

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Q1 2023

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for LIBERTY.



2023 is
The Year of
School Choice

YAL students across the country are knocking on doors
and fighting for education freedom.

[READ MORE INSIDE](#)

Letter from the CEO

Dear friend,

2022 was a really big year for YAL.

Not only did we hit our four-year goal of building our coalition of pro-liberty legislators to 250 by 2022, we blew it out of the water!

We nearly doubled our coalition in just one year and launched into the 2023 legislative sessions with 323 legislators from 41 states in our coalition!

These legislators are now in session, busy sponsoring and passing pro-liberty bills on a wide range of topics, including School Choice, Second Amendment protections, lower taxes, criminal justice reforms, and much more.

This year, we aim to pass enough pro-liberty legislation to make 100 million Americans more free! This is a lofty but very achievable goal because of the people and systems we have in place and the tactics that we use.

Our students are mobilizing grassroots support for many of the most important bills. They knock on doors and make phone calls to help apply the grassroots pressure often needed to move legislation.

Here at YAL, our team consists of students, legislators, staff, and donors. Together, this team is able to make a big impact every year.

You may recall that in 2021, together, we passed enough legislation to make 88 million Americans more free! In 2022, together, we passed enough legislation to make 91 million Americans more free! And this year, together, we'll pass enough legislation to make 100 million Americans more free!

Thank you for being part of this team and truly making liberty win!



Lauren

Lauren Daugherty
CEO, Young Americans for Liberty

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PUBLISHER

Lauren Daugherty

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Brendan Steinhauer

MANAGING EDITOR

Peyton Hornberger

COPY EDITOR

Jen Maffessanti

DESIGN & LAYOUT

Ubisep Design

CONTRIBUTORS

Daniel Stuart

Heather Fazio

Daniel Gonzalez-Allende-Barr

Peyton Hornberger

JP Kirby

Laurel Libby

Jen Maffessanti

Ted Patterson

Carter Quill

John Rodgers

Liam Slavin

Randan Steinhauer

Jacob Tourville

YAL's Policy Staff

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/yaliberty

The American Revolution

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by Dr. Ron Paul**

Hazlitt Action Summit

provides momentum for 2023

It's full steam ahead after a hugely **successful 2022**.

BY HEATHER FAZIO

Launched in 2018, Young Americans for Liberty's Hazlitt Coalition unites more than 320 pro-liberty lawmakers from 41 states. To date, our Coalition members have passed hundreds of bills that reduce the size and scope of government. In 2021, this Coalition made 88 million Americans more free. **With support from our allies in 2022, we made 91 million Americans more free!** With our expanded Coalition, we plan to make 100 million Americans more free in 2023!

In addition to building our bench of state lawmakers, we are proud to see Coalition members emerging as strong leaders who ascend to higher office. Joining Thomas Massie and Rand Paul, Eric Burlison from Missouri became the first Hazlitt Member elected to Congress.

Three other Coalition members are now serving in statewide office: Chuck Gray (WY Secretary of State), Andrew Sorrell (AL State Auditor), and Andy Matthews (NV State Controller).



Andy Matthews of Nevada talks at the event.



“The Hazlitt Coalition provides indispensable training for new legislators who are serious about learning policy and legislative strategy. Nowhere else can such a wealth of knowledge be gained in a single weekend.”

— **State Auditor-Elect Andrew Sorrell (AL)**

In preparation for the legislative session, Young Americans for Liberty Foundation hosted the Hazlitt Policy Summit with nearly 200 Coalition members in attendance. Thanks to generous support from allies and sponsors, the Summit offered legislative workshops with policy briefings, list-building training, and legislator panels.

With a focus on key issues like School Choice, gun rights, privacy, and criminal justice reform, Summit attendees were equipped with effective arguments, model legislation, and winning tactics to help them Make Liberty Win in 2023 and beyond.

The Hazlitt Policy Summit taught legislators how to be effective. Now, as state legislatures convene in capitols across the country, our Coalition members are hitting the ground running. **We’ve already seen hundreds of bills filed relating to medical freedom, federalism, Free Speech, lower taxes, and much more.**

In fact, veteran Hazlitt Coalition member, Oklahoma state senator Nathan Dahm, has already introduced more than two dozen bills that advance liberty. A few highlights:

- SB 84:** Bans Red Light Cameras
- SB 82:** Bans Police Citation Quotas
- SB 81:** Exempts Retirement Income from Taxation
- SB 29:** Defend the Guard
- SB 41:** Eminent Domain Reform
- SB 38:** Bans Warrantless Electronic Data Collection



Oklahoma state senator Nathan Dahm speaks on a panel at the 2022 Summit.

“Being a part of something changing the course of the U.S. is an honor, and I’m thankful for the huge part the Hazlitt Coalition plays in that.”

— **Sen. Nathan Dahm (OK)**

New Hazlitt member, Pennsylvania Rep. Joe D’Orsie, is off to an exciting start with bills to lower taxes, advance School Choice for voter approval, and protect Free Speech on college campuses!

Through principled leadership and continued coalition building, we will advance YAL’s legislative agenda: peace, civil liberties, and free markets. We are proud to bring together leaders from across the country who are dedicated to advancing liberty.

Onward! 🚀

Heather Fazio is the Director of Policy at Young Americans for Liberty, began her political career as a Ron Paul activist, and resides in Austin.



Daniel Stuart

YAL STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Title

Hazlitt Action Director

Previous Positions at YAL

*Illinois State University – YAL
Chapter President*

Illinois State Chair

Northern Field Coordinator

Northern Regional Director

*Northern Deputy Regional
Director*

Education

Illinois State University

Favorite Political Philosopher

Frédéric Bastiat

Why do you like working at YAL?

Young Americans for Liberty is the only multi-issue organization that uses the confrontational model to push for key liberty legislation like School Choice, Constitutional Carry, tax cuts, and more. Having been involved on the campus side and legislative side, it is amazing to see how everything comes together and has made us, the most effective group in the liberty movement.

