

Michigan Libertarian Newsletter

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Contributions and Comments Welcome

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

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Joseph Solis-Mullen Congressional Campaign Speaking Engagements

Summery: Israel's influence on US foreign policy, and the current war in Gaza

The speech highlights the longstanding opposition of the Libertarian Party to U.S. foreign policy, particularly in the Middle East, contrasting its non-interventionist stance with the aggressive approaches taken by Republicans and Democrats following the 9/11 attacks. Joseph Solis-Mullen references Harry Browne's letter from 2001, which criticized U.S. foreign policy as a catalyst for the tragic events of that day and urged a reevaluation of American interventionism.



Browne argued that the U.S.'s history of military involvement in various countries, including Iraq, Sudan, and Libya, had inevitably provoked resentment and retaliatory violence, emphasizing that the cycle of violence would only continue if the U.S. persisted in its interventionist policies.

Furthermore, the speech connected this critique to broader issues surrounding U.S. support for Israel and the influence of the Israel Lobby on American foreign policy. It traces the history of U.S.-Israel relations, noting the shift in U.S. policy beginning with President Truman's recognition of Israel, driven by both humanitarian and political factors. Over time, support for Israel became a fixture of U.S. foreign policy, fueled by a combination of lobbying efforts and Cold War considerations. Joseph Solis-Mullen argues that this relationship, particularly the support for Israeli policies toward Palestinians, has been detrimental not only to the U.S. and Palestinians but also to Israel itself. The Libertarian Party's non-interventionist stance is presented as an alternative that could have prevented much of the violence and destruction seen in the Middle East in recent decades.

Under President Lyndon Johnson, the U.S. took a notable shift in its approach to Israel. Despite learning from the CIA that Israel had developed nuclear weapons, Johnson's response was to bury the information, reflecting a broader trend in U.S. policy that viewed Israel as a valuable strategic ally during the Cold War. In 1968, Johnson initiated the first major military aid package to Israel, cementing the military aspect of their relationship. This deepened U.S. support, especially following Israel's victory in the Six-Day War of 1967, despite Israel's controversial territorial gains and settlement expansion. The growing influence of the Israel lobby in Washington helped ensure strong bipartisan backing, even as U.S. interests were sometimes at odds with Israeli actions, such as its preemptive attacks and refusal to cede occupied territories.

During the Nixon and Ford administrations, U.S. support for Israel grew despite tensions and economic costs, such as the 1973 oil embargo triggered by American military aid to Israel during the Yom Kippur War. The Israel lobby effectively pushed back against any attempts to pressure Israel into concessions, as seen with Ford's failed "Reassessment" policy aimed at securing Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai Peninsula. By the time of the Carter administration, the U.S.-Israel relationship had become solidified through military and economic aid guarantees, culminating in the Camp David Accords between Egypt and Israel in 1979. The Israel lobby



played a crucial role throughout, ensuring Israel's strategic interests were protected while maintaining strong U.S. support, despite ongoing settlement activities and regional tensions.

In the late 1970s and early 1980s, tensions between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) intensified. Israeli hardliners, particularly Defense Minister Ariel Sharon, opposed any negotiations with the PLO, believing it would compromise Israeli security. The 1982 Lebanon War marked a turning point, with Israel launching a full-scale invasion of Lebanon under the pretext of curbing PLO attacks from the south. Sharon aimed to destroy the PLO's infrastructure and install a pro-Israel government in Beirut. The conflict escalated, resulting in heavy civilian casualties and the notorious Sabra and Shatila massacre, where Israeli forces stood by as the Christian Phalange militia killed hundreds of Palestinians. International condemnation followed, but U.S. military and economic support for Israel continued, despite opposition from figures like U.S. Secretary of State George Schultz.

