



# LPDC Newsletter

The Voice of Freedom in Dallas, Texas

## My Name is Lady Liberty, and I am an Addict

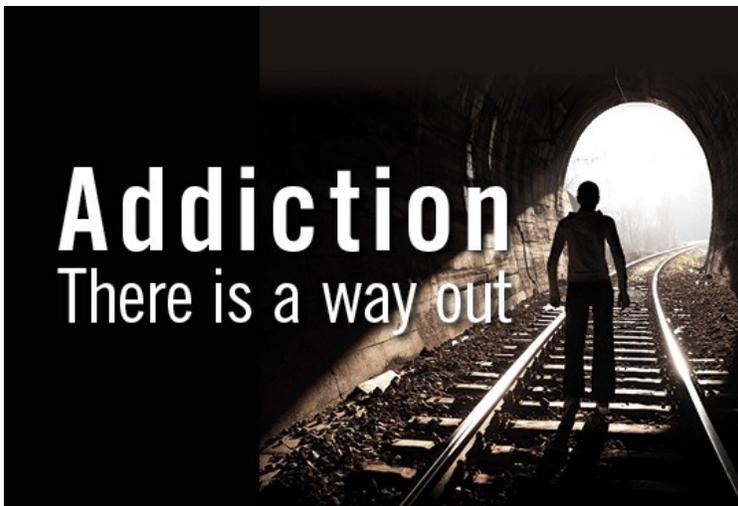
by Samantha Dunn



Let me please preface this piece with a disclaimer that the views expressed herein are those of A Libertarian, not necessarily The Libertarians. I would like to speak to an issue that has been dubbed "The Heroin Epidemic".

First, addiction is and should be treated as a medical and mental health issue, not as a criminal issue. What we've

been doing to 'stop drug abuse' is not working. If we keep doing what we have always done, we will continue to watch helplessly as people die in the grips of their addiction. I have personally lost four relatives and dear friends to drug-related issues, if I count physical deaths from an overdose. That is not even to mention the years upon years of life wasted in the vicious cycle of fix-after-fix from which so many more loved ones are recovering. I would bet that most of you reading this know someone who is battling that demon right now, or someone who has unfortunately succumbed.

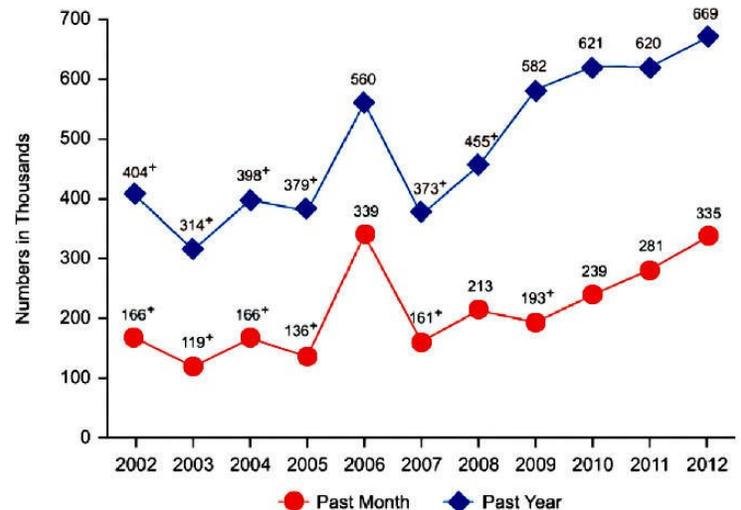


Just because something is 'bad' (horrible, terrible, "the worst")

even) doesn't mean it should be illegal. Infidelity in a marriage isn't cool, barring agreement from both parties to pursue an outside relationship. It is a betrayal of trust and can wound a family. However, we can all agree that infidelity should hardly be illegal. That would clearly be a futile waste of police resources. If someone wants to ruin their own life, that is their choice and they will live with the consequences.

