



Free New York

LATE SUMMER 2025

by Andrew Kolstee
LPNY Secretary

Here are the latest updates in the Libertarian Party of New York.

2025 Candidates

We have at least two candidates on the ballot this year, Matthew Morgan, running for New York City Council. In Syracuse, the Onondaga County Libertarian Party has cross-endorsed Thomas Babilon for Mayor, who is running on the Republican line. Please reach out if you would like to help their campaigns.

Ballot Access Bills

There are still no updates on the

Senate bill (S01870) or Assembly bill (A02724), which would reduce the thresholds for independent and third-party ballot access. Both remain in committee and did not move forward in this last session. Please contact your State Senator and Assemblymember to express your support for these critical reforms.

Fall In-Person Event

The Executive Committee is finalizing details for an October in-person event in Rochester. The full announcement will be sent when details are finalized. If you have recommendations or would like to assist in planning, please reach out to us at info@lpny.org.

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2026 National Convention

We are still gathering names of those interested in serving as Delegates to the 2026 Libertarian National Convention in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Send to info@lpny.org.

LPNY.org/donate



In Memoriam
**Donald
Silberger**
1930-2025

The Libertarian Party of New York mourns the loss of longtime party activist and candidate, Donald “Don” Silberger, who died on July 22, 2025, at the age of 95.

He was deeply involved in the Libertarian Party of New York, serving as a candidate for statewide office multiple times, a Presidential Elector in several national elections, and holding leadership roles locally and on the State Committee, including a term as a Vice-Chair of the party.

Silberger was born on February 26, 1930, in York, Pennsylvania and graduated from York High School. He earned a scholarship to Harvard University and attended medical school, later teaching high school physics and chemistry for two years in East Cleveland. He then pursued graduate studies at the University

of Washington, and earned his PhD in mathematics.

He became a mathematics professor at SUNY New Paltz, where he also served as faculty advisor for a college libertarian group in the late 1990s. He discovered libertarianism around 1991 and quickly became an active member of the Libertarian Party.

He ran for public office several times as a Libertarian. In 1998, he was the party’s nominee for Lieutenant Governor of New York alongside gubernatorial candidate Chris Garvey. He ran again for Lieutenant Governor in 2006 with gubernatorial candidate John Clifton. In 2004, he was the party’s candidate for U.S. Senate. He also served as a Libertarian Presidential Elector for Harry Browne (1996, 2000),

Michael Badnarik (2004), and Bob Barr (2008).

Within the Libertarian Party of New York, Silberger served in many leadership roles. He was Chair and State Representative for the Hudson Valley Libertarian Party during the 1990s and early 2000s. He was elected three times as a Member-at-Large of the State Committee (2001-2002; 2006-2008) and later served as Vice-Chair of the LPNY from 2010 to 2011.

In his 2004 U.S. Senate campaigning website autobiography, he described himself as a “former self-declared liberal” who realized that libertarianism better represented his long-held values.

SUPPORT THE LPNY!

by Mark Axinn
LPNY Fundraising Director

I am saddened to report the passing of a good friend and great Libertarian, Donald Silberger. Donald was 95, living in New Paltz where he had retired from teaching mathematics at SUNY New Paltz, and very concerned for our country in these days of authoritarian prejudice against anyone who does not tow the government line.

So what can we do?

To start, we can continue to support Libertarian candidates and causes as an alternative to the big government welfare/warfare world which we currently encounter everywhere we look. Whether it's an anti-prohibition or pro-individuality activity, we can still stick our finger in the eye of the oppressor to let them know how much we object to the status quo. Donald did that all his life, and we should too to honor his memory.

We are a small sound of sanity in a sea of statism, and it is important for us to keep at it to prevent the

tyrants from imposing even worse nanny-state despotism than they already have.

Of course that takes money. Please join me and donate to the Libertarian Party of New York today. You can do it easily on the website at LPNY.org

Please send a donation today in Donald's memory. You will feel so much better than when paying taxes.

Thanks so much!

