



Free New York

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The Official Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of New York

February 2026

UPDATES IN THE LPNY

by Andrew Kolstee
LPNY Secretary

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

Larry Sharpe's Campaign

Our candidate for Governor, Larry Sharpe, is continuing to campaign across the state. To learn more about his events, follow his campaign's social media pages and emails. Larry has also recently announced that he plans to run in the Republican Party primary. He would need only 15,000 valid signatures to qualify, and challenge Bruce Blakeman in the Republican primary.

The State Committee will be meeting on March 8, 2026 to nominate the remaining statewide offices: Lt. Governor, Attorney General, and Comptroller.

Petitioning for the Libertarian Party line begins on April 14. Our slate will need over 45,000 valid signa-

tures to get on the ballot.

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. Please contact your State Senator and Assemblymember to express your support for these critical reforms.

2026 State Committee Elections

The elections for the 2026-2028 LPNY State Committee will begin following the election of the Elections Oversight Committee at the State Committee meeting of March 8, 2026. Once the committee forms, registrations for candidates will begin. An email will be sent out when the form is ready.

2026 National Convention

New York has a full slate of Delegates to the 2026 Libertarian Na-

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tional Convention in Grand Rapids, Michigan. We also have several alternates. If you want to be a Delegate, you still have an opportunity to become an alternate in the vent that Delegate positions open up. Contact info@lpny.org if you are interested.

2026 State Convention

Plans for the 2026 convention are underway. Catrina Rocco has been appointed as Chair of the Conventions Oversight Committee to organize the event. This will be where the 2026-2028 State Committee convenes to elect the Executive Committee.

Support the LPNY!
[LPNY.org/donate](https://lpny.org/donate)

CREATING A FREE MARKET IN PRIVATE HOUSING AND CHILD CARE

by Vincent O'Neill
State Committee Member (JD10)

Everyone keeps hearing about an “Affordability Crisis.” This is no surprise, once you notice how Private Property Rights are constantly being abused.

The solution to the problem of affordability will be found through Free markets and property rights.

Free market solutions are based on common sense and consent.

Government interventionist ‘solutions’ are short-sighted, and are based on coercion and limiting choices. They also require unlimited spending and debt, and are designed to allow issues to be postponed until after next election. Their ‘solutions’ never solve anything.

The following are examples of free market solutions based on property rights and consent.

1. All homeowners will be allowed to rent to one tenant income tax free at the state level.

This will be permitted only in the absence of a restrictive covenant which forbids this, which is common in gated communities.

2. Any income provided from a second or additional tenant will taxable at the state and local level.

A family, consisting of parents and children, counts as one tenant. If grandma moves in, she is a second tenant.

A boyfriend and girlfriend, or roommates, count as one tenant. If an additional person moves in, he is a second tenant.

Property owners can rent or decline to rent to anyone they choose. It is their property.

A “certificate of occupancy” will not be required. A tenant may request one, but the homeowner doesn’t need to comply.

It is also worth noting that Jeffrey Tucker pointed out in one of his books that private homeowners mainly want steady income and a reliable tenant. This keeps costs for the tenant low.

Homeowners therefore have less of a desire for rent increases than public housing officials.

3. Curb Rights and Overnight Parking

“Curb Rights” are the right of the homeowner to the area immediate-

ly in front of his property. He can rent the space to anyone he chooses and for any price.

This option will be available in any area where overnight parking is allowed.

4. Creating a free market in child care. Free market child care vs. government approved child care:

Child Care will consist of 2 choices. These will consist of either a private, unregulated, tax-free market or a taxable and regulated market with government regulations to set rates.

A Private, Unregulated, and Tax Free Market-an example.

Your neighbors raised two fairly well-behaved children who grew up, got jobs, and moved out, and are now willing to provide child care. That is their reference for you.

So as long as you give your consent, they would watch your child and any child care income would be tax free at the state and local level, although they would have to pay national income tax.

So, for example, if they watch 5 children for 40 hours per week for \$100 each, they would receive \$500 per week, \$25,000 per year, tax

free, plus two weeks vacation. The parents would be paying \$2.50 per hour, \$5,200 per year. Child care would primarily consist of allowing the children to play in the yard, watch T.V., or have a book read to them, and eating lunch.

The unregulated private market would also provide many other options.

The Alternative:

Government approved and regulated child care, with government rates applying.

New York rates for the Child Care Assistance Program in 2024 (CCAP) varied from \$350-\$404 weekly per child.

Anyone who wants government involvement in this issue will have to pay the government price and obey its rules.

Additionally, as with private housing, private providers want steady income and have much less of an incentive to raise rates. Private rates are set by the market, government rates by politicians.

5. Improved property rights and families.

Providing compensation for eminent domain and civil forfeiture

Compensation for Eminent Domain seizures will be three times the value of the property. The owner of a property worth \$300,000 seized through Eminent Domain will re-

ceive \$900,000 in compensation. Currently, some homeowners who are targets of seizure through eminent domain end up slightly ahead, some slightly behind, and some are 'over a barrel', with their negotiating position destroyed, at which point they are cheated. This will provide compensation.

B. Civil forfeiture is THEFT, and is ended.

All victims will be compensated with \$100,000 each, tax-free.

Criminal forfeiture is another matter, and remains unchanged.

The ideas above will provide workable solutions to the government interventionist-created problems of "affordability."

