

# NEWSLETTER



## LPPA EVENTS

- Washington County LP – Regular Meeting 3/5 @ 7pm
- Lancaster County LP – Regular Meeting 3/5 @ 7pm
- LPPA Governance Committee Meeting 3/5 @ 8pm
- Bradford County LP – Libertarian Social 3/8 @ 6pm
- Capital Area Libertarian Party Monthly Meeting 3/11 @ 7pm
- Monroe County LP – Regular Meeting 3/13 @ 7pm
- LPPA Public Relations Committee 3/13 @ 8pm
- Affiliate Support Committee 3/16 @ 7pm
- Philadelphia LP Meeting 3/18 @ 7pm
- Delaware County LP – Regular Meeting 3/19 @ 7pm
- Schuylkill County LP – Regular Meeting 3/19 @ 7pm
- Adams County Liberty Social 3/20 @ 7pm
- Erie County LP – Regular Meetup 3/24 @ 7pm
- Fundraising Committee Meeting – Regular Meetup 3/24 @ 8pm
- Affiliate Support Committee 3/30 @ 6pm
- Armstrong County LP – Regular Meeting 3/30 @ 6:30pm

Event locations can be found at:  
[lppa.org/get-involved/events/](http://lppa.org/get-involved/events/)

## BUILD YOUR OWN DOGE

NICK CIESIELSKI

Since the inauguration of President Trump just over a month ago, no story has drawn more media attention than Elon Musk's DOGE initiative. While we have known that the federal government is filled with many overpaid, unproductive employees and a ton of wasteful spending, we largely expected this continue to be ignored. Since the inauguration, DOGE has gutted USAID, eliminated many federal government jobs, and set many

wasteful practices in their sights. While we can discuss how effective this will be in the end, it is a refreshing breath of fresh air to at least see some effort go into shrinking the federal government.

The good news is, while Elon Musk's team is working their way through federal agencies, we can make similar gains at the local level. While some states are attempting to establish their own DOGE groups, we can form our own citizen DOGE groups at the local level.

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## **BUILD YOUR OWN DOGE (CONTINUED)**

This is an idea already popping up around the country, as I have heard specifically about several county DOGE groups popping up in Georgia. It's such a simple concept, citizens look at the practices of their local government, expose waste, fraud, and abuse, and work to fix the issue and hopefully run the perpetrators out of office.

This is a great opportunity to build coalitions and make a name for yourself in your local community. The first step in getting elected is to be known and the second step is for people to trust you. If you either take the lead, or help found, or even contribute to a group run by concerned citizens, focused on ensuring that the local politicians are behaving responsibly with taxpayer money, you will quickly gain recognition and trust.

Getting a local DOGE started could be a very simple project. Create some social media, some logo's, set up a Facebook group, maybe a discord server, and start spreading the word through local channels. Set it for either your town, city, or county. See who, regardless of political affiliation, is interested in helping to check that your local officials are acting responsibly. Start requesting documents: expenses, budgets, everything you can think of, and just dig in. When you find wasteful programs or improper spending, spread the word far and wide on social media. Show up in person to your local government building and ask to speak to your elected officials, and confront them during public comment at meetings. Use these meetings to further grow interest in the group and bring more people in. Before you know it, you might end up in one of those elected seats!

While this is a very basic outline of the concept and getting it started, the national Libertarian Party is developing its own Local DOGE initiative with some elected Libertarians to provide further guidance and support for this concept. We would be insane to let this opportunity to take a leadership role in our communities go to waste. Now is the time to take the inch that they have given us at the federal level, and use it to go miles locally.