What are some recent projects that you've been working on?

Recently, I've been working to prepare for our legislative programs for this year. Now that the dust has settled from the elections, we're able to go through each state and figure out who we need to pressure to get movement on our bills and how we need to do it. Then, we get everything prepped so it's ready to go during the legislative sessions.

What are you most proud of this year?

Last year, we were able to pass Constitutional Carry in both Indiana and Alabama through our Hazlitt Action Program. Just two weeks after Constitutional Carry went into effect in Indiana, a 22-year-old, who was carrying his firearm without a permit, stopped a would-be mass shooter at the Greenwood Mall just 15 seconds after the perpetrator opened fire. It is one of the most clear-cut examples of how Constitutional Carry saves lives. I think that story is a testament to the important work our team is doing.

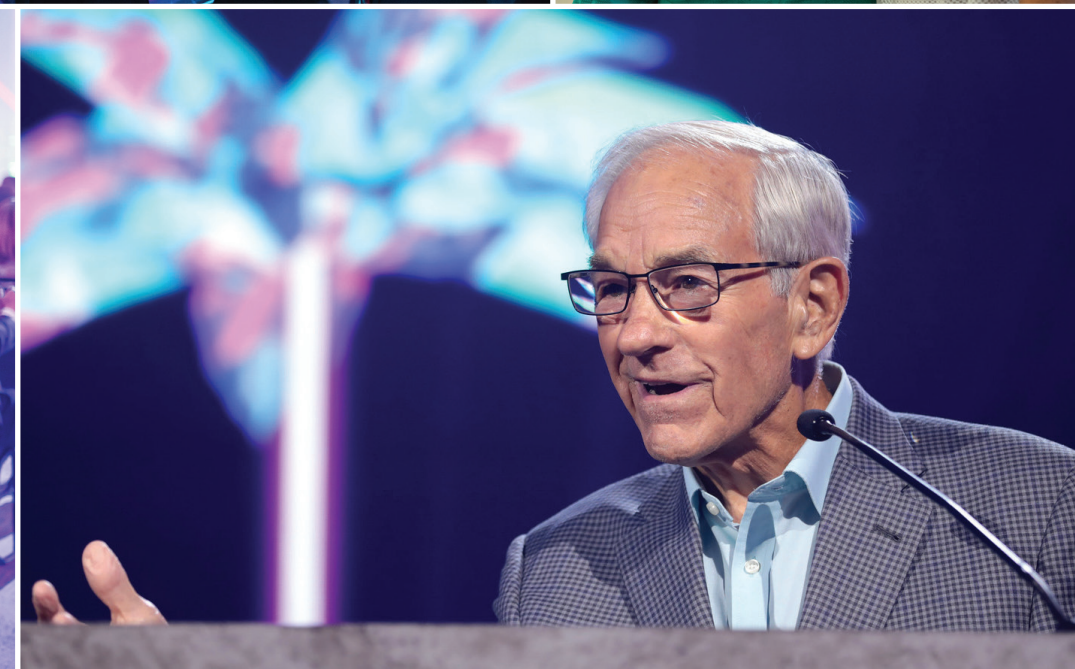


REVOLUTION 2023

Orlando, Florida
August 10 - 12

Revolution is Young Americans for Liberty's **premiere student training event**, where liberty youth are equipped with the skills they need to be the difference in the world around them.

yaliberty.org/revolution





Defending student rights

The fight for student rights continues into 2023.

Students at University of Hartford rally and deliver their petition signatures to repeal the pepper spray ban.

BY JP KIRBY AND DANIEL GONZALEZ-ALLENDE-BARR

Since 2013, Young Americans for Liberty has defended the rights of students on college campuses across the country. **Through the Fight for Free Speech and now the Student Rights Campaign (SRC), YAL teaches students how to make their voices heard and to protect their rights on college campuses.** We combine our campus network with the same confrontational approach to policy that we have used to bring freedom to millions through our legislative program.

This has led to resounding success.

The YAL chapter at Montana State is a prime example of the long-term effects that our program has. Last August, the campus administration reached out to our chapter for their input on the changes being made to the student handbook. The changes will make sure that students are guaranteed due process when accused of misconduct. Amending due process policies for students will protect students from being punished unfairly and help to keep the administration accountable.

After discovering the University of Hartford's student handbook explicitly banned pepper spray on campus, Zach

O'Mera and his chapter crafted a petition and began to rally support against the policy on campus. Just four months later, the chapter brought the 500 signed student petitions directly to campus president Gregory Woodward. They continued to follow up and overcame the administration's objections to changing the policy. On December 1, 2022, Zach and the Hartford YAL chapter returned the right of self-defense to 7,025 students on campus.

YAL Chapter Leader Jason Riley at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) set out to repeal his own school's pepper spray ban and forced an even bigger change than first targeted. **After attending the SRC Strategy Summit during Revolution 2022, Jason took the initiative to build a petition and begin pressuring his school to change its policy.**

On December 15, Jason delivered over 500 petition signatures to the administrators at IUPUI. On January 10, the Indiana University system administration officially changed its policies to include a carve-out for pepper spray. Jason's skill and initiative are now responsible for a greater measure of self-defense rights for the students of the entire IU system.

Last June, YAL Chapter Leader Wyatt Ford delivered from South-eastern Legal Foundation (SLF) a demand that the University of Maine remove its unconstitutional "Censor Squad" policies. These policies allow students to anonymously report their classmates for perceived "incidences of bias." Courts across the country have ruled that these policies chill the speech of students who fear repercussions from fellow students who believe differently than they do. Through the coordination of the Leadership Institute (LI), YAL and SLF teamed up to deliver the policy letter. By the end of the fall semester, the University of Maine had removed all objectionable language from its website. Students no longer have to worry that their protected speech will lead to punishment from an overbearing UMaine.

The SRCs have no intention of slowing down. A new roster of 2023 campaigns kicked off this January. YAL activists at the University of Tennessee (UT) have begun conversations with the UT administration about removing the system's pepper spray ban. At Binghamton University in New York, school administrators received 216 petition signatures that were collected in one day supporting the end of Binghamton's draconian self-defense bans.

