



**A record 174 Libertarians elected in Pennsylvania in 2021!**

*“Without the help of Wes and Art the great success we achieved electing Libertarians in Pennsylvania would not have been possible.”*


—Dr. Chuck Moulton

**Wes Benedict and Arthur DiBianca also set candidate recruitment records in Alabama, Arkansas, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Virginia.**

# Libertarian BOOSTER PAC

Founded in 2012 by Wes Benedict and Arthur DiBianca



A photograph of two men standing on a paved walkway in front of the Texas State Capitol building. The man on the left is wearing a blue checkered shirt and holding a water bottle. The man on the right is wearing a dark suit jacket over a blue shirt and has a name tag. The background features the large, ornate dome of the Capitol building under a clear blue sky, with several large green trees in the foreground and middle ground.

*“Libertarian Booster PAC recruits and assists Libertarian candidates. We cooperate with state and county parties and give them a boost!”*

—Wes Benedict, Founder

Photo: Wes Benedict with Mark Tippetts, Libertarian candidate for Texas Governor

## Table of Contents

Letter from Libertarian Booster PAC founder.....	3
Getting started in Texas.....	4
Expanding to Virginia and other states.....	5
Issues and policies provided to candidates.....	7
Electing 174 Pennsylvania Libertarians—the “Moulton Maneuver”.....	8
Pennsylvania candidate recruitment letter.....	10
Libertarian Prescription for COVID-19.....	12
LibertarianBoosterPAC.org/shop.....	14
More about Booster PAC founders Wes Benedict & Arthur DiBianca.....	15
My book: <i>Introduction to the Libertarian Party</i> .....	18
Why libertarian?.....	19
Why the Libertarian Party? Why the Libertarian Booster PAC?.....	19

## Letter from Libertarian Booster PAC founder

Dear Friend,

One of the most valuable contributions a Libertarian can make is to run for office. That's why I've worked so hard recruiting candidates year after year, and that's why I wanted to create the Libertarian Booster PAC.

I think I've directly recruited and assisted more Libertarian candidates than almost anybody else in the 50-year history of the Libertarian Party! Of course it's usually a team effort, but I've always been willing to step in and handle whatever details are necessary to keep us moving forward.

In 2006, I helped recruit a record 168 Libertarian candidates in Texas, and in 2008 another record 173.

I served as Executive Director of the Libertarian Party of Texas for 4 years, and Executive Director of the national Libertarian Party for 8 years. (That's longer than any other national director for the LP—it's not an easy job.)

In 2019, the Libertarian Booster PAC helped to recruit 29 Libertarian candidates in Pennsylvania who won their elections! These were partisan elections with the candidates on the ballot as Libertarians.

That was so motivating that in 2021 we did it again and this time we got 174 Libertarians elected!

I've included the letter that I wrote that worked so well to recruit so many winning candidates. Also please see the letter from Dr. Chuck Moulton recognizing the importance of our involvement!

In 2022, we helped to recruit a record 57 candidates in Arkansas, followed by 67 in Alabama.

In 2023, we helped to recruit 17 candidates in Mississippi, which is more than they recruited in the previous seven years combined.

I've run for office six times myself!

I founded the Libertarian Booster PAC with Arthur DiBianca so we could focus on recruiting Libertarian candidates and on helping Libertarian candidates run good campaigns, whether they're running to win, or running to promote the Libertarian Party and its principles.

I hope you'll take a look at some of the incredible work we've done.

My dream is to grow our budget from around \$100,000 per year to \$1 million per year so we can hire more candidate recruiters and campaign helpers. We know what needs to be done and how to do it. We just need more help.

You can contribute at [LibertarianBoosterPAC.org](https://LibertarianBoosterPAC.org), or contact me to set up a meeting to discuss a contribution.

Sincerely,



Wes Benedict  
President & Founder  
(512) 659-8896, wesbenedict@gmail.com



## Getting started in Texas

Two of the most important things for recruiting candidates are: 1) you have to contact people individually and ask them to run, and 2) you have to help them fill out the paperwork and follow any steps required by the Libertarian Party and government election authorities.

As Executive Director of the Libertarian Party of Texas, I recruited a record 168 candidates in 2006, and another record 173 in 2008. I learned the requirements, developed efficient processes, and really honed my candidate recruitment skills.

However, it always bothered me that once the candidates were recruited and nominated by the party, I was not able to help the candidates with their campaigns as much as I would have liked. That's one reason I founded the Libertarian Booster PAC.

Most Libertarian candidates have busy personal lives and run for office part-time. Many have full-time jobs and families. They are volunteers who do their best to campaign as much as possible. While some have writing and graphic design skills, others do not.

### CAMPAIGN MATERIALS

It can take hours or even days to design a yard sign, brochure and website. However, once you've designed one, it doesn't take long to modify the design and use it for another candidate.



One of the first things the Libertarian Booster PAC did in 2012 was to give campaign materials to all of the candidates for state representative in Texas. We designed yard signs, stickers, brochures, and websites, and gave small quantities *for free* to each candidate.

I called the box of campaign materials a “**Libertarian Booster PACKage.**” We brought them to the 2012 LP Texas convention for 25 of the candidates for state representative. Each package cost us about \$300 and included 20 yard signs, 100 bumper stickers, 20 campaign flyers, and 40 business cards, all customized for each candidate.

I bet that's the first time that ever happened—free campaign materials with a candidate's name, office, and the word “Libertarian” proudly displayed.

Buying for all the candidates at once and using the same colors helped us to get good prices from our suppliers.

### WEBSITES

It takes a while to design all of the content for a nice-looking website. However, once you've made one, it's easy to make a lot more that are similar.



