

NEWSLETTER

IS ICE A NECESSARY FORCE FOR GOOD IN AMERICA?

FROM THE STREETS TO YOUR HOME: ICE'S EROSION OF THE 4TH AMENDMENT.

TIM MCMASTER

Author's Note: This is a commentary piece examining recent ICE actions and the killing of Renee Good through a civil-libertarian and constitutional lens. It reflects the author's analysis and opinions, not a claim of neutral or comprehensive reporting. Where practical, the author has cited source material.

The January 7, 2026 shooting death of Renee Good in Minneapolis by an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agent and the accompanying fervor over ICE operations in big cities to small towns all throughout our Republic has been a galvanizing event in American discourse and looms large as a sort of 'litmus test' for those who espouse the cause of liberty, such as Libertarians like us.

Upon first blush, it seems like what law enforcement would consider a justified shooting or euphemistically, 'a good shoot': Mrs. Good, while disrupting ICE during Operation Metro Surge was blocking part of the street. After Good was ordered out of her vehicle, she then attempted to use that vehicle as a weapon, causing the agent in front of the vehicle to fear for his and other agents' lives and then fired 3 rounds at close range to eliminate the threat. Killing Good in the process... Simple, right? However, when digging just below the surface we learn that Good's last words to the agent who was at the time filming the interaction with a cell phone (if that device was personal or ICE issued is not known at the time of writing) was "That's fine, dude. I'm not mad at you." Meanwhile, the masked agent (whose name I will not utter) immediately after firing those 3 shots had a far less genial response of "F***kin' b*tch." While post-shooting verbal outbursts can occur under extreme stress, the contrast between these statements is nonetheless striking. It has also been alleged that the ICE agent may have violated standard Law Enforcement Officer practice and his own agencies policy by walking in front of Good's vehicle, potentially placing himself in imminent danger.

We now know of the Department of Homeland Security Memo dated September 7, 2018 (Policy Statement 044-05 (Revision 01 [1])) that the Use of Force Standard is clearly defined: "Deadly force shall not be used solely to prevent the escape of a fleeing suspect" and "DHS LEOs are prohibited from discharging firearms at the operator of a moving vehicle..." As well as the DOJ stating in its own Justice Manual that "firearms may not be discharged at a moving vehicle unless... the vehicle is operated in a manner that threatens to cause death or serious physical injury to the officer or others, and no other objectively reasonable means of defense appear to exist, which includes moving out of the path of the vehicle.[2]" Which is especially of note in the shooting of Renee Good, as all available video evidence does seem to show that the shooter would have been able to move out of the way of Good's vehicle quite easily. Opinions vary on both sides and certainly more information will be released in the upcoming days and weeks. However, it will not be coming from the DOJ. The Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division has said it will not open a criminal civil rights investigation into the shooting, though the FBI continues its investigation [3]. However, given what we know about events like Waco and Ruby Ridge, my hopes are not high. Beyond the streets, ICE's tactics raise deeper constitutional alarms.

This brings me to the crux of this issue in my mind: "Is ICE a necessary force for good in America?" Amendment IV - The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects...

But the potential overreach isn't limited to the street. Apart from the Minneapolis shooting in reading this AP article [4] and the accompanying leaked document [5] from May 12, 2025, but not released until January 2026, I am quite simply appalled at the sheer audacity of the DHS and ICE to blatantly disregard one of the most basic and easily understandable protections of the Constitution. A Constitution that ALL ICE, DHS and LEO's swear an oath to protect and defend. Everyone, from the President down to your local sheriff and deputies swears this oath. And yet, here is what appears to be a clear violation of that oath. The 4th Amendment does not differentiate between a natural born citizen, a naturalized citizen, legal alien or any other residency classification. It is clear in its wording "The right of the people..." The People. Full stop. (CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)



NEWSLETTER

PAGE 2

IS ICE A NECESSARY FORCE FOR GOOD IN AMERICA? (CONTINUED)

FROM THE STREETS TO YOUR HOME: ICE'S EROSION OF THE 4TH AMENDMENT.

TIM MCMASTER

What is troubling to me as a Libertarian (and someone with a small amount of basic empathy for my fellow human beings) is the ease with which a substantial percentage of Americans are willing to abandon such a basic right. The loudest and most ardent supporters of this violation are the same people who were just recently decrying the abusive governmental overreach during the COVID Lockdowns. The same folks who will vehemently decry any infringement of the Second Amendment. Usually while sporting a Gadsden flag. And somehow, also a “Back the Blue” bumper sticker. I wonder what they will say if/when an agent comes to their door for a suddenly “illegal” firearm? Will they be willing to then say, “just comply?”