As students fight for safety through self-defense on campuses like Tennessee and Binghamton, students fight for an end to dangerous prohibition policies elsewhere. Activists at Southeast Missouri State University (MO) and Black Hills State University (SD) have been challenging their respective schools' archaic alcohol prohibition rules.

Represented by the Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF), the YAL chapter at the University of Alabama at Huntsville (UAH) is suing the university for refusing to comply with Alabama's Campus Free Speech Act of 2019. Under this state law, public universities in Alabama are not allowed to chill student speech by sequestering them to "Free Speech Zones" or requiring prior permission. Despite this, UAH maintains both of these illegal policies.

Relentless battling on behalf of student leader Joshua Greer and the YAL



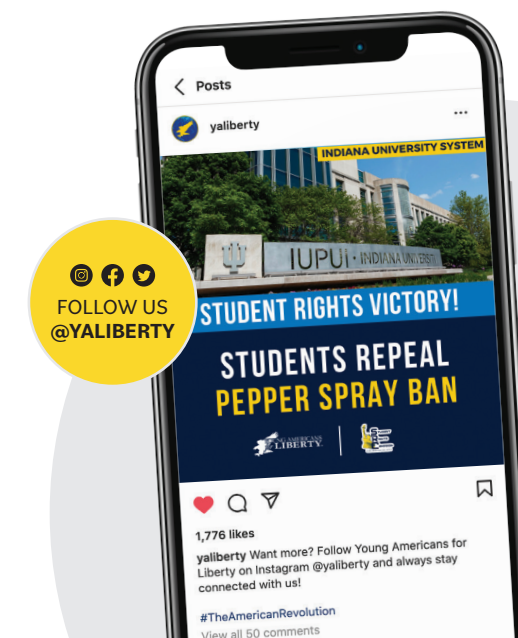
Students at Black Hills State sign the petition to end alcohol prohibition.

chapter at UAH by ADF finally led to oral arguments in front of the Alabama Supreme Court. On November 18, the court ruled that the university's policy "plainly violates the [Alabama Campus Free Speech] Act." This massive victory for our long-running lawsuit overturned its previous dismissal by the district court and brings us another step closer to the finish line. We look forward to 2023 being the year we deal a brutal blow to bureaucratic censorship in Alabama. 🚩

JP Kirby is the Director of Student Rights at YAL. JP has worked in the liberty movement continuously since starting a Students for Rand Paul chapter at his alma mater in 2016. JP works full-time at YAL in Austin to ensure students have the full scope of their rights on college campuses.

Daniel Gonzalez-Allende-Barr is the Student Rights Strategist at YAL. Daniel started his journey in the liberty movement in 2020, working for Make Liberty Win PAC in the New Hampshire primaries. Since then, he has moved to working full-time at YAL, researching bad policies on college campuses and defending the rights of students nationwide.

YAL teaches students how to make their voices heard and to protect their rights on college campuses.





Randan Steinhauser interviews Virginia Walden Ford about her fight for School Choice.

The original grassroots organizer for School Choice

Virginia's inspiring true story demonstrates the power of motivated parents.

BY RANDAN STEINHAUSER

In the summer of 1998, Virginia Walden Ford, a mother of three, decided that enough was enough. The public school system in Washington, D.C. was failing her children, and there seemed to be no incentive for the system to improve. With gang violence and drug usage on the rise within the halls of her children's schools, she knew it was time to take action. Little did she know that she would become recognized as one of our country's original grassroots organizers for School Choice and that her life story would be made into a major motion picture.

Virginia found her voice in this movement by uniting with other parents — mostly single mothers — who had also had enough. In 1998, she took action, forming a grassroots organization, D.C. Parents for School Choice. **Along with a group of dedicated parents, Virginia went door-to-door, neighborhood-to-neighborhood, recruiting and training thousands of other parents to stand up for their children's futures.**

Her organization provided parents with the tools and tactics to make their voices heard. Virginia used

confrontational politics to ensure that members of Congress were aware of what was happening in D.C.'s failing public school system, and she empowered parents to tell their stories to lawmakers.

In 2003, with the support of national education organizations and lawmakers, Virginia and her courageous group of parent advocates succeeded in convincing Congress and President George W. Bush to enact the nation's first-ever Opportunity Scholarship Program for low-income children, a program that set into motion a complete overhaul of Washington, D.C.'s education system.

Reflecting on her experience launching D.C. Parents for School Choice, Virginia stated, **"In my opinion, my work to provide greater educational opportunities for the children of Washington, D.C. — and beyond — had met a providential fate that connected me with the right people at the right time, giving me the courage to persevere when the going got tough."** When asked about the power of grassroots organizing, Virginia added, "When people see someone else overcome a struggle, they are often moved to action themselves."

Instead of allowing her children to fall through the cracks of the broken system, Virginia empowered herself and other parents to push back against the idea that "the government knows best." She played a pivotal role in the establishment of the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program, which today provides over \$15,000 per year to more than 1,800 students in 41 private schools across the District.

Virginia Walden Ford's story is one that still resonates with so many American parents. **Families are waking up to the realization that the government should not dictate when, where, how, or by whom their children are educated.** Parent-led efforts are popping up all over America and are partnering with organizations like Young Americans for Liberty to advance meaningful legislation.

In recalling the early days of her own grassroots organization, Virginia reflects, "My parent-led group, D.C. Parents for School Choice, is just one of hundreds. These groups knock on doors, hold meetings, create informative literature and websites, call and email legislators, speak to policymakers, and organize to maximize the reach of their voices." She added, "Due to the hard work of groups like these, school choice continues to expand in our country through a variety of delivery methods that include tax credit scholarships, education savings accounts, and more."

At the recent Young Americans for Liberty Empower Summit, Virginia was a guest speaker and shared with the crowd her own insight into how parents have a greater opportunity than ever before to use their voice in the national effort to expand educational freedom.