**NEW YORK STATE'S DELEGATION
TO 2026 LIBERTARIAN NATIONAL CONVENTION**

New York has 33 Delegate spots. The Alternate Delegates will be voted on at the next meeting, once their eligibility is confirmed. If any Delegates withdraw, the Alternate Delegates will be promoted to Delegate.

1. Duane Whitmer	13. Blay Tarnoff	25. Larry Sharpe
2. Andrew Kolstee	14. Jonathan Gunther	26. James Condon
3. Chance Haywood (CR)	15. Charles Dorgan	27. Caryn Tarnoff
4. Mark Axinn	16. Susan Overeem-Cummings	28. James Ostrowski
5. Justin Carman	17. Mark Braiman	29. Randyn Tarnoff
6. Pietro Geraci	18. Vincent O'Neill	30. James Fitch
7. Paul Grindle	19. Juan Ayala	31. Gary Triestman
8. Christopher Skelly	20. Mark Weinblatt	32. Daniel Donnelly
9. Catrina Rocco	21. Patrick Corrigan	33. Thomas Quiter
10. Rose Leatherman (PR)	22. Theresa Corrigan	
11. Christian Padgett (PAR)	23. Nicole Hewson	
12. Steven Becker (CAR)	24. Jack Terran	

CR = Credentials Representative CAR = Credentials Alternate Representative
PR = Platform Representaitve PAR = Platform Alternate Representative



LEARN MORE:

www.LarrySharpe.com

Don't see your county listed?

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

Contact us for more details!

affiliates@lpny.org

COUNTY AFFILIATE NEWS

BRONX

CONTACT:
Kim Antonio,
Acting County Chair

CHAUTAUQUA

NEXT MEETING:
Tues., Mar. 10, 2026 @ 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
ngrasso89@yahoo.com

LEARN MORE:
lpchemung.org

COLUMBIA

NEXT MEETING:
Wed., Mar. 18, 2026 @ 7 PM
Google Meet
(third Wednesdays)

CONTACT:
Scott Hoskins, Chair
scottdhoskins@gmail.com

DUTCHESS

NEXT MEETING:
Sat., Mar. 21, 2026 @ 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., Mar. 17, 2026 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., Mar. 5, 2026 @ 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., Mar. 12, 2026 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)

CONTACT:
Chance Haywood, Chair
chaywood@lpny.org

ONEIDA

CONTACT:
Keith Redhead, Chair
kredhead@lpny.org

ONONDAGA

NEXT MEETING:

Wed., Mar. 18, 2026 at 6:30 PM
Liverpool Public Library
(3rd Wednesdays)

CONTACT:

Rachel Becker, Chair
reb4128@rit.edu
onondagacountylp@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., Mar. 14, 2026 at 12 PM
Stamatis Greek
and Mediterranean Restaurant
29-09 23rd Ave., Astoria

CONTACT:

John Clifton, Chair
mrjclifton@yahoo.com

RENSSELAER

NEXT MEETING:

Wed., Mar. 4, 2026 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., Mar. 19, 2026 @ 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:

TBD
Panera Bread, Deer Park
(usually 4th Thursdays)

CONTACT:

Robert Schuon, Chair
rschuon@mindspring.com

ULSTER

NEXT MEETING:

Mon., Mar. 9, 2026 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., Mar. 28, 2026 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

NEXT MEETING:

TBD

CONTACT:

Rajib Maitra, Chair
rajib.maitra1@gmail.com

LPNY DIRECTORY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	COMMITTEE CHAIRS	
<p>Duane Whitmer Chair Daniel Castello Vice Chair Andrew Kolstee Secretary Chance Haywood Treasurer Christopher Skelly Communications Director Mark Axinn Fundraising Director Justin Carman IT Director Richard Purtell Legislative Affairs Director Pietro Geraci Outreach Director Paul Grindle Political Director Catrina Rocco Volunteer Director</p>	<p>Daniel Castello Platform Committee Chair Andrew Kolstee Rules Committee Chair Daniel Castello Strategic Planning Committee Chair Catrina Rocco Conventions Oversight Committee Chair</p>	
STATE COMMITTEE		
<p>Mark Axinn (JD1) Morry Davis (JD1) Paul Grindle (JD2) Gary Popkin (JD2) Evan Lebrecht (JD3) Justin Carman (JD3) <i>Vacant</i> (JD4) <i>Vacant</i> (JD4) <i>Vacant</i> (JD4) Daniel Castello (JD5) James Fitch (JD5) E. Rose Leatherman (JD5) Mark Braiman (JD6) Charles Dorgan (JD6) Samuel Hordeski (JD6) Steven Becker (JD7) Justin Pelletier (JD7) Sean Phelan (JD7) James Ziobro (JD7) Maura Botsford (JD8)</p>	<p>Andrew Kolstee (JD8) Wendi Szabo (JD8) Duane Whitmer (JD8) <i>Vacant</i> (JD8) Pietro Geraci (JD9) Catrina Rocco (JD9) William Schmidt (JD9) Jonathan Gunther (JD10) Vincent O'Neill (JD10) Christian Padgett (JD10) Robert Schuon (JD10) Blay Tarnoff (JD10) <i>Vacant</i> (JD10) Francisco Olvera (JD11) Irwin Mark Weinblatt (JD11) <i>Vacant</i> (JD12) Susan Overeem-Cummings (JD13) Chance Haywood (ex-officio) Richard Purtell (ex-officio) Christopher Skelly (ex-officio)</p>	
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