



Free New York

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The Official Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of New York

March 2026

MARK BRAIMAN NOMINATED FOR LT. GOVERNOR

by Andrew Kolstee
LPNY Secretary

The Libertarian Party of New York State Committee met on Sunday, March 8, 2026. The main items of business were to nominate candidates for the remaining vacant positions of Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, and Comptroller.

In October 2025, **Larry Sharpe** was nominated as the Libertarian Party candidate for Governor of New York. Since then, he has been campaigning and continuing his full Sharpe by visiting all 62 counties across the state. He has also entered the race for the Republican nomination in which he needs over 15,000 signatures to primary Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman. He has chosen Lewis County Sheriff Michael Carpinelli as his lieutenant governor candidate in the Republican Party primary race.

At the State Committee meeting, the Libertarian Party of New York met to determine the slate of candidates. There were two candidates nominated for Lieutenant Governor:

Mark Braiman and **Vincent O’Neill**. A third candidate, Lewis County Sheriff **Michael Carpinelli**, was also nominated. Since Carpinelli is an enrolled member of the Republican Party, the party rules required a two-thirds vote of the State Committee in order to enter Carpinelli into nomination. The State Committee voted 9-4-12 against entering Carpinelli into nomination.

Mark Braiman and Vincent O’Neill spoke on behalf of their candidates, while Secretary Andrew Kolstee spoke on behalf of None of the Above (NOTA).

In the first round, Braiman and NOTA both received nine votes, while O’Neill received two votes. O’Neill was dropped from the ballot. In the second round, Braiman and NOTA tied once again, each with ten votes. In the third and final round, Mark Braiman was nominated for Lieutenant Governor over NOTA by a vote of 16 to 7.

No candidates were nominated for

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the positions of Attorney General and Comptroller, and they have been postponed to no later than April 12, 2026, which is the Sunday before the independent petitioning period begins. Interested candidates are asked to contact the party at info@lpny.org.

In addition to nominees, the State Committee elected positions on the Elections Oversight Committee, which will oversee the election of the 2026-2028 LPNY State Committee. Samuel Hordeski, Steven Becker, and Andrew Kolstee were elected to the committee and join Chair Duane Whitmer as members of the committee. After the committee meets, there will be an announcement for anyone interested in running for State Committee to register to be a candidate.

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.

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.

DELEGATES

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

CR = Credentials Representative CAR = Credentials Alternate Representative

PR = Platform Representaitve PAR = Platform Alternate Representative

Support the LPNY!

LPNY.org/donate



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., Apr. 14, 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
ngrass89@yahoo.com

LEARN MORE:

lpchemung.org

COLUMBIA

NEXT MEETING:

Wed., Apr. 15, 2026 @ 7 PM
Google Meet
(third Wednesdays)

CONTACT:

Scott Hoskins, Chair
scottdhoskins@gmail.com

DUTCHESS

NEXT MEETING:

Sat., Apr. 18, 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., Apr. 21, 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., Apr. 2, 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., Apr. 9, 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., Apr. 15, 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., Apr. 11, 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., Apr. 1, 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., Apr. 16, 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., Apr. 13, 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., Apr. 25, 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

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

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Daniel Castello
 Platform Committee Chair
Andrew Kolstee
 Rules Committee Chair
Daniel Castello
 Strategic Planning Committee Chair
Catrina Rocco
 Conventions Oversight Committee Chair

STATE COMMITTEE

Mark Axinn (JD1)	Andrew Kolstee (JD8)
Morry Davis (JD1)	Wendi Szabo (JD8)
Paul Grindle (JD2)	Duane Whitmer (JD8)
Gary Popkin (JD2)	<i>Vacant</i> (JD8)
Evan Lebrecht (JD3)	Pietro Geraci (JD9)
Justin Carman (JD3)	Catrina Rocco (JD9)
<i>Vacant</i> (JD4)	William Schmidt (JD9)
<i>Vacant</i> (JD4)	Jonathan Gunther (JD10)
<i>Vacant</i> (JD4)	Vincent O'Neill (JD10)
Daniel Castello (JD5)	Christian Padgett (JD10)
James Fitch (JD5)	Robert Schuon (JD10)
E. Rose Leatherman (JD5)	Blay Tarnoff (JD10)
Mark Braiman (JD6)	<i>Vacant</i> (JD10)
Charles Dorgan (JD6)	Irwin Mark Weinblatt (JD11)
Samuel Hordeski (JD6)	<i>Vacant</i> (JD11)
Steven Becker (JD7)	<i>Vacant</i> (JD12)
Justin Pelletier (JD7)	Susan Overeem-Cummings (JD13)
Sean Phelan (JD7)	Chance Haywood (ex-officio)
<i>Vacant</i> (JD7)	Richard Purtell (ex-officio)
Maura Botsford (JD8)	Christopher Skelly (ex-officio)

info@lpny.org

www.LPNY.org

866-336-3120