



DON'T TREAD ON ANYONE



Upper Peninsula
LIBERTARIAN PARTY

UPLP Newsletter
May 2021 - Issue 1

Welcome to the UPLP First Edition Newsletter

BY DAVE CROCKETT

Welcome to the Upper Peninsula Libertarian Party's (UPLP) monthly newsletter!

To begin, the UPLP is an affiliate of the Michigan State Libertarian Party. Although smaller than the two major parties, we are now over 50 years strong, and the third largest and fastest growing political party in the United States today.

The Libertarian party holds to the principles of our founding fathers. Per the Declaration of Independence, we believe all are created equal and shall be treated so. We are staunch supporters of the Bill of Rights. We place greater emphasis on individual rights than on that of societal. And lastly, we hold to the belief that our country's strength lies more in individual responsibility than that of government responsibility to the individual.

The purpose of the newsletter is to inform and educate. Items in the newsletter will include scheduled UPLP events, information on legal agendas that impact the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, articles pertaining to the Libertarian platform, current political issues, and information regarding operation of our government, economy, and other matters of political consequence.

All information and articles in the newsletter hold to our following **Code of Ethics**:

Truth and Accuracy: Although information within any political arena can be questionable, we will state what is known to be true and identify all else as hearsay or conjecture. We do not write or make statements that cannot be backed with verifiable evidence. Opinions will be stated as such. Misleading or inaccurate information will not be published.

Impartiality: Although we write for the Libertarian party, it does not mean we cannot write in an unbiased manner or without prejudice. However, we recognize impartiality is not practical in all cases. Example is, we can write about the excessive deficit spending of the two major parties. It does not require us to defend their side and the need for excessive spending.

Accountability: All articles will present the author's name. Aliases are not allowed. Authors will be held accountable to published information.

Personal attack on or disclosure of personal information on the lives of individuals will not be allowed or published: The only exception to this is when presenting a political hypocrisy. Such as a politician pushing for legislation to restrict a freedom that they themselves engage in. Published information will be restricted to such incidence.

Plagiarism: Not allowed. Quotes and data specific to other publications will be referenced or foot noted.

Censorship: Censoring content for the newsletter is not allowed unless it is in violation of the above Code of Ethics: Future articles may address platform positions that may not follow with Libertarian doctrine. To be a free people and party we have to have the right to free expression, question policy, and allow for the introduction of new or different ideas.

We welcome comments from members and public alike. If you wish to join the Libertarian party, it is not a requisite that you believe in its platform in its entirety. No political party holds sway on the perfect doctrine of self-governance.

***The following article was written early this year but never published. It was resurrected in response to events this April where Michigan, once again, moved to number one in the nation for new COVID-19 cases. In comparison to other states, Michigan's leadership in confronting this crisis is found wanting. The evidence is clear and without contestation. For your consideration, please read on.

Gov. Whitmer's Leadership & Strategic Planning Skills

BY DAVE CROCKETT

Leadership is not defined by the ability to make the tough decisions, but the ability to make the right ones.

Shortly after taking on the role as Michigan's new leader, Governor Whitmer was faced with the state's deteriorating road system. Her plan to fix the roads was simple - make Michigan the nation's leader in fuel tax with a 45 cent per gallon increase. There is no evidence she studied the problem to understand why the state's roads are in poor condition. Nor is there evidence she investigated alternatives to a serious tax increase. There is no evidence that she understood the risks and consequences for this excessive tax on the state's economy or the livelihood of those living in rural areas heavily dependent on fuel. And there is no evidence that she recognized the current fuel tax does not go to roads or bridges but into the general fund. But Michigan previews a glimpse of Governor Whitmer's problem solving skills and leadership style!

On March 10 of 2020, the state's first 2 cases of COVID-19 were diagnosed in the Detroit area. Within 6 days the governor issued an emergency order to shut down the state of all nonessential businesses and travel. Within 3 days of issuance of that order, the state sees a single day 320% increase in COVID-19 cases. Following that, Michigan maintains a daily 20-30% increase in diagnosed infections and deaths. By end of March, and into April, Michigan ranked 3rd in the nation for COVID-19 deaths behind New York and New Jersey. By May, Michigan ranked #1 in the nation for death rate (9%) with Connecticut following 2nd at 8%. So, what went wrong?

True to her leadership style, Governor Whitmer reacted to a serious crisis in a simplistic manner without understanding the problem or consequences of her order.

Prior to March, the Center for Disease Control had published sufficient data to realize those at risk of dying were the elderly and those with serious preexisting conditions. A targeted strategic plan was called for. Instead, Governor Whitmer opted for the "nuclear" option to immediately shut down the entire state. There is no evidence she understood the consequences or had plans in place to mitigate the risks of such drastic action. Predictably, chaos ensued. People panicked with lines at stores to hoard supplies. Mass unemployment happened immediately without financial safety nets in place. Those unemployed, with bills to pay, had to go out and find new work or engage in other means of income. With little to do, many people simply congregated. These outcomes set the stage for rapid virus transmittal. And it did. Including infecting those that were deemed essential workers in nursing homes. The sick and elderly were left exposed and death followed.

Governor Whitmer's failure to understand, assess, and plan have cost Michigan thousands of lives and seriously damaged the state's economy. Although Governor Whitmer continues to make tough decisions, evidence is, they are not the right ones.