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## LIBERTARIANS BUILDING MOMENTUM IN BUCKS COUNTY: KOSIN, BENTRIM, AND THE ROAD AHEAD

TJ KOSIN

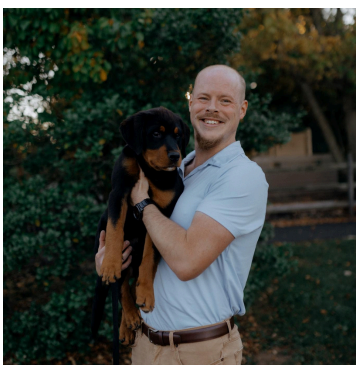


As the 2025 local elections approach, the Libertarian Party of Bucks County is wasting no time laying the groundwork for a bold and ambitious year. With Brittany Kosin officially launching her campaign for Warwick Township Supervisor and Alex Bentrin seeking re-election to the New Britain Borough Council, Libertarians in Bucks County are proving that principled, independent voices are ready to challenge the entrenched two-party system at the local level.

Brittany Kosin, a lifelong Warwick resident, nurse, and small business owner, is running to bring transparency, accountability, and common sense back to Warwick Township. Having spent years advocating for medical freedom, constitutional rights, and responsible governance, Brittany's campaign focuses on protecting property rights, opposing government overreach, and ensuring residents have a voice in how their community is governed.



Brittany's unique blend of professional experience — from the emergency room to small business ownership — gives her a grounded, practical perspective on the challenges facing Warwick residents. With Republican control of the Board of Supervisors largely unchecked, Brittany aims to give Warwick a real choice rooted in liberty and local solutions, not party loyalty.



Over in New Britain Borough, incumbent Councilman Alex Bentrin is seeking re-election to continue his fight for fiscal responsibility, government accountability, and expanded transparency. Alex has been a consistent voice for Libertarian values on council, pushing back against unnecessary spending and advocating for policies that put individual rights ahead of bureaucratic control. (CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

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## **LIBERTARIANS BUILDING MOMENTUM IN BUCKS COUNTY: KOSIN, BENTRIM, AND THE ROAD AHEAD (CONTINUED)**

Alex's re-election campaign isn't just about holding his seat — it's about building on the progress Libertarians have made in New Britain and proving that third-party candidates can win and govern effectively.

Bucks County Libertarians aren't stopping with Kosin and Bentrin. The Libertarian Party of Bucks County is actively working to recruit and support at least two additional candidates to run in local races across the county. From borough councils to township boards and school boards, these candidates will bring the message of limited government, personal freedom, and fiscal sanity directly to voters — many of whom are tired of the same cookie-cutter candidates from the old parties.

These efforts are all part of a broader strategy leading up to the execution of the Moulton Maneuver — a tactic named after Libertarian activist Chuck Moulton, designed to secure Libertarian ballot access in future elections by running candidates in strategic local races. By fielding multiple candidates in 2025, Bucks County Libertarians can build name recognition, mobilize volunteers, and establish a stronger presence at the ballot box — ultimately paving the way for long-term success at both the local and state level.

With momentum growing and a clear strategy in place, the Libertarian Party of Bucks County is proving that real change starts at the local level — with neighbors, small business owners, and community leaders who stand for liberty, not party politics.

If you want to help support Brittany Kosin, Alex Bentrin, or any of our future candidates, reach out to the Libertarian Party of Bucks County today — because the fight for freedom begins right here in our own backyard.

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## **OPINION: WHY LIBERTARIANS NEED TO EMBRACE AND INFLUENCE THE POPULIST MOVEMENT**

**BILL COX**

In the ever-evolving landscape of American politics, a unique opportunity has emerged for libertarians: the rise of populism. Across the political spectrum, Americans are uniting against a corrupt, unaccountable government that serves corporate elites and entrenched interests rather than the people. This growing populist movement, which is the backbone of the Kennedy24 campaign and the broader Unity Coalition, is an avenue through which libertarians can not only advance their ideals but also fundamentally reshape American governance.

Populism, in its purest form, is a demand for government to serve the people rather than special interests. While populist movements have historically emerged from both the left and right, they share a common thread: frustration with a system that prioritizes bureaucracy, corporate dominance, and endless foreign intervention over individual rights and national well-being. Libertarians have long stood for limited government, personal freedom, and an end to crony capitalism—principles that align with the grievances fueling today's populist revolt. The challenge, however, is ensuring that this movement does not veer into statism, authoritarianism, or blind nationalism. Instead, libertarians must take an active role in shaping populism into a force for true individual liberty, decentralization, and economic freedom.

