, JUNE 28, 2026

6:00 P.M. Call to Order (Duane Whitmer, Chair)

6:05 P.M. Roll Call and Confirmation of Quorum (Andrew Kolstee, Secretary)

6:10 P.M. Opening Remarks (Duane Whitmer, Chair)

6:15 P.M. Adoption of Agenda

6:20 P.M. Treasurer's Report (Chance Haywood)

6:30 P.M. Filling of Vacancies on the Elections Oversight Committee

6:45 P.M. Division and Committee Reports

Communications (Christopher Skelly)
Fundraising (Mark Axinn)
IT (Justin Carman)
Legislative Affairs (Richard Purtell)
Outreach (Pietro Geraci)
Political (Paul Grindle)
Volunteer (Catrina Rocco)
Conventions Oversight Committee (Catrina Rocco)

7:30 P.M. Old business

7:45 P.M. New business

Exhibit 1 (page 2 of 2)

KOLSTEE AMENDMENT A. Extend the deadline for State Committee candidate registration.

6.5.2.1. **CANDIDATE REGISTRATION.** Any LPNY Member is eligible to be a candidate for the State Committee. Each candidate must register their candidacy with the Elections Oversight Committee, which shall review each candidate's eligibility and provide the final list of candidates to the County Affiliates within the respective Judicial District. The deadline for registration shall be ~~April 30 three (3) months before the scheduled organization meeting~~ **July 5** in the year of the election of the State Committee.

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8:30 P.M. Adjournment

Exhibit 2

LIBERTARIAN PARTY NEW YORK

Treasurer's Report June 1, 2026

Beginning Balance May 1, 2026 :	\$46,215.27		
Income			
Credit Cards via Stripe	\$438.39		
Checks	\$200.00		
Cash	\$0.00		
Crypto	\$0.00		
Miscellaneous	\$0.00		
Total Income :	\$638.39		
Expenses :			
Monthly Reoccurring Expenses	\$266.95		
Yearly Reoccurring Expenses	\$37.46		
Credit Card Processing & Bank Fees	\$32.65		
Refunds	\$0.00		
Miscellaneous	\$150.00		
Total Expenses :	\$487.06		
Ending Balance May 31, 2026 :		\$46,366.60	
Stripe			
acct_1IhffNALTW3lt3ov	\$20.19		
Key Bank			
#2035 (Income)	\$1,600.21		
#1763 (Expenses)	\$2,228.70		
Chase Bank			
#9007	\$27,000.00		
#5071 (Ballot Access Fund)	\$15,517.50		
Cash Equivalent & Cash on Hand May 31, 2026		\$46,366.60	

Chance Haywood, Treasurer

Exhibit 3

Libertarian Party of New York

Communications Report June 2026

Social Media Overview

Social Media Engagement Metrics for 2026 (Year-to-Date)

The following table summarizes key performance indicators for impressions and follower growth across LPNY's primary social media platforms from January 1, 2026, through the present date.

Platform	Impressions	Current Follower Count
X	1.017M	10,641
FB	3.015M	20,311

Press Mentions

The Libertarian Party of New York has received multiple recent media citations highlighting our positions on housing policy and government accountability.

- **The Guardian** quoted the Party in coverage of Zohran Mamdani's rent freeze in New York City. The article included the following statements from LPNY:
"Rent freezes exacerbate the housing crisis."
"NYC already has decades of rent regulations contributing to chronic shortages. Adding a freeze on top of that doubles down on the same mistake by punishing property owners rather than fixing the real problem: artificial scarcity created by government barriers to building."
- **Syracuse.com** quoted the Party regarding the recent ICE-related incident involving a poll worker in Syracuse. The coverage included the following statements from LPNY:
"The New York State Libertarian Party called the agents' behavior 'unacceptable government intimidation.'"
"In a free society, Americans have the right to criticize public officials, comment on law enforcement actions, and call for accountability through the legal system. Relying on news reports to name an agent already identified in the press and advocating for an indictment is protected political speech."

This report reflects the continued growth of the Party's digital reach and our success in advancing libertarian messaging through both social media and traditional press.

Exhibit 4 (page 1 of 2)

Apologies for the delay in reports; I've been incredibly busy. Here are my updates in no particular order:

- I. Nathan Dingy resigned as Ontario County Acting County Chair
- II. I had some inquiries from Genesee County but have had trouble following up with them
- III. Someone from Albany County reached out. He has campaign experience and a law degree but after so many rounds of phone tag I gave up trying to contact him
- IV. I spoke to one of my contacts in Broome County. He is going to talk to the bitcoin groups at SUNY Binghamton and Cornell about potentially starting College Libertarians chapters
- V. I have begun compiling a list of local events this summer that the LPNY could table at. The list is in Discord.
- VI. It looks like Ranked Choice Voting will be on the ballot! Reach out to Unite NY for more information.
- VII. Visit their [site](#) to see upcoming events, including op-ed and RCV promotion training
 - A. They put on screening events for *Majority Rules*, a documentary about RCV. Visit [here](#) for more information
- VIII. A potential Acting Chair from Steuben County expressed his desire to visit neighboring affiliates
- IX. A Rotterdam Councilman inquired about starting an affiliate in Schenectady County but that game of phone tag has borne no fruit.
- X. I have several orgs to reach out to from the National Convention
- XI. County Convention Season is approaching!

Exhibit 4 (page 2 of 2)

Complaints and Advice Regarding County Affiliates

- I. Meeting information on LPNY website is not current for many affiliates
- II. It is notoriously difficult for newcomers to contact some affiliates or learn about their meetings. Every affiliate should have its own website
- III. State Committee Reps should be checking in with affiliates within their JD, especially those without their own rep
- IV. Affiliate leaders need to make calls to enrolled Libertarians ahead of meetings and events. Facebook posts and emails don't cut it - these are passive recruitment measures. Calling is **active** recruitment! If you have to leave a message, call back a few days later. I've gotten people to show up by calling them - it works!
 - A. **Remember, if you're not growing, you're dying!**
- V. Affiliates should meet on a monthly basis.
 - A. Making one of these a social event every other month is a good idea
 - B. Bimonthly meetings inhibit growth
- VI. Not a single county affiliate has implemented the local action plans drafted by the Strategic Planning Committee. I'm here to help with those, so county leaders should give them another look.

Appendix 1A

Shall we suspend the rules to permit the aforementioned 5 individuals to be timely nominated?

Expired at 6/28/2026, 7:48:36 PM



16 responses submitted.