**Support the
LPNY and Donate!**

LPNY.org/donate

ORANGE COUNTY COMMUNITY DAYS

by **Pietro Geraci**
LPNY Outreach Director
Orange County Vice-Chair

The Orange County Libertarian Party braved torrential rains to recruit new members at the Town of Newburgh Community Day last month. Despite the weather, the

event was well-attended and many people stopped by the table to learn more about the who we are and how we're working to improve the political landscape and win back people's liberties. People obtained raffle tickets by signing up for our email list and/or taking the World's

Smallest Political Quiz. We hope to see some of them at our next meeting.

Special thanks to Becca Gente for putting the gift baskets together and to Daniel Donnelly of Dutchess County for tabling with our affiliate.

U.S. DEBT

by **Rick Miller**
Contributing Writer

'If only the rich paid their taxes...'

'If we put illegal immigrants in 4-star hotels instead of 5-star hotels the country wouldn't have these problems'

I looked online to see what opinions there were about the U.S. defaulting on its debt. There were well-thought-out views and there were views such as above.

The quoted views are emotional conclusions. If only people would do a fact check before making statements such as these.

With respect to the rich; the rich do pay more taxes than any other

group, and by more, I mean not only number of dollars but percentages as well. That's not to deny there are some deductions (loopholes if you prefer) that should be eliminated.

What about those illegals destroying government budgets because we spend so much money on them? It is easy to blame this group. What we spend on illegal immigrants is small compared to government spending on defense, Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. We must address these programs if we hope to get control of our government's dangerous fiscal condition, by which I mean its debt.

I cite these examples to illustrate how the left and right use scapegoats. The fact is that under Democratic rule we get \$2 trillion dollar

deficits and under Republican rule we get the same.

One of the well-thought-out online views about U.S. debt is from the University of Pennsylvania business school. It concluded we have maybe 20 years to get our fiscal house in order to avoid the financial catastrophe of debt default. Another is a Brookings Institute survey of the debt and how serious our problem is.

The government can avoid default for a time by creating more money. That is, of course, a catastrophe; it is simply a postponed default that creates conditions such as Zimbabwe and The Weimar Republic experienced.

HELP US GET A02724 AND S01870 PASSED

These bills, if passed would lower the ballot access thresholds back to the previous standards: the number of votes needed to get ballot access to 50,000 (from 130,000 or 2%), and lower the petition signature requirement for a statewide office to 15,000 (from 45,000).

Contact your representatives in the New York State Legislature and ask them to these bills!

Contact Legislative Affairs Director Rich Purtell at rpurtell@lpny.org to get involved with pushing these bills.

See pages 6-7 for County Reports

Don't see your county listed?

**We are looking for Libertarians
to organize new County Affiliates!**

Contact us for more details!

affiliates@lpny.org

You're Cordially Invited to the

MID HUDSON LIBERTARIAN GALA

PAMELA'S ON THE HUDSON
1 PARK PLACE, NEWBURGH, NY 12550

September 28, 2025, at 3:30- 7:30 PM

General Ticket/Committee Member Ticket \$75/\$70

VIP Experiences Start @ \$125

Sponsorships & Advertisements Start @ \$25

Scan QR Code to Purchase Tickets/Sponsorships



EDUCATION CHOICE AND PROPERTY RIGHTS

by Vincent O'Neill
State Committee Member (JD10)

Property Rights will be improved through creating educational choice based on the withdrawal of consent.

The purpose of Public Schools is control, not education.

The issue of educational choice, and the related question of educational quality, is supremely important. Two proposed solutions fail to address the real problem, while also creating additional problems.

One proposal to address the issue is through the use of 'tuition tax credits'; another is through "charter schools."

A variable tax credit will leave taxpayers continually at the mercy of Republicans and Democrats. Varying levels of 'tax credits' will continually be manipulated to the detriment of everyone.

The problem with "charter schools" is that although they are currently marginally better than public schools, they are continually lowering their quality and amount to little more than a Trojan horse to end private schools altogether.

The problem was summed up by

Ludwig Von Mises:

"The school thus becomes the source of irreconcilable national conflict and 'a political prize of highest importance.' With respect to the debate over compulsory education, Mises emphasizes, the only effective solution is to de-politicize schooling by abolishing both compulsory education laws and political involvement with schools, leaving the education of children "entirely to parents and to private associations and institutions". Joseph Salerno, "Nation, Migration, and Trade," pp. 14-15.

