

Libertarian Party sues NH Secretary of State over ballot access law

by: Darryl W. Perry

The NHCLU filed suit on July 22 against Secretary of State Bill Gardner over a ballot access law that makes it more difficult for parties other than the protected two to get on the ballot.

A press release written by Gilles Bissonnette, Staff Attorney for the New Hampshire Civil Liberties Union reads, in part:

[T]he NHCLU filed a lawsuit on behalf of the Libertarian Party challenging HB1542. HB1542 is a new state law passed this year that imposes onerous restrictions on the ability of third parties to gain access to the ballot in future elections. This law limits voter choice and stacks the deck against candidates who—like roughly 40% of Granite Staters—don't belong to a major party. HB1542 is wrong and unconstitutional.

The NHCLU is known for its work protecting the right to vote. But voting rights mean little if the state can impose oppressive burdens that, like HB1542, protect major parties from competition and prevent voters from being presented with alternative choices. These burdens also implicate two important constitutional rights under the First and Fourteenth Amendments: the right of individuals to associate for the advancement of political beliefs, and the right of voters, regardless of their political persuasion, to cast their votes effectively...

HB1542 will also put third parties at disadvantage compared to major parties. Using the upcoming 2016 election as an example, a

third party must now “sit on the sidelines” for all of 2015. If allowed to collect signatures during 2015, the third party would be able to finish the collection process sooner and campaign when it counts—in the months before the 2016 election. However, under HB1542, the third party will be collecting signatures during the summer months of 2016 when it instead should be—like the major parties—speaking to voters...

It hinders our democratic process from functioning vigorously. As a Rhode Island court concluded in striking down a similar law, “[s]ociety is best served when political parties outside the two existing major parties play an active, ‘robust’ role in the entire campaign process—not simply appear on the final election ballot.” HB1542 prevents third parties from playing such a “robust” role. Voters deserve more choices at the ballot box, not fewer. Indeed, according to a 2013 Gallup poll, 60% of Americans believe that a third party is needed. In the meantime, we will be fighting HB1542 in court.

To further the point about sitting on the sidelines during the odd-year; if NH's 2016 Presidential Primary is as early as it was in 2012 (January), then major party candidates will be filing for that race in the fall of 2015. Meanwhile, this law prohibits a minor party from gathering signatures at that same time. There is no way that can be seen as fair, and arguably discourages true freedom of association, as it encourages people to “join” either the Republicans or Democrats when they would rather be a member of another party.

On Hobby Lobby and Target

By: Darryl W. Perry

There were recently two major announcements regarding private businesses. The first from the US Supreme Court which ruled “the regulations promulgated by the Department of Health and Human Services requiring employers to provide their female employees with no-cost access to contraception violate the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA).”

The majority opinion written by Antonin Scalia states, “In holding that the Health and Human Services (HHS) mandate is unlawful, we reject HHS's argument that the owners of the companies forfeited all RFRA protection when they decided to organize their businesses as corporations rather than sole proprietorships or general partnerships. The plain terms of RFRA make it perfectly clear that Congress did not discriminate in this way against men and women who wish to run their businesses as for-profit corporations in the manner required by their

religious beliefs.”

The second announcement came from Target, Inc. The company issued a statement saying, “Bringing firearms to Target creates an environment that is at odds with the family-friendly shopping and work experience we strive to create. Starting today we will also respectfully request that guests not bring firearms to Target – even in communities where it is permitted by law.”

When asked by The Wire if Target will ask a gun-toting customer to leave. Target spokesman Molly Snyder she replied “Because this is a request and not a prohibition, we do not plan to communicate with our customers at this time.” Some people have made it clear that they will not comply with the request by Target, Inc. to not carry firearms on their property. Others have commented that

Community Calendars RECURRING EVENTS

DOVER

Last Tuesday of the month – The Dover Liberty Book Club: Kaleo Coffeehouse, 83 Main St. – 7:00pm

DOVER / EXETER / PORTSMOUTH

Thursday – NH Seacoast Liberty Meetup: rotates weekly between Dover, Exeter & Portsmouth – 7:00pm
<http://www.meetup.com/nhseacoastliberty>

KEENE

Every Sunday – Keene Bitcoin Meetup: McCue's Billiards & Sports, 12 Emerald St. – 5:30pm

KEENE

Every Sunday – Social Sunday: McCue's Billiards & Sports, 12 Emerald St. – 6:00pm