Despite momentary tensions between Washington and Tel Aviv, the U.S.-Israel alliance deepened in the Reagan years, with growing military and intelligence cooperation. By the 1990s, after the Cold War, Israel shifted its focus to aligning with U.S. policy on Iran to secure its strategic relationship. This culminated in the Oslo Accords during Bill Clinton's administration, though Israeli settlement expansion continued. Successive U.S. administrations, despite advocating for a two-state solution, supported Israel both economically and militarily. The election of George W. Bush saw further deepening of these ties, with Israel continuing its policies in Gaza and the West Bank, and later aligning with neoconservative U.S. policymakers during the Iraq War. Despite some public disagreements, U.S. support for Israel remained steadfast across both Democratic and Republican administrations.

Summery: Libertarian perspective on monetary, fiscal, and regulatory policy

Monetary, fiscal, and regulatory policies are not abstract concepts but have a direct impact on everyone's lives. Whether it's inflation devaluing savings, taxes reducing income, or regulatory red tape stifling entrepreneurship, these policies affect economic stability. Both major political parties, Democrat and Republican, have expanded government power, increasing national debt and bureaucracy. This bipartisan consensus has led to a national debt exceeding \$36 trillion, a result of statism where the government controls the economy and manipulates monetary



systems. Joseph Solis-Mullen's opponents, Mike Rogers and Elissa Slotkin, support this approach, which harms individuals and stifles economic freedom.

Monetary policy is at the heart of government power, and the Federal Reserve's control over the money supply has been disastrous. Since its creation, the dollar's purchasing power has dropped by over 96%. Central banking policies, such as those during the 1920s and leading to the 2008 financial crisis, have created boom-bust cycles that hurt ordinary Americans while benefiting politically connected institutions. The solution is to abolish the Federal Reserve and return to sound money, such as a gold standard, which would prevent government from inflating currency to fund wars or welfare programs. A free market system would allow interest rates to be determined by individual preferences, ensuring stability and economic growth.

Fiscal policy also reflects the failure of both parties. Whether through excessive military spending by Republicans or welfare programs by Democrats, the government runs deficits and accumulates debt. Deficit spending leads to inflation and higher taxes, which disproportionately hurt the middle class. Government spending distorts the economy by funding political priorities instead of actual needs, often benefiting special interests. A libertarian approach would drastically reduce government spending, balance the budget, and eliminate the income tax. This would enable individuals to keep more of their income and reduce the government's influence over economic activity.

Finally, regulatory policy has created a burdensome system that stifles small businesses and innovation. The cost of federal regulations is estimated at \$2 trillion annually, benefiting large corporations that can navigate the red tape. Regulations like Dodd-Frank and the Affordable Care Act have disproportionately harmed smaller businesses while failing to achieve their intended goals. The libertarian solution is deregulation—eliminating unnecessary rules and allowing the free market to regulate itself through competition and private arbitration. This would foster innovation and economic growth, removing barriers imposed by the current crony capitalist system.





The Real Abraham Lincoln

By Dylan Allman @DylanMAllman

We were all taught that Abraham Lincoln was a saint—the freer of slaves, the preserver of the Union, the embodiment of American virtue. But what if, instead of the noble figure we've been spoon-fed, Lincoln was actually a brutal tyrant, hell-bent on expanding his power? What if Lincoln wasn't the hero we were told to idolize, but a calculating politician who oversaw one of the bloodiest chapters in American history while systematically trampling on civil rights? Let's start by dismantling the sacred myth of the "Great Emancipator." Lincoln didn't wage war to free the slaves. The Emancipation Proclamation, which people love to parade as his moral high ground, didn't actually free a single slave in the Union. It was a tactical move, aimed at destabilizing the Confederacy and ensuring that Europe wouldn't recognize it as a legitimate nation. In Lincoln's own words, "If I could save the Union without freeing any slave, I would do it." This was not a man motivated by the intrinsic rights of human beings, but by the cold calculus of war. The slaves were pawns on his chessboard—a convenient weapon to weaken the enemy, not the moral cause we're supposed to believe he championed.

But that's just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to Lincoln's tyranny. Lincoln suspended habeas corpus, a bedrock principle of legal justice that prevents unlawful detention. He had people arrested without charge, without trial, and held indefinitely simply for speaking out against his policies. Newspapers critical of his administration? Shut down. Journalists and dissenters? Imprisoned. All this in the name of "national security."