We built free websites for 34 candidates. After building the websites, we gave the candidates direct access to edit the websites and provided ongoing assistance as needed.

## CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTS

The rules and regulations that apply to candidates for public office are complicated and intimidating, especially for first-time candidates. But once you've learned the most important rules that apply to your situation, it's easy to train others and to help them fill out their reports.

The most important rule in Texas is to file your campaign finance reports on time. Otherwise, you'll automatically be assessed a \$500 fine!

We sent reminders as due dates approached for campaign finance reports. We helped many candidates fill them out and get them in on time.

We even helped several candidates who failed to file on time appeal and get their fines waived.

## RESULTS

There were 124 Libertarian candidates on the November ballot in Texas in 2012. Together they received 8,526,559 votes. Libertarian Booster PAC assisted 46 of those candidates as listed in the table below. A full report on the 2012 efforts is available at [LibertarianBoosterPAC.org](http://LibertarianBoosterPAC.org).

Help provided to LP Texas candidates for State Representative in 2012
Yard signs: 2,890 provided to 34 candidates
Bumper stickers: 3,445 provided to 29 candidates
Business cards: 2,200 provided to 25 candidates
Websites: 34 provided to 34 candidates
<b>Total candidates helped in 2012: 46</b>

## Expanding to Virginia and other states

Thanks to two generous donors who contributed \$225,000 in early 2013, we set our sights on Virginia and other states.

Each state has different election laws. Many states require PACs to file campaign finance reports. Unfortunately, some states and localities have restrictions that prohibit the Libertarian Booster PAC from providing assistance to campaigns.

Due to the burden of complying with election laws in each jurisdiction, we can't simply offer to help every candidate in



Feedback from candidates:

*"Thank you for the reminder, probably saved me \$500."*

*"You have done a great job in keeping all of us in the loop for filing deadlines - thanks for all of the updates."*

*"Thank you and Wes again for your support, wisdom, and help with my campaign."*

*"I would like to thank you for all your help and advice, this whole running for office thing is tedious! It was nearly overwhelming last year, so I'm deeply thankful to have people to teach me who have already done it."*

every state. If we did that, we'd drive ourselves crazy trying to keep up with all of the election laws and campaign finance reports.

Instead, we pick a few states carefully and try to help multiple candidates in each state.

## VIRGINIA

In 2013, we put out an offer to contribute \$10,000 to help a Libertarian candidate for Governor get onto the ballot in Virginia. In Virginia, Libertarian candidates for Governor have to collect 15,000 valid signatures, which at the time, was a roughly \$30,000 project. It had been 11 years since Libertarians ran a candidate for governor in Virginia.

We found a great candidate. We found entrepreneur and lawyer **Robert Sarvis** who went on to get 6.5% of the vote (eight times the previous record for a Libertarian for Virginia Governor). According to *Ballot Access News* it was the "best gubernatorial showing for a third party candidate in the South since 1970"!

Sarvis and the Libertarian Booster PAC got lots of national press from sources like *CNN*, the *Washington Post*, and right-wing media like *Rush Limbaugh*, *Breitbart*, and *Fox News*.

We also recruited six candidates for Virginia Delegate in 2013, tying a 1993 record for the highest number of Libertarians for Virginia Delegate. In 2019, we recruited five candidates for Virginia Delegate.

## ALABAMA

The Libertarian Party had not been on the ballot since 2002 due to onerous ballot access restrictions. In 2013, Libertarian Booster PAC paid \$10,000 for petition signatures to qualify one county, Jefferson County, for the ballot. They ran 9 candidates.

## NORTH DAKOTA

In 2013, the Libertarian Booster PAC contributed a major portion of the funds to get the North Dakota LP back on the ballot.

## NEW JERSEY

We were able to provide signs, stickers, and business cards to Ken Kaplan's 2013 New Jersey Governor campaign.

(Note: From late 2013 through 2018, I was serving as the Executive Director of the Libertarian National Committee, so the Libertarian Booster PAC was dormant during that time.)




**Robert Sarvis**  
**Libertarian for Governor**

RobertSarvis.com

Paid for by Libertarian Booster PAC. Authorized by Robert Sarvis for Governor.

**Vote** ✓ **Mark Lewis**  
**Libertarian**

For State Senate Dist. 9



Cut taxes and spending.  
Legalize marijuana.  
Stop throwing so many people in jail.  
Expand school choice.

Republicans and Democrats in the Virginia Assembly keep growing the budget and handing out subsidies to privileged businesses. Meanwhile, they have failed to pass legislation that would reduce police abuse and legalize marijuana.

I want to lower taxes and spending across the board by 10%, end the war on drugs, expand school choice, provide a level playing field for businesses, and promote harmony regardless of race, religion, or sexual orientation.

**VoteMarkLewis.com**

Paid for by Libertarian Booster PAC. (LibertarianBoosterPAC.org)  
Authorized by Mark Lewis for Virginia State Senate.

**Ken Kaplan**  
**Libertarian for Governor**

KaplanForGovernor.com

Paid for by Libertarian Booster PAC, 918 First York Lane, Suite 111, 10104

## Issues and policies provided to candidates

Some candidates love to do policy research and write about it. Others welcome somebody else to do that work for them!

If twenty Libertarians are running for state representative, it's a shame for every candidate to have to research all the issues.

The Libertarian Booster PAC has provided suggested policies for candidates we have supported. We pick current issues, and explain the root causes of the problems and how Libertarian policies will help. We point out examples of recent legislation where our opponents took the wrong position, and we suggest good legislation.

We produced a Legislative Scorecard for Virginia legislators, ranking them based on their votes in the 2018-2019 session. With average ratings of 16% in the Senate and 18% in the House of Delegates, it's abundantly clear we need Libertarians elected.

