
The Ithaca Libertarian

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April 2006

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Ithaca Tax Burden Calculator

Cornell graduate student in physics and our Webmaster, Curry Taylor, created our new total tax burden calculator for Ithaca residents. The calculator is a new feature of the Ithaca Libertarians website, *IthacaLibertarians.org*. Users confidentially fill in financial information and the calculator tells them the scary truth - what their total tax burden is. What percentage of your income is taken by federal, state and local governments? The web-based calculator will be released to the Ithaca community on Tax Day.



Curry Taylor

Tax Day Events in Ithaca

Tax Day is Saturday, April 15, and Ithaca Libertarians will be back out on the Commons with Operation Politically Homeless (OPH), offering passers-by the opportunity to take the World's Smallest Political Quiz and discover their true political identity. Come help out from 2-6pm, or just stop by to say hello and show your support! The quiz creates the forum for some very interesting discussions about libertarian philosophy and politics!

Tax Day also gives us a chance to let Ithacans know about our new Ithaca Tax Burden Calculator, available on our web site. We'll be promoting the website and calculator at the Tax Day OPH table and we'll be including it in our annual Tax Day press release.

2006 Calendar of Events

April 15	Saturday Tax Day Protest and OPH 2-6:00pm
April 18	Tuesday IL monthly meeting 7:00pm
April 19	Wednesday Peter Christ, LEAP on WHCU AM 870 9:30am
April 19	Wednesday LEAP speaker Peter Christ at Cornell 7:30pm
April 29	Saturday LPNY Annual Convention in Albany
May 13	Saturday OPH on the Commons
May 21	Tuesday IL monthly meeting 7:00pm
June 17	Saturday OPH on the Commons
June 20	Tuesday IL monthly meeting 7:00pm
July 1	Saturday 2nd Annual Independence Day BBQ & Campout
July 15	Saturday OPH on the Commons
July 18	Tuesday IL monthly meeting 7:00pm

All monthly meetings above held at Bool's Flower Shop 209 N. Aurora St., Ithaca at 7:00pm
If you have suggestions for the calendar, the meeting agendas or anything else, contact Christa sieringcr@msn.com

Peter Christ of LEAP to speak at Cornell and WHCU Radio

LEAP is Law Enforcement Against Prohibition, a drug policy reform group made up of current and former law enforcement members. The Cornell Libertarians bring Peter Christ, retired NY police captain to Ithaca on April 19th, 7:30pm, HEC Auditorium, Goldwin Smith Hall, Cornell. Come and hear Peter Christ, a leading spokesman against drug prohibition, "the drug war can never be won, and is doing more harm than good." Bring your friends to this free and open to the public

Be sure to tune in to the Casey Stevens Show on WHCU AM 870 to hear Peter Christ address Casey's questions about prohibition! He'll be on the air April 19th at 9:30am. And, on the subject of local radio, don't forget to tune in to

libertarian talk show host, Neal Boortz right here on WHCU, Monday through Friday from 6-8pm.



Peter Christ

LPNY 2006 Annual Convention

There is a group of Ithaca area libertarians heading over to this year's LPNY Convention in Albany. The convention will be held on Saturday, April 29th and the featured luncheon speaker will be Thomas Carroll, founder of the former ChangeNY and now with the Foundation for Education Reform and Accountability and the Brighter Choice Foundation. If you are interested in carpooling or arrangements, please contact Christa: sieringcr@msn.com

“Ithaca Taxes Gorge Us” Bumper Stickers



The Ithaca Libertarians are now offering *the* bumper sticker of growing local fame, **Ithaca Taxes Gorge Us**. Show how you feel about Ithaca's taxes with this take-off on the Ithaca is Gorgeous slogan. You can buy a bumper sticker through our website, www.ithacalibertarians.org and at our meetings and events.

Focus on Violence, not Pot

Originally published: Ithaca Journal February 20, 2006

I am writing about the Dateline Special Report, aired on Friday, Feb. 3 about computer predators. This special covered child molestation/rape and how the Internet can help make our children victims. I applaud Dateline for bringing this important subject into the public eye. Fifty people were arrested in this three day sting, so why are we not hearing about arrests like this everyday in the headlines of papers and news shows?

In this post 9/11, computer-driven world of ours, isn't it time we put things in perspective and really protect our children? When was the last time you heard about a rapist being arrested? How about a non-violent drug offender? Fact is illegal drugs remain one of law enforcements main priorities (if not the main).

Have we made our kids any safer? No. Are we using less illegal drugs as a society? No.

Over 700,000 Americans were arrested for marijuana law violations last year. That is more than all violent crimes combined, including: rape, murder, assault, manslaughter, homicide, etc. It is time law enforcement start protecting us, the citizens of the United States from terrorist attacks and sicko rapist looking to hurt our children. It is also time our nation look at drugs for what they are, a public health issue. Not an overwhelming law enforcement one! Let the police go after criminals, not non-violent drug users.

