Free New York

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STATE COMMITTEE ELECTED
2026-28 TERM BEGINS OCTOBER 24

by Andrew Kolste
LPNY Secretary

The Libertarian Party of New York has completed its elections for the 2026-2028 State Committee, with 16 members elected across seven Judicial Districts, and numerous vacancies. The results were certified by the Elections Oversight Committee on September 28, 2026. The newly elected State Committee will take office and convene for the first time at the LPNY State Convention on October 24, 2026, in Mount Kisco.

The State Committee serves as the governing body of the Libertarian Party of New York, overseeing the direction, operations, and organizational decisions of the state party. Members are elected by County Affiliates within New York's Judicial Districts.

Election Process

Preparations for the 2026–2028 State Committee elections began at the March 8, 2026 State Committee meeting with the election of the Elections Oversight Committee. Andrew Kolstee served as Chair of the committee and was joined by Steven Becker, Samuel Hordeski, and Duane Whitmer. Later, Justin Carman and Catrina Rocco were elected to two of the vacancies on the committee.

Following the formation of the committee, applications were opened to Libertarian Party members interested in serving on the State Committee. Registrants were reviewed by the Elections Oversight Committee to determine their eligibility under party rules. Eligible candidates were then submitted to the Local Affiliates located within their respective Judicial Districts for voting.

The registration period was ultimately extended through July 5, 2026. Following the Elections Oversight Committee's review of the registrants, candidates were certified on July 8 and voting by the Local Affiliates began. Affiliates were given through August 31 to complete their voting.

After the affiliate voting process was completed and the results reviewed, the Elections Oversight Committee certified the elected members on September 28.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

State Committee Elected 1-2
2026 LPNY Convention 3
Blay Tarnoff for Congress 4-5
County Affiliates 6-7
LPNY Directory 8

Election Results

The following members were elected to the 2026–2028 State Committee:

Judicial District 1
(no elections held - 2 vacancies)

Judicial District 2
(no elections held - 2 vacancies)

Judicial District 3
- Justin Carman *(incumbent)*
- Pietro Geraci *(incumbent)*

Judicial District 4
(no elections held - 3 vacancies)

Judicial District 5
- Daniel Castello *(incumbent)*
- James Fitch *(incumbent)*
- Rose Leatherman *(incumbent)*

(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

Judicial District 6
- Charles Dorgan *(incumbent)*
- Mark Braiman *(incumbent)*
- Samuel Hordeski *(incumbent)*

Judicial District 7
- Steven Becker *(incumbent)*
- Theresa Corrigan

Judicial District 8
- Andrew Kolstee *(incumbent)*
- Duane Whitmer *(incumbent)*
- *2 vacancies*

Judicial District 9
- Nicholas Castellano
- Nicole Hewson
- Catrina Rocco *(incumbent)*

Judicial District 10
(no timely elections held - 4 vacancies)

Judicial District 11
- Mark Weinblatt *(incumbent)*
- *1 vacancy*

Judicial District 12
(no elections held - 1 vacancy)

Judicial District 13
(no elections held - 1 vacancy)
Of the 16 elected, 13 are incumbents and 3 are new: Theresa Corrigan (Monroe County Secretary), Nicholas Castellano (Westchester-Putnam Secretary), and Nicole Hewson (Orange County Vice Chair).

No State Committee members were elected from Judicial Districts 1, 2, 4, 10, 12, or 13. Judicial District 12 had no candidates.

Other candidates appearing in the final district voting included Chance Haywood in Judicial District 1; Paul Grindle in Judicial District 2; Evan Lebrecht in Judicial District 3; Charles Williams in Judicial District 4; Richard Purtell in Judicial District 6; Michael Cody in Judicial District 8; Chuck Monsanto and Daniel Donnelly in Judicial District 9; Jonathan Gunther, Christian Padgett, Raymond Negron, Vincent O'Neill, Robert Schuon, and Blay Tarnoff in Judicial District 10; and Susan Overeem-Cummings in Judicial District 13.

Both Nassau and Suffolk Counties held elections, but after the August 30 deadline. Both elected four candidates as their representatives, but it will be up to the State Committee to determine how they fill the vacancies. Those candidates are: Jonathan Gunther, Christian Padgett, RObert Schuon, and Blay Tarnoff.

New Committee to Convene October 24

The members elected for the 2026–2028 term will officially take office on October 24, 2026, when the new State Committee convenes during the LPNY State Convention at Hotel MTK in Mount Kisco.

One of the first responsibilities of the newly constituted State Committee will be the election of the LPNY Executive Committee for the coming term.