Libertarian BOOSTER PAC		Virginia Senators 2018-2019																		
Legislative Scorecard		Budget Growth	Restrict Asset Forfeiture	Business Tax Incentives	Amazon Subsidy	Expand Charter Schools	Coal Subsidies	Renewable Subsidies	Allow Casinos	Allow Guns In Church	Medicaid Expansion	Barber License	Constr. Lic. Exemption	Decriminalize Marijuana	Incr. Alcohol Lic. Fees	Tobacco Age 21	Overall Score			
Libertarian Position:		A	F	A	A	F	A	A	F	F	A	A	F	F	A	A	F = For, A = Against			
Bill Enacted:		Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y = Yes; N = No	Budget Bill %	Other Bills %	Overall Score
Senator	Party	District	2019 HB 1700	2018 HB 900*	2018 HB 222	2019 SB 1255	2018 SB 516*	2018 HB 665	2018 SB 573	2019 SB 1126	2019 SB 1024	2018 HB 5002	2018 HB 1554	2018 SB 569	2019 SB 997*	2018 SB 884	2019 HB 2748			
Barker	D	39	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	23%	12%
Black	R	13	-	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	0%	50%	25%
Carrico	R	40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	0%	46%	23%

Full 12-page *Legislative Scorecard* available at [LibertarianBoosterPAC.org](http://LibertarianBoosterPAC.org)

In Texas, we were shocked that we couldn't find any organization that proposed total budget cuts for state government. Some proposed slower growth, but no actual budget cuts.

So, we produced a 10-page detailed plan to cut the Texas government's budget in half over a ten-year period. We included details on how to achieve the spending cuts and gave copies to every legislator.

**Libertarian BOOSTER PAC**

**Modest Plan to Cut the Texas Budget in Half**

June 2020

**Key features:**

- Gradual, ten-year phase-in
- Cuts spending across the board by 4% per year
- Reduces tax rates 5% per year (50% after ten years)
- Cuts spending as percent of gross state product in half

All Tax Rates Halved (Examples)	2020	2030
Sales tax	6.25%	3.125%
Gas tax	\$0.20/gal	\$0.10/gal
Oil production tax	4.5%	2.25%
Cigarette tax	\$1.41/pack	\$0.71/pack

**Key Measures**

	2020	2030
Total Spending (billions)	\$120	\$60
Spending as % of gross state product	14.4%	7.2%
Spending per resident (current \$)	\$4,280	\$2,140

"We aren't just looking for efficiency and waste reduction. We want the government to **shrink**."

Web Borekoff, President & Founder  
Libertarian Booster PAC

Political advertisement paid for by Libertarian Booster PAC  
5928 Querra Park, Cove, Austin, TX 78717 | [LibertarianBoosterPAC.org](http://LibertarianBoosterPAC.org)

## Alcohol, Tobacco & Marijuana

Legalize the sale and use of marijuana.  
Allow stores to sell liquor.  
Repeal the tobacco age increase.

## Civil Rights

No government discrimination.  
Persuasion, not coercion.  
Religious freedom.  
Respect the rights of non-citizens.

## Education

Reduce state spending on education.  
Education tax credits and vouchers.  
Expand school choice.

## Environment

Property-rights approach to pollution.  
Stop subsidizing energy companies.

## Guns

Support the Second Amendment.  
End gun prohibition in churches.

## Health Care

Repeal the Medicaid expansion.  
Repeal Certificate of Public Need laws.  
Reduce regulations and restrictions.

## Jobs

Reduce occupational licensing.  
End corporate welfare.  
No state minimum wage.

## Police

End the war on drugs.  
Stop police militarization.  
End civil asset forfeiture.

## Taxes and Spending

Above were issues for 2019 Virginia House of Delegates. Full write-ups at [LibertarianBoosterPAC.org/issues.html](http://LibertarianBoosterPAC.org/issues.html)

# Electing 174 Pennsylvania Libertarians—the “Moulton Maneuver”

How did we get 174 Libertarians elected in Pennsylvania, and why can’t we do this everywhere else?

Pennsylvania has a unique election schedule. Democrats and Republicans have a primary election in May of election years. Sometimes, particularly in small municipalities, no Republican or Democrat files to run in their primaries.

Third parties and independents aren’t included in the May primaries. Instead, they get nominated by their parties and have until August 1 to file.

So, we pore over the May election results to find offices where neither a Democrat nor a Republican filed to be on the ballot. We also have to make sure no Republican or Democrat got 10 write-in votes.

Then we find registered Libertarians who live in those districts. We send them letters explaining that if they file to run for office, they will face no major party opponents on the ballot and therefore are almost certain to win!

In 2019, we did this and got 29 Libertarians elected.

We repeated the project in 2021 and got 174 Libertarians elected!

Elected Position	Libertarians Elected
Auditor	53
Constable	66
Council Member	7
School (Board) Director	8
Inspector of Elections	21
Judge of Elections	14
Mayor	3
Township Supervisor	1
Tax Collector	1
<b>Grand Total Elected</b>	<b>174</b>

This project was originally brought to my attention by Dr. Chuck Moulton. Moulton has a long history of activism with the Libertarian Party, having served as the Libertarian National Committee Vice Chair (2006-2008), and State Chair of the Libertarian Parties of Pennsylvania and Virginia.

News of the project’s success spread widely and became known as “The Moulton Maneuver.”

To give credit where credit is due, not all of the Libertarian candidates elected in Pennsylvania were recruited by us directly. The state and county Libertarian Party affiliates did some of their own recruitment. But most of them worked in cooperation with our efforts.