Another key area of agreement is the defense of civil liberties. The COVID era exposed the dangers of unchecked government power—lockdowns, censorship, and forced medical interventions were stark reminders of what happens when individual rights are sacrificed for centralized control. Populists and libertarians can unite in opposition to government overreach, mass surveillance, and attacks on free speech. Additionally, both groups recognize that the two-party system is designed to suppress dissent and maintain the status quo. Supporting independent candidates like Robert F. Kennedy Jr. is a direct challenge to that corrupt system. There is also common ground in the push for local governance. While populists may not fully embrace libertarian decentralization, they do understand that Washington, D.C., has become too powerful and unaccountable. Together, libertarians and populists can advocate for a return to local decision-making rather than top-down federal control. (CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

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## **OPINION: WHY LIBERTARIANS NEED TO EMBRACE AND INFLUENCE THE POPULIST MOVEMENT (CONTINUED)**

Despite these shared values, there is a risk that populism could become just another form of statism—one that replaces corporate elites with government-driven solutions that ultimately infringe on individual freedom. Libertarians must work from within the movement to ensure that populist policies remain grounded in personal liberty and economic freedom. For example, while populists may support breaking up Big Tech through government intervention, libertarians should emphasize market-based solutions, such as removing legal protections that shield these companies from competition. Similarly, while populists may favor tariffs and economic protectionism, libertarians should advocate for policies that promote free and fair trade without corporate manipulation.

Despite these shared values, there is a risk that populism could become just another form of statism—one that replaces corporate elites with government-driven solutions that ultimately infringe on individual freedom. Libertarians must work from within the movement to ensure that populist policies remain grounded in personal liberty and economic freedom. For example, while populists may support breaking up Big Tech through government intervention, libertarians should emphasize market-based solutions, such as removing legal protections that shield these companies from competition. Similarly, while populists may favor tariffs and economic protectionism, libertarians should advocate for policies that promote free and fair trade without corporate manipulation.

## **THE OPOSSUM: A SURPRISING SYMBOL OF LIBERTY**

POSSUM MITCH



When we think of symbols of freedom, majestic eagles or defiant stallions might come to mind. But let's take a moment to consider an unlikely contender: the opossum. This humble, scrappy creature, often misunderstood and overlooked, embodies a quiet, unassuming kind of liberty that's worth celebrating. Opossums are North America's only marsupials, carrying their young in pouches like their distant cousins, the kangaroos.

They roam the night with a kind of *laissez-faire* attitude, unbothered by societal expectations. They don't build elaborate nests or stake out grand territories—they simply adapt, survive, and move on. In a world that often demands conformity, the opossum's rugged individualism stands out. It doesn't ask for permission to exist; it just does. (CONTINUED ON PAGE 7)

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## THE OPOSSUM: A SURPRISING SYMBOL OF LIBERTY (CONTINUED)

Take their infamous “playing possum” trick. When threatened, opossums don’t fight or flee—they collapse into a theatrical faint, a clever ruse to avoid conflict. It’s not cowardice; it’s strategy. They choose their battles, exercising a primal form of autonomy over their fate. In a way, it’s a lesson in liberty: knowing when to stand firm and when to outwit the system entirely.

And let’s not forget their resilience. Opossums thrive in urban sprawls and rural wilds alike, eating everything from ticks to discarded scraps. They’re not picky—they’re practical. This adaptability mirrors a core tenet of freedom: the ability to live on your own terms, no matter the circumstances. They don’t rely on handouts or coddling; they make do with what’s available and keep going.

In a broader sense, the opossum’s existence challenges us to rethink what liberty looks like. It’s not always loud or flashy. Sometimes it’s quiet, resourceful, and a little rough around the edges. It’s the freedom to be yourself—warts, hisses, and all—without apology. In an age where control creeps into every corner of life, the opossum reminds us that true liberty doesn’t need a spotlight; it just needs space to breathe.