LEBANON

Last Tuesday of the month – Upper Valley Porcupines: Lebanon Village Pizza, 45 Hanover St. #1 – 6:00-8:00pm

MANCHESTER

First Saturday of the month – Merrimack Valley Porcupines: The Quill, Amory St. – 11:00am

MANCHESTER

Tuesday – Taproom Tuesday: The Quill, Murphy's Taproom, 494 Elm St. – 5:00-7:00pm

MANCHESTER

Sunday – Shire Bitcoin Meetup: Murphy's Diner, 516 Elm St. – 6:00-9:00pm

NASHUA

Wednesdays – Freedom Forum discussion: Barnes & Noble, 235 Daniel Webster Highway – 7:00-9:00pm

NASHUA

Sunday – Nashua Liberty Meetup: Martha's Exchange, 185 Main St. – 6:00-8:00pm

WEARE

First and Third Thursday of the month – FreeWeare: Weare Town Grille, 840 S Stark Hwy – 6:30-8:30pm

Submit your events to editor@fpp.cc – please send event information by the final Sunday of each month.



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On Hobby Lobby and Target

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corporations do not have “legitimate” private property rights.

Andy (no surname given), a commentator on the website IndependentPoliticalReport.com, wrote, “A lot of Targets are built on land which was seized through eminent domain, and eminent domain is supposed to be for public use. Finally, there are multiple court rulings that say that when a property is open to the public to come and go, that the managers or owners of said property have to respect constitutionally recognized rights.”

In both cases, the main question is whether or not anyone is obligated to provide another person with any good or service. I believe the Supreme Court erred by previously upholding the PPACA as constitutional. That said, I do believe the Supreme Court made the right decision in the Hobby Lobby case. Furthermore, it should not matter whether a business is operated as a sole proprietor, partnership or corporation. Nor should it matter, in regards to law, if a person or business receives tax-payer funds. Few, if any, would argue that I have a legitimate right to be on Ted Turner’s property despite the fact that he receives millions annually from farm subsidies. No one should be forced to provide any good or service. This includes not only health insurance, but also a platform for exercising constitutionally-protected rights. As a member of the media, I am under no obligation to provide anyone a platform for exercising their freedom of speech. Nor should any private property owner be required to provide a platform for free expression or for possessing weapons.



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Debunking the CEPR report on minimum wage

by: Darryl W. Perry

A recent “study” released by the Center for Economic Policy Research (CEPR) attempts to debunk the claim by many economists that increasing the minimum wage harms job growth. The analysis states, “At the beginning of 2014, 13 states increased their minimum wage. Of these 13 states, four passed legislation raising their minimum wage (Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, and Rhode Island). In the other nine, their minimum wage automatically increased in line with inflation at the beginning of the year (Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Missouri, Montana, Ohio, Oregon, Vermont, and Washington state).

The baseline is the average of the employment figures for the last five months of 2013 (August to December), which is measured against the average of the employment levels for the first five months of 2014 (January to May). As was the case with [an] earlier analyses by [Goldman Sachs] and CEPR, employment growth is still faster in states where the minimum wage went up.”

For a number of reasons, this is not an accurate study. Mainly, the baseline and the test months are not comparable, as the baseline fails to account for seasonal job growth. A more accurate comparison would have looked at the first 5 months of 2013 instead of the last 5 months of that year.

The study also fails to account for the percentage increase

in the wage, the number of added jobs that earn minimum wage, as well as the number of jobs that weren’t created due to the increased wage. Admittedly, the latter is incalculable, and is the unseen portion of the economy.

Frederic Bastiat wrote about this in the Parable of the Broken Window. If a store owner finds one of his windows broken, then he must pay to have the window replaced. The seen portion of the economy shows us that the glass company has earned money, which allows them to continue operation, and puts food on the table of the window repairman, and the store owner is out the cost of the window, but has no additional value to his store; he is at a net loss. Bastiat wrote, “It is not seen that as our shopkeeper has spent six francs upon one thing, he cannot spend them upon another. It is not seen that if he had not had a window to replace, he would, perhaps, have replaced his old shoes, or added another book to his library. In short, he would have employed his six francs in some way, which this accident has prevented.”

It seems obvious to me, based on the parties that released these results that the intention is to attempt to convince people that a higher minimum wage is not only needed, but also a good thing. Whenever I encounter someone promoting an increased minimum wage, I feel compelled to ask the question: “If a \$10/hour minimum wage is good, why not a \$100/hour wage, or even a \$1million/hour wage?”