The justification for this egregious support of violating a sacred right seems to be ‘They’re here illegally! They’re criminals!!’ And while I cede the point that crossing a border without following the arduous and oftentimes untenable rules and regulations is a crime under Title 8 U.S.C. § 1325 [6], it is subject to a civil penalty. Meaning that, technically a criminal misdemeanor, it is not felonious or violent. It does not create emergencies or exigent circumstances which would negate the protection of the 4th Amendment. I am not absolving those that commit actual crimes, things that create actual victims, no matter the residency status. Many times, what we see is that enforcement, detention and subsequent arrest isn’t based on reasonable suspicion or probable cause. The victims of these raids and arrests are not always “illegals.” We see multiple reports of American citizens being swept up in these dragnets and forced to produce proof of citizenship [7] [8] even before the more recent immigration enforcement push. I can’t help but think I have seen these tactics before, and the outcome is never more liberty or safety.

From a Libertarian perspective, I can think of nothing more antithetical to freedom and liberty than being forced to prove one’s innocence to a masked and fully ‘kitted out’ agent who has been granted virtual immunity by their agency, lauded by the administration and has much of the populace praising them as ‘heroes.’ To think that these agents have, though unenforced policy or lack of accountability and oversight, potentially been granted discretionary power that effectively collapses the separation between enforcement, adjudication, and punishment on our streets and in our homes should outrage even the most passive civil libertarian. I know I am particularly troubled by this. Masked federal agents, armed and outfitted for war, making arrests without a warrant signed by a judge and without probable cause seems to go against “...no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.” I also believe this to be a trajectory toward violations of the 6th Amendment, which guarantees in part “to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defense.” Yet, we, as a nation, are not only allowing these transgressions to occur but they are also funded by our tax dollars and celebrated by the sitting administration. Silently consenting to this is a shameful dereliction of our moral obligation to create a better world for our progeny. It does not promote our mission to advance libertarian principles and facilitate the political and cultural movement to a voluntary society based on individual sovereignty and is a violation of the NAP that we all agreed to that we do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force or fraud as a means of achieving political or social goals. Additionally, it spits in the face of the very Constitution that we hold so dearly and that constrains what the government can legally do to WE, THE PEOPLE.

So, I ask you, fellow Libertarians and LPPA brethren: “Is ICE a necessary force for good in America?” I know what my answer is.

Citations: [1] https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/mgmt/law-enforcement/mgmt-dir_044-05-department-policy-on-the-use-of-force.pdf [2] <https://www.justice.gov/jm/1-16000-department-justice-policy-use-force#1-16.200> [3] <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2026/jan/18/justice-department-ice-renee-good-george-floyd-minneapolis> [4] <https://apnews.com/article/ice-arrests-warrants-minneapolis-trump-00d0ab0338e82341fd91b160758aeb2d> [5] <https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/26499371-dhs-ice-memo-1-21-26> [6] <https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/8/1325> [7] <https://www.bbc.com/news/videos/c3dm0p2ddgmo> [8] <https://www.congress.gov/119/meeting/house/118180/documents/HMKP-119-JU00-20250430-SD003.pdf>

NEWSLETTER

PAGE 3

CALL TO CONVENTION: LPPA 2026

**COME FOR THE BUSINESS.
STAY FOR THE LIBERTY.**

TJ KOSIN

If you have ever wondered where Libertarians actually do the hard work of self-government, argue passionately about bylaws, laugh way too hard at inside jokes, and still manage to build something real, this is it.

The Convention Committee is officially calling the 2026 State Convention of the Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania, and yes, you are absolutely invited.

The Basics

When: March 20–22, 2026

Where: VFW Post 6493

645 Louis Dr, Warminster, PA

Why: Because liberty does not organize itself

Every year, Libertarians from across the Commonwealth gather to

do party business, elect leadership, choose candidates, train activists, and remind ourselves why we put up with the headaches in the first place. This weekend is equal parts serious governance and controlled chaos, and that is exactly how a liberty movement should feel.

The Venue

We are heading to the Warminster VFW, a no nonsense, community focused venue with plenty of space for debates, dinners, speeches, and spirited conversations that somehow last until midnight. It is welcoming, practical, easy to access, and supporting it also supports local veterans. That alone should earn it points.

