



UPLP Newsletter #9 - January 2022

A Libertarian Rallying Cry for Candidates

BY RYAN ROBERTS - UPLP CHAIR

The 2022 election year is upon us, and the Upper Peninsula Libertarian Party (UPLP) is actively seeking candidates to run for office.

Every State house seat in the U.P. is up for grabs. The 108th and 109th seats are non-incumbent races. John Damoose, of the 107th district, will seek reelection, as will Greg Markkanen of the 110th.

The 38th district State senate seat is opening, with incumbent Senator Ed McBroom seeking another term.

There are numerous Statewide positions that will need to be filled. These include University school board positions, Secretary of State, and Governor/Lt. Governor.

Michigan's 1st district for US congress is open with incumbent Jack Bergman seeking reelection.

All county commissioner races are partisan races, while most city and township races are non-partisan races. These are opportunities that are within easy grasp of a 3rd party candidate. They should be a primary focus for Yooper libertarians. It is a great way to expand our grassroots support

while getting new candidates familiar with politics to win bigger races in the future.

Unlike the two big parties, the Libertarian Party does not participate in primary elections. Instead, candidates are nominated at local and state conventions held during election years.

Dates and locations are determined by a committee selected by the state executive board. Once nominated, our party can help our candidates submit the necessary paperwork to local or state officials.

I believe with great charisma and leadership we can win elections. One of the great advantages we have as Yooper libertarians is our furious independence. Our way of life in the UP is one of liberty and justice for all, and disregard for big government. We choose to be a free people. And we need people like us to represent us.

If you are serious about presenting libertarian ideas to the public and want to run for office, then look no further than the UPLP. Reach out to me personally. Get involved and help us become a force to be reckoned with. I may be reached at President@UPLP.Org.

LP Education: The Rich Cannot Save Us

BY DAVE CROCKETT: NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE CHAIR

Following is the second in a series of articles on federal management of our country's finances. In last month's article we showed our country running a historic \$3.14 trillion deficit and \$29 trillion debt (result of 15 years of government borrowing from federal reserve bank to pay for social programs). In the 2020 budget, mandatory spending (social security, income security, and Medicare/Medicaid) alone exceeded government revenue by \$1.2 trillion. The country can no longer fund all government agencies, military, homeland security, and payment on national debt without borrowing more money. Our country is heading for an economic crash.

There are those who believe taxing the rich more will provide sufficient revenue to balance our budget and allow us to maintain our social programs. In this article we investigate the reality of that proposal.

Taxing the Rich

BY DAVE CROCKETT: NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE CHAIR

"Tax the rich!", is the new rallying cry for balancing the federal budget and providing more income equality. Many Americans are pushing this agenda as are a few politicians.

Fortunately, most politicians are smarter than most Americans and are hesitant. Attempts in the past to instate large taxes on the rich have failed to generate significant revenue or provide economic equality. The facts are as follows:

There are a plethora of articles and case studies on taxing of the rich. In summary, economists are varied in opinion on potential gains in revenue and losses in jobs and economy. The pro is obviously the potential for more government revenue. But the debate is how much more can the rich really pay.

On the liberal side, the New York Times is claiming a maximum of \$275 billion per year. The Democrats, with President Biden's proposed tax hike on the rich is claiming \$150 billion per year. Jeff Stein of the Washington Post contracted a think tank to conduct a study and their finding is \$75 billion.

The Cato Institute, in 2019, did a thorough study and concluded that there is a potential to damage the economy with no gain to revenue. Part of their conclusion is based on a study of 9 European countries that enacted wealth taxes in the mid-1900s only to abolish them in the late 1990 to early 2000s. These include countries such as Ireland, Germany, France, Sweden, and Spain. European countries found that wealth taxes caused the wealthy to move out, thus significantly reducing government revenue. Other reasons included the money gained from the wealth taxes did not offset the cost of administering them.

Data on who the rich are and what they pay is well documented. There are 1.4 million households that make up the top 1% of rich Americans. That is households making over \$550,000 per year. The average income of the top 1% is \$1.7 million. Depending on how you define taxes paid (state, local, etc), the top 1% pay 30-40% of all federal revenue. That is, the top 1% are paying \$1-\$1.4 trillion of the total \$3.4 trillion of federal revenue.

Taxing the Rich (continued)

If we were to use the most liberal value (from New York Times) of getting an additional \$275 billion from the rich, we would only increase federal revenue by 8%. We would reduce the federal deficit by 9%. President Biden and the Democrat tax proposal would only generate half of that. With the most aggressive taxes to get more from the rich we gain very little in revenue and do not come close to solving our budget problems. The fact is, the rich are not that rich. They cannot save our social programs nor provide income equality.

With little to be gained by taxing the rich we now look at the risks or disadvantages. First, an excessive tax on the rich will cause some to move their wealth offshore. The rich did not get rich by being stupid. With the rich paying \$1-\$1.4 trillion and the most aggressive tax gains only \$275 billion, we are at big risk of loss. Again, we look at why European countries abandoned their wealth taxes.