The FAA continues to crackdown on commercial drones

by: Darryl W. Perry

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) continues to crackdown on commercial usage of unmanned aerial vehicles, commonly called drones. In March, it was reported that the FAA had issued a cease-and-desist order to the Washington Nationals baseball team because the team was using a quad-copter to take publicity photos at the team’s spring training facility. This drone, flying within the confines of the baseball stadium was, according to FAA, somehow going to interfere with aircraft that were flying at heights upward of 30,000 feet. Pointing out the hilarity of the situation, a team official told the Associated Press “No, we didn’t get it cleared, but we don’t get our pop flies cleared either and those go higher than this thing did.”

The most recent incident to gain media attention involved a Congressman from New York. Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, a member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee’s aviation subcommittee which oversees the FAA, “acknowledged hiring a photographer to produce a video of his wedding using a camera mounted on a small drone.” Stephanie Formas, spokeswoman for Maloney, said in a statement, “On their wedding day, Sean and Randy were focused on a ceremony 22 years in the making, not their wedding photographer’s camera mounted on his remote control helicopter.”

The Associated Press reports, “the agency has also been sending letters to commercial operators across the country — including other videographers and companies that hire videographers — to cease their drone flights or face fines.

One videographer, Raphael Pirker, challenged the \$10,000 fine the FAA tried to level against him for flying a small drone in an allegedly reckless manner near the University of Virginia. An administrative law judge sided with Pirker, whose attorney argued the agency can’t ban commercial drone flights when it hasn’t formally adopted safety rules governing drone flights.”

Aside from the common sense notion that airplanes fly at heights much greater than remote control aircraft, the FAA is not remaining consistent in the way they go after people using drones. The FAA has not yet, as far as I can tell, gone after someone using a drone for personal non-commercial reasons, whether equipped with a camera or not. For the last several years at PorcFest, the annual Porcupine Freedom Festival in the White Mountains of New Hampshire, Josh Noone has flown one or more of his custom-built drones over the campground to get photos and videos of the event for personal non-commercial purposes. Noone says, “Actually the FAA is misrepresenting the law. Completely. There are NO LAWS that regulate the use of (sic) radio controlled aircraft for commercial activity. NONE! The FAA is simply making up rules as they wish.”

The hypocrisy begins to show when you look a little closer; as I testified to the NH Senate Judiciary Committee in April, “I could see an issue where the Goodyear Blimp flies over a football game, and since the blimp has people inside of it, that’s OK. But if they get rid of the pilot and operate it remotely, then... that could become illegal.”

Ten Weird Things You Need When You Travel

by: Jeffrey Tucker

I now count as a seasoned traveler, and I’ve learned a few things. Most people pack just what they need day-to-day in their own homes and life, meaning underwear, shirts, ties, toothpaste, razor, etc.. But travelling is not real life. Strange stuff happens. When it does, you need the right tools. If you don’t have them, disaster can strike. There are other things you need that just make life vastly easier than it otherwise would be.

You need to pack the following things to make life easier. You won’t use all on every trip but when you have to have these things, it can make the difference between thriving and disaster. If you do all ten, you can turn a trip that would be a pain in the neck into something marvelous.

1. TSP. Put some trisodium phosphate in a small bottle and stick it in your suitcase. This is the substance that extracts soap from clothes in a wash. There is no other way to get the soap out of clothes, and if you don’t get the soap out, you can’t get your stuff clean. It is absolutely



indispensable for those occasions when you have to do a hotel wash in the sink or bathtub. With it, your clothes will be cleaner than ever. But why not just send them out through the hotel services? It’s cheaper to rent a cab, get to the local WalMart and buy new clothes. It’s completely crazy to pay \$3 for the washing of a t-shirt or boxer shorts. Nuts! Wash them yourself in the hotel room but only with TSP and bar soap that comes free in the room. In any case, just remember that there is no clean without TSP.

2. Lye. Even the best hotels can have a clogged shower, and it is truly horrible to shower while standing in a pool of water. Housekeeping is clueless about the right way to deal with this. They might try one of those worthless, watery drain products that you pour. There is really only one sure-fire way to unclog a drain: Lye. It can be hard to get. You can’t buy it at the big box hardware store anymore and forget the grocery store. The government cracked down on its distribution due to the drug war or some such. But you can order Red Devil from Amazon. Put it in a travel bottle and you will be the master of all drains, anywhere or everywhere in the world. Never, ever put up with standing in a pool of tepid water when you are supposed to be showering!