By this same token, I propose that the only reasonable attempt to stem the loss of life to heroin today would be to make it legal. Right now, addicts are afraid to seek help. Right now, addicts cannot tell their doctor that they are using: often overdoses are caused not by the street drug, but by an unanticipated reaction between the drug and their legal prescription. Right now, human beings who are sick are rotting away in prison rather than finding a means to heal.

If heroin, and all 'street drugs' for that matter, were to be legalized, then people who are going to use -- no matter what -- will be able to read reviews and buy from trusted dealers. They can avoid the cuts of elephant tranquilizer and the like which have exponentially grown this wave of death. Dealers and users can agree on scales to judge strength; there can be uniformity and predictability without government mandate.



***Past Month and Past Year Heroin Use Among Persons Aged 12 or Older: 2002-2012. Source: National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Summary of National Findings, 2012.***

For any who fear that more people will use heroin because it is legal, I ask you: are you yourself more likely to use heroin if it is legal? Legality is a punchline in regards to smack. Those

who are going to use now are going to use in any situation, and those who are not, will not. The difference is that with a policy change, those who are sick can have a chance at survival.

Some might propose a tax, should we legalize this. Some would insist we continue to prosecute these (now-legal) dealers in cases of an OD.

If it took a tax to get it passed, it would be worth it; but any stipulation left in place is going to propagate the existing black market. Dirty drugs will continue to be sold (at a premium, without the tax) and the cartels who flood our country with this Black Death will continue to prosper. The latter proposal in regards to dealer prosecution would also be counterproductive in this same way. It would be better treated like we might treat a bartender who over-serves a patron who subsequently drives their car off a bridge. There are consequences, but hardly manslaughter charges. Of course, if that bartender slipped something extra in the patron's drink unbeknownst to the patron, which then lead to their demise, this would logically be addressed as such. Misleading statements, intent, false advertising: those are all issues that can be addressed by mirroring existing practices. These practices were built from the easy accessibility of the most popular of drugs. I'm convinced that alcohol and tobacco lobbyists are the only reason we consider booze and cigarettes to be a casual evening, and cocaine use to be a bane on society. The lobbyists, and also perhaps Nancy Reagan.



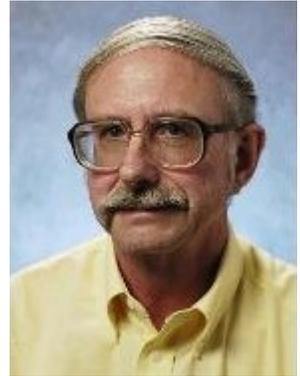
Either way, people are going to use, and some of these users are going to die at their own hands. We cannot eradicate the existence of this drug nor the chemical draw. All we can do is try to contain it, and the safest way to handle this lofty goal is to bring what is in darkness out and into the light and to finally admit, as a country, that we have a problem.