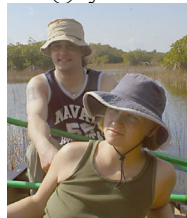
It is our tax money that runs this system. Is this really what we want?

Robert Robinson

Help Stop the Drug War

New to the Ithaca area, Rob Robinson and Jen Rog (Hudson Valley LP) are testing the waters to see if there's support to run a resolution in the city of Ithaca to deprioritize marijuana arrests for anyone 18 years and up. We're looking to assemble a dedicated team of activists and concerned citizens for a petition drive, coalition building, promotion, public outreach, letter-writing campaign, media/PR, voter registration and get out the vote effort. We are also looking to

start an Ithaca chapter of NORML (National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws) If anyone's interested they can contact them at info@nynorml.com



Rob and Jen



Liberty Blues

An essay by Carl Ricketson

Being a libertarian can be difficult; so often it feels as though we are standing alone. It's discouraging when ideas that seem clear to us are rejected by the masses. We are the party that places our political message on a platform of logic, with an honest argument that does not have a fallacious conclusion. Could it be that something in our message is negative? Often many of my peers criticize capitalism and suggest that if only the government would spend more money, things would be better. They feel that a system that allows individuals to own wealth is not compassionate, and a different system is needed to distribute wealth in a fair way. I cringe upon hearing this, so they ask me, "What would you Libertarians do to make this or that tragedy better, or those people's lives easier?" Many times I do not have an answer, or the one that I present is not "compassionate." Thus their response is, "See, you Libertarians don't have any good answers, therefore you cannot ever hope to gain popularity."

The reality is that many of the answers lie with the individual. Problems simply cannot be corrected by any group or government's unlimited use of power. Granting such power usually compounds the problem and eliminates the ability of the individual and their potential. Any task requiring strong decisions taken by a single individual concerning others must be limited in time and scope. The individual leader must also be constrained by certain checks and balances, and remember his decisions and authority are privileges, not rights. Thus power is restored to each and every individual, for individuals are born with the rights and responsibilities of property, including themselves.

We have a Constitution that lists the privileges that our leaders are allowed, and explains the rights we as individuals are born with. Thus we are all kings able to become wealthy in the capitalist market and pass on our

throne to our offspring. As a Libertarian, I believe in free markets and limited government. This system is not perfect, that is because we as individuals are not perfect, but it is the only one I know of that does not rely on coercion.

Capitalism is the only form of market where each individual has the same rights as another, nullifying the need for a central power base of control. The very fact that each individual has equal power to produce and spend leads this market to produce vast amounts of wealth within a short time, such as within one's lifetime. Capitalism's great success is its one biggest flaw: with wealth comes power. The second an individual uses wealth to gain force, capitalism in its true form ends. That's right all you socialists, those examples of corporations using private armies in third world countries bear no true resemblance to capitalism, no matter what some newscaster may call it. Nor does capitalism exist when a government uses force, domestically or abroad, to influence employment or the exchange of goods. The use of force is what religions, fascists, communists, and socialists, believe to be the necessary framework for markets, and the population as a whole. It does not matter how many righteous and well meaning laws the government may enforce. When force is used the individual's production of wealth is adversely affected.

If freedom was easy and guaranteed no one would ever have to fight and die for it. Thus the use of a free market capitalist system is not one of guarantees, nor is it easy. Still it is one that allows every one of us a chance on our own, and if we succeed we never have to ask forgiveness of another for theft. That is a much better feeling, even if we have to stand alone.



Shop Libertarian

Originally published: Ithaca Times
March 22, 2006

I couldn't agree more with M. Tye Wolfe's analysis of current Republican and Democrat politicians. They don't agree on what they stand for, if and when they stand for anything. That is why I am a member of the Party of Principle: The Libertarian Party.

My hope is that any fresh political force can "emerge from the rubble" in the form of a third party. Libertarians have more people in office around the U.S. than any other third party. They are making a difference in local areas where they have lowered taxes, made government run more efficiently, and held individual liberties with the utmost value.

The way to put a bad store out of business is to stop shopping there. If we treated voting the same way, then Dems and Repubs would be bankrupt - out of business. When you vote against someone you are still voting for someone, and each vote is an endorsement to that candidate to proceed with their plans.

Shop Libertarian. Keep more of your money and your freedom. It is too risky for the future of our country to not vote for third parties. Otherwise political "debate" will grow even more stagnant (is that possible?). Visit www.lp.org.

Jen Rog

Website Updates

Lots of new additions and updates have been made to the Ithaca Libertarians website!

(www.IthacaLibertarians.org) One of the nice features of the site is the Blog. Got something to say - make your entry on the Blog. For Blog access, contact Curry Taylor, Webmaster: ctaylo12@twcny.rr.com

Website usage statistics are now available with special thanks to our website host, Franklin Webber. After the initial setup traffic of August and September, our new website has steadily grown in visits. We want to continue to develop the website to be a resource for people exploring for information about liberty and as an outreach tool to grow the Ithaca Libertarians. Please help us out by suggesting content for the site!

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