



Running for Public Office as a Libertarian in 2018

Libertarian Party of Northwest Michigan Meeting
January 16, 2018

Greg Stempfle – Political Director
Libertarian Party of Michigan

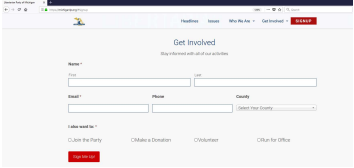



Stuff I'll talk about today...


- Calendar of Events through 2018 Election
- Elections in Northwest Michigan
- Filing Requirements
- Campaign Finance
- How the LPM can help its candidates

Housekeeping Items

- [Sign up on the LPM site for email announcements and newsletter.](#)

- Make sure to join the LPM, not just the National LP, in order to be a voting delegate.



LPM Calendar of Events and Important Dates

2018

March 10, 2018 LPM affiliate conventions to select delegates to state convention (at least 7 days before state convention)
LPM Spring State Convention (National Delegate Selection, Candidate Workshop, Defender of Liberty Awards Banquet)

April 1, 2018 deadline for affiliate chairs to tell county election officials the number precinct delegates to put on primary ballot

April 24, 2018 [Filing deadline for candidates to appear on August Primary](#)


May 8, 2018 Filing deadline for precinct delegates to appear on August Primary

6/30-7/3, 2018 Libertarian National Convention, New Orleans

August 7, 2018 [Primary Election](#)

(August 15 – Sept. 1) LPM affiliate conventions to select delegates to state convention
(August 22 – Sept. 7) [LPM Fall Nominating State Convention](#)

November 6, 2018 [General Election](#)



LPM Spring State Convention

March 10, 2018 Eagle Eye Conference Center, Bath, MI

Candidate Workshop

- Filing requirements
- Campaign finance rules and Electronic Reporting
- Running an active campaign vs an educational campaign
- Media relations
- Online presence (social media, web design)
- Fundraising

- Michigan government 101
- Roundtable discussion with current and former elected libertarians
- Professional photographer for head shots
- During the luncheon, candidates will be invited to practice their campaign speeches
- What else?

National Convention Delegate Selection

[Endorsement of candidates for Secretary of State, Attorney General, Justice of the Supreme Court](#)

Defender of Liberty Awards Banquet

- Guest Speaker
- Spokesperson for Liberty, Promotor of Liberty, Producer of Liberty

“Political Parties Qualified to Nominate Candidates by Primary” (so-called Major Party Status)

Republican, Democratic, Libertarian

Primary

- Governor
- US Senator
- Congress
- State Senate
- State House
- County
- Township/Village
- Precinct Delegates to County Conventions

Convention

- Lieutenant Governor
- Secretary of State
- Attorney General
- Justice of the Supreme Court
- State Board of Education
- Michigan State University Board of Trustees
- University of Michigan Board of Regents
- Wayne State Board of Governors

Filing Requirements for Candidates to Appear on the 2018 August Primary

Office	Min signatures	Max signatures	or \$100 filing fee?	Statement of Organization?	Affidavit of Identity?	File paperwork with...	Campaign Finance Reporting Waiver	Campaign Finance Electronic Filing Requirement
Governor	15,000	30,000	No	Yes	Yes	Michigan Bureau of Elections	\$1,000	\$5,000
US Senator	15,000	30,000	No	No	Yes	FEC	\$5,000	\$50,000
Congress	1,000	2,000	No	No	Yes	FEC	\$5,000	\$50,000
State Senate	500	1,000	Yes	Yes	Yes	Michigan Bureau of Elections	\$1,000	\$5,000
State House	200	400	Yes	Yes	Yes	Michigan Bureau of Elections	\$1,000	\$5,000
County	*varies	*varies	Yes	Yes	Yes	County	\$1,000	\$5,000
Township / Village	*varies	*varies	No	Yes	Yes	County	\$1,000	\$5,000

**Signature number based on population, check with local clerk*

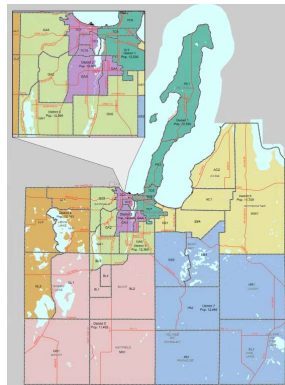
Precinct Delegate	none	none	-	No	Yes	County	-	-
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Elections in 2018

- County Commissioner
- Township and Village offices
- Countywide races are NOT on the ballot in 2018.