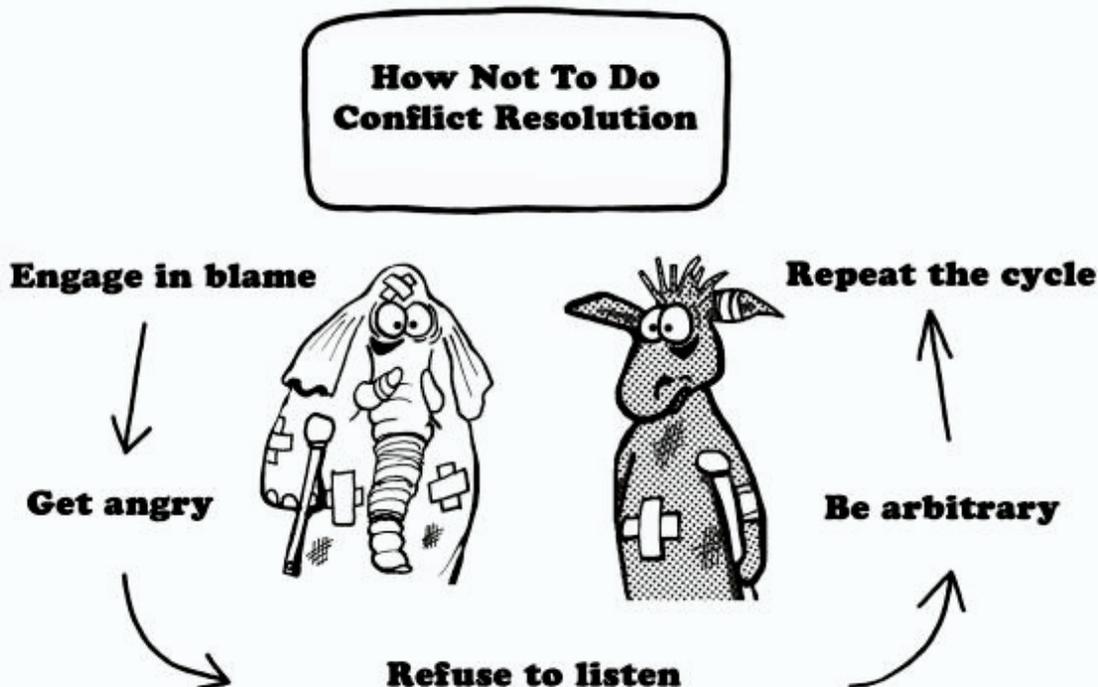
There are other cons to going after the rich for more money. The rich provide a significant amount of money to philanthropy. Although part of a tax write-off, these donations benefit society and the poor. A wealth tax puts donations at risk.

The rich create businesses or invest in their growth. They are responsible for millions of jobs and making America a global dominant economic powerhouse. They purchase expensive luxury items such as yachts and jets from companies that cater to the rich and yet provide jobs to millions.

The data is clear: At best, an excessive tax on the wealthy will generate very little government revenue, and at worse, cause a significant loss of revenue, jobs, and benefits to the poor.

It would be wise to move slowly in increasing taxes on the wealthy. We may find a point where more harm is done than good.

The Not-So-Funnies



LP Community Spotlight

CALL TO ACTION: SHUT THESE BILLS DOWN - BY AARON GARDNER

In recent days, matching bills have been introduced in both the state house and senate, which are intended to undermine our inherent right to self-defense, as guaranteed under the Michigan and US Constitutions.

The proposed bills would criminalize the sale and possession of magazines capable of holding more than 10 rounds of ammunition, starting in 2023.

HB 5628 and SB 785 are identical bills, introduced on December 9, 2021, pretending to be in response to the school shooting at Oxford High School. In reality, this was opportunistic politicking in the aftermath of a tragic event. In conjunction with these bills, HB 5627 and SB 786 have been introduced to add these bills to the index of the criminal code.

The infringements to the US Constitution are obvious to anyone who understands the concept of "shall not be infringed". This is something that Libertarians should obviously oppose. There are other elements of the bills that are less obvious but should also concern us. One of those elements is the de facto registration of existing magazines, disguised as an exception under the law:

"A person may continue to possess a magazine capable of holding more than 10 rounds of ammunition that the person legally possessed before the effective date of the amendatory act that added this section if that person reports possession of the magazine to the person's local law enforcement agency."

Pistol owners in Michigan are already subject to this sort of mandate, but this would extend that mandate to many rifle owners as well. The other important element to consider is the impact this has on the inaction of existing

magazine owners. According to this bill, anyone who possesses a normal capacity magazine after January 1, 2023, is guilty of a misdemeanor. This includes previous owners of these tools unless they notify law enforcement. If an owner does not notify law enforcement, they are instantly guilty of a misdemeanor, simply for DOING NOTHING.

We cannot stand silent while the legislature seeks to infringe our rights and makes criminals out of everyday people.

In the Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee, please contact:
Chair, Roger Victory (517) 373-6920

Other committee members:
Curt VanderWall (517) 373-1725
Tom Barrett (517) 373-3447
Ruth Johnson (517) 373-1636
Jim Runestad (517) 373-1758
Doug Wozniak (517) 373-7670
Stephanie Chang (517) 373-7346
Jeff Irwin (517) 373-2406

In the House Military, Veterans and Homeland Security Committee, please contact:
Chair, Beau LaFave (517) 373-0156

Other committee members:
Andrew Beeler (517) 373-0835
Julie M. Rogers (517) 373-1785
Gary Eisen (517) 373-1790
Bob Bezotte (517) 373-8835
David Martin (517) 373-7557
Sarah Anthony (517) 373-0826
Kevin Coleman (517) 373-2576
Richard Steenland (517) 373-0854

Call or email these legislators today to stop HB5627, HB5628, SB785 and SB786. Thank you.