3. Sewing Kit. When the button pops off your coat or shirt just before a presentation, you don’t want to go on a hunt for a needle and thread. You need to have it right there. You can turn what would otherwise be a terrible and embarrassing event into a triumph. You might never pull it out, but when the unfortunate thing happens, you will be so glad you had a small sewing kit with you. The bottom goes back on and all is right with the world.

4. Bottle of Starch. Get a box of cornstarch and put a tablespoon in a travel bottle and fill with water. Shake. Stick it in your suitcase. When you need to wash a stain off

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your shirt, you can add the liquid starch at the end and iron. Voila, a perfect shirt. Otherwise you end up with a wrinkled front placket and this looks terrible. A wrinkled, flimsy shirt makes you look like you have been dumpster diving. A bottle of starch can make the critical difference between looking unkempt and looking amazing.

5. Styptic Stick. These are little salty sticks that stop bleeding on any spot on your body. You don't need them at home because you can fuss with the sore or wound or cut, and wait for it to go away. But in a hotel room, when you cut yourself, you don't really have time to wait around. You can't really walk around with a piece of tissue on your face either. A cut on your face can look grim and make you socially insecure. A shaving stick is just the perfect thing. Buy one, leave it in your cosmetic bag, and you can stop any bloody nick instantly.

6. Passport. It doesn't matter whether you are only flying domestic. You should always use your passport for identification with the TSA or anyone really. The reason is a bit odd. Most Americans don't have passports. Americans of all classes are impressed by those who do. People assume you are important, sophisticated, well traveled, doing some impressive international thing like running a big global corporation. It is also something of a distraction that protects your privacy on the spot. People in a position to detain you will instead tend to defer to you. This wouldn't matter in Europe but it really does in the U.S.. Bonus: the passport has less personal information.

7. Nice Clothes. Yes, I know it is so fun to slum it when you travel. Shorts, flip flops, shabby shirt — it's all so comfortable. And yet, this is a mistake. I've tried it both ways. Throw on a suit, dress it up, and suddenly you find you get privileges. You get on standby flights without extra fees. You get a free drink. The TSA is just slightly more respectful. You get word of a better seat available on a flight. You get a bigger car at car rental. If there is a better room at the hotel, the person behind the counter might give it to you. Just on the margin, dressing well can make a huge difference. Add all these tiny privileges together and you have the difference between a passable and a wonderful trip.

8. First-Aid Kit. Sometimes you just need a bandaid and sometimes you need an alcohol swab and sometimes you need a bit of antibiotic cream. When you need these things, you have to have them. At home, there is plenty of this stuff but when you are on the road, not having it can be a disaster. A cut leads to an infection. A blister can cause massive pain. It's a simple point but an important one.

9. Corkscrew. Wine at the store is vastly cheaper than wine at the bar. Why spend \$15 on a glass when you can get an entire bottle of good wine at that price? If you have a simple corkscrew, you have the tool you need to save yourself vast money. But there's another point here: the corkscrew is the single best tool for hacking a shower head. If you find yourself in a hotel with a bad shower, you can unscrew the showerhead, stick in the corkscrew, and yanked that water stopper right out of there. Pop! you are back to civilization.



10. Extra Socks. Extra socks are a must because there are few disasters as terrible as developing stinky feet on a trip. The stink moves from your old socks to your shoes back to your next socks and then to your feet and then to your socks and back to your shoes and there is no end to it. People will notice the stink. Sorry but it's true. When you travel, your feet are likely to sweat more than usual, so you need to change your socks before this cycle of stink starts, because once it starts, it can't be stopped. This is especially true when you travel internationally because you might find yourself wearing the same socks for 18 or 24 hours. No, no, no, this doesn't work. Take an extra pair or two.

Each of these steps requires some deliberation, some extra thought and care. They define the difference between a noob and a seasoned and serious traveller.

