



MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN

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Comments from the Editor

This edition features a total of 2,634 words. It was disseminated late because the Newsletter Editor got sick on December 1st. I hope you all enjoy.

Contributions and Comments Welcome

Contributions are welcome, with careful attention to our [guidelines](#). Comments or articles for the next issue of the Michigan Libertarian may be sent to newsletter@michiganlp.org. Submissions sent later than the 20th of each month may not have time to be used. Articles are often posted to michiganlp.org/headlines ahead of our publication date.

The LPMI depends on contributions to carry out its mission Please Visit us at MichiganLP.org and scroll down to the bottom of our homepage to gain access to our contribution form.



Libertarian Party of Michigan

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Sheriff's Office Legislation in Michigan

December 01, 2023 / By Andy Evans

This article expresses the opinion of the author. Other Libertarian Party of Michigan [members](#) are welcome to send in opinion articles (In keeping with our [guidelines](#)) for consideration to the editor.



Figure 1. Courtesy of Baraga County Sheriff Dept.

Current legislation (HB 4981) in Michigan proposes to require *all* candidates for County Sheriff to have a minimum of five years of law enforcement or corrections experience. Since Michigan became a State in 1836, any citizen has been eligible to run for this critically important office, and Sheriffs are the only law enforcement officers chosen by the residents of each County. There is a long-standing tradition here in the United States of electing citizens from various walks of life to the office of Sheriff. In fact, at least one of our Presidents served in this role: Grover Cleveland was the Erie County, NY Sherriff from 1871 to 1873. Our sheriffs have always been the choice of the People, and we should allow the People to decide how their protectors should be in each County.

Let us consider the consequences of restricting the candidate pool for Sheriff to only long-time enforcement officers. Generally, the county Sheriff acts as the CEO of their office, with a great many responsibilities for administration, jails oversight, and public relations. Our Sheriffs have always been elected by the People and entrusted with protecting their safety, property, and constitutional freedoms. Remember that each County must have an Undersheriff, who is a trained enforcement officer, along with various Deputies. In practice a Sheriff's time is consumed in the areas of administration, budgeting, employee matters, and public relations. And many duties are assigned to the Undersheriff, including overseeing the work of the deputies and enforcing the laws.

Each Sheriff is responsible for hiring the Undersheriff and Deputies and is accountable to the People for making sure all those officers are acting in a responsible and ethical manner. If, in the worst scenario, an entire Sheriff department became filled with corrupt actors (including the Sheriff), then the People should be provided other worthy candidates for the job. If we restrict this pool of candidates to only long-time law enforcement officers, then in practice the only candidates will be the Undersheriff or a Deputy – and that person will likely be unopposed in most counties.

There is great danger in having such an important office become one that is not earned



through a competitive election process, but instead becomes a position of guaranteed incumbency and eventual promotion “through the ranks” of law enforcement. If that Sheriff’s Office were to develop a culture of protecting their station rather than protecting the People and their natural rights, then how could we ever return oversight where it belongs – with the People of that county?



Explore the [Buds 'N Reality Podcast](#) with LPMI’s Shaun Collins!

LPOC Helped Rank Choice Voting Win in Royal Oak

December 01, 2023 / By Leah Dailey

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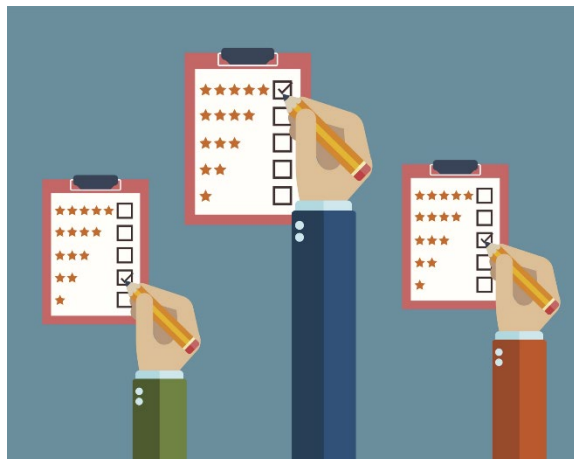


Figure 2. Representation of Ranked Choice Voting.

The Libertarian Party of Oakland County (LPOC) had the pleasure of assisting [RankMIVote \(RMV\)](#), with soliciting signatures for their petition to get Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) on the ballot, to be implemented in Royal Oak city and mayoral races going forward.

Spoiler: they gathered enough signatures to propose the change and the 2023 ballot initiative passed- as well as their ballot initiatives in Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, and East Lansing!



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"Ranked choice voting (RCV) – also known as instant runoff voting (IRV) – makes our elections better by allowing voters to rank candidates in order of preference. RCV is straightforward: Voters have the option to rank candidates in order of preference: first, second, third and so forth. Ballots that do not help voters' top choices win count for their next choice. It works in all types of elections and supports more representative outcomes. RCV means better choices, better campaigns, and better representation. That's why it's the fastest-growing nonpartisan voting reform in the nation."

