



Free New York

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The Official Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of New York

October 2026

NY LIBERTARIANS URGE VOTERS TO WRITE-IN NONE OF THE ABOVE FOR GOVERNOR, REJECT HOCHUL AND BLAKEMAN

NOVEMBER 3, 2026 • NEW YORK

VOTE NOTA

NONE OF THE ABOVE FOR GOVERNOR

Send a clear message to Albany. When the major parties fail to represent us, we write in 'None of the Above'. Demanding real political choice, systemic ballot reform, and a government accountable to the people.

ALBANY, N.Y. — For the second consecutive gubernatorial election, New York voters will face a general election ballot featuring only two candidates for governor, despite five political party lines. In response, the Libertarian Party of New York is calling for a statewide “None of the Above” (VOTE NOTA) write-in protest in the November 3 election, challenging both the lack of competition and the state’s restrictive ballot-access laws.

Gov. Kathy Hochul appears on the

Democratic and Working Families lines, while Republican challenger Bruce Blakeman appears on the Republican, Conservative, and Vote Affordable lines. Neither faced a contested gubernatorial primary, leaving voters in both major parties without an opportunity to choose between competing nominees.

Through its VOTE NOTA campaign, the party is urging New Yorkers dissatisfied with both candidates to use the gubernatorial write-in space to express that dis-

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satisfaction rather than support either major-party nominee or stay home. LPNY describes the effort as a protest against a system in which five ballot lines offer only two choices, with the aim of demonstrating opposition to the political status quo and reducing the share of voter support received by the two major-party candidates.

“New Yorkers deserve to choose a governor, not settle for whoever survives the barriers to getting on the ballot,” said Duane Whitmer, Chair of the Libertarian Party of New York. “If no one on that ballot cares about you, no one supports you, and no one deserves your vote, you should be able to say so. That’s what our NOTA campaign is about.

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Politicians aren't entitled to your support. They should have to earn it."

In 2018, the Libertarian Party of New York earned official ballot access for the first time, only to lose it after lawmakers changed election rules in the 2020 state budget, requiring 45,000 petition signatures to place a candidate on the ballot and the greater of 130,000 votes or 2 percent to maintain party status. The new thresholds effectively shut

out emerging political parties. But while Albany can keep alternatives off the printed ballot, it cannot prevent New Yorkers from expressing their rejection of both candidates through a write-in vote.

"We are done playing a game whose rules were rewritten to make sure we lose before the first vote is cast," Skelly said. "If Albany wants a two-party state, it can have one, and it can own the turnout, the cynicism, and the legitimacy crisis that comes with it. We will not staff their

stage."

The LPNY also advocates ballot-access reform through Senate bill S01870 and Assembly bill A02724, which would restore pre-2020 thresholds of 15,000 petition signatures to appear on the ballot and 50,000 votes to qualify for party status, opening the door to greater political competition and more choices for New Yorkers.

For more information, visit voteno-ta.org

Support the LPNY!