So next time you spot an opossum rummaging through the shadows, tip your hat to this unassuming rebel. It’s a living testament to the idea that freedom isn’t reserved for the powerful or the proud—it belongs to anyone willing to claim it, one scrappy step at a time.

## THE TIMELESS BATTLE FOR LIBERTY

BRITTANY KOSIN



The fight for liberty is not a new struggle, nor does it depend on the latest political trends, alliances, or coalitions. It is the eternal conflict between the individual and the State — between those who would live their own lives in peace and those who crave power over their neighbors. This battle has been waged long before today’s political coalitions were formed, and it will continue long after they dissolve.

True liberty is not found by chasing political movements or adapting our principles to fit the shifting sands of populism, nationalism, or progressivism. Liberty stands apart from these passing waves because it is rooted in something deeper: (CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)

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## THE TIMELESS BATTLE FOR LIBERTY (CONTINUED)

the natural rights of the individual. Governments and coalitions come and go, but the inherent right of every person to live free — to speak, trade, worship, defend themselves, and associate as they see fit — exists outside the reach of any politician or political strategy.

The desire to rebel against corrupt, unaccountable government is not new. Americans have felt this instinct since the ink dried on the Constitution. But history teaches us that every political wave, even those that begin in righteous anger, is vulnerable to co-option. The answer to tyranny is not a different flavor of central planning — it is the rejection of all centralized power. Our path forward is not found in trying to steer the ambitions of populists, technocrats, or any other faction. It is found in offering a consistent, principled message of individual liberty and self-governance.

Liberty does not need populism, nationalism, or unity campaigns. Liberty needs courage. It needs men and women willing to say that the individual — not the collective, not the coalition, and certainly not the government — is sovereign.

It needs voices who will refuse to compromise with the very machinery of power that has driven this nation to the brink, whether that power is held by corporate elites, political dynasties, or the latest charismatic outsider promising to "fix the system" from within.

We do not trade principles for access. We do not water down the message of liberty to fit inside a coalition, nor do we seek to shepherd people into better-managed statism. Our job is to remind the American people that freedom is not granted by politicians, nor preserved through temporary alliances, but secured through unyielding resistance to government intrusion and absolute respect for individual rights.

Real change does not come from tweaking the existing system or redirecting the machinery of power. It comes from dismantling it. Free people do not need more government programs, no matter how well-intentioned. They need fewer. Free markets do not need central planners deciding which corporations are favored and which are broken apart. They need government to step aside entirely. Civil liberties do not need selective protection based on whether they align with today's majority opinion. They need to be treated as absolute — immune to compromise, regardless of the crisis of the day. (CONTINUED ON PAGE 9)



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## **THE TIMELESS BATTLE FOR LIBERTY (CONTINUED)**

The founders of this country understood something too many forget today: Liberty does not flow from populist energy. Liberty comes when the individual has the courage to tell the government, "No." No to warrantless surveillance. No to government overreach in medicine and technology. No to endless war. No to crony capitalism. And yes — yes to the absolute right of the individual to live as they see fit, so long as they do no harm to another.

We do not need to ride the coattails of any political wave. We need to be the lighthouse in the storm, the unwavering reminder that freedom belongs to the individual — not to the government, not to the crowd, and not to the latest coalition of convenience.

It is not our job to fit libertarianism into the latest trend. It is our job to remind Americans that they were born free, and that no coalition, politician, or government has the right to take that away.

It needs voices who will refuse to compromise with the very machinery of power that has driven this nation to the brink, whether that power is held by corporate elites, political dynasties, or the latest charismatic outsider promising to "fix the system" from within.

The future does not belong to coalitions or campaigns. The future belongs to free individuals who choose to reclaim their sovereignty — not through the ballot box alone, but through a radical reassertion of personal responsibility, self-ownership, and voluntary cooperation.