[\(https://fairvote.org/our-reforms/ranked-choice-voting/\)](https://fairvote.org/our-reforms/ranked-choice-voting/)

Helping to gather petition-signatures was a great opportunity for LPOC, to represent a partnership with an organization that is actively working on promoting benefits to our voters and at the same time helping our 3rd party candidates. We chose to help RMV at Royal Oak's Memorial Day Parade on May 29, 2023.

There was a wicked chill in the air as we convened near main street in downtown Royal Oak early that morning. Adorned with RMV T-shirts and our legal-sized clipboards in hand, we were nearly ready to approach the public. We needed to first discuss our plan of action. If you've ever had the joy of soliciting petition-signatures you might be familiar with the nervousness that accompanies it. City-wide petitions and their signatures might be better gathered by door knocking in neighborhoods within the city's limits. A parade does pose some difficulty, as many attendees may not be city residents (and therefore disqualified to sign). We were well aware of the hurdle.

LPOC member, Connor N. had a great opener to offer, "Excuse me, do you think the way we currently conduct elections is a fair representation of the average citizen? What if there was a better way to ensure a true majority of people elect an acceptable candidate? (if so) You might be interested in signing our petition to implement Rank Choice Voting in Royal Oak."

I was impressed. The only clever thing I could think of was, "Pardon me, do you have a pen?"

With our scripts ready, we paired off and hit the street. Folks were already lining up with their camping chairs and blankets, and little kids with empty bags hoping to fill with candy from our paraders. Royal Oak has around 58,000 residents (according to the 2020 census) and all that was needed was 2,800 resident's signatures to get RCV on the ballot for 2023. The pressure was light, but I was still feeling the nerves anticipating negative reactions. As my partner and I made our way down the street we were met with quite a few other RMV volunteers, identified by our matching T-shirts. I spied the other volunteer's clipboard, FULL of signatures, I gave him a thumbs up as we passed.



Unfortunately for us, those we asked afterward had either already signed, were not residents of Royal Oak, or didn't have a pen.

Eventually my partner and I ended up at the end of the parade route without a single signature. At this time I decided to implement Plan B. I went to the gas station across the road and got us a pint of J&B Scotch and a bottle of apple juice to conceal it. If we were going to be failures, at least we'd have a good time doing so. After a couple swigs in the alley, we were ready to hit Main Street again. Our liquid courage did nothing to improve our numbers, but we did find ourselves helpful to an RMV organizer who refilled his clipboard with our empty sheets, and I was happy to oblige him.

After the parade finished we met back up with our affiliate members at Hop Cat Brewery and had a wonderful lunch and even got to play some Corn Hole! It turns out Connor's script proved fruitful, as he and his partner gathered the most signatures, a few pages full between them.

Though we did not impress nor dominate with our efforts, we did benefit all in all. Beside the meager amount of petition-signatures collected, we certainly benefited in affiliate building, activist training, and we represented Libertarian action in our community.

Am I personally the most helpful volunteer? Maybe not, but I show up. If you think you can do better, please show up with me. I can be reached at VCAffiliates@michiganlp.org, and I hope to see you soon!



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The Goldback: An Intersection of Gold and Currency

December 01, 2023 / By Ben DeJong

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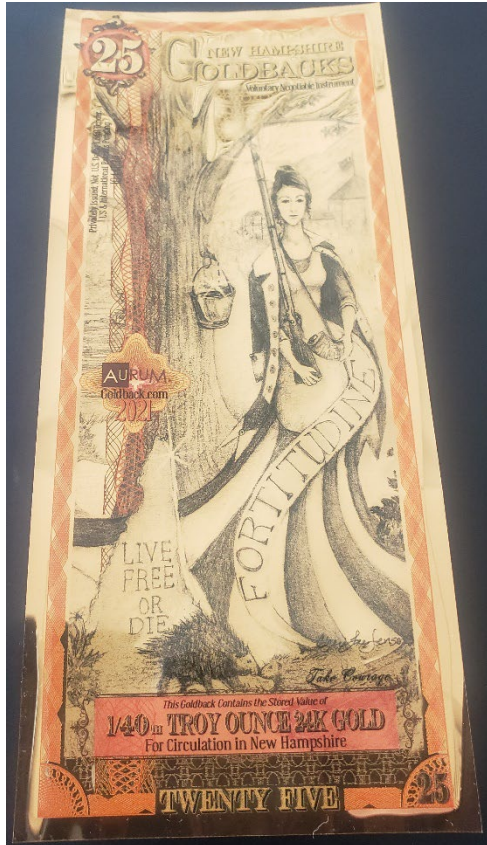


Figure 3. Courtesy of BShaffer / CC-BY-SA-3.0

In the realm of monetary innovation, the Goldback stands out as a unique form of interchangeable and physical gold money. Unlike traditional gold products, Goldbacks are designed to function as a currency with interchangeable denominations, making them a versatile and practical means of exchange. This article explores the distinctive features, applications, and considerations surrounding Goldbacks, emphasizing its role as both a gold product and a potential currency within some states.