The October 24 meeting will mark the transition from the 2024-2026 State Committee to the 2026-2028 State Committee and begin the next two-year organizational term for the Libertarian Party of New York.

Support the LPNY!

LPNY.org/donate

Get Your Convention Tickets Today!

lpny.org/2026-lpny-convention

BLAY TARNOFF

LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN FOR CONGRESS

by Tarnoff for Congress Campaign

NASSAU COUNTY, NY – September 14, 2026 – Blay Tarnoff will be on the ballot as the Libertarian Candidate for Congress in NY District 4, which encompasses southern Nassau County, in the General Election to be held this November 3, 2026.

Blay understands that major segments of society have legitimate grievances against the current system, which are caused by socialist policy at every level of government. His central message is that socialism is unconstitutional, and he promises to spearhead legislation to END it.

"I will introduce legislation to enable anyone suffering under socialist policy at the state level to bring their case to a federal Civil Rights Bureau to bring suit on their behalf. At the federal level, I will put forward legislation to privatize all the necessary functions of the federal administrative agencies and then abolish them. I will also end inflation by pegging the dollar to gold or bitcoin."

"Every socialist measure helps a few people while hurting many, many more. After decades of creeping socialism, things are now so bad people are desperate for drastic change. They blame the system. They are right. But, the answer is not to abandon freedom, it is to double down on it."

Socialism violates the Contract and Republican Form of Government clauses of the Constitution, as well as various clauses of the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments, in addition to the Ninth and Tenth. Socialism is a violent attack on Civil Rights. Blay would expand or create legislation parallel to 42 USC §1983, the act that empowers citizens to fight violations of their Civil Rights, and a Civil Rights Bureau to empower citizens to enforce it.

Blay would also reform the education and health care systems, making them the envy of the world. He would protect the environment, the right to run your business and profession without government harassment, interference or competition, and restore and protect the right and means to defend yourself, your family, your community and your country. He would also phase out all foreign aid and subsidies. "I would restore your right to pursue happiness in any manner you see fit, so long as you do not violate the rights of others." He would give people a reason once again to be proud of their government and to make them eager and proud to protect and defend it.

"Wealth is freedom. Handouts make people dependent and helpless. The best job security is knowing you can find another job in five minutes. The best housing security is to be able to afford many places to live. The best medical security is the availability of excellent, reasonably priced care and the ability to pay for it. Politicians do not support these policies because free, independent people do not need politicians. Politicians are also reluctant to go too far in eliminating an ideology which brings the people in government more wealth and power. The answer is not to run to the politicians for help and handouts, it is to be free and independent enough not to need them."

Blay will attack not only the virulent socialism currently infesting the Democrat Party, but all socialism. "'Moderate' Democrats have advocated incremental socialism as 'social justice' for decades, and are now crying crocodile tears that 'extremists' are proliferating in their party. But, it was always inevitable that a tiny amount of cancer would eventually metastasize into full-blown disease. Republicans talk a good game, but rarely carry their words forward. The socialist parasite may be a bug, but the creeping misery it causes is a feature. After they bleed the host society financially, they blame it for the predictable misery. Then, they promise the socialist utopia of love and plenty will fix all the problems they created. Once they lie their way into power, though, they step up

(continued on page 3)

