



MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN

March, 2025

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Letter from the Chair

Members of the Libertarian Party of Michigan, I am writing to you today with immense pride and gratitude as we reflect on our accomplishments in 2024 and set our sights on an even more ambitious future.

A Successful Election Year for LPMI

The 2024 elections were a resounding success for our party. I want to personally thank every candidate who ran for office, as well as the volunteers who dedicated countless hours to supporting their campaigns. Your hard work and passion have strengthened our movement and brought the principles of liberty to communities across Michigan, but our work is far from over. I encourage everyone to keep the momentum going, and if you're interested in running in 2025, I'd love to help you get started as soon as possible!

A Monumental Victory: Ross Ulbricht is Free!

Perhaps the most groundbreaking moment for the Libertarian Party last year was the successful effort to free Ross Ulbricht . At the 2024 Libertarian National



Convention, President Donald Trump made a historic promise to our party—to pardon Ross Ulbricht. Today, we can proudly say that, through the influence, impact, and persistence of the Libertarian Party, Ross Ulbricht walks free. As a free man, he attended the speech to a joint session of the United States Congress on March 4, 2025, as a guest of Congressman Thomas Massie. Ross spent over a decade as a political prisoner, punished for daring to create an online marketplace that challenged the status quo. His case became a rallying cry for liberty advocates everywhere, symbolizing the dangers of government overreach. Former Libertarian National Committee Chair Angela McArdle championed this cause, ensuring the party's influence was used to fight for justice.

Support Small Businesses

One achievement I am proud of for The Libertarian Party of Michigan last year was the passage of our resolution in support of small business entrepreneurs in Michigan. This resolution reaffirms our commitment to fighting excessive regulations, burdensome taxation, and government favoritism toward large corporations at the expense of small businesses.

From the unjust treatment of small businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic to the recent legislative attempts to expand licensing fees, we have seen firsthand how government interference stifles entrepreneurship and economic freedom. LPMI will continue to stand against these barriers and fight for a truly free market. Additionally, our call to action was instrumental in helping push bipartisan fixes to the terrible Earned Sick Time Act that went into effect on February 21, 2025. This year, I urge each of you to stay engaged, take action, and help build on the progress we've made. Whether by running for office, supporting a campaign, or spreading our message, every effort counts. The Libertarian Party is proving that we are not just a movement—we are a force for real political change. In 2025 and beyond our efforts will be focused on:



- Key winnable races below county level. These will be supported financially, backed with call banking through our “Voter Gravity” canvassing software, and supported with door-knocking events.
- Networking and coalition building with Democrats and Republicans where agreement and cooperation are possible.
- Messaging in high-profile races to targeted audiences. No more throwing spaghetti at the wall. We will focus on audiences willing to hear our message.
- Strategic focus on races where we can have a meaningful impact. These may not be traditionally "winnable" within the current system, but we can influence the outcome in our favor. We will consider the value of whether we should run a candidate against Liberty candidates in high-profile races. (For a counter-example, prior to the current leadership, the party ran candidates multiple times against Justin Amash.)
- Defend the Guard bipartisan legislation has been introduced in the Michigan House. HB 4163 and HB 4164 form a powerful bill package aimed at promoting peace and keeping our National Guard service members out of undeclared wars. An urgent call to action will be coming soon.

Thank you for your dedication to the cause of liberty. Together, we will make 2025 another year of victories for freedom, for Michigan, and for the Libertarian Party



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Upcoming LPMI Conventions

2024 Libertarian Party of Michigan Special Convention
 Sunday, April 13, 2025, Start of Business at 13:00
 The Woodlands at Bruin Lake 20120 Bartell Rd, Gregory, MI 48137

The Libertarian Party of Michigan is holding a Special Convention on Sunday April 13, 2025, at The Woodlands at Bruin Lake, located at 20120 Bartell Rd, Gregory, MI 48137, with business beginning at 1:00pm in the main hall. There is no official hotel room block established, as this is meant to be a short, concise convention, but hotels are available in nearby Chelsea, and many more slightly further away in Jackson, Ann Arbor, and along I-94. Anyone may attend the convention, but only delegates appointed by the affiliates (and unaffiliated regions) during their respective conventions, or in their absence their alternates, will be able to vote.