In 2019 and 2021, I spent most of my summers organizing data, preparing mailings, and responding to phone calls, texts, and emails from prospective candidates.

See the note on the next page from Dr. Chuck Moulton that describes our work on the effort. I’ve also included the letter that we wrote that worked so well to recruit candidates.

Some prospects could choose from two or more offices. For each letter, we used mail-merge to include paragraphs explaining the duties of the available offices (up to a maximum of three available offices).





## Dr. Chuck Moulton's email re: Pennsylvania

**Subject:** moulton maneuver pitch to booster pac donors  
**From:** Chuck Moulton <chuck@moulton.org>  
**Date:** 8/22/2021, 2:20 PM  
**To:** Wes Benedict <wesbenedict@gmail.com>  
**CC:** Jenn Moore <chair@lppa.org>

I have been aware for over a decade that a quirk in the Pennsylvania election law (Libertarian filing deadline months after the Republican and Democrat filing deadline) could be exploited to elect a lot of partisan Libertarians to local office. Despite sharing my plan frequently with anyone who I thought could help, no one stepped forward... consigning it as a solo dream limited by my own time constraints. Several election cycles I shared a list of openings at county meetings resulting in a few elected officials (if someone at the meeting happened to live in a municipality I highlighted), but it remained largely a missed opportunity.

Then **Wes Benedict answered my call**. He was excited by my plan, bringing both enthusiasm and a suite of useful skills to the project. Wes wrote a captivating recruitment letter and mail merged the list of opportunities with the list of registered voters (using his contractor Art). Wes was available 9 am - 9 pm by phone and email to answer questions, vet candidates, and walk them through the process in more detail. For several weeks he was working 18+ hour days to get everything done.

After that he got each candidate his or her paperwork as a printable PDF pre-filled in with all the information we had. He helped stack candidates from the same district on nomination papers and get them in touch with each other to coordinate petitioning. Then he followed up with people and lined up alternative candidates when anyone dropped out. Wes even contacted the board of elections in multiple counties to get appropriate forms, double check procedures, and get signature requirements for each office.

In **2019 we sent about 3,692 letters** (12/67 counties) to get on the ballot and 2,875 letters (32/67 counties) for write-ins, which netted 39 elected Libertarians (25 on the ballot and 14 write-ins, drawn from 137 ballot responses and 49 write-in responses). In **2021 we sent 15,838** (64/67 counties) letters to get on the ballot, which netted 113 uncontested candidates on the ballot (drawn from 511 responses). We are still planning our write-in effort, which we hope will net another 50 wins.

For context, the national Libertarian Party currently lists 229 Libertarians holding elected office, of which 63 are from Pennsylvania. 19 of those candidates end their term of office this year. So after this election we expect around 44 elected Libertarians still in office from previous elections and around 160 more from this election, which means 204 from Pennsylvania. If previous numbers persist, the rest of the country combined will have around 166 elected Libertarians. Therefore, **thanks to Wes Benedict and the Libertarian Booster PAC Pennsylvania will have around 20% more elected Libertarians than the rest of the country combined.**

**Without the help of Wes, Art, and the Booster PAC, the great success we achieved electing Libertarians in Pennsylvania 2019 and 2021 would not have been possible.** We plan to do this again in 2023 and recruit even more candidates by using what we learned this year to be even faster generating the letters, responding to inquiries, calculating signature requirements, and generating paperwork. Wes is a huge asset to libertarianism. I hope through generous donations he is able to continue devoting his time to this great cause.

In liberty,  
Dr. Chuck Moulton  
Election Committee Chair, Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania

## Pennsylvania candidate recruitment letter

174 Libertarians elected in 2021

Dr. Chuck Moulton, Elections Manager  
Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania  
3915 Union Deposit Road #223  
Harrisburg, PA 17109



Date: June 22, 2021

County: BUCKS

Voter ID: 1 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
DUBLIN, PA 18917

Dear [REDACTED],

Due to a quirk in how our elections work in Pennsylvania, there's an opening for an office where you live, and **if you file for it, you will almost certainly win.**

This is not a joke.

Offices available: **Dublin Borough Council**  
**Dublin Borough Constable**

The deadline for Republicans and Democrats to file for this office already passed, and no Republican or Democrat filed.

Fortunately, the deadline for Libertarians to file for this office isn't until August 2<sup>nd</sup>, but we have to act fast to get the paperwork done. I'll help you every step of the way.

If Libertarians don't run for these offices, most likely no one will run, and instead, someone will be appointed (probably not a Libertarian). But I would rather have a Libertarian serve.

I checked the Pennsylvania registered voters list and since you are a registered Libertarian and live in the district, you could file and would almost certainly be the only person listed on the ballot which means you will almost certainly win.

You won't be alone. We do this all the time. If you go to **LP.org/penn** you'll see a list with 65 Pennsylvanian Libertarians serving in local offices, as well as more information about the local office we're suggesting, plus you can verify our contact information. Find more information about the Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania at **LPPA.org**.

*The job of councilor (or council member) is a legislative role that is very important. The council may meet monthly, and passes ordinances, rules and regulations that affect residents in many important ways including impacting tax rates. The qualifications are minimal and are based on where you live. No degrees or work experience is required. Training is provided. Ten Libertarians serve as Council members in Pennsylvania.*

*A constable is an elected law enforcement officer and may involve as little as keeping the peace on election day. Sometimes constables work for the courts serving summons. In some cases constables perform low-level law enforcement activities typically associated with police or sheriff's departments. The qualifications are minimal and are based on where you live. No degrees or work experience is*

*required. Ordinary people really can do this job. You don't have to have a law enforcement background. Training is provided. Pay varies based on the situation. In some cases it's a full-time job. In others, they do almost nothing. Eight Libertarians serve as constables in Pennsylvania and we'll be happy to connect you with one to discuss the role further.*

I would love to talk to you about it in more detail to see if this is something you'd be willing to do and to make sure you'll feel comfortable in the role. Two of my colleagues are also helping with this effort: LPPA Chair Jennifer Moore, and Wes Benedict, a former executive director of the national Libertarian Party. Please call or write to any or all of us as soon as possible and leave a voicemail if we don't answer and we'll call back ASAP.