**Want to help with local LP activities and marketing?**

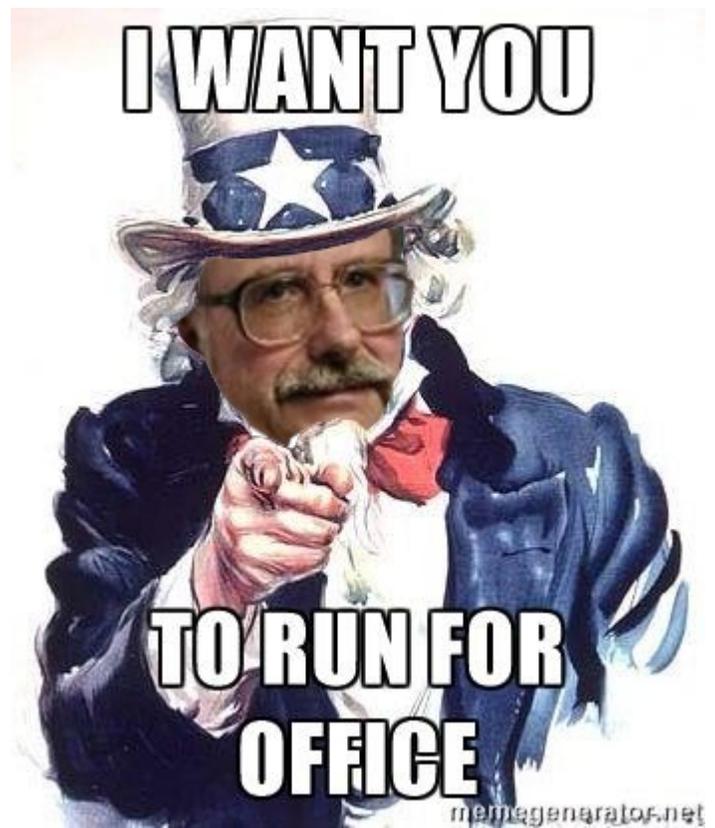
The [Marketing](#) and [Outreach](#) Committees are looking for more warm bodies to help with their efforts to build our party. There are a lot of ideas to work on, but we need your help! Click on the link for the committee you're interested in to e-mail the committee chair.

**2018 Elections**

by Barry V. Smith



There will be a number of offices up for election in 2018, and it's not too early to start thinking about running for office. This is true even though the details won't be firmed up and the instructions, handbooks, and packets won't be posted on the Secretary of State's website or the websites of most jurisdictions holding elections until at least mid-June, and possibly not until after any special session of the Legislature is over. [Aubrey Eyrolles](#), the state party Campaign Coordinator is handling state level recruiting, and I, [Barry Smith](#), Dallas County Candidate Committee Chair, am handling Dallas County candidate recruiting. I guess either one of us could deal with state legislative races with districts within Dallas County. As always, it's the statewide races that keep us on the ballot.



I'll just mention the races specifically relevant to Dallas County. What we do already know is what offices are up for election. At the federal level, all U.S. House of Representatives seats are up for election. At the state level, there will be a race for every Texas House of Representatives district and every Texas Senate district in Dallas County, and

State Board of Education Districts 11, 12, and 13. At the county level, there will be races for County Clerk, District Clerk, County Treasurer, County Commissioner Precincts 2 and 4, all Justices of the Peace except Precinct 2 Place 2, and almost all the many positions for judge. (I can tell you which ones, if the lawyers in the audience would really prefer to run for a county-level judgeship rather than a state-wide judgeship that could help keep us on the ballot.) All the preceding offices are partisan offices. Nomination is by party convention in March, and the general election is in November. We know, unless the Legislature changes something, that filing dates for state and county offices are between November 11 and December 11 of 2017.



As for non-partisan elections, every city in Dallas County except Dallas, Richardson, and Rowlett has at least one city council or mayoral position (let me know if you want to know which districts). Every school district has at least one board position to be contested. Districts 1 and 7 of the Dallas County Community College District Board are also up for election. For nonpartisan offices, the dates will probably be between mid-January and mid-February of 2018, though exact dates haven't been announced yet. The time for these elections will probably be in May. To be placed on the ballot, you will probably have to pay a relatively small filing fee, or gather from 25 to 100 petition signatures from registered voters within your district. The exact requirements vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. By far the best way to gather signatures is to make yourself known – in a positive way – in the district over a period of time, so that you will have potential signers ready for the asking without having to go door to door.



Here are a few more interesting considerations. In many local government elections, there is only one person running

without an opponent. Sometimes there are no opponents for any of the seats, and the election is canceled, with those who have filed automatically “elected”. If you are the only one to file in your district, you’re in.