"Laws are developed and passed by a select group of politicians — but do not discount the power of parents who team up for the better good," she stated. **"I know from experience that when parents raise their voices collectively, they can prevail."**

Together with groups like Young Americans for Liberty, parents are advocating for universal education savings accounts (ESAs). These programs would allow parents to use state dollars to educate their children in a variety of ways: homeschooling, virtual schooling, private school tuition, curriculum, therapies, and more. Heralded as the best way to advance educational freedom and unleash the potential of children, ESAs are being introduced in nearly every state legislature this session.



YAL students in Virginia and Colorado support School Choice.

Instead of allowing her children to fall through the cracks of the broken system, Virginia empowered herself and other parents to push back against the idea that "the government knows best."

At Young Americans for Liberty, we understand the important role of grassroots organizing. Our teams are on the ground, knocking on doors, handing out literature, collecting signatures, and hosting events to advance educational freedom. Our country has an amazing opportunity to build upon the work of Virginia Walden Ford, and together, we can ensure her legacy lives on. ✨

Randan Steinhauser is the National School Choice Director for Young Americans for Liberty. She is a homeschooling mother of four and lives in Austin, Texas. She has worked for former Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos at the American Federation for Children, National School Choice Week, and EdChoice. In 2008, Randan led the campus efforts for Ron Paul for President at The University of South Carolina.



MOVING PICTURE INSTITUTE PRODUCTION "MISS VIRGINIA" UZO ADUBA, MATTHEW MODINE, ADUNJANJE ELLIS, NILES FITCH, MADJI JETER, ADINA PORTER, AND VANESSA WILLIAMS. ORIGINAL SCORE BY LAURA KARPMAN. MUSIC BY LAUREN MARIE MIKUS. COSTUME DESIGNER RONY ITZISOHAN. EDITOR BRIAN SCOFIELD. SALLY BERGOM. PRODUCTION DESIGNER GRACE ALTE. DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY NANCY SCHREIBER, ASC. EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS VIRGINIA WALDEN FORD, NICK REID. PRODUCED BY M. ELIZABETH HUGHES, STACEY PARKS, MAURICE BLACK, ERIN O'CONNOR, ROB PFALTZGRAFF. SCREENPLAY BY ERIN O'CONNOR. DIRECTED BY R. J. DANIEL HANNA. VERTICAL

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Grassroots Action Training:

Teaching student activists how to be effective

Grassroots political organizers bring liberty to their schools and communities.

BY JACOB TOURVILLE

Through our campus program at Young Americans for Liberty, we identify students who are invested in fighting for liberty and achieving real change for real people. Upon getting involved, these students begin meeting with their chapter regularly, where they engage in discussions about liberty issues and complete activism events so they can shift the Overton Window on campus and get more students involved in the fight for liberty.

Once they are well-educated on liberty issues such as Free Speech on campus, the Second Amendment, School Choice, taxes, and more, students often become fired up about the opportunity to go out into their communities and make their ideas a reality. **Grassroots Action Trainings (GATs) are the way we educate and train students on how to bring these changes to their campuses, communities, and states so that they can help make millions of Americans more free.**

Grassroots Action Trainings are localized, intimate, two-day events held around the United States that teach student activists the ins and outs of being effective grassroots organizers. Before holding a Grassroots Action Training, we have our Regional Directors get in touch with chapter leaders from local communities and discuss which issues they care the most about. **We cover issues like the Second Amendment Preservation Act in South Dakota, fighting for Free Speech in Maine, advocating for School Choice in Missouri, and more.** We then work alongside those students in order to develop a game plan for making this change. Our staffers deploy to the state to train between 40 and 60 students on exactly how they can go about making these ideas a reality.

The training starts on Saturday morning with a bang. We begin by reflecting on the problems currently facing our country: the liberal indoctrination taking place on college campuses, the state and federal governments slowly stripping American citizens of their Second Amendment rights, the struggle for Free Speech, and much more.

But the point of this discussion is not to focus on the problems. It is to educate the students on the state of the country and to help them understand their role in its salvation. **The foundation here is simple: “campuses define the culture” of the United States.** It was true in the 1960s and is still true today. And “no one is coming to save you” reinforces that if YAL students are not willing to take the action necessary to achieve liberty, then it will not be achieved.

From there, we open the floodgates to explain the grassroots political process and how we can build the liberty movement, create new leaders, and eventually achieve liberty-oriented policy in the state or institution specified. **We teach communication skills, technical applications, picking proper fights, and effective mobilization of the grassroots.**