**Wes Benedict:** [wesbenedict@gmail.com](mailto:wesbenedict@gmail.com), (512) 659-8896 (call or text)

**Jennifer Moore, LPPA Chair:** [chair@lppa.org](mailto:chair@lppa.org), [REDACTED] (call or text)

**Chuck Moulton, Elections Manager:** [chuck@moulton.org](mailto:chuck@moulton.org)

It's not every day that you can get elected to office just by throwing your hat in the ring. Usually candidates must spend lots of time and money campaigning. This is a unique opportunity for you to win without having to go through the trouble of campaigning.

After we talk, if I think this isn't the right thing for you to do, I'll let you know. I know serving in public office might sound intimidating, but you can probably handle these offices.

Serving in office is fun. I know from experience. I serve as a Whitpain Judge of Elections and I won this election by simply writing in my own name for this office. Yes, I won the election 1 to zero. It's been fun serving and has taken very little time.

Please call or write to me right away.

Sincerely:



Dr. Chuck Moulton

Elections Manager, Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania

Voter ID: [REDACTED]

P.S. It's not every day you can run for office and win because you are the only person on the ballot. So, call us right away. The paperwork must be done before August 2.

P.P.S. If you're unable to run for office, but still want to help, return the membership form or visit [LPPA.org/join](http://LPPA.org/join). Donating is not required to run for office.

## Libertarian Prescription for COVID-19

Liberty is worth fighting for! Liberty makes life better! Libertarian solutions are so obvious and beautifully simple—more freedom, less government. Liberty works *especially* in emergencies.

When the coronavirus outbreak hit and I noticed some libertarians starting to waver on their principles, I felt it was important to stand up proudly and boldly for liberty, both for the public to see that libertarian solutions exist, and to remind libertarians that libertarian solutions work!

That's why the Libertarian Booster PAC issued the press release below, which got lots of positive feedback from Libertarians. Reading it years later, I'm still proud of it, and wanted to share it as an example of Libertarians standing up for liberty.

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PRESS RELEASE – AUSTIN – March 18, 2020: A Libertarian Prescription for Coronavirus

True, most Libertarians aren't doctors. Our remedies are for the government.

People are rightly concerned about the current coronavirus outbreak. A March 13, 2020 New York Times article quoting the CDC says that, in the worst-case scenario, as many as 214 million Americans might get infected and 1.7 million could die. Other experts expect far fewer infections and deaths once better data on infection rates becomes available, and as people change their behaviors to prevent the spread of the virus.

Wes Benedict, founder of the Libertarian Booster PAC, commented, *"In times of crisis, Americans are too quick to reach for the government as a default solver of problems. Politicians wanting to appear to be 'doing something' are all too eager to act, but they have a long history of doing things that make situations worse, both in the short term and the long term.*

*"Libertarians believe that free people and free markets are best equipped to respond to crisis situations. Often government remedies, which might make us feel good, get us hooked and cause long-term damage. The war on poverty, war on terror, war on drugs, and other government responses to perceived threats have given us restrictions and programs that rarely get revoked. We don't need a new expensive freedom-killing war on viruses which may kill more people than it helps by reducing economic development worldwide."*

Benedict added, *"Instead of asking what new program or law is needed in response to every problem like the coronavirus, we should be asking, 'What existing laws are adding to the problem?'"*

Below are activities the government should avoid, followed by prescriptions for activities the government should take.

Governments should avoid the following:

Mandatory restaurant and other business closings. People should be free to decide for themselves what risks they are willing to take. I'd highly recommend most senior citizens and those with weakened immune systems do their best to stay away from restaurants and stores. Many already do that during flu outbreaks. But it's wrong for the government to force businesses to close, and doing that now sets a dangerous precedent.

Quarantines and limits on public assembly. Quarantines can backfire. People who might be sick may avoid getting tested for fear of being held against their will. At-risk individuals have the choice to isolate themselves and use extra caution as they do during flu outbreaks. Healthy individuals are free to avoid public gatherings as well, but they should not be able to prevent others from assembling.

Carriers of the disease can create risks for vulnerable individuals. However, Libertarian tenets of personal freedom and personal responsibility put the onus on the at-risk individual to stay isolated,

rather than demand that the rest of the world change their behavior.

The power to quarantine is very dangerous, because it amounts to imprisonment without a crime. That same power could be used in the future by government officials who want to get dissidents out of the way. The First Amendment protects people's right to assemble, for good reason.

As an example, the City of Austin has banned gatherings of more than 10 people. That's wrong, violates the Constitution, should be reversed immediately, and should never be done again.

Bailouts and other financial rescues. Government should avoid causing a financial pandemic on top of the disease pandemic. Forcing businesses to close, monkeying with interest rates, quantitative easing, promising bailouts, and other subsidies only make the financial problems worse in the short and long run. The world has suffered disease outbreaks in recent years such as Ebola, SARS, MERS, and swine flu. A new contagious disease outbreak should be a surprise to no one. It's the responsibility of individuals and businesses to be prepared for occurrences like this. We should not punish prudent businesses by taxing them and giving that money to businesses that might otherwise fail.