Similarly, in some U.S. House, Texas House, and Texas Senate races, there is only one person running. On many other occasions, there will not be both a Democrat and a Republican running, giving us an opportunity to get higher numbers. In U.S. House District 5, there was a candidate from only one of the two old parties in 2016 and 2014. In the last two Texas Senate races, there was not both a Republican and a Democrat in districts 2 and 16. This was true in the Texas House all of the last three elections in districts 100, 103, 104, and 110, and for two of the last 3 elections in districts 108, 109, 111, and 112. Furthermore, there could be close elections where we could affect the outcome. In 2016 the Texas Tribune (June 13, 2016, Ross Ramsey, “Analysis: An Accidental Libertarian Power Outage in Texas”) lamented that Libertarians didn’t run in most of the swing districts in the state. In the U.S. Congressional election in 2016, U.S. District 24 was such a district, and Mike Kolls made the difference. In 2012, U.S. District 5 was such a district, and Ken Ashby made the difference. In 2012, Texas Senate 9 was a swing district. Most interestingly, in both 2016 and 2012, Texas House districts 105 and 107 were extremely close, as was district 115 in 2016. It would be nice if we could have candidates in the above districts.



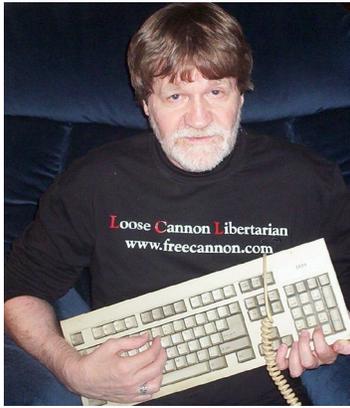
Be thinking about it. You have several months before you have to decide.

***LPDC Membership Program!***

Want to help out the LPDC and at the same time get some cool libertarian swag? Check out our [contributor membership program!](#)

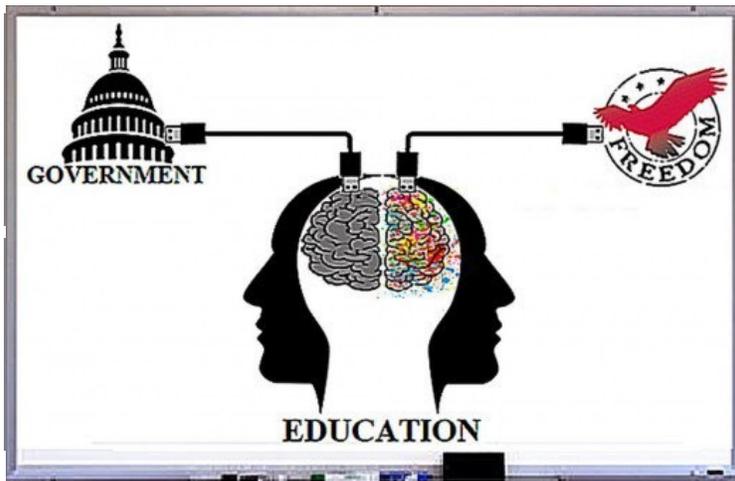
## Free People Need Free Education, Not Government Programming

by Garry Reed



It should go without saying that libertarians believe in free education. It should also go without saying that the “free” in the term “free education” doesn’t mean “free of charge” because TANSTAAFL: “There Ain’t No Such Thing As A Free Lunch” or in this case “Free Learning.” The “free” means free from government.

Similarly, when Jeffrey Smith wrote his article “A Libertarian Look at Free College” on the “Being Libertarian” website he didn’t mean “tuition-free.” In one way or another, someone somewhere somehow has to pay. Few educators educate without receiving paychecks. Again, TANSTAAFL: There Ain’t No Such Thing As A Free Lesson.

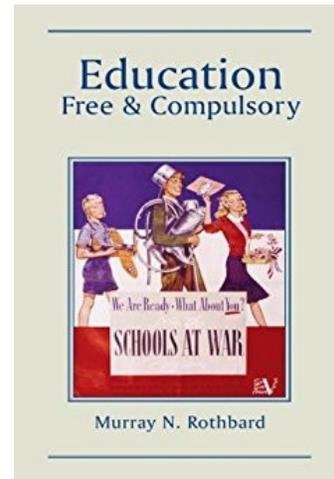


*There is a fundamental difference between authoritarian style and libertarian style education*

Free also doesn’t apply to “School Vouchers” or a “Voucher System” since this is just an alternative way to expend taxpayer’s money even though some libertarians seem to favor such a scheme on the basis that it’s a “good step in the right direction.”