Business Items

Per LPMI's Bylaws (<https://michiganlp.org/bylaws/>), only those items of business noticed for this Special Convention may be conducted therein. In this case, the only business is as follows:

- Consideration of disciplinary action in light of alleged violations of LPMI Bylaws and/or policy by member
 Avi Rachlin
- Consideration of disciplinary action in light of alleged violations of LPMI Bylaws and/or policy by member
 Dan Goebel



Scan for More Info

Save The Date

2025 Annual Convention
 Port Huron, Michigan

July 19-20



LIBERTARIAN
 PARTY OF MICHIGAN



Libertarian Party of Michigan

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Saint Patrick's Day Parade, Clare Michigan





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Governor Whitmer Drags Her Feet on Filling Vacant 35th District Senate Seat – T. Step

– Nothing screams “hypocrisy, not democracy” louder than a Democratic governor who shrieks about democracy for two years and then locks all the doors when it’s time to walk the walk.” –

Calling the refusal to hold a special election to fill the now-vacant 35th District seat in the Michigan Senate an “outrage,” Political Director of the Libertarian Party of Michigan, Trevor Step, is demanding that Governor Gretchen Whitmer schedule a special election immediately.

“The battle cry for U.S. independence from Great Britain in 1776 was based on the idea of ‘No taxation without consent,’” said Step. “Yet here we are in 2025, and nearly 270,000 Michiganders have no representative in Lansing because of the current 35th District vacancy.” The 35th District includes parts of Saginaw, Bay, and Midland counties; it was vacated when Kristen McDonald Rivet was elected to the U.S. Congress in November 2024.

“Governor Whitmer and the Democrats spent the last two years screaming about democracy, but now she is stalling on filling that empty seat. She knows it’s not a shoe-in for Democrats to win, so she’s doing the slow walk. Fearing that the seat could go to a Republican, Libertarian, or Independent, she is denying citizens the option of representation.”

“As recently as 2022, a bipartisan bill required a special election to be scheduled within 30 days of a vacancy,” said Mr. Step. “That bill was vetoed by Governor Whitmer. So, call me skeptical when it comes to her devotion to the democratic process. Protests already sprang up throughout the district, but calls to fill the seat are falling on deaf ears because Whitmer’s gang might not win,” Step added.



“The most likely reasoning behind Whitmer’s foot-dragging is that she needs time to find the perfect puppet to bow to her every demand. She also wants to assemble enough financial backing to guarantee a win and hold onto her extremely thin majority in the State Senate. A win by any candidate not loyal to her agenda could be catastrophic to her vision of turning Michigan to the next failed state behind California,” said Step. “Unless you’re from Cuba, this is not the proper way to govern, and the citizens of Michigan are not being served. It’s tragic,” said Step, That the Governor can’t be bothered to ensure that the citizens of this great state are represented in Lansing.”

An update on D.O.G.E Fraud and Abuse findings

Since Donald Trump’s election in November 2024 and the subsequent establishment of the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) via executive order on January 20, 2025, led by Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy, the initiative has aggressively pursued its mandate to identify and eliminate fraud, waste, and abuse in federal spending. In its first few months, DOGE has claimed to uncover "billions and billions of dollars" in problematic expenditures, as stated by Trump during a February 11, 2025, Oval Office appearance with Musk. These claims center on what DOGE labels as fraudulent or abusive practices, such as contracts tied to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives, which Musk asserted saved taxpayers over \$1 billion by canceling "crazy DEI contracts." Additionally, DOGE has targeted foreign aid programs like USAID, calling them wasteful, and has begun reviewing contracts across agencies like the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to justify or eliminate spending, reflecting a broad sweep for perceived inefficiencies.



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However, the specifics of DOGE's findings remain murky, with little concrete evidence of criminal fraud—defined legally as intentional deception for gain—presented to the public. Critics, including government accountability experts, argue that what DOGE identifies as "fraud and abuse" often aligns more with ideological disagreements than substantiated wrongdoing. For instance, Musk's claim during the same Oval Office session that 20 million people received Social Security benefits past age 100 was later debunked as a misinterpretation of data, undermining the narrative of widespread fraud. The White House has pointed to canceled subscriptions and administrative expenses as "wins," but experts like Jessica Tillipman from George Washington University note that these reflect policy shifts rather than proven corruption. Meanwhile, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) estimates annual fraud at 3-7% of federal budgets, a far cry from the trillions Musk and Trump suggest, highlighting a disconnect between DOGE's rhetoric and documented reality.