Grand Traverse County Commissioner

7 districts, two year terms



Grand Traverse County Commissioner 2

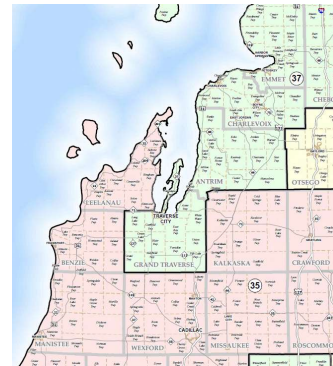
2016				
Green	Tom Mair	3,168	53.0	
Republican	Christine Maxbauer	2,769	46.4	
write in		36	0.6	

State House 104

2016				
Republican	Larry C. Inman	26,020	51.4	
Democratic	Betsy Coffa	21,864	43.2	
Libertarian	Kelly J. Clark	2,714	5.4	

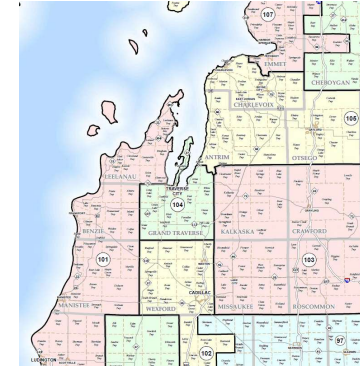
State Senate

35,37

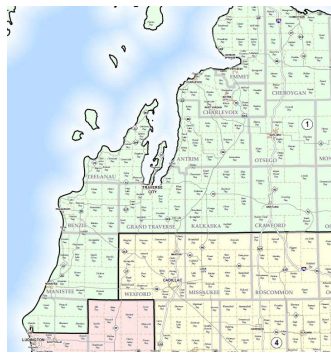


State House

101, 102, 103, 104, 105



US Congress, Districts 1, 4



Congress 1				Congress 4			
2016				2016			
Republican	Jack Bergman	197,777	54.9	Republican	John Moolenaar	194,572	61.6
Democratic	Lon Johanson	144,334	40.1	Democratic	Debra Wirth	101,277	32.1
Libertarian	Diane Bostow	13,386	3.7	Libertarian	Leonard Schwartz	8,516	2.7
Green	Ellis Boal	4,774	1.3	US Taxpayers	George M. Zimmer	5,595	1.8
				Green	Jordan Salvi	3,953	1.3
				Natural Law	Keith Butkovich	1,838	0.6
2014				2014			
Republican	Dan Benishek	130,414	52.1	Republican	John Moolenaar	123,962	56.5
Democratic	Jerry Cannon	113,263	45.3	Democratic	Jeff Holmes	85,777	39.1
Libertarian	Loel Gnaadt	3,823	1.5	US Taxpayers	George M. Zimmer	4,990	2.3
Green	Ellis Boal	2,631	1.1	Libertarian	Will Tyler White	4,694	2.1
2012				2012			
Republican	Dan Benishek	167,060	48.1	Republican	Dave Camp	197,386	63.1
Democratic	Gary McDowell	165,179	47.6	Democratic	Debra Wirth	104,996	33.6
Libertarian	Emily Salvette	10,630	3.1	Libertarian	John Gelineau	4,285	1.4
Green	Ellis Boal	4,168	1.2	US Taxpayers	George Zimmer	3,506	1.1
				Green	Pat Timmons	2,776	0.9

Precinct Delegates to County Convention

- Under state law precinct delegates attend and vote at county conventions
 - 1) Fall convention (after primary) – select delegates to 2018 Fall state convention
 - 2) Post-election convention – select county party officials [optional under LPM bylaws]
 - 3) Spring convention – select delegates to 2019 Spring state convention
- Anyone registered voter can become a precinct delegate.
- Only filing requirement is an Affidavit of Identity by May 8, 2018.
- Candidates for other offices can also be precinct delegates!
- Affiliate chairs must let county officials know how many delegates they want in each precinct. (MCL 168.623a)

Michigan Election Law

MCL 168.623a Mailing or delivering certificate showing number of delegates to county convention; time; notice; failure to forward certificate; allotment and apportionment of delegates; election of delegates by direct vote.