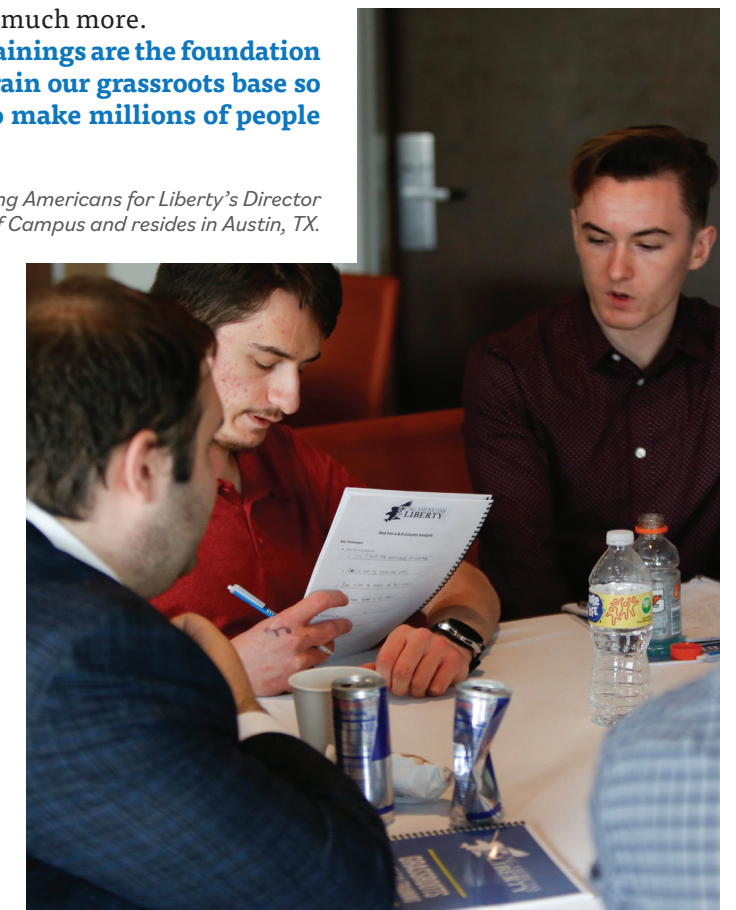
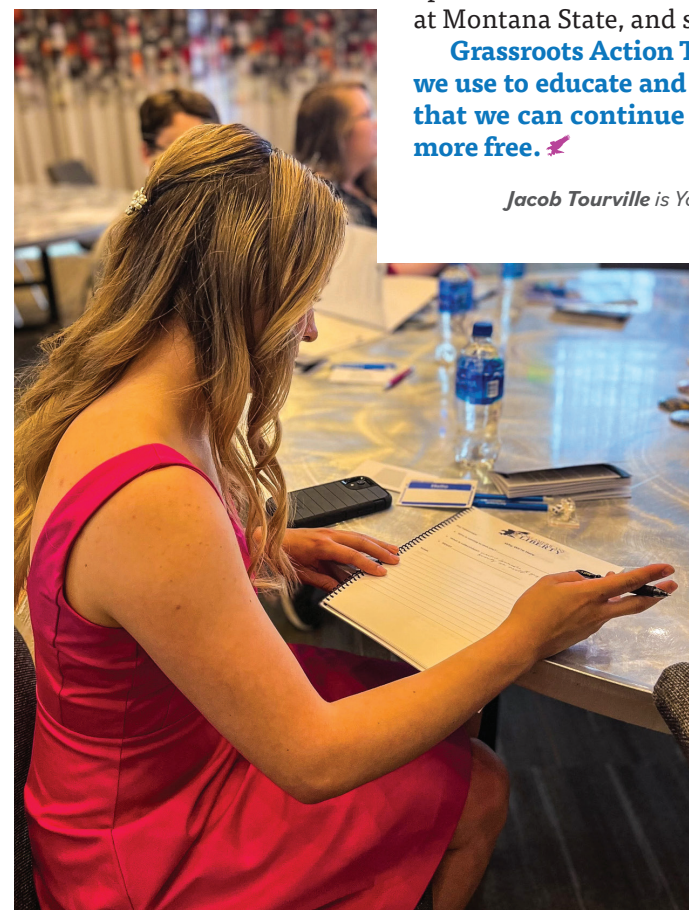
Students then are instructed on how they can take these skills and apply them directly to achieving the liberty-oriented policy they desire, whether that is eliminating Free Speech zones or pepper spray bans on their college campus or trying to pass a good School Choice bill in the state legislature.