The fight for liberty has always been the fight for the individual. That is where our focus must remain — regardless of the political weather.

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE:**

**NICK CIESIELSKI, CHAIR**

The finance committee submitted and the party board of directors passed an initial budget for 2025 at the January board meeting. This budget was bare bones, and assumed flat revenue and laid out our expected expenses. The committee is in the process of fixing that budget up and making improvements to accounting systems to better track expenditures to the budget and get the best information to the board every month, as well as be able to provide necessary fundraising levels to increase funding to projects other committees want to pursue, as well as improve resources available to members, volunteers, and candidates.

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## **FINANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE: (CONTINUED)**

The committee is also in the process of evaluating and understanding the proper process for the state party to file and maintain a federal committee. In past years, donations to federal level candidates have turned the party into a federal committee, which really caused headaches to properly file. The committee will continue to learn the nuances of these rules and eventually document the process required to create the committee, properly file with the FEC, and how these two entities can interact with one another. Having a federal committee will ensure that the LPPA can assist candidates running at the federal level in future election years.

Finally, the committee is in the process of improving our policies and procedures in the LPPA's Berlie Etzel Endowment Fund. This endowment fund was created several years ago, but there has not been a concerted effort to increase the amount of assets in the fund and has been collecting extremely low interest in a money market account. The committee is in the process of learning the necessary safeguards to properly invest these funds. This endowment fund is a great tool for the party, as it can provide an alternative donation pathway for members who want to ensure that a potentially large donation benefits the party for years to come and isn't wasted by an irresponsible board.

Some of the necessary pieces of fixing this fund will likely include the creation of a specific investment committee which will be responsible for determining the investment mix and policies, as well as establishing a written investment policy for the fund, so that donors know exactly how their gifts to the party will be utilized. A sufficiently large endowment fund with proper investment will also include the party filing a tax return on the interest earned each year, but that should be a fairly minor addition to the stack of filings that the party will need to handle in the future. Once the fund is properly set up and ready, donations to the fund will generate interest annually that can be used to fund many of the party operations that are funded by memberships and donations now. Setting up a system to cover many of these expenses automatically will ensure the party can spend other donations on growing the party and providing even better resources.

If any members have a financial background and would be willing to assist in any of these matters, the finance committee is always looking for additional volunteers and members. If you are interested in contributing to the endowment fund, please reach out to me at [nickciesielski@lppa.org](mailto:nickciesielski@lppa.org).

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## **PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE**

**NICK CIESIELSKI, CHAIR**

The public relations committee is responsible for communications coming from the LPPA to the general public. This includes social media, press releases, and even this newsletter. The committee was tasked with several goals for 2025. The first of which is implementing and documenting a procedure to issue press releases. This includes updating the media list, fixing the templates, and ensuring the release is sent and posted to important locations to help it gain as much attention as possible. This process is largely worked out at this point, and a new media list coming from the presidential campaign has been submitted to be added to the current media list.

The next goal is to grow social media following by 20% on the big platforms: facebook, X, and Instagram. This will require an effort to provide engaging content and consistent posts. Currently, we run a “this day in history” series of posts, which reflect on a specific event on a certain day and tie that event back to libertarian principles. Additionally, we are in the process of trying to come up with monthly themes to focus planned posts around each month. One big thing to increase our visibility would be through video creation. This means converting content from other platforms into a video format but also developing specific video platform content. This takes additional creativity and editing skills, which will take time and effort for our team to learn and build out, but it’s clear that platforms are allowing much more natural discovery through these short videos.

Another goal is to develop and launch an LPPA podcast show. This will take a few people willing to devote time and effort into developing a show that can focus on issues libertarians find important, with a large focus being on Pennsylvania. This means closely tracking spending, legislation, and government overreach. This is also a potential platform to build bridges to the community and allow victims of government overreach a platform to tell their story. This will also add to the amount of short videos that can be created by clipping out important segments of the show. A fairly successful example of this is the Libertarian Party of Georgia’s show, the Free Georgia podcast and a model we can do here in PA.