Things government should do:

1. Remove price-gouging restrictions to help suppliers meet demand and avoid shortages.
2. Pass legislation to restrict the power of local officials to close businesses and limit group sizes.
3. Suspend the minimum wage so the unemployed can more easily find alternative work, and so businesses teetering on bankruptcy can survive.
4. Raise the threshold for filing a 1099 for contract work (currently \$600), to allow people needing help to hire willing contract workers without all of the federal paperwork hassles.
5. Remove tariffs to speed the flow of supplies internationally.
6. Remove CDC and FDA restrictions that prohibit rapid development and rollout of tests, immunizations, and treatments.
7. Relax immigration quotas and hurdles, to allow skilled foreign workers to come here and help us.
8. Remove economic sanctions on Iran, so they can more easily get what they need to save their own lives.

Although Libertarians are famous for complaining about what government does wrong, there's one area where the government is performing pretty well: free speech.

Free speech is critical. We don't want a situation like China where people who contradict the government are subject to threats, censorship, or perhaps even worse.

While it's possible the media has created more panic than we need, or failed to warn us quickly enough, press freedom is crucial. And freedom of the press means the freedom to be wrong. Our free media has grabbed America's attention and has helped individuals stay informed so they can take voluntary action.

Freedom of speech for every individual shall not be infringed. Free speech means the right to criticize the president, Congress, and all government officials. Free speech also means the right to question experts, to disagree, and to debate and argue on social media without interference from the government. Except for some defamation lawsuits and speech codes on campuses, America mostly does well respecting free speech.

Benedict reaffirmed, *"I know people are scared. Government reaction scares me more than the virus itself. Now is not the time to panic and throw out our principles. Instead, now is the time to stand firmly on principle, and remind ourselves what makes America great. Now is the time for us to take responsibility for our own health, and to voluntarily lend a hand to a neighbor. Free people, voluntary persuasion, and free markets are the surest, quickest, cheapest, and safest way for humanity to fight the coronavirus—not government coercion."*

###

## [LibertarianBoosterPAC.org/shop](http://LibertarianBoosterPAC.org/shop)

I've always felt it was important for Libertarians to have easy access to high-quality promotional materials like yard signs, stickers, brochures, and of course shirts and hats.

While serving as Executive Director of the national LP, we rolled out LPStore.org with an abundance of great materials at low prices. The goal wasn't to make a profit. The goal was to serve our members and promote the brand. In 2016, we had sales of \$316,269 and shipped over 300,000 items. After I left in 2018, the LP outsourced LPStore.org. Unfortunately, that resulted in fewer products, lower quality, and higher prices.



To help fill the void, the Libertarian Booster PAC rolled out a store to provide a variety of merchandise. The shirts are high-quality with screen printing from CustomInk.com. It costs us money and takes space to hold the inventory, but it's worth it compared to low-quality print-on-demand.

Our "Enough is Enough, Vote Libertarian" signs stand out from the crowd and are reusable year after year.

In some cases, we've mass-produced designs for candidates, posted them on the store, and offered them at low prices.



## [LibertarianBoosterPAC.org/shop](http://LibertarianBoosterPAC.org/shop)



# Libertarian

More Freedom  Less Government

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## More about Booster PAC founders Wes Benedict & Arthur DiBianca

After earning a Mechanical Engineering degree from the University of Texas, I (Wes) worked as a manufacturing engineer throughout the U.S. and overseas. Later, I got an MBA and Masters of Engineering at the University of Michigan. I'm now married and live with my wife and son in Austin, Texas.

On the U of M campus in 1996, someone approached me to take the *World's Smallest Political Quiz*, a popular survey that shows if you are libertarian. I didn't get a perfect libertarian score, but I came close! And I was so excited to find out about the Libertarian Party that I joined shortly after and signed up for a monthly pledge donation.

Later I served as a Libertarian county chair in Georgia. Then I moved to Texas where, with two partners, we bought, fixed up, and sold a kitchen and bath countertop manufacturing company with around 20 employees.

Around that time, the Libertarian Party of Texas was kicked off the ballot and had to collect 45,540 signatures to get back on.

They were struggling to prepare and the prospects looked grim. Pat Dixon, a Libertarian and future council member of Lago Vista, Texas, stepped up to serve as the Ballot Access Committee chairman. Pat asked me to help.

I thought there was a significant risk the LP could lose ballot access in Texas, which would demotivate activists in other states as well. I had some time and money on my hands, and after some soul-searching, I decided to step up and help.

I ended up volunteering full-time for several months. I travelled Texas at my own expense, collecting signatures, training volunteers, raising funds, and paying professionals. In just 75 days, we collected 81,000 signatures and regained ballot access!

Pat Dixon was elected State Chair of the LP Texas, and he hired me to serve as Executive Director. I served from 2004 to 2008. We recruited a record 168 candidates in 2006 and another record 173 candidates in 2008.

Libertarian Booster PAC co-founder Arthur DiBianca helped extensively with that petition drive and later served on the LP Texas staff with me.

I served as Regional Representative to the Libertarian National Committee from 2006 to 2008. During the Iraq War, many members had expressed concern to me that the Libertarian Party was wa-



Pat Dixon



LP activist Arthur DiBianca of Austin helps deliver boxes of petition forms.

### Wes Benedict's Resolution

Wes Benedict moved the LNC adopt the following resolution which was written by Arthur DiBianca, a Libertarian activist from Austin, TX:

WHEREAS the government of the United States should return to its historical libertarian tradition of avoiding entangling alliances, foreign quarrels, and military adventures; and

WHEREAS the armed forces of the United States have invaded Iraq, a foreign nation that neither directly attacked nor imminently threatened to attack the United States; and

WHEREAS this invasion was unjust and imprudent; and

WHEREAS the injustice and imprudence of this invasion cannot be undone by the continued presence of the armed forces of the United States in Iraq; and

WHEREAS the stability and security of Iraq lie outside the jurisdiction of the government of the

LNC Meeting Minutes, Las Vegas, NV, February 17, 2008

● Page 8

United States;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Libertarian National Committee calls on the government of the United States to withdraw the armed forces of the United States from Iraq, without delay or preconditions.

vering on its non-interventionist stance, and I agreed.