- (1) On or before April 1 in even numbered years, the chairperson of the county committee or district committee of a congressional district or a part of a congressional district considered a county under section 592 of each political party shall forward by mail or otherwise deliver to the board of election commissioners in that county a certificate showing the number of delegates to the county convention to which each precinct of the county is entitled. The chairperson of the state central committee of a political party shall notify the chairperson of the county committee or district committee of a congressional district or a part of a congressional district considered a county under section 592 of that political party no later than March 1 in even numbered years that the certificate required by this subsection is to be delivered to the board of election commissioners on or before April 1 of that year.
- (2) If the chairperson fails to forward the certificate required by subsection (1) by the day specified, the board of election commissioners shall immediately determine the number of delegates to the county convention that each precinct should elect for the implementation of this act.
- (3) The allotment of delegates to all precincts in the state shall be made to insure, as near as is practicable, equal apportionment based upon the total vote cast for the candidate of each political party for either president of the United States or secretary of state at the last general November election when elections for those offices were held, whichever is later. However, each precinct shall have at least 1 delegate.

Filing Requirements for Candidates to Appear on the 2018 August Primary

(Governor, US Senator, Congress, State House, State Senate, County and Township offices, and Precinct Delegates)
Deadline is April 24, 2018

1) Statement of Organization

- Requires you to list an Official Depository
- You may be your own treasurer
- Check the reporting waiver if you plan to spend less than \$1,000.
- [State candidates can only file online.](#)
- [County candidates file paper copy with county clerk.](#)
- Federal candidates do NOT need to fill out this form.

2) Affidavit of Identity

- Must be notarized
- All candidates for Federal, State, County, and Local office must fill out an [Affidavit of Identity for Candidates](#)
- Precinct delegates have a different [affidavit](#)

3) Signatures or a \$100 refundable filing fee.

- Signature petitions are available at any County Clerk office. Petitions are not available online due to specific font size requirements.

Useful information from the Michigan Secretary of State

[Information for Candidates](#)

Candidates Nominated at the 2018 Fall State Convention

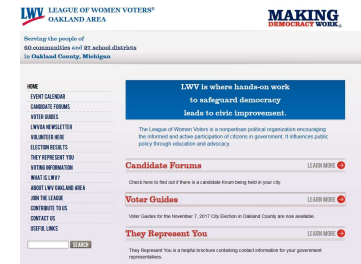
- Lieutenant Governor
- Secretary of State
- Attorney General
- State Board of Education (2)
- Michigan State Board of Trustees (2)
- University of Michigan Board of Regents (2)
- Wayne State University Board of Governors (2)
- Justice of the Supreme Court (2)

Requirements

- In addition to the Statement of Organization and Affidavit of Identity, candidate must file a "Certificate of Party Nomination".
- The LPM must file their list of candidates nominated at convention to the Bureau of Elections within one business day.
- No signatures or filing fee.

Reporting Waiver – You can do a lot with < \$1,000

- Respond to candidate questionnaires and interviews from media, civic organizations, and advocacy groups.
- Speak and attend candidate forums.
- Create a campaign website and build a presence on social media platforms.
- Print or purchase campaign literature to pass out.



Michigan Campaign Finance Laws

Useful links from the Michigan Bureau of Elections...

- [Michigan Campaign Finance Act: Getting Started as a Candidate Committee](#) (covers basic information)
- [Candidate Manual](#) (more thorough information)
- [Campaign Finance Disclosure Training for Candidates](#) (.pdf power point, download and read)

\$1,000 reporting waiver

If your campaign spends less than \$1,000, you do not need to file any campaign finance paperwork.

\$5,000 requires electronic filing

If your campaign spends less more than \$5,000, you must file electronically.

Michigan Bureau of Elections provides software for candidates to file electronically called MERTS ([Michigan Electronic Reporting and Tracking System](#)).

Bank account

If you receive any campaign contributions, you must open a separate bank account for your campaign. This will require you to obtain a [Federal Employee Identification Number](#) (EIN) from the IRS.