LPNY.org/donate



2026 LPNY CONVENTION



OCTOBER 24, 2026



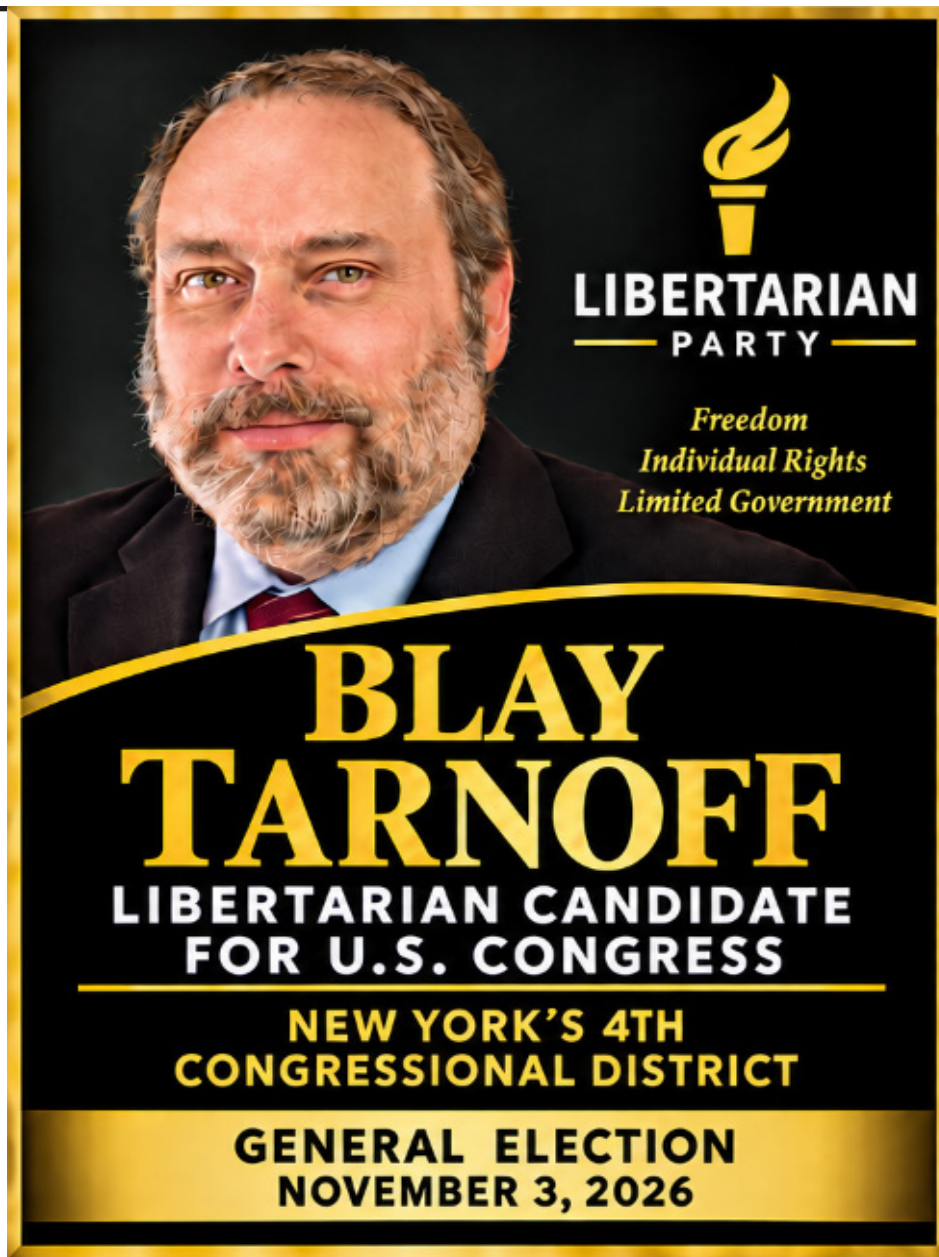
MOUNT KISCO, NEW YORK

★
LIBERTY TAKES CENTER STAGE

Featuring Eric Brakey, candidate training, party business, and Liberty After Dark

Get Your Convention Tickets Today!

lpny.org/2026-lpny-convention



donate to help support the campaign:

blay.us

**Don't see your
county listed?**

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

Contact us for more details!

affiliates@lpny.org

LOCAL AFFILIATE NEWS

CHAUTAUQUA

CONVENTION:

Thurs., Oct. 29, 2026 @ 6:30 PM
at 14 Main
14 Main Street,
Bemus Point, NY
and on Zoom
(usually 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., Nov. 18, 2026 @ 7 PM
Google Meet
(third Wednesdays)

CONTACT:

Scott Hoskins, Chair
scottdhoskins@gmail.com

DUTCHESS

NEXT MEETING:

Sat., Nov. 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., Nov. 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:

Chuck Dorgan, Chair
chuck.dorgan@gmail.com

MONROE

NEXT MEETING:

Wed., Nov. 4, 2026 @ 6:30 PM
(first Wednesdays)
Contact us for the location

CONTACT:

Steve Becker, Chair
drsbecker@aol.com

LEARN MORE:

monroecountylp.org
Ask about the Google Group
and social meetings

NASSAU

NEXT MEETING:

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

CONTACT:

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

ORANGE

NEXT MEETING:

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

CONTACT:

Daniel Serritello, Chair
serritel@optonline.net

QUEENS

NEXT MEETING:

Sat., Nov. 14, 2026 at 12 PM
Stamatis Greek
and Mediterranean Restaurant
29-09 23rd Ave., Astoria
(2nd Saturdays)

CONTACT:

Mark Weinblatt, Treasurer
mark.weinblattfsa@gmail.com

RENSSELAER

NEXT MEETING:

Wed., Nov. 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., Nov. 19, 2026 @ 7 PM
@ Coffee and Collectibles
(3rd Thursdays)

CONTACT:

**Susan Overeem Cummings,
Chair**
susanovereem@gmail.com

SARATOGA

CONTACT:

Naz Garabedian, 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., Nov. 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., Oct. 24, 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

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