The final goal of the committee is to consistently publish these monthly newsletters, and potentially send a few physical newsletters to members each year. To make that happen, we need content from everyone. If there is an issue that you find important or any news, please do not hesitate to write a short article and send it in to the committee. The committee will review it and ensure it meets our editorial standards, and either publish it, or come back to you with some recommendations to make it meet our standards. (CONTINUED ON PAGE 12)

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## **PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE (CONTINUED)**

All of these goals will take a lot of work to achieve, and the committee would love some volunteers willing to help on any and all of these projects. We welcome any and all suggestions for content and posts and want to hear from members on the easiest way for people to submit their suggestions. If you have suggestions or would like to help, please reach out to me at [nickciesielski@lppa.org](mailto:nickciesielski@lppa.org)

## **A COMMITMENT TO FAMILY-FRIENDLY FUNDRAISING**

**TJ KOSIN, CHAIR**

As we kick off the new year, the Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania Fundraising Committee would like to thank all of our members, donors, and supporters who helped us come so close to hitting our ambitious \$20,000 fundraising goal for the year. With \$19,000 and change raised, we may have come up just short, but we are proud of what we accomplished — and we're more motivated than ever to break that goal in 2025.

This year, the Fundraising Committee is taking a new approach. Every fundraiser we hold in 2025 will be kid-friendly to ensure more of our members — including those with families — can fully participate. Not only does this open the door for more involvement from current members, but it also helps create welcoming, fun events that potential new members will feel comfortable attending with their families. After all, Liberty is for everyone — including the next generation.

Fundraising isn't just about raising money — it's about building a stronger party. That's why the Fundraising Committee is committed to working hand-in-hand with the Membership Committee and Affiliate Support Committee to ensure our events not only raise the funds we need to support candidates, outreach, and party operations, but also grow our membership and strengthen our local affiliates. Every event is an opportunity to spread the message of liberty, meet like-minded Pennsylvanians, and showcase the welcoming community we are building.

All of these goals will take a lot of work to achieve, and the committee would love to welcome volunteers willing to help on any and all of these projects. Whether you're interested in helping plan events, create promotional content, or just brainstorm new ideas, your time and talents can make a huge difference.

We also want to make sure our fundraising efforts are as creative and member-driven as possible, so we're open to all suggestions for future events, fundraising campaigns, and social media content to promote them. If you have ideas, we want to hear them — and we want to make it easy for members to share their input. (CONTINUED ON PAGE 13)

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## A COMMITMENT TO FAMILY-FRIENDLY FUNDRAISING (CONTINUED)

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If you have suggestions, want to volunteer, or simply want to learn more about the Fundraising Committee's plans for 2025, please reach out directly to me at:

✉ [theokosin@lppa.org](mailto:theokosin@lppa.org)

Together, we can build a stronger, better-funded Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania — and have some family-friendly fun along the way.

## HAVE A STORY TO SHARE? HERE'S HOW TO GET IT IN THE NEWSLETTER!

### EDITOR

Do you have exciting news from your affiliate, a recap of a recent event, or a candidate announcement you want to share with Libertarians across Pennsylvania? The Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania Newsletter is always looking for content from our members — and submitting a story is easy!

All you need to do is email your story, along with any photos or links you'd like included, to:

✉ [theokosin@lppa.org](mailto:theokosin@lppa.org)

There's no need to be a professional writer — if you have an update or an idea you'd like to share, we'll work with you to make sure it's newsletter-ready. Whether it's a short event recap, a personal story about your path to liberty, or a big win for your local affiliate, we want to help amplify your voice. (CONTINUED ON PAGE 14)

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## HAVE A STORY TO SHARE? HERE'S HOW TO GET IT IN THE NEWSLETTER! (CONTINUED)

There's no need to be a professional writer — if you have an update or an idea you'd like to share, we'll work with you to make sure it's newsletter-ready. Whether it's a short event recap, a personal story about your path to liberty, or a big win for your local affiliate, we want to help amplify your voice.



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