Whitmer Lied and Grandma Died

BY LUCAS LIMON

After months of searching for transparency regarding COVID-related nursing home deaths in Michigan, Charlie LeDuff announced on Tucker Carlson that he was suing Whitmer's DHHS for answers. LeDuff, a Pulitzer Prize winner from Portsmouth, Virginia stayed true to his word and has teamed up with non-partisan Mackinac Center for Public Policy lawyers to accomplish this goal. Just like Cuomo in New York, governor Whitmer's DHHS chose to adopt the policy of sending COVID-positive patients into state-run long-term care facilities where the most vulnerable to the disease were supposedly being protected by the State of Michigan. Predictably, this grim policy reaped outbreaks of COVID-related illnesses and deaths among staff and residents at multiple facilities throughout the state. These death counts undoubtedly helped scare the public, bolstering the number of COVID-related deaths that were used to justify Whitmer's draconian lockdowns and the shutting down of businesses across the state. But two years into the pandemic while eyeing re-election, it seems the Whitmer administration is now hiding the total number of hub-related nursing home deaths in fears of facing the same political backlash that recently plagued Cuomo's administration in New York.

Charlie LeDuff is not alone in his calls for transparency. Macomb County Prosecutor Pete Lucido has been urging residents to speak up if they lost loved ones in Michigan nursing homes during the pandemic. Pete Lucido is calling for a panel to review COVID-19 deaths at nursing homes. Lucido has also established a reporting and review process as a 3-page form that can be filled out by family members and turned in to the local police. This then will get the case brought to a medical review board headed up by the Macomb County medical examiner. These are the steps necessary to establish probable cause for possible crimes, including misconduct and reckless endangerment due to the fact that Whitmer created these nursing home COVID-19 hubs herself through executive order.

According to a University of Michigan researcher Marianne Udow-Phillips, the state set up 21 hubs inside nursing homes to isolate and care for COVID-positive patients. Figures show that over 5000 nursing home residents died from COVID-19, approximately 1/3 of all deaths in the state. As Libertarians, this is an inexcusable violation of our principles and regardless of partisan politics, the truth should be shared with all citizens, not deflected and buried in accusations of political witch hunts. Whitmer lied and Grandma died.

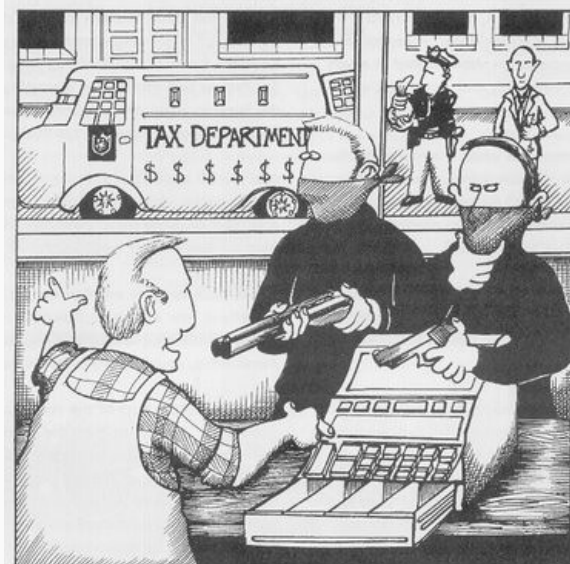
Events Corner

May 8, 2021 @ 10am- The UPLP will have a booth at the March for Our Rights Rally @ Harlow Park in Marquette, Michigan.

June 26-27, 2021 -

The Libertarian Party of Michigan (LPM) will hold its 2021 State Convention @ The Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan. The UPLP has filled all delegate seats at this time.

For more info contact:
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"Sorry fellas, you're too late....Your colleagues beat you to it."

Community Spotlight Highlights from the Libertarian Community



THE WAR ON DRUGS IS A
WAR ON FREEDOM

Freedom is alight! Earlier this year governors of two states took action to roll back state prohibitions on cannabis. In both Virginia and New York announcements were made that penalties for possessing and using marijuana for recreational purposes are up in smoke.

Laws against marijuana possession are being repealed across the country, as now fifteen states no longer punish recreational use and 36 have exceptions for medical use. No longer seen by most as a dangerous drug, more and more people are now using THC or CBD to improve their lives by managing their pain from traumas both physical and mental.

In marijuana prohibition we see vindication in a stance that Libertarians have always held — prohibition does not work. We know that making an act or service illegal simply strengthens the black market for it. Prohibition of alcohol simply handed production and distribution over to organized crime and all but eliminating treatment for its abuse. We see the same scenario played out today thanks to bans on drugs and sex work emblazoned in the headlines. Now the unintended consequences consist of horrific drug cartel violence against innocent men and women and a robust global underground for human trafficking that's feeds the illicit sex industry.

In addition to being the catalyst for violence in the black market, prohibition promotes violence from the state as well. Fighting illegal drugs has been the fig leaf that has given the government cover to radically reduce the Fourth Amendment's protections against police searches and seizures. It has been used in countless cases by law enforcement as an excuse to start an encounter with otherwise peaceful people and leading to senseless deaths of law enforcement and private citizens alike. Worst of all, it has wrecked millions of lives by feeding the unconscionable "private" prison industry a steady supply of non-violent people for it to devour, leaving an innumerable number of broken families in its wake, and preventing qualified individuals from gainful employment in the aftermath of prosecutions.

The marijuana debate is opening the eyes of scores of Americans to the manifest dangers of prohibiting voluntary conduct. They are beginning to see the risks of entrusting the state to regulate or prohibit personal conduct. They are awakening to the fact that government doesn't have their best interests at heart — not now, not ever.

In other words, they're becoming libertarians!

The Libertarian Party has a fifty-year track record of consistently standing against marijuana prohibition. We need to be more aggressive in campaigning and lobbying for free choice rights to be restored. Will you stand in support with us on this by making a contribution?

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