If you think that sounds eerily similar to the tactics of any dictator worth their salt, you're not wrong. The Constitution was essentially shredded under his watch, sacrificed to his singular obsession with keeping the Union together at any cost. And those costs? The body count during Lincoln's war dwarfs that of any other conflict in American history. Over 600,000 dead—more Americans than in both World Wars combined.

It's easy to say the Civil War was inevitable, but was it? The Southern states seceded not to launch an offensive war, but to remove themselves from a federal system they no longer agreed with. Was slavery a major reason for the South's secession? Absolutely. Slavery was the economic backbone of the South, and the elites in those states were intent on preserving it. But let's not act like Lincoln's war was the only possible solution. Countries around the world—



Brazil, Britain, France—all abolished slavery without a war. Even in the U.S., slavery was already on its last legs economically, and many historians argue it would have collapsed naturally under the weight of industrialization and changing moral tides. Instead, Lincoln could've let the South go and spared the bloodbath. Instead, he chose war, waged with a brutality that scorched the South and left a legacy of division that lasted long after his assassination. And for what? To preserve a system of forced union, where states were effectively under the boot of an increasingly centralized federal government.

Speaking of forced union, let's not forget the Enrollment Act of 1863, the first military draft in U.S. history. Under Lincoln's watch, men were conscripted—forced into the military against their will, which is nothing short of slavery. The state claimed ownership over their bodies, sending them to die for Lincoln's unnecessary war. And for those with wealth, there was a convenient loophole—you could buy your way out of the draft by paying for a substitute. The rich bought their freedom while the poor were shackled to the Union's war machine, and the country erupted in violence, culminating in the New York City Draft Riots. Now, people will point to the Thirteenth Amendment and say, "But Lincoln ended slavery!"—as if that alone washes his hands clean. Except, slavery wasn't truly abolished, was it? Read the amendment carefully: "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime." That's right. Slavery was never fully eradicated. The government still reserves the right to enslave prisoners, and we see the echoes of this today in America's bloated prison system—modern-day slavery under the guise of criminal justice. Lincoln didn't end slavery; he rebranded it, kept it legal under certain conditions, and passed the buck to future generations.

Lincoln's legacy is lauded for its preservation of the Union, but at what cost? The America that emerged from the Civil War was not the decentralized republic the Founding Fathers envisioned. It was a stronger, more invasive federal machine, with powers that Lincoln carved out for future presidents to exploit. The expansion of executive authority, the trampling of states' rights—these weren't temporary wartime measures. They set a precedent that reverberates to this day. This centralized control didn't stop with the war; it extended into the country's financial future. The "greenbacks" Lincoln authorized, along with the National Banking Act, consolidated power over the monetary system in ways that no president had before. Lincoln's financial policies weren't just about funding the war—they were about entrenching federal authority over the economy itself.

These policies laid the foundation for what would become the Federal Reserve, further tethering the country to centralized banking and away from the individual autonomy the



Founders had envisioned. This is the man we're supposed to hold up as a champion of liberty? A man who manipulated public sentiment, trampled the Constitution, imprisoned his critics, enslaved his citizens through conscription, and oversaw the violent suppression of states wished to peacefully leave the Union? The truth is, Lincoln was not the saintly figure of our grade school history books. He was an opportunist, a tyrant who saw the future of America not in the freedoms of individuals or the rights of states, but in the unchecked power of a centralized federal government. And let's not ignore the uncomfortable fact that Lincoln's assassination conveniently sanitized his legacy. Death turned him into a martyr and allowed his more controversial actions to be swept under the rug, cementing him in the American consciousness as a tragic hero rather than the autocrat he truly was. His canonization began immediately, ensuring future generations would be fed the myth, not the man.

The hero worship needs to stop. The man was no saint. He was a ruler who did what rulers do—consolidated power, crushed opposition, and rewrote the rules to suit his agenda. If that's the legacy we want to celebrate, then maybe we need to rethink what we truly value in this so-called "land of the free."