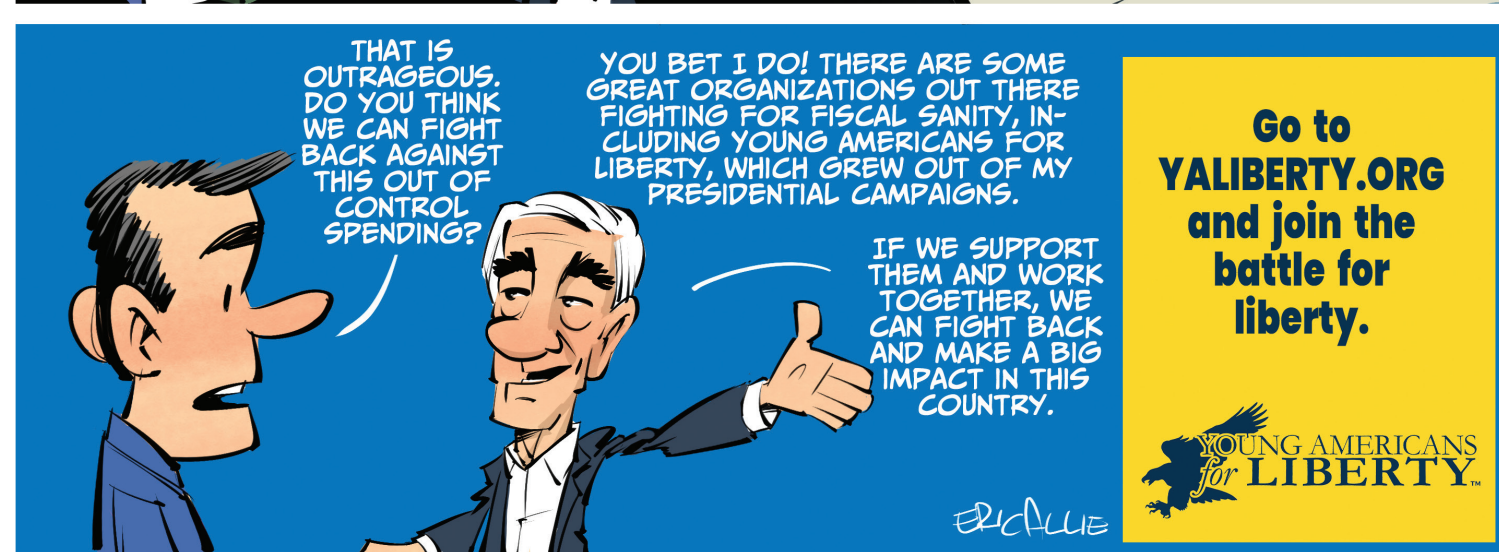
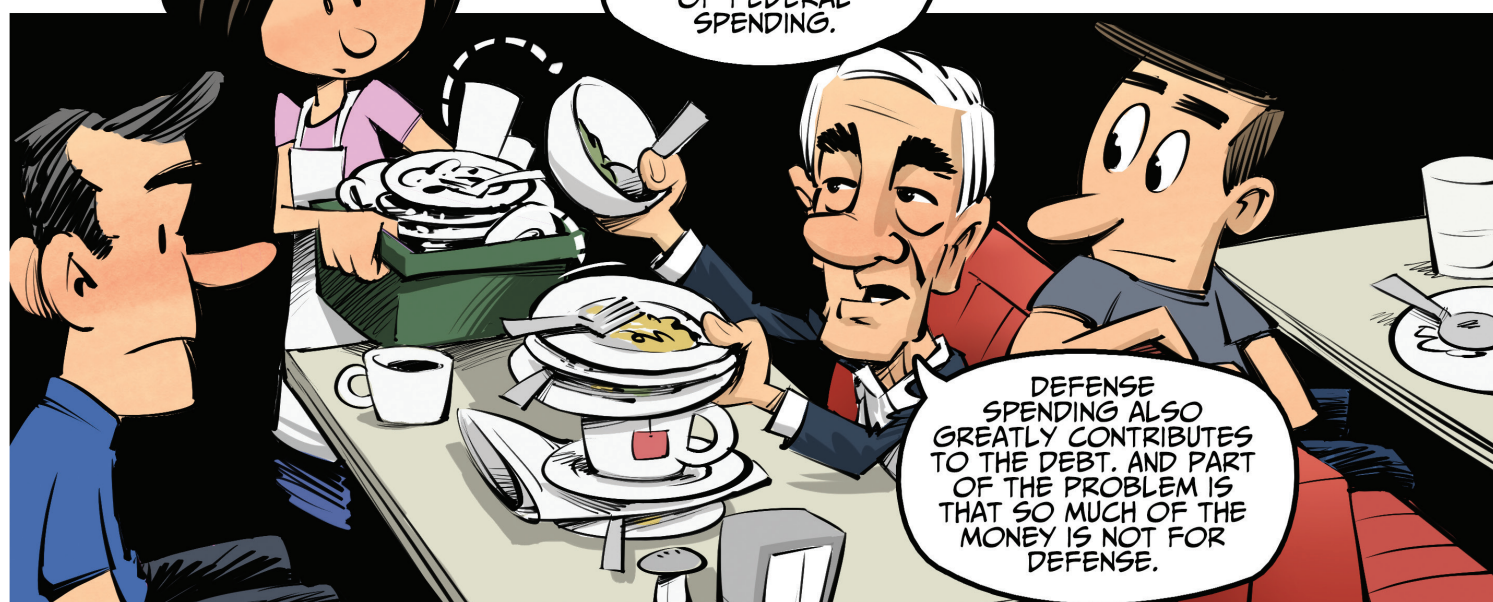
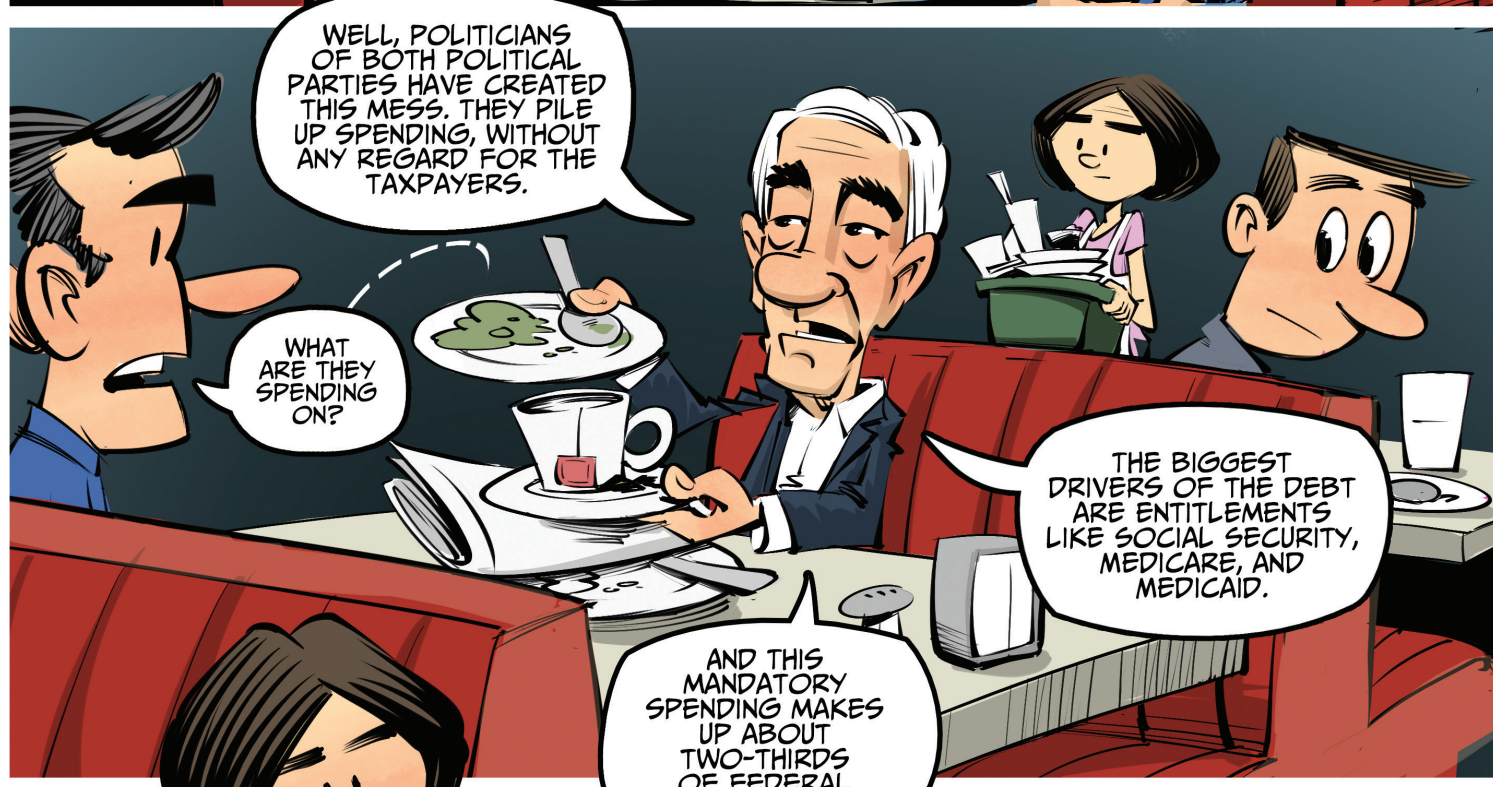
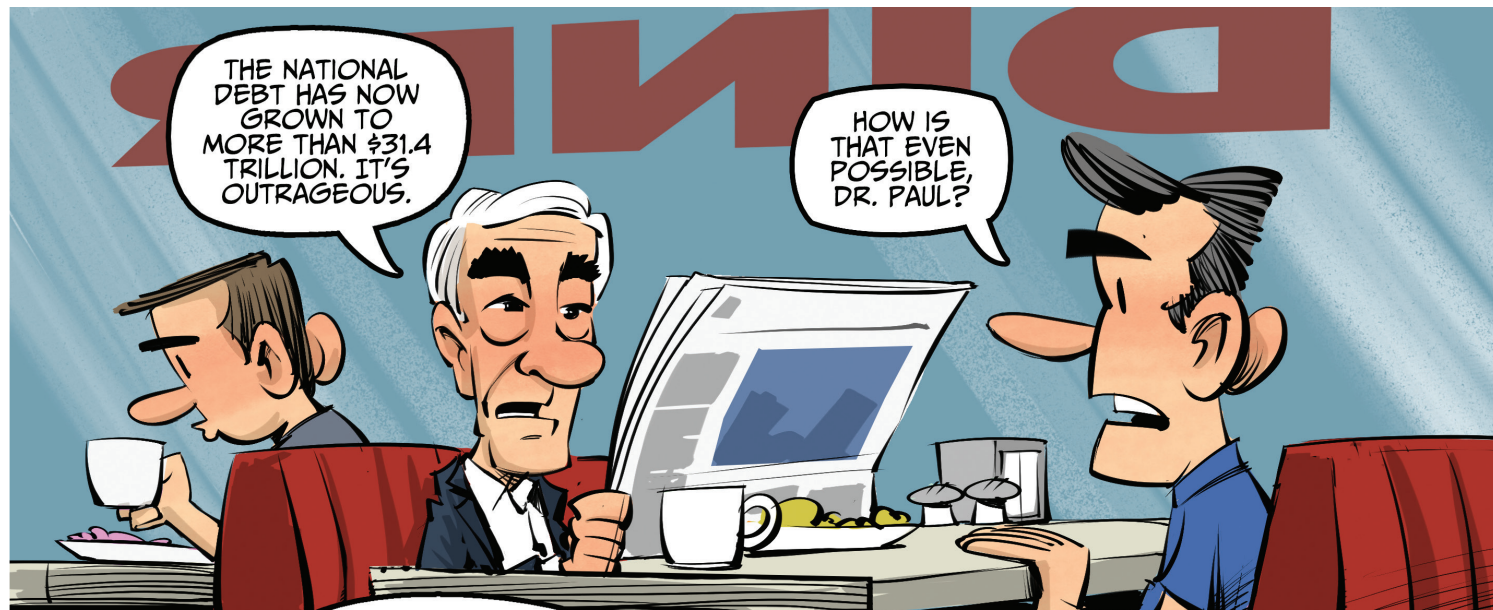