In Texas, the Travis County LP adopted an Iraq withdrawal resolution drafted by Arthur DiBianca. I presented this resolution to the LNC and urged them to adopt it as well.

The LNC adopted the resolution, although they amended it slightly.

The following year, I was hired to serve full-time as the Executive Director of the Libertarian National Committee at the headquarters in Washington, DC. I served from 2009 to 2011, and again from 2013 to 2018.

Throughout my service, I always tried to put forth a bold Libertarian message that leaned neither rightward nor leftward, but plumbline Libertarian. Republicans and Democrats both work to take away our freedoms. When criticizing one, I always tried to fit in a critique of the other as well. We don't want people voting for the lesser of two evils. We want them voting Libertarian.

You can search for "Wes Benedict" at LP.org and find hundreds of articles confirming I always stayed true to libertarian principles like non-interventionism, personal freedom, free markets, lower taxes (or no taxes), and I did it in ways that most Libertarians supported and that the public could understand.

In addition to working for the party and recruiting lots of candidates, I've also run for office several times myself.

- 2002: Travis County Commissioner
- 2003: Austin City Council (Received 35% of the vote!)
- 2005: Austin City Council (Placed 2nd out of 5!)
- 2006: Austin City Council
- 2008: Travis County Commissioner
- 2022: Williamson County Judge

I served as campaign manager for Mark Tippetts for Governor (2022) and Steven R. Harris for Mayor (2021). As part of my campaign manager role I also served as treasurer, fundraiser, website designer, graphic designer, policy writer, volunteer coordinator, and campaign materials distributor.

I've worked with many Libertarian activists over the years, but I

September 2009

# LP News

The Party of Principle™

The Official Newspaper of the Libertarian Party

Volume 39, Issue 3

Libertarian Cheered - Page 8

Local Libertarians in Action - Page 9

## LNC Hires New Executive Director

Libertarian National Committee (LNC) Chair William Redpath has announced the hiring of Wes Benedict to serve as the new Executive Director of the Libertarian Party.

"I look forward to great things for the LP with him as Executive Director," said Redpath.

The LP has operated without an Executive Director since May 2008.

Benedict served as the Executive Director for the Libertarian Party of Texas from 2004 to 2008. During Benedict's tenure, the LP Texas recruited a record 168 candidates for the November 2006 elections followed by 173 in 2008. The number of elected Libertarians in non-partisan Texas offices increased from two to eight.

"Our focus in Texas was on the basics of







have been especially impressed with the quality of work from Libertarian activist Arthur DiBianca. That’s why I asked him to co-found the Libertarian Booster PAC with me.

In his work for the Libertarian Party and the Libertarian Booster PAC, Arthur has been very helpful building and maintaining databases, researching political issues, writing policies, making fundraising calls, and lobbying for and against bills before the Texas Legislature.



Arthur has run for office several times as well, including state legislative offices and U.S. Congress.

### MORE CANDIDATE RECRUITMENT

Arthur DiBianca and I have done some recent projects that were not directly managed by the Libertarian Booster PAC. Nevertheless, I mention them to show the kind of work and results we’ve delivered.

**ALABAMA:** In 2022, we helped the Libertarian Party of Alabama recruit a record 67 candidates.

**ARKANSAS:** Also in 2022, we helped the Libertarian Party of Arkansas recruit a record 57 candidates. We got a boost from Ricky Dale Harrington, Jr., who was running for governor. He had run for U.S. Senate

in 2020 and received 33.3%, which was the highest result ever for a Libertarian running for U.S. Senate!

**MISSISSIPPI:** In 2023, we helped the LP Mississippi recruit seventeen candidates, which was more than it had run in the previous seven years combined.

For the states above, we wrote and designed candidate recruitment letters that were sent to thousands of Libertarians. Each letter included my email and cell phone, and encouraged people to write, call or text, 9 A.M. to 9 P.M. seven days a week!

*“I want to thank you for supporting the Libertarian Booster PAC, and let you know how grateful I am for the help. The Libertarian Booster PAC enabled my campaign to get started quickly and easily.”*

—Laura Delhomme for VA Delegate, 2013



## My book: *Introduction to the Libertarian Party*

Many books describe the libertarian philosophy, but I couldn't find any that explained the Libertarian Party.

I wanted a book that I could give to people that would explain what the Libertarian Party stood for and that would help new Libertarians become effective activists.

So I wrote the book myself!