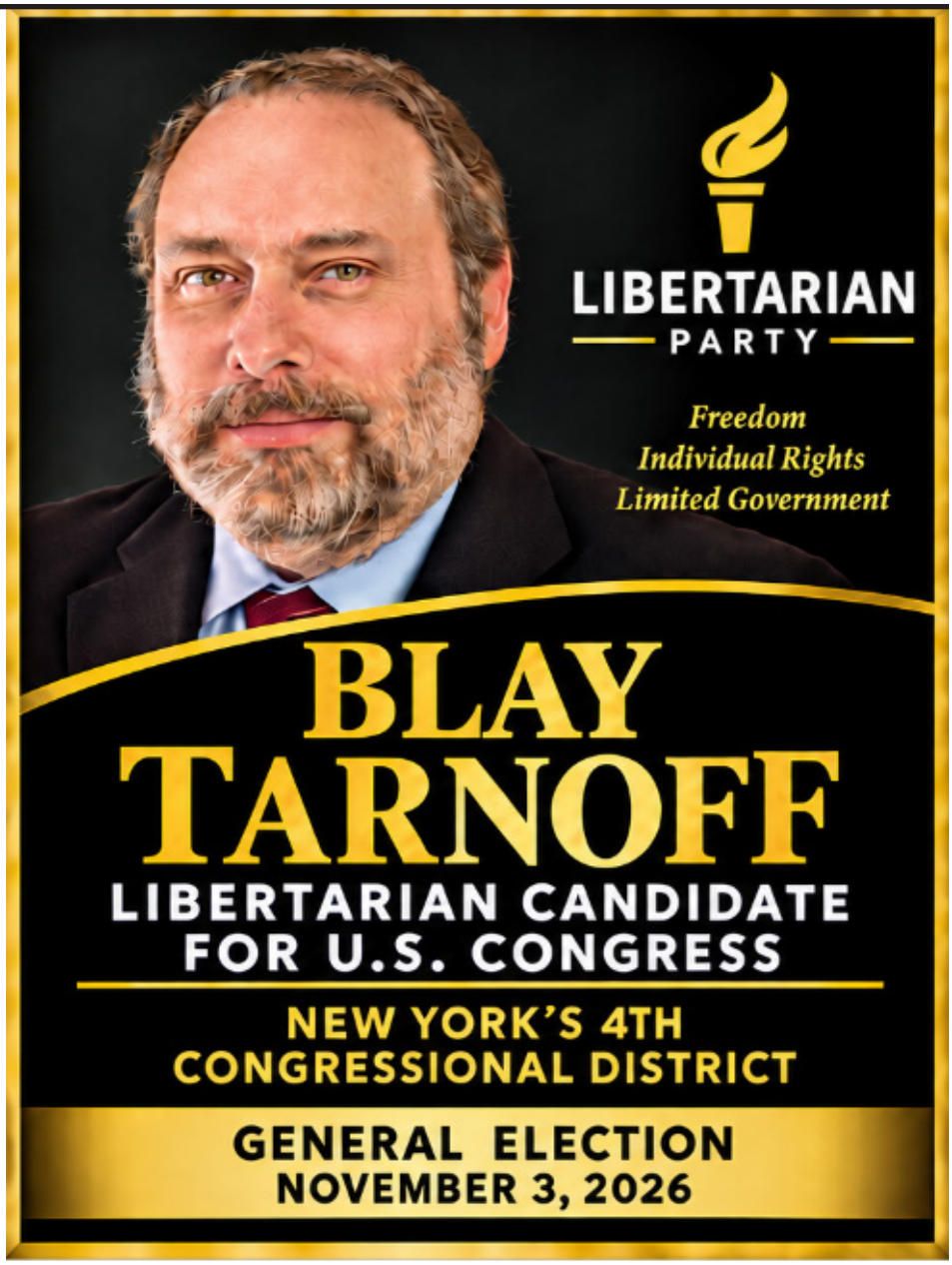
(continued from page 4)

the misery because people who are poor, weak and dependent are easy to control."

Everyone cannot live at the expense of everyone else. Socialism poses an existential threat to freedom and is completely incompatible with the principles upon which this nation was founded. It can and must be ended.

Blay Tarnoff has been a Libertarian activist and representative since 1990. He is currently County Chair of the Nassau County Libertarian Party and immediate past Chair of the Libertarian National Judicial Committee. He has spent his career as a computer systems analyst, most recently as technical support for quantitative financial analysts on Wall Street and neural network system developer and presenter at nVidia GPU Technology Conferences. He holds a J.D. from Pace University and an A.B. in mathematics from Brown University.

Contact: info@blay.us



donate to help support the campaign:

blay.us

LOCAL AFFILIATE NEWS

CHAUTAUQUA

CONVENTION:
Thurs., Oct. 22, 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., Oct. 21, 2026 @ 7 PM
Google Meet
(third Wednesdays)

CONTACT:
Scott Hoskins, Chair
scottdhoskins@gmail.com

DUTCHESS

NEXT MEETING:
Sat., Oct. 17, 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., Oct. 20, 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:
Thurs., Oct. 1, 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., Oct. 8, 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., Oct. 21, 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., Oct. 10, 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., Oct. 7, 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., Oct. 15, 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., Oct. 12, 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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Strategic Planning Committee Chair
Catrina Rocco
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Vacant (JD4)
Vacant (JD4)
Vacant (JD4)
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E. Rose Leatherman (JD5)
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Samuel Hordeski (JD6)
Steven Becker (JD7)
Justin Pelletier (JD7)
Sean Phelan (JD7)
Vacant (JD7)
Maura Botsford (JD8)
Andrew Kolstee (JD8)
Wendi Szabo (JD8)
Duane Whitmer (JD8)
Vacant (JD8)
Pietro Geraci (JD9)
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Christian Padgett (JD10)
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Blay Tarnoff (JD10)
Vacant (JD10)
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Vacant (JD12)
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