The results of these training sessions have been fantastic. When these students come in, they are often familiar with the ideas behind liberty but unsure of how to make these ideas become a reality. By the time they leave, they know exactly what they must do to Make Liberty Win. We've seen these students help to pass School Choice bills in Missouri, dismantle Free Speech restrictions in Maine, overturn mask mandates at Montana State, and so much more.

Grassroots Action Trainings are the foundation we use to educate and train our grassroots base so that we can continue to make millions of people more free. ✨

Jacob Tourville is Young Americans for Liberty's Director of Campus and resides in Austin, TX.







LIBERTY CANDIDATE ACADEMIES

LCAs train and equip potential future pro-liberty legislators to be principled in the face of establishment pressure.

BY YAL'S POLICY STAFF

Young Americans for Liberty will host 20 Liberty Candidate Academies across the country in 2023. YAL's Liberty Candidate Academies (LCAs) identify and equip the next generation of liberty candidates for the state legislature. As we train hundreds of interested candidates and activists in 2023, we will show them how to run a truly effective campaign. **Liberty Candidate Academies include training on topics such as fundraising, budgeting, door knocking, direct mail, campaign management, district analysis, and messaging.**

YAL instructors cut through the noise to focus in on the nuts and bolts for effective liberty candidates to put into practice immediately. In 2023, we will particularly be looking at states like Louisiana, Virginia, Mississippi, and New Jersey which all have legislative elections happening while the rest of the country gears up for 2024.

YAL Liberty Candidate Academies are held on Saturdays and run from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Trainings happening in 2023 can be found at yaliberty.org/lca.

In Idaho, YAL trained over 130 people at Liberty Candidate Academies in 2021 and 2022. Before 2022, YAL had nine Hazlitt Coalition members in the House and one in the state Senate there. Following the 2022 election cycle, YAL now has six members in the state House and 11 members in the state Senate. **We were able to almost double the size of our Hazlitt Coalition in Idaho because of our Liberty Candidate Academy program and the hard work of on-the-ground activists recruiting people to attend in Idaho.**



LCAs draw audiences from across the country to train the nation's most effective liberty candidates.