The Goldback's uniqueness lies in its interchangeable denominations, offering a practical solution for small transactions. A series of Goldbacks have been minted to circulate within the legal frameworks of Utah, Nevada, Wyoming, and New Hampshire. The ability to trade higher denominations for multiples of lower denominations, such as converting a fifty denomination (1/20th of an oz) for fifty-one denominations (1/1,000th of an oz), adds to its functionality.

Goldbacks carry intrinsic value and can be bartered globally. Their ease of use in small transactions and absence of varying premiums set them apart from other gold products, making them a convenient choice for everyday transactions.

The Goldback merges the concept of local currencies and gold products, offering a unique marriage of the two. Functioning as both a gold product and a potential currency in jurisdictions where authorized by law, the Goldback represents a novel approach to combining the value of gold with the practicality of circulating currency.

Goldbacks are priced at the current average rate, ensuring that their value remains consistent with market conditions. While Goldback Inc. cannot control retail prices set



by independent sellers, consumers are advised to research and avoid paying more than the average exchange rate. Despite being a gold-backed currency, Goldbacks are priced approximately 25% cheaper than other gold products with the same weight, providing consumers with a cost-effective option.

The technology behind the Goldback includes robust anti-counterfeiting features, such as visible and tangible negative images, glistening gold properties, and government-level security features on the front. Developed over two decades, the technology is protected by trade secrets and patents, making counterfeiting a formidable challenge.

Explore the [State 180 Podcast](#) with LPMI's Ben DeJong!



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Affiliate Contacts

****Please contact local affiliate officers to learn how to get involved in their meetings.*

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Upper Peninsula Libertarian Party:

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Wayne County:

Chair Andrew Chadderdon, andrew.chadderdon@gmail.com.

Upcoming Events

****Some meetings can get canceled, or locations can change with short notice. Consider checking event pages or contacting hosts for updated information before travelling to events.*

Wednesday, December 6 @ 6-8pm – South West Michigan Affiliate Meeting

Travelers Cafe and Pub: 5225 Portage Rd, Portage

See website for details: www.swmlp.com

Thursday, December 7 @ 7-9pm – Livingston County Affiliate Meeting

Brewery Becker: 500 W Main St, Brighton

Join the Libertarian Party of Livingston County for our monthly meeting.

For more information, see: <http://www.LivingstonLP.org>.



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Saturday, December 9 @ 1-4pm – Wayne County Affiliate Meeting

Oak Lanes: 8450 N Middlebelt Rd., Westland

Please join us. The cost to participate is \$18 / person. This price covers 2 games of bowling in 3 hours, shoes, and 2 slices of pizza w/ unlimited pop.

Money will be collected at the event, please bring cash if possible.

Please RSVP by Saturday Dec 2 at Noon at the link below:

<https://forms.gle/H6gAibNw7S8NY56s5>

Sunday, December 9 @ 7-9pm – LP of Wayne County 3rd Annual Bowling Event

Oak Lanes (8450 N Middlebelt Rd, Westland, MI, 48185, United States)

Please join us on Saturday Dec 9 at 1pm at Oak Lanes in Westland

The cost to participate is \$18 / person. This price is covering 2 games of bowling in 3 hours, shoes, and 2 slices of pizza w/ unlimited pop. Money will be collected at the event, please bring cash if possible. Please RSVP by Saturday Dec 2 at Noon at:

<https://forms.gle/H6gAibNw7S8NY56s5>

Wednesday, December 13 @ 6:30-8pm – Wayne County Affiliate Meeting

Habib's Cuisine: 14316 Michigan Ave, Dearborn

Second Wednesday of every month.

Call to Order is at 6:30.

*****EDITORS NOTE*** -- NO DECEMBER Macomb County Monthly Meeting**

Thursday, December 14 @ 6:30-8pm – Huron-Raisin Monthly Meeting

The Tap Room: 201 West Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti

More info at www.HuronRaisinLP.org

Tuesday, December 19 @ 8-9pm – Upper Peninsula LP Monthly Meeting

Online

Every 3rd Tuesday at 8pm EST – the UPLP holds General Meetings open to the public.

Meeting ID: 819 9262 3984. Zoom Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81992623984>.

Wednesday, December 20 @ 6:30-8PM – Jackson-Hillsdale Monthly Meeting

Steve's Ranch Restaurant: 311 W Louis Glick Hwy, Jackson

<http://www.stevesranch.com/>

5:30 pm to 6:30 pm Open Meeting and Networking.

Wednesday, December 20 @ 6:30-9pm – Oakland County Monthly Meeting

B1 Tavern: 1967 Cass Lake Rd, Keego Harbor

Join LPOC for their monthly meeting. Casual dinner at 6:30pm. Call to order at 7:30pm.



Confirm details by going to <https://www.facebook.com/lpocmi/> and clicking the events tab.

Are you inspired by our ideals? [Join the party today](#), and [consider running for office](#) under our banner to get these ideals enacted in your community.

If you are new to the *Michigan Libertarian*, you can find archived issues here:
<http://old.michiganlp.org/resources-2/newsletter>.

The Libertarian Party is committed to America's heritage of freedom: individual liberty and personal responsibility, a free-market economy of abundance and prosperity, a foreign policy of non-intervention, peace, and free trade.

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