The proper solution therefore becomes obvious.

The basis for addressing the issues of school and property tax and educational choice is the withdrawal of consent.

Withdrawal of Consent, the School Tax and Educational Choice

1. If you never attended public schools, you never consented to them, and should be exempt from school tax.

2. If you attended public schools but have children in private schools instead, you will be exempt from the

school tax for any first through 12th grade year that you have children in private schools.

The school tax resumes for these people after their children graduate, since they previously consented to the public school system through their previous attendance.

3. Businesses should NOT pay the school tax. Only individuals who have been or currently are part of the system should pay.

Businesses are not people and have therefore never consented. The school tax portion of the property tax should either be entirely eliminated immediately, or steadily reduced as part of a longer term complete phase out.

It is important to make a good start in this direction.

An example would be steady 5% or 10% reductions each year, for a minimum of 6 consecutive years. This will provide a large and steady tax reduction, improve business profitability, provide increased employment opportunities, and increase competition between localities.

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Charter School Phase Out

Charter schools are currently taxpayer-funded.

Charter schools must move away from public funding and towards fully private funding.

An arithmetical progression will provide the foundation.

Charter schools taxpayer funding will be reduced by 1% per year for first 3 years, 2% per year for next 3 years, 3% for next 3 years, 4% for next 3 years, etc.

The charter schools will gradually raise the tuition charged, and also ask for private donations.

Funding for Grades K-12

Current taxpayer funding is the limit.

A. Cutting the Budget

Funding will be eliminated for the following expenses: Transportation, School Psychologist and Pensions.

Transportation in particular is a large and lucrative market requiring competition.

The purpose of a school psychologist is to protect teaching failures.

On the other hand, if a parent wants

to send his child to a psychologist, they are free to do so and accept the cost. School employees are not qualified to make this judgement.

Pensions, when not required by law, should not be provided.

B. Ask graduates of the school, and others who live in the school district, for voluntary contributions to make up the revenue loss.

C. Reduce the number of employees
The U.S. Department of Education reports that since 1950, the number of K-12 public school students has increased 96%.

The number of public school teachers increased 243%.

The total number of public school employees has increased by 709%, according to the Heritage Foundation.

The Current System of Property Assessments

Changes in Market Value

Yearly property tax assessments are based on 'estimated market value of a property.' Market values can fluctuate due to various factors, including the local real estate market, economic conditions, and recent sales of comparable homes.

In addition, improvements and alterations increase assessed value. You are penalized financially for

improving your home.

All of these factors provide Republicans and Democrats excuses to raise your property tax without a vote.

Assessed Value

The major change is this. The assessed value should be the price you paid for the home. Period.

It will not constantly increase so Republicans and Democrats can perpetually raise our taxes without a vote.

This one item gives everyone a property tax cut.

State and local taxes should be cut at the state and local level.

COUNTY AFFILIATE NEWS

BRONX

CONTACT:

Kim Antonio,
Acting County Chair

CHAUTAUQUA

NEXT MEETING:

Tues., Sept. 9, 2025 @ 7:00 PM
on Zoom
(second Tuesdays)

CONTACT:

Andrew Kolstee, Chair
akolstee@lpny.org

LEARN MORE:

www.chautauquaLP.org
fb.com/chautauquaLP

CHEMUNG

CONTACT:

Nick Grasso, Chair
ngrass89@yahoo.com

LEARN MORE:

lpchemung.org

COLUMBIA

NEXT MEETING:

Wed., Sept. 17, 2025 @ 7 PM
Google Meet
(third Wednesdays)

CONTACT:

Scott Hoskins, Chair
scottdhoskins@gmail.com

DUTCHESS

NEXT MEETING:

Sat., Sept. 20, 2025 @ 5 PM
Village Restaurant
& Pancake Factory
1540 Route 44, Pleasant Valley
(3rd Saturdays)

CONTACT:

Robert Cocomello, Chair
Catrina Rocco, Vice-Chair
info@dutchesscountylp.org

LEARN MORE:

dutchesscountylp.org

ERIE

CONTACT:

Duane Whitmer, Chair
chairman@eriecountylp.org

KINGS (BROOKLYN)

NEXT MEETING:

Tues., Sept. 16, 2025 at 3 PM
@ Fourth Avenue Pub
76 4th Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11217
(3rd Tuesdays)

CONTACT:

Christopher Skelly, Chair
cskelly@lpny.org

MADISON

CONTACT:

Mark Braiman, Chair
mbraiman@lpny.org

MONROE

NEXT MEETING:

Thurs., Sept. 4, 2025 @ 7 PM
(first Thursdays)
Contact us for the link.