Meet your Candidate: Chris Clark

Christopher Clark, a lifetime resident of Wayne County, MI, announced his campaign for U.S. Congress, 13th District, as a Libertarian. When asked why he's running, he said, "During the COVID lockdown, I was infuriated by the cowardice and lack of principle shown by Democrats and Republicans. They sat by as an unelected bureaucrat and a corrupt bureaucracy trampled not only on our civil



rights to assemble and worship as Americans but the more fundamental human rights to live and work without government intimidation. Instead, we witnessed a takeover of our government by pharmaceutical makers who literally changed the definition of "vaccine" to grease the wheels for a taxpayer-subsidized and insufficiently tested product – all while cheap, safe, long-used medications were demonized and made difficult to obtain."

Says Clark, "That only scratches the surface of the authoritarian measures. Even worse" he added, "we now know from the Twitter Files and a recent letter from Mark Zuckerberg to House Committee Chair, Jim Jordan, that the FBI, CIA, HHS, DOD, and DHS – along with the Biden White House itself -- put pressure on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Google, and other media sources to suppress dissent about



these policies and revelations about the Biden family. There was a complete information blackout, and people who receive their "news" from TV and the institutional corporate press are still unaware of the vast scale of this outrage. The Democrat incumbent, Shri Thanedar, is up to his eyebrows in this monstrosity. But maybe that's not surprising considering his background in the chemical-pharmaceutical industries and the Democratic Socialists of America. When you become a new American citizen, you shouldn't introduce tyranny."

Clark recommends that voters do their own research, starting with two books in particular: Diary of a Psychosis: How Public Health Disgraced Itself During COVID Mania, by Thomas E. Woods, Jr. and The Real Anthony Fauci: Bill Gates, Big Pharma, and the Global War on Democracy and Public Health, by Robert F. Kennedy Jr. "I was heartened," he said, "by the dissent of Robert F. Kennedy Jr., Elon Musk, and former Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard. We're starting to win."

Chris Clark's message to voters includes the following areas of focus:

Resuscitate the deteriorating economic environment by slashing tax and regulatory burdens as well as the bloated bureaucracies that smother businesses and prevent them from taking root and thriving.

Foster genuine community engagement – like ground-up neighborhood cleanups – on specific local concerns instead of imposing one-size-fits-all policies that force everyone into the same box.

End the costly, divisive habit of throwing tax dollars at favored business insiders and tax-receiving constituencies.

Oppose rights violations such as the life-, job-, and health-destroying COVID lockdowns, forced isolation, and mask mandates imposed relentlessly in Michigan and on its young people, crippling their futures.

Manage spending responsibly instead of wasting taxpayer dollars as if there were an endless supply of the cash that is currently extracted under threat of punishment from the tax-cattle.

Christoper J. Clark is a life-long resident of Wayne County, now 40 years old and living in Taylor. Despite a busy schedule of carpentry work and construction projects, he is a loving father to his three children and is now divorced. He was moved to run for office because of the deep sense of indignation he felt at the vast scale of human-rights violations imposed during the COVID regime. In particular, he noted that his disenchantment was shared by a large number of voters who were utterly without representation in the U.S. Congress, Lansing, or in Wayne County.

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Meet your Candidate: Bob Black

Bob Black announced he is running for Crystal Falls Township Supervisor in November. Staying true to his beliefs Black will be on the Libertarian ticket. Black notes that the U.P. Libertarian party readily endorsed his campaign.

Black stated, "It is well known that I underwent head and neck cancer treatment and that I was quite ill in 2021. Through the support and prayers from my family, friends, and residents of Iron County I have now been cancer free for 2 years. I am back to my spirited, sassy self!" Black goes on to say, "I am ready to serve the residents of Crystal Falls Township and my experience will allow me to do so in a positive and professional manner. I am excited to stake my claim for this position that requires dedication to the area in which I live. I look forward to the opportunity to once again work with the Road Commission, township departments, the County board, and other townships for a continued well-run system. I will work toward future improvements in Crystal Falls Township.