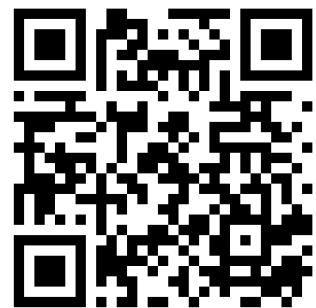
What Is Actually Happening All Weekend

Short answer: a lot.

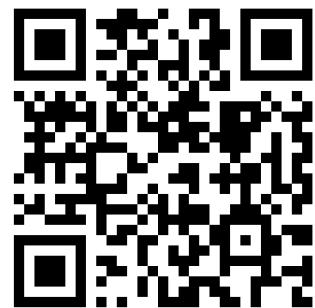
Long answer:

You will find grassroots activism training, officer elections, regional meetings, candidate elections, and national convention delegate selection. You will also find some of the best Libertarian speakers, organizers, and candidates in the state and beyond, plus a few debates that will absolutely not end with everyone agreeing.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)



DONATE



JOIN THE LPPA



EVENTS



RUN FOR OFFICE

NEWSLETTER

PAGE 4

CALL TO CONVENTION: LPPA 2026 (CONTINUED)

COME FOR THE BUSINESS.

STAY FOR THE LIBERTY.

TJ KOSIN

Highlights include:

- Grassroots Activism Training
- Libertarian Trivia and Dinner
- The Elected Libertarian Forum Luncheon
- Officer, regional, and gubernatorial elections
- The LNC Chair Debate
- The Governor's Candidate Ball
- The Dawn Prayer Service at Washington's Crossing
- The 3rd Annual Ladies of Liberty Forum
- Affiliate Chair and Campaign Treasurer Training

If you want to understand how this party actually works, this is where you learn it. If you want to help shape where it is going, this is where you do it.

Registration and Pricing

If you like saving money, register early. If you like paying more because you waited, we also have options for that.

Liberty Package

\$150 starting February 1, 2026

Same access, same meals, same liberty, just slightly more expensive.

Business Only Registration

Free and open to the public.

Voting requires an active LPPA voting membership, because rules still exist even when we complain about them.

À la carte options are available if you only want specific events, forums, or meals.

Where to Sleep

We have discounted room blocks at two hotels within walking distance of the venue:

- Home2 Suites by Hilton Warminster
- Holiday Inn Express & Suites Warminster

Group rates are locked in until February 20, 2026. After that, you are on your own with the free market.

Vendors, Ads, and Sponsors

If you have a business, organization, campaign, or cause you want to put in front of hundreds of Libertarians, this is your weekend.

Vendor tables are placed in prime, high traffic areas and remain up all weekend.

Advertising and sponsorship options range from simple program ads to full sponsorship packages with speaking opportunities and recognition during major events. If you want visibility, this is how you get it.

Why You Should Be There

This convention is not about speeches from on high or being told what to think. It is about participation. It is about members arguing their case, voting their conscience, building coalitions, and walking out with a clearer sense of where the party stands and where it is headed.

If you care about liberty in Pennsylvania, this weekend matters. If you want to stop watching from the sidelines and start shaping outcomes, this is where that happens.

Mark your calendar. Register early. Bring a friend.

We will see you in Warminster.

NEWSLETTER

PAGE 5

MEDICAL FREEDOM BEGINS WITH INFORMED CONSENT

BRITTANY KOSIN, RN, BSN



I spent over a decade working in emergency rooms. I have seen people on the worst day of their lives. I have watched families make impossible decisions under pressure, fear, and grief. I have also seen how easily the medical system can slide from healing into coercion when convenience, liability, or bureaucracy replaces patient autonomy.

Today, I serve as a pediatric nursing supervisor. The setting is different, but the principle is the same. Medicine must serve the patient, not the system. And at the center of that principle is medical freedom, anchored firmly in informed consent.

Informed consent is not a form you sign. It is not a box you check. It is not a rushed explanation delivered five minutes before a procedure while alarms beep and staff rotate in and out of the room. Informed consent is a moral contract. It requires honesty, transparency, and respect for the individual's right to decide what happens to their own body or their child's body.

From a libertarian perspective, this should be non negotiable.

In the ER, I saw patients pressured into treatments they did not fully understand because it was "standard protocol." I saw fear used as leverage. I saw dissent treated as ignorance. When patients questioned recommendations, the response was often irritation instead of education. That is not consent. That is compliance.