In another article, this time at “The Libertarian Republic,” Rob Shimshock reports in his article titled “Trump Ponders Funneling Billions Into Private Schools For Working Class.” This of course is pure oxymoron. Any private school that accepts public money and all the government regulatory puppet strings attached to every dollar of it ceases to be a

private school and becomes de facto a state indoctrination center little different from public schools.



### [Education: Free and Compulsory](#)

YOUR LIBERTARIAN OPINIONIZER’S PICK: In this short but compelling monograph Murray Rothbard – libertarian, Austrian School economist, revisionist, anarcho-capitalist – makes his case for educational excellence; the state creates mediocracy and compliance while the free society creates excellence and autonomy, in education as in everything else.

Simply put, when education becomes politicized it ceases to be about education and becomes all about the politics. And a politicized education isn’t education, it’s indoctrination. Short but compelling in paper (68 pages) or Kindle (665KB) the difference between freedom and compulsion is starkly laid out.

[Buy Now](#)

The result would be to dumb down every private school to the bureaucratic standards of government schools.

### **A Libertarian’s “Free College”**

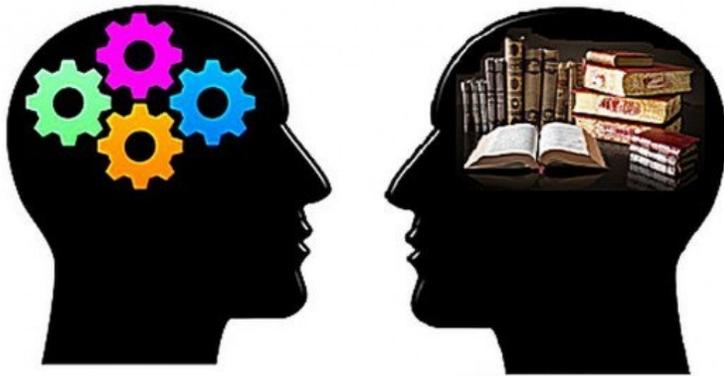
People who insist on calling themselves “libertarian” badly need to part company with coercive government groupthink variations on the concept of “free education” by reconsidering what “free” actually means in this context, from pre-school to post grad.

A good place to start would be Jeffrey Smith’s thoughtful and unique idea of “free college.” Here’s an attempt to nutshell his approach:

Students attending Smith’s private for-profit school would pay no upfront tuition, but they would sign a contract agreeing to pay 12 percent of their income to the college for the next 12 years after they graduate until their tuition is paid in full.

See how that strongly incentivizes the school to teach their students well, to give them all the best education and tutoring and other help to ensure that they graduate, and to powerfully motivate them to actively help their graduates get the best jobs possible at the highest salaries possible, and to continue helping them to advance in their careers throughout those dozen years?

Of course there are multiple considerations and Smith addresses many if not all of them. For example, if students don’t graduate, or if they settle for burger flipping jobs, the school gets little to no profits for their efforts.



**Common Sense**

*Book Smarts*

*Two basic kinds of smarts: Some have common sense but little formal education while others have "book smarts" but little common sense. (The best have both.)*

Also a PhD in Business Admin would be more profitable to the student, and therefore to the school, than a degree in Animal Science (listed as the lowest paying college degree in 2014 by USA Today), so to be fair the school would charge a lower tuition or not offer a course in Animal Science at all. The latter would, in a free competitive society, leave an opening for other schools to specialize in lower-earning degrees.