Despite the lack of detailed evidence, DOGE's actions have had tangible impacts, stirring both support and alarm. The initiative's scrutiny has led to mass layoffs and buyout offers to federal workers, with over 125 employees fired from the Treasury's Bureau of Fiscal Service in West Virginia by February 2025, a move some locals, like former Trump supporter Jennifer Piggott, now decry as devastating. Union leaders at HUD have expressed cautious optimism that DOGE could address longstanding procurement issues, yet fear its broad cuts might dismantle critical services. With Musk alleging massive savings potential—up to \$2 trillion—while only identifying a fraction so far, the effort appears driven as much by political momentum as by forensic accounting. As of March 24, 2025, DOGE's early findings suggest a campaign more focused on reshaping government priorities than unearthing systemic fraud, leaving its true legacy in combating abuse an open question as it barrels forward.



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LPMI Elected Officers & Appointed Positions

Chair: Andrew Chadderdon, chair@michiganlp.org

First Vice Chair: Leah Dailey, vcaffiliates@michiganlp.org

Second Vice Chair: Trevor Step, vcpolilcaldirector@michiganlp.org

Secretary: Daniel Ziemba, secretary@michiganlp.org

Treasurer: Paul Urben, treasurer@michiganlp.org

District 1 Rep: Ryan Roberts, dist1rep@michiganlp.org

District 2 Rep: Ben DeJong, dist2rep@michiganlp.org

District 3 Rep: Rich McClain, dist3rep@michiganlp.org

District 4 Rep: Michelle Gregoire, dist4rep@michiganlp.org

District 5 Rep: Vacant

District 6 Rep: Justin Miramonl, dist6rep@michiganlp.org

District 7 Rep: Vacant

District 8 Rep: Alice Freeborn Hall, dist8rep@michiganlp.org

District 9 Rep: Vacant

District 10 Rep: Vacant

District 11 Rep: Jeff Pittel, dist11rep@michiganlp.org

District 12 Rep: Vacant

District 13 Rep: Collin Fitzgerald, dist13rep@michiganlp.org

Judicial Committee Members

Connor Nepomuceno, judicialcommiKee@michiganlp.org

Joshua Jongema, judicialcommiKee@michiganlp.org

Appointed Positions

LPMI Webmaster: Vacant, Webmaster@MichiganLP.org

LPMI Director of Communications: Ben DeJong, Communalons@michiganlp.org.



Affiliate Contacts

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

Capital Area: Chair - Ben DeJong **Phone:** 616-916-6031 **Email:** capitalarea@michiganlp.org

Huron-Raisin: Chair - Mark King **Email:** chair@huronraisinlp.org **Info:**
<https://lpwc.wordpress.com>

Jackson-Hillsdale: Chair - Currently Vacant

Livingston County: Chair - Trevor Step **Email:** trevorstep@protonmail.com **Info:**
<https://livingstonlp.org>

Mid Michigan (Affiliate Applicant): Alice Freeborn Hall

Northern Michigan: Chair - Stephanie Dean **Phone:** 231-620-5280 **Email:** cory0269@yahoo.com

Oakland County: Chair - Leah Dailey **Email:** fuleahrd@gmail.com **Info:**
<https://www.facebook.com/lpocmi/>

Southwest Michigan: Chair - Andrew Duke **Email:** duke.andrew.g@gmail.com **Info:**
<https://michiganlp.org/southwest-michigan/>

Straits Area: Chair - Andy Evans **Phone:** 231-625-8403 **Email:** amevans_1968@yahoo.com **Info:**
<https://Straitslp.com> or facebook.com/StraitAreaLP

Upper Peninsula Libertarian Party: Chair - Ryan Roberts **Phone:** 906-420-2995 **Email:**
ryan_r03@hotmail.com **Info:** <https://michiganlp.org/lp-of-upper-peninsula/>

Wayne County: Chair - Jami Van Alstine **Email:** jamiracquel2004@yahoo.com

Thumb Area (Affiliate Applicant): Paul Urban **Email:** thumblp@michiganlp.org

Upcoming Events

Please see the Libertarian Party of Michigan Facebook page

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

Follow us on Social Media: [Facebook](#) - [Instagram](#) - [LinkedIn](#) - [X](#)

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: <https://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. LPMI Phone: 888.FREE.NOW Paid for with regulated funds by the Libertarian Party of Michigan Executive Committee.