



# LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF ILLINOIS

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## Libertarian Party of Illinois News

August 1, 2009

### Illinois State Convention

The LP Illinois will host our annual State Convention in Collinsville the weekend of October 23-25. Come and enjoy the companionship of your fellow Libertarians from across Illinois. There will be workshops for activists, a candidate forum, Libertarian Jeopardy, and much more. We are pleased to announce that Sharon Harris, President of the Advocates for Self Government, will be the Saturday night banquet speaker.

Three convention packages are available to choose from and early bird registration is open. Visit our website, [LPillinois.org](http://LPillinois.org), for all the details. You can also [download the Convention flyer](#). Redistribution of the flyer is appreciated.

### Election Campaigns

At the Convention business meeting, the LP Illinois members will be electing state-wide candidates for the 2010 elections. Ray Lear has announced his candidacy for the Libertarian nomination for Governor. He joins Julie Fox, who is running for State Comptroller. We have heard rumors of others interested in the Lt. Governor and Secretary of State spots, as well as US Senate, and will post them as they are announced. We will also need Treasurer and Attorney General candidates to fill a state slate, as required by election law.

Contact Lupe Diaz, our new Campaigns Chair ([Campaigns@LPillinois.org](mailto:Campaigns@LPillinois.org)), if you are, would like to, or are considering a run for office at the local, state, or federal level. We have 7 Libertarians elected right now around Illinois and hundreds nationwide. You can help us build a free country by running for office. For additional insight, read the [Why Run for Public Office](#) page on our website.

### Libertarian Chapters and Student Organizations

As the volunteers who have been staffing summertime Libertarian booths at county fairs attest, interest in the Libertarian Party is growing. The LP Illinois currently has chapters developing in Kankakee, Lake, Metro East, Peoria, Stephenson, and Will counties. Most recently, Kankakee had their introductory meeting on July 23 and Metro East will have their re-introductory meeting on August 24. For information about our chapters, check the [Local Chapters page](#) in the About section of our website or contact Damon Dillon, our Membership Chair ([Membership@LPillinois.org](mailto:Membership@LPillinois.org)).

Now is the time for students to get Libertarian organizations started up on college campuses. Check our list of existing student groups on the [Students page](#) in the Join section of our website. For more information about starting a campus organization, contact Karin Vermillion, our Campus Coordinator ([Campus@LPillinois.org](mailto:Campus@LPillinois.org)). Please also let Karin know if you know about a campus organization that is not on our list, so it can be added.

### Activism Opportunities

Ron Paul has made amazing progress on bringing public attention to the bankers' cabal known as the Federal Reserve. His US House bill #1207 to audit the Fed has



gained 279 co-sponsors. There is now a matching bill in the Senate #604, the Federal Reserve Sunshine Act. We ask that every libertarian call our US Senators Dick Durbin (202) 224-2152 and Roland Burris (202) 224-2854 and tell them to co-sponsor and support this bill. Since we are most effective working together, August 5<sup>th</sup> has been set as the target date to make their phones ring off the hook! Mark your calendar now to make those calls on Wednesday.

There is another Tea Party brewing in Chicago for Monday, September 14 at the downtown Post Office. More details will follow as we receive them.

Libertarians may also be interested in attending the Midwest Liberty Fest in DuQuoin, October 9-11. See [MidwestLibertyFest.com](http://MidwestLibertyFest.com) for all the details.

Mike Fogelsanger, our new Activism Chair ([Activism@LPillinois.org](mailto:Activism@LPillinois.org)) is looking for new ideas and thinking outside of the box. If you have a suggestion for libertarian activism, please contact him.

### **Legislative Issues**

Most Libertarians want an end to all of our current wars, including the war on drugs. States are so desperate for new tax revenues, that they just might start the legalization ball rolling, including here in Illinois. Fast Company recently published an article titled: [Imagine Pot was Legal. How Would You Brand It?](#) We'd brand it: a good start.

At the national level, the big debate is about government-run health care. A couple of excellent sources of information to support the libertarian alternative, patient-run health care, are [The Cato Institute](#) and [The Heartland Institute](#). You can also read a terrific short book, [The Top 10 Myths of American Health Care](#). The PDF is available online for free or you can buy the printed edition on the website.

### **Swap at the Top**

Due to job requirements, Dave Brady has stepped down as State Chair. Fortunately, our previous State Chair, Val Vetter, volunteered to serve again as Chair. We thank Dave, Val, and all our Libertarian Officers, past and present, for their work to advance liberty in Illinois.

### **Help Wanted**

We are seeking to hire an independent contractor who will raise money for the Party on a commission basis. Contact Val Vetter ([Chair@LPillinois.org](mailto:Chair@LPillinois.org)) to find out more.

The Party is also looking for a volunteer to write and publish these electronic newsletters as well as a few printed editions per year. If you have writing skills, a thirst for liberty, and want to be THE person in the know around the LP Illinois, contact Crystal Jurczynski ([News@LPillinois.org](mailto:News@LPillinois.org)).

### **Libertarian Thought of the Week**

Thomas Jefferson said, "I believe that banking institutions are more dangerous to our liberties than standing armies." –and that's saying something.