Other problems to overcome would be addressing how to handle dropouts, transferees, students changing majors, or taking a career path after graduation not related to the degree, etc.

The biggest problem of all that needs addressing is, of course, how to wrench education from the grimly grasping grip of the local, state and federal educratic elitists and their self-serving

unions who derive their power, ego identities and their very excuse for existing from pumping propoganda into their unsuspecting pupils and their parents.

**More “Free” Schools**

But Jeffrey Smith’s concept of a libertarian “Free College” is just one model for creating non-government educational programs that actually work. Many others already exist and still others are waiting to be tried in a future libertarian post-statist laissez-faire free marketplace of ideas.

There are many ways in which free people can choose to teach their children without some self-serving state dictating the whole process. Even children who have grown up with little or no formal education still have the option of self-education. The possibilities in a libertarian society based on the non-aggression principle of freely chosen learning opportunities would be restricted only by human imagination and individual choices, not by government-trained human robots.

Any list of such educational institutions would include for-profit and not-for-profit church schools, trade Schools, boarding schools, Homeschooling, Montessori and similar specialty schools, academies, online schools or other “distance learning” methods such as engaging with recorded or broadcast lectures or participating in correspondence courses.



*Will tomorrow's cyber classroom become as common as yesterday's blackboard -- and then made obsolete by the singularity's telepathic tutelage?*

There could be even more oppotunities if we lived in a free society.

**Storefront Schools:** All that it takes to begin teaching children is a teacher, a few books and pencils, maybe a white or blackboard, and a space where they can gather. This could be any currently unused structure like an empty store, a church, a home, a library basement, the backroom of an ongoing business, warehouse space, or a fraternal organization's meeting room.

Funding might come from a local philanthropist, community donations, monetary contributions, civic minded groups, charitable trusts and foundation grants, investors and entrepreneurs, neighborhood mutual aid associations or just parents volunteering their money, time, and other assistance.

**McSchool:** If burger and chicken and pizza fast food eateries and many other kinds of stores can be nationally franchised, why can't schools? They can easily be designed to serve people of varying incomes in the same way that chain stores K-Mart and Macy's serve economically different people.

In many respects educational quality is what people, not schools, make of it. Some students fail Harvard, other students drop out of high school and become dotcom millionaires. Some pay thousands for a well-rounded liberal education while others achieve the same thing on their own.

Storefront and McBurger educations for small children may not be a high quality learning experience but if they can at least graduate knowing how to read and write they're still way ahead of all those failed inner city public schools we've all heard so much about that do little more than warehouse poor minority kids who emerge barely able to add two plus two.

**Cyberlearning:** Don your Wi-Fi wearable virtual reality optical head-mounted digital display gear, wake up your smartphone, fingertap your video lecture, live stream or prerecorded courseware program and sit back in your monorail seat on your way to or from your temp job, your hair stylist, your Next Gen Pilates Place or wherever, and mind meld with a little knowledge.

Later you can punch up an app and take your self-paced exam, then message it along with a fee transfer to Cloud Tech U for degree credits.

**Self Education:** (AKA "Earn While You Learn") Imagine a young man with no more than a public high school diploma and a few weeks of trade school but with no money or college prospects who managed to use his long-developed childhood drawing and writing skills to get a job as a trainee drafter for a small electronics firm.

Soaking up everything he learned on the job and as much as possible in his free time he built a career by transitioning from electro-mechanical drafter to technical illustrator to technical

writer to logistics analyst to supportability engineer, spending much of his later career as a high paid temporary freelance contract specialist. Everyone needs an education; not everyone needs a piece of paper to prove it.

That's what even a little freedom in an otherwise unfree world can produce.

### Private vs. Public Schools

There's one other thing both libertarians and non-libertarians should consider before rejecting private sector education: in many places around the Third World private sector schools have stepped in to educate children where their governments for one reason or another have abandoned them.