Liberty does not disappear when you walk into a hospital.

The last several years exposed just how fragile medical freedom can be when institutions are given unchecked authority. Policies were handed down from on high, often changing weekly, sometimes daily. Frontline clinicians were expected to enforce them without question, and patients were expected to obey them without discussion. Those who asked for alternatives or individualized risk assessments were often dismissed or shamed.

That is not science. Science invites scrutiny. That is not medicine. Medicine is personal. That is control.

As a nurse, my obligation is not to enforce ideology or institutional convenience. My obligation is to advocate for my patient. That includes their right to refuse, their right to ask questions, and their right to weigh risks differently than I might.

In pediatrics, this matters even more. Parents are not obstacles to be managed. They are the primary decision makers for their children. Informed consent in pediatric care means slowing down, explaining options clearly, acknowledging uncertainty, and respecting family values. It means recognizing that one size fits all medicine is often a failure of imagination, not evidence.

Medical freedom does not mean rejecting medicine. It means rejecting force.

Libertarians understand that consent is the dividing line between cooperation and coercion. Healthcare should be no different. When the state, insurance companies, hospital systems, or professional boards dictate care without room for individual judgment, liberty erodes quietly under the language of safety and efficiency.

I am proud to be a nurse. I am proud to care for patients at their most vulnerable. And I am proud to stand for a vision of healthcare that respects bodily autonomy, honest communication, and voluntary decision making.

Medical freedom is not radical. It is ethical.

And informed consent is not an inconvenience. It is the foundation of trust between patient and provider. Once that trust is broken, no amount of policy or protocol can replace it.

If liberty means anything, it means your body is not owned by the state, the system, or the expert class. It means your choices matter, even when they are unpopular.

Especially then.

NEWSLETTER

PAGE 6

LIBERTY IN FAYETTE COUNTY: STILL WORTH THE FIGHT

LP FAYETTE



By any honest measure, Fayette County is a place that understands independence. Long before policy debates and party labels, this county was built by people who relied on themselves, their families, and their communities. Coal miners, farmers, small business owners, and tradesmen did not wait for permission to live their lives. They worked, organized voluntarily, worshipped freely, and defended their neighbors when times were hard.

That spirit has not vanished. It has been tested.

Liberty in Fayette County today exists in tension. On one hand, we see neighbors helping neighbors, volunteer fire departments holding the line, parents speaking up at school board meetings, and small business owners refusing to quietly close their doors. On the other, we face a growing culture of top-down control that assumes bureaucrats know better than the people who actually live here.

Libertarians recognize this pattern immediately. Power concentrates. Rules multiply. Accountability disappears.

Property taxes rise while families struggle. Regulations grow while local businesses shrink. Decisions affecting Fayette County are increasingly made far from Uniontown, often by people who will never feel the consequences of their choices. This is not governance rooted in community. It is management imposed from above.

Liberty is not abstract here. It is concrete and local.

It is the right of a homeowner to improve their property without navigating a maze of permits. It is the right of a worker to earn a living without political favoritism deciding winners and losers. It is the right of parents to raise their children without state agencies substituting their judgment for family values. It is the right of patients to make informed medical decisions without coercion or threats to their livelihood.

The Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania exists because these rights do not defend themselves. In Fayette County, libertarians have been the consistent voice reminding local government of its proper role: to protect rights, not manage lives.

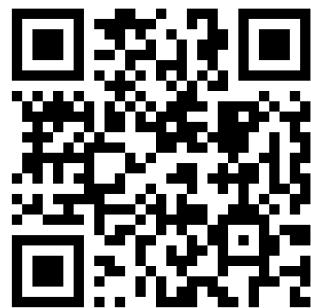
Liberty does not mean chaos. It means responsibility. It means voluntary cooperation instead of forced compliance. It means trusting people to make decisions for themselves, even when those decisions differ from what officials prefer.

Our county does not need more programs, studies, or press conferences. It needs restraint. It needs transparency. It needs leaders who understand that every dollar the government spends first belonged to a family trying to get ahead.

The future of liberty in Fayette County will not be decided in Harrisburg alone. It will be decided at kitchen tables, township meetings, polling places, and conversations like these. It will be decided by whether ordinary people choose comfort or courage.

Liberty has always survived here because people refused to surrender it quietly. That tradition is still alive. It just needs defending.

And that is work worth doing.

[DONATE](#)[JOIN THE LPPA](#)[EVENTS](#)[RUN FOR OFFICE](#)