CONTACT:

Steve Becker, Chair
drsbecker@aol.com

LEARN MORE:

monroecountylp.org
Ask about the Google Group
and social meetings

NASSAU

NEXT MEETING:

Thurs., Sept. 11, 2025 at 7 PM
@ Landmark Diner
(2nd Thursdays)

CONTACT:

Jon Gunther,
Executive Committee Chair
jonguntherlibertarian@gmail.com

Blay Tarnoff,

County Committee Chair
LPNY@eblay.com

NEW YORK (MANHATTAN)

MONTHLY SOCIAL

Wed., Sept. 10, 2025 at 7-9 PM
@ PubKey Bar
85 Washington Pl.
New York, NY 10011
(second Wednesdays)

CONTACT:

Chance Haywood, Chair
chaywood@lpny.org

ONEIDA

CONTACT:

Keith Redhead, Chair
kredhead@lpny.org

ONONDAGA

NEXT MEETING:

Wed., Sept. 17, 2025 at 6:30 PM
Liverpool Public Library
(3rd Wednesdays)

CONTACT:

Rachel Becker, Chair
reb4128@rit.edu
onondagacountyyp@gmail.com

ONTARIO

CONTACT:

Nathan Dingey,
Acting County Chair

ORANGE

NEXT MEETING:

Held 4th Thursdays. Location
varies. Contact us for details.

CONTACT:

Juan Ayala, Chair
livefree@juanrayala.com

QUEENS

NEXT MEETING:

Sat., Sept. 13, 2025 at 12:00 PM
Stamatis Greek
and Mediterranean Restaurant
29-09 23rd Ave., Astoria

CONTACT:

John Clifton, Chair
mrjclifton@yahoo.com

RENSSELAER

NEXT MEETING:

Wed., Sept. 3, 2025 at 6:30 PM
Alexis Diner, North Greenbush
(1st Wednesdays)

CONTACT:

Jennifer O'Connor,
Acting County Chair
joconnor@lpny.org

RICHMOND (STATEN ISLAND)

NEXT MEETING:

Thurs., Sept. 18, 2025 @ 7 PM
@ Coffee and Collectibles
(3rd Thursdays)

CONTACT:

Susan Overeem Cummings,
Chair
susanovereem@gmail.com

SARATOGA

CONTACT:

Naz Garabedien, Chair
nazareth.garabedian
@lawsonproducts.com

SCHOHARIE

CONTACT:

Mason Hovack,
Acting County Chair

SUFFOLK

NEXT MEETING:

Thurs., Sep. 25, 2025 at 6:30 PM
Panera Bread, Deer Park
(4th Thursdays)

CONTACT:

Robert Schuon, Chair
rschuon@mindspring.com

ULSTER

NEXT MEETING:

Mon., Sept. 8, 2025 at 6:30 PM
Hickory BBQ, Kingston, NY
(second Mondays)

CONTACT:

Sam Kniffen, Chair
samkniffen01@gmail.com

LEARN MORE:

www.UlsterLP.org

WAYNE

MONTHLY SOCIAL:

Sat., Sept. 27, 2025 at 10 AM
Yellow Mills Diner
2534 NY-31, Palmyra, NY 14522
(last Saturdays)

CONTACT:

Jim Dayton, Chair
jdayton@lpny.org

LEARN MORE:

lpwaynecounty.org

WESTCHESTER-PUTNAM

CONTACT:

Rajib Maitra, Chair
rajib.maitra1@gmail.com

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Pietro Geraci Outreach Director
Paul Grindle Political Director
Catrina Rocco Volunteer Director

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 Rules Committee Chair
Daniel Castello
 Strategic Planning Committee Chair

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