*If the private sector can educate Third World poor children ignored by their governments certainly Americans are smart enough to do the same even better.*

In a 2015 article, "Learning Unleashed," The Economist reported on how low-cost private sector schools in the Third World have taken on the challenge of providing the poorest of the poor with "a decent education," in some cases not simply instead of their governments but in spite of them.

This excerpt from the article explains a lot:

"One reason for the developing world's boom in private education is that aspirational parents are increasingly seeking alternatives to dismal state schools. In south and west Asian countries half of children who have finished four years of school cannot read at the minimum expected standard."

Does this sound achingly familiar to many Americans? Like

maybe America's governing educational bodies are inexorably turning its own low income children into Third World illiterates even as those countries are doing everything they can to enlighten their own?

Any teacher who sees his or her goal as "molding young minds" should be fired immediately. The goal of all teachers should be not to mold children's minds but "to teach them how to think."

Education, like everything else in a society that wants to break from despotic mandatory authoritarianism, needs to breathe free in order to do anything successfully, including educating.

If Third World parents can educate their children without government, why can't Americans?

**Resources:**

- [A Libertarian Look at Free College](#)
- [The Libertarian Case Against Vouchers](#)
- [Trump to governmentalize Private Schools?](#)
- [Third World's Private Sector educates poor children](#)

**Thales Academies: Low-Cost Libertarian Private Schools for Americans**



*Editor's note: Re-published from the [Libertarian Opinionizer](#) with permission from the author. Editor's comment: This article was among the half-dozen very good choices from Garry's regular assortment of blog submissions. Check out his blog; you'll become a fan!*

*Want to write about libertarianism, but aren't ready for major publications? Want to test your articles first among friends? Submit your articles bimonthly to the LPDC newsletter! It's painless, I promise!*

**Upcoming Meetings**

- [Trivia night at Trinity Hall](#)
  - Every Sunday Night, 7:30 PM
  - [Trinity Hall Irish Pub & Restaurant](#)  
5321 E Mockingbird Ln, Dallas, TX
- [LPDC Quarterly Executive Committee Meeting](#)
  - June 11<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM
  - [California Pizza Kitchen](#)  
8411 Preston Road, Berkshire Court, Dallas, TX
- [LPDC General Meeting](#)
  - June 13<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM
  - [Sambuca Uptown](#)  
2120 McKinney Ave, Dallas, TX

Up-to-date meeting announcements and details can always be found on [meetup.com](#) or [Facebook](#).

**Libertarian References**

- **Books**
  - [Good to be King](#), Michael Badnarik
  - [Why Government Doesn't Work](#), Harry Browne
  - [Atlas Shrugged](#), Ayn Rand
  - [The Libertarian Mind](#), David Boaz
  - [Economics in One Lesson](#), Henry Hazlitt
  - [The Law](#), Claude-Frédéric Bastiat
  - [Healing Our World](#), Dr. Mary Ruwart
- **Videos**
  - [Nietzsche and the Nazis](#), Stephen Hicks
  - [Bullsh\\*t!](#), Penn & Teller
  - [Free to Choose](#), Milton Friedman
  - [America: Freedom to Fascism](#), Aaron Russo
- **Websites**
  - [The Libertarian Party of Dallas County](#)
  - [The Libertarian Party of Texas](#)
  - [The National Libertarian Party](#)
  - [Students for Liberty](#)
  - [Free Talk Live](#)
  - [The Cato Institute](#)
  - [Molinari Institute](#)
  - [Objectivism In-Brief](#)

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**Candidate Recruitment** – [Barry Smith](#)  
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The LPDC is a local branch of the Libertarian Party based in Dallas County, Texas. Find out more about the LPDC at <http://lpdallas.org>. The Libertarian Party is the third largest political party in the United States, and was established in 1971 to promote more freedom and less intrusive government in all aspects of life. Find out more about the LP at <http://www.lp.org>.

**Hey you!**

**Are you done reading this newsletter? Get one of your friends or family members to read it!**