Black was elected to the Iron County Board of Commissioners from 2004-2010, District 5, serving 6 years. He represented Amasa/Hematite, Mansfield, and Crystal Falls Townships. He was endorsed by the Michigan Township Association P.A.C. when he ran for State Representative in 2010, thus ending his commissionership. As County Commissioner, Black served as Vice Chair and on the Iron Dickinson Health Board, Finance board, Building and Grounds, and Personnel Chair during union contract negotiations. Black states, "I thoroughly enjoyed my time on the County Board. I gained invaluable education and experience first-hand in local politics by doing it. The State Rep position just did not work out for me. I was beat by Scott Dianda and we ended up being good friends!"

Bob served as Iron County Chamber of Commerce Director for 3 years. He represented Iron County in various Sporting shows in Wisconsin and Illinois promoting Iron County and the local area. As Chamber Director and County Commissioner he promoted enhancement of the WI/MI border ATV/Snowmobile commerce to improve local trade and increased profits to local businesses.

Bob Black has become somewhat of a personality and enjoys his popularity. He has become known as "Buckskin Bob." In 2014 he received a "Buckskin Bob Award" from the Governor of the State of Michigan recognizing his character and service promoting



Iron County and the Upper Peninsula. Black is a well-known volunteer and promoter in Iron County. He assists in fundraisers, festivities, and any projects that benefit Iron County citizens and businesses. Bob is the originator of the Alpha Bluesfest that went on during the years 2012-2019. He enjoys music, people and helping anyone with a positive idea to benefit others. Black hosted and MC'd the primary election debates at the Crystal Falls Township Hall in 2006 & 2008 as he stated, "transparency through questions and answers gave Iron County voters knowledge and opportunity to personally meet candidates. I will always be available to Crystal Falls Township residents by keeping regular hours and an open-door policy."

Black retired from the Alpha Mastodon Fire Department after 17 years. He held positions of Assistant chief and Senior Training and Safety officer for that department. Black is past President of the local Iron Range Firefighters and past President of the UP Firefighters Association. Black was honored as 2005 Michigan UP Firefighter of the year.

As UP Brass Roots Director Black was instrumental in changing Michigan law for Carrying Concealed Weapons. He is a former Federal Firearms Licensed Dealer and trained thousands of citizens in firearm safety and personal self-defense. Black lobbied for Michigan's Helmet law reform and motorcycle awareness. He was awarded ABATE Member of the year in 2019. As UP Firefighter's President he contributed to Michigan's Fireworks reform with monetary benefits forwarding to Firefighter training and safety.

Back in the 1990's Bob Black founded the U.P. Liberation party. He encouraged the Iron County Board of Commissioners to enact Bill of Rights Day before the state recognized it and was awarded Michigan's Defender of Liberty and Lights of Liberty honors in 1998. Black reports, "I have always believed in personal freedoms and less Government intrusion."

Bob currently works in sales and promotion's for WIKB radio station, the home of Telephone Time. He has been there for 10 years and was General Manager for 5 of those. Bob is also a licensed realtor and licensed school bus driver. Black has been a State Firefighter Instructor for over 20 years. He is a former Martial artist, MMA licensed judge, and MMA announcer. He loves hunting, fishing, and taking his family camping. Bob enjoys genealogy and has researched his family background. Black is a mushroom enthusiast, growing, picking, and sharing his craft. Bob is a "foodie" and is well known on social media for his food pictures from his travels.



Bob Black lives in Crystal Falls Township with his wife Tina and grandson Tristan. He is a member of the VFW Auxiliary post 2891, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, and Free & Accepted Masons Lodge 385. He is co-founder and serves as Sergeant of Arms with the American Legion Riders Chapter 21, and serves as Adjutant in the American Legion Post 87.

Bob Black states, "My diversity, experience, accomplishments and proven ability to collaborate with all other entities make me the perfect choice for Crystal Falls Township Supervisor."

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

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Upcoming Events: Please see the Libertarian Party of Michigan Facebook page

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

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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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