Reposted from Tucker.Liberty.Me
Jeffrey Tucker is Chief Liberty Officer of Liberty.me, a subscription-based, action-focused social and publishing platform for the liberty minded. He is also distinguished fellow Foundation for Economic Education, executive editor of Laissez-Faire Books, research fellow Acton Institute, founder CryptoCurrency Conference, and author five books.

by: Darryl W. Perry

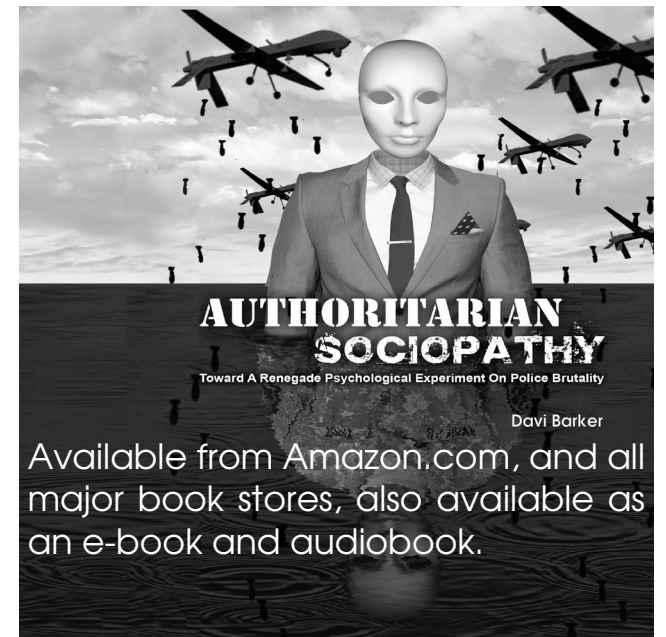
I've been following the news about Uber and Lyft for some time. For those unfamiliar, Uber and Lyft are taxi-like services that allow people to schedule rides using an app on their smartphone. Unlike traditional taxis, riders are able to leave reviews on drivers, and drivers are able to leave reviews for passengers. This acts as a sort of reputation system, which helps drivers know if a passenger is to be avoided, and vice versa. Customers of Uber and Lyft also know the price of the ride upfront, something that is incredibly rare with a traditional taxi. And, probably the most important feature of Uber & Lyft that make these services distinct from traditional taxi services is the decentralized nature of the business, there is no central office through which rides are dispatched, it is all handled through the smartphone app.

Back in February, the Attorney for the City of Houston issued a cease and desist order against Uber. This happened after Uber asked potential customers to contact the City Council, and over 10,000 people signed an online petition that was emailed to members of the Houston City Council. The order from the City Attorney reads:

Please consider this as a formal demand that your client, Uber, cease and desist from transmitting or aiding in the transmission of form e-mails to City officials regarding the adoption of an ordinance to accommodate their enterprise. Despite my informal request to you by telephone..., the excessive number of e-mails has gone unabated, to the point that it has become harassing in nature and arguably unlawful. Failure to cease and desist will be met with appropriate action by the City.

David M. Feldman
City Attorney
City of Houston

Other cease and desist orders have been issued by various municipalities across the country, though these usually involve demands that Uber and Lyft stop operating in said jurisdiction. Most of the time that either company gets a letter from a government agency, it is after an established traditional taxi service complains that Uber and Lyft aren't



Don't regulate non-taxis as taxis

following the rules. However, Uber and Lyft aren't traditional taxi services, and shouldn't be regulated as such.

The debate has taken place in city after city, and state after state. How should these non-taxi taxi services be regulated?

The City Council in Birmingham, Alabama is considering a proposal that would bar Uber and Lyft from operating in the Magic City. Assistant City Attorney Michael Fliegel said, "We set out to establish a set of common sense regulations that guarantee the safety of the public," adding "We want you to come and play, but play fairly."

By "play fairly" Fliegel means that non-taxis should follow the same rules as taxis. In response, Kyle Whitmire from the Alabama Media Group wrote, "If you have a problem with a cab driver, who do you call? As it turns out, the job of policing taxis belongs to the Birmingham Police Department. However, there's no easy link on the department's website or information there about how to file a report.

I've heard the horror stories, too: dirty cabs, rude drivers and wait times that can stretch for hours. In short, Birmingham's regulations are not working for our existing taxi services."

Why then, should one set of broken regulations be applied to a business that isn't a taxi service? The Colorado Legislature recently created the legal distinction Transportation Network Companies (TNC), which have limited governmental oversight. As one former taxi driver, now Uber driver, wrote, "Taxi business owners insist — figuratively speaking — that cellos (uberX and Lyft) are indeed violins (taxi companies) and they should be treated as such... Obviously, the Colorado [Legislature] didn't accept that cellos and violins are identical, and noticed profound differences between taxis and TNCs."

While I'm certainly no fan of creating more government regulations, I think it would be wise for more legislative bodies to realize that cellos aren't violins, and should not be regulated in the same manner.