Michigan Campaign Finance Laws

Contributions

- For all contributions, you must record...
 - Amount
 - Date
 - Donor name and address
 - If cumulative amount is more than \$100, then you must record donor occupation and employer
- In-kind contributions are good or services donated to the campaign. For these contributions, must report their fair market value. Cryptocurrency is considered an in-kind contribution.
- Maximum allowable amount for each office:
 - Statewide candidates \$6,800, State Senate \$2,000, State Rep \$1,000
- Candidates have no spending limit on their own campaign
- Maximum cash contribution is \$20
- No anonymous contributions
- No contributions directly from corporations, labor unions, or sovereign nations.

Expenditures

- For all expenditures, you must record...
 - Amount
 - Date
 - Purpose
 - Name and address of business or individual
- Maximum cash expenditure is \$50.

Due Dates

Filings are due several times a year

- Pre-election campaign statement (primary and general)
- Post-election campaign statement (primary and general)
- Annual Campaign Statement
- In non-election years, also file July and October quarterly campaign statements

SUPER IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- CHECK THE REPORTING WAIVER IF YOU PLAN TO SPEND LESS THAN \$1,000!!!
- DO NOT IGNORE LETTERS FROM THE BUREAU OF ELECTIONS!
- FILE YOUR PAPERWORK ON TIME!

Federal Campaign Finance Laws

- Candidates for US Senate and US Congress file with FEC
- Reporting waiver is \$5,000
- Electronic Filing Requirement threshold is \$50,000
- The maximum allowable amount anyone can donate to each office is \$2,700.
- If the cumulative amount from one donor is more than \$200, then you must record donor occupation and employer.
- Federal candidates should register with the FEC because that is where the media and other organizations get their list of candidates to cover.

Federal Election Commission

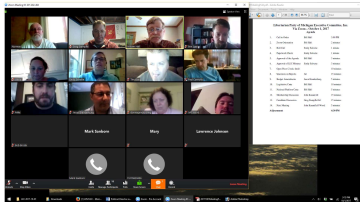
- [Help for Candidates and Committees](#)

What else the LPM can do for its candidates

Hold candidate training workshops across the state or via Zoom video conferencing.

Create template websites for LPM candidates to tailor to their individual races.

Craft policy positions, with candidate input, on a handful of issues. The state party can then promote these core issues and our slate of candidates. "Libertarian Promise to Michigan".



Sign up for the Michigan Libertarian Newsletter. I write regular articles about aspects of campaigning.

LIBERTARIAN Party of North Dakota
Libertarian Party = Common Sense on Issues!

LEFT POSITIONS	AGREE	LIBERTARIAN POSITIONS	AGREE	RIGHT POSITIONS	DISAGREE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government regulated economy • Military intervention (Somalia, Haiti, Balkans) • Using eminent domain for private gain • Ban guns • Tax funding of government charities • Special rights for minorities • More government spending 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal freedom • Non-interventionist foreign policy • Tolerance of others' peaceful choices • Civil liberties • Separation of church and state • Equal opportunity • Recently supports gay marriage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government should just defend our rights. Let individuals pursue their own interests • Stop nation building and being the policeman of the world. Peace through trade and diplomacy. • End the failed "War on Drugs" & legalize marijuana • Champion of civil liberties & protector of personal privacy • Supports small business, entrepreneurship, free markets & capitalism • People should marry whomever they want • Government spending is largely wasteful and inefficient 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic freedom • Robust national defense • Respect for others' property rights • Individual right to keep & bear arms • Giving generously to those in need • Advancement based on individual abilities • Less government spending 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government regulated morality • Military adventurism ("regime change") • War on Drugs • Surveillance state • Tax funding of faith-based charities • Corporate welfare • Marriage should be between a man & a woman 	

Join The Libertarian Party Today! **LPNorthDakota.org**

“Libertarian Promise to Michigan”

Strategy / branding campaign for 2018

- focus on a few key issues
- promote these issues along with our full slate of candidates
- target specific blocks of voters so that everyone finds at least one issue of agreement with our party and its candidates
 1. Liberals/Progressives
 2. Conservatives
 3. Independents and non-voters (the largest block of registered voters)

Contest a Majority of the State Legislature

- Libertarians can take over the legislature and begin writing and repealing legislation.
- State House = 56/110 State Senate = 20/38 76 candidates
- The LPM has run 76 or more candidates seven times in the past
- No “third” party has done this since 1914