### REVIEWS

*"If I could get people curious about libertarianism to read just one book, the answer is easy. Wes Benedict was the Libertarian Party's executive director, and in 2013 he wrote a 120-page instant classic called Introduction to the Libertarian Party. It's a brilliantly succinct yet comprehensive overview of the philosophy and politics of libertarianism."*

—Brian Holtz

*"I have been searching for a book with an honest, candid and informative overview of the Libertarian Party and this is it! I plan to purchase additional copies to share with family, friends and colleagues."*

—William Sommerville

*"The author does a great job of giving practical examples on how to further the cause of freedom through the Libertarian Party."*

—Dona

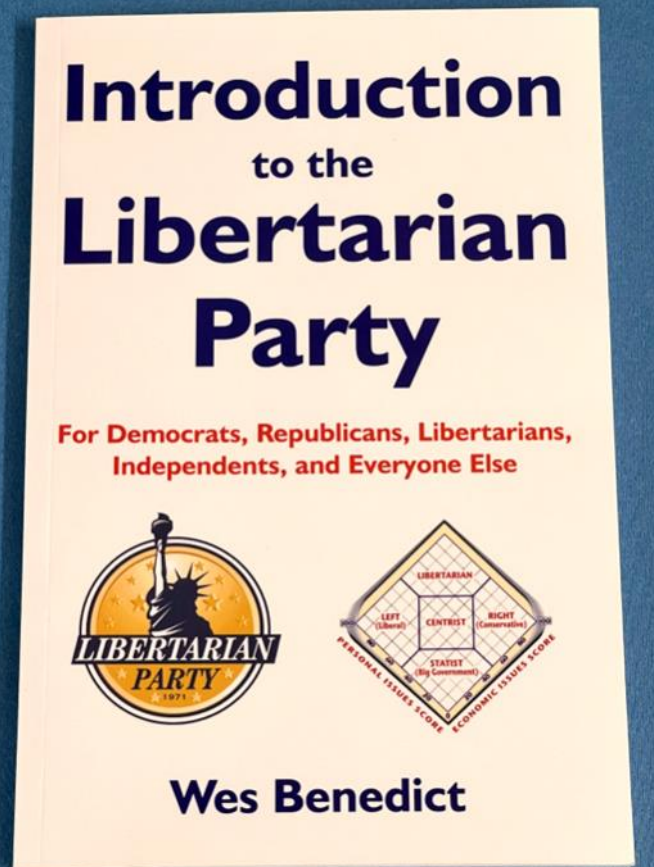
*"An excellent, easy to read book that provides a good overview of the party, the beliefs and the way to go about supporting those beliefs of freedom, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. I tore through this book on a two hour train ride and enjoyed every minute of it."*

—AW1

*"It is a very good book about the Libertarian Party for anyone in the party or interested in its inner workings. It's written from the autobiographical perspective of a new volunteer that quickly became the Executive Director of LPTexas and then Executive Director of the national party. Very good stuff. It's a must read for all libertarians."*

—James M. Holland

Available on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).  
Buy in bulk for low prices at  
[LibertarianBoosterPAC.org](https://www.LibertarianBoosterPAC.org)



### TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Introduction: How I found the Libertarian Party
- 1. Don't hit people and don't take their stuff
- 2. What is a Libertarian?
- 3. Libertarians on 25 issues
- 4. What does a libertarian government look like?
- 5. Are libertarians too extreme?
- 6. Republican hypocrites
- 7. Democratic hypocrites
- 8. How many Libertarians are there?
- 9. The Libertarian Party Platform
- 10. The World's Smallest Political Quiz
- 11. History of the Libertarian Party
- 12. How the Libertarian Party is organized
- 13. How I won my first county chairman position!
- 14. Turning around the dysfunctional Texas Libertarian Party
- 15. Why run for office as a Libertarian?
- 16. Life cycle of a Libertarian campaign
- 17. How to donate and volunteer
- 18. Are Libertarians wasting their votes?
- 19. The libertarian movement outside the Libertarian Party
- 20. Famous libertarians
- 21. Libertarian infighting
- 22. Libertarian PACs: where millionaires should donate
- 23. Hope for the future



## Why libertarian?

If you're reading this, you probably already consider yourself to be libertarian, and you're familiar with the policies we support.

The Libertarian Booster PAC's longtime supporter, Chris Rufer of California, often reminds me how important it is to remember that libertarianism isn't just a selection of policies from the left and right. And we can't just sell libertarianism by saying "freedom" or

"liberty." Most Americans feel like they already have a lot of freedom, especially compared to other countries.

Libertarianism is the philosophy that rejects coercion in human relationships. Libertarians oppose using force to change people. Persuasion is the moral way to try to change someone. Coercion causes conflict and reduces well-being. We think voluntary relationships and cooperation will lead to prosperity and happiness.

We recognize that people have different personal values. A social conservative might believe marriage should only be between a man and a woman. It's not a violation of libertarian principles to *personally* oppose gay marriage. It is a violation of libertarian principles to try to *use the government* to prohibit gay marriage.

A liberal/progressive might think people should help feed the poor and house the homeless. It's fine to use *your own* resources to help the poor, or to persuade others to help the poor. It's a violation of libertarian principles to use *taxation* to force others to help the poor.

## Why the Libertarian Party? Why the Libertarian Booster PAC?

I'm an activist with the Libertarian Party because I believe it's the place where I'm most effective working to implement libertarian policies.

Before joining the Libertarian Party, I used to argue and debate issues with friends and family, but I rarely if ever changed minds, and I certainly never caused any public policies to change.

After joining the Libertarian Party, as a county chair and candidate, I reached hundreds of thousands of people by getting coverage in the media, and by communicating with people in person and online who were curious about what Libertarians stood for and why.

The Libertarian Booster PAC has recruited hundreds of people as Libertarian Party candidates, and by doing so, we have probably helped those folks reach millions of Americans with libertarian messages.

These candidates are usually like I was, wanting to make a difference, but not finding a way to be effective. The Libertarian Booster PAC helps take advantage of this previously untapped potential.

Turning someone into a Libertarian Party candidate amplifies the person's voice for liberty a thousand times. Recruiting and helping Libertarian candidates is my focus, and it's why I founded the Libertarian Booster PAC.

Please help us help more Libertarians by donating at [LibertarianBoosterPAC.org](https://LibertarianBoosterPAC.org) today.

—Wes Benedict  
President & Founder  
(512) 659-8896, wesbenedict@gmail.com



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