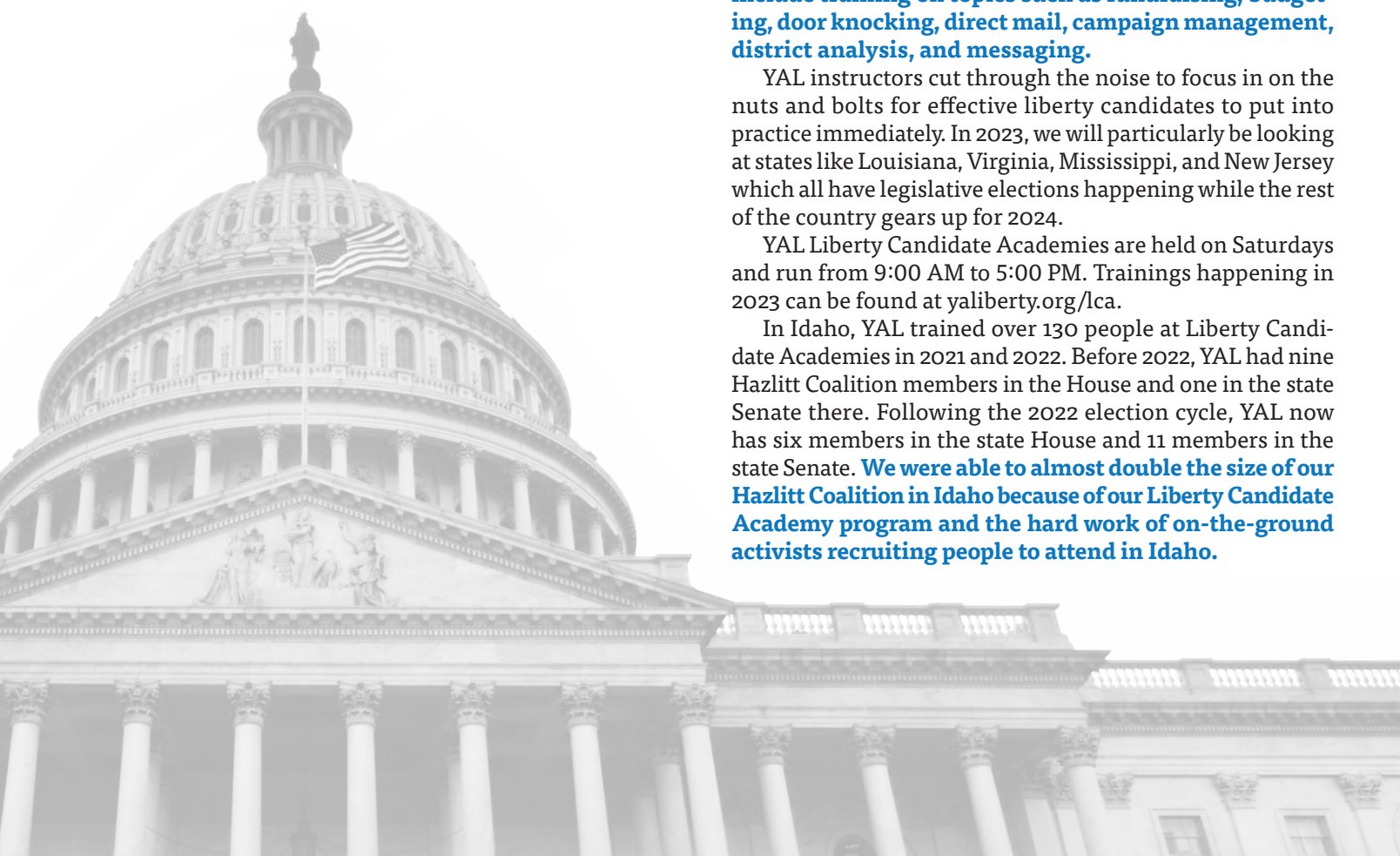
YAL instructors cut through the noise to focus in on the nuts and bolts for effective liberty candidates to put into practice immediately.

YAL Liberty Candidate Academies aren't just training opportunities. Our staff team conducts one-on-one interviews with those who attend to share with them our model of mobilization and also to learn more about which candidates are likely to run a competitive campaign and be top-tier prospects for YAL's Hazlitt Coalition.

As Thomas Jefferson said, "Every generation needs a new revolution." YAL's

Liberty Candidate Academies are our opportunity to be continually training the next crop of liberty leaders in America. More important than winning political fights is developing the next generation of people to win fights for liberty. We pride ourselves on developing liberty talent in the minor leagues to move up when election opportunities present themselves each cycle. This is how we preserve liberty for the next generation. ✨

To attend a Liberty Candidate Academy, please go to yaliberty.org/lca.





Liam Slavin

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

What brought you into the liberty movement?

Anthony Mirzayants, the South Dakota state chair at the time, came up to me on the first day of the semester and invited me to a YAL meeting. From there, I became persuaded by the activism-first approach of the organization. The current political discourse left me angry and bitter with no productive outlet, but YAL allowed me to channel my beliefs and concerns into real, effective political power. I jumped headlong into local grassroots activism. Nearly two years later, I can look back on all the incredible work that I have had the privilege to be a part of.

What's your favorite accomplishment since being a part of YAL?

South Dakota YAL has had quite a few accomplishments, all of which I am very proud of, but my favorite has to be the billboard. After a long year of fighting for campus carry at SD Mines, President Rankin still would not budge. So, to kick off the new fall semester, we purchased a huge billboard directly across from the campus, put the president's face on it, and called out the administration for depriving its students of their constitutional rights!

What are some recent projects that you've been working on?

First, we have two ongoing Student Rights Campaign (SRC) fights; one at Black Hills State and one at SD Mines, where we are fighting for campus carry. Beyond that, I am working to mobilize grassroots pressure on the SD legislature to help pass the Second Amendment Protection Act (SAPA) in conjunction with our local Hazlitt Coalition members.

What are you looking forward to this year?

I am most looking forward to seeing the kind of political results South Dakota can achieve. Anton and I have worked hard to expand in this state; currently, we have a chapter at all five major universities and the two main population centers. With that kind of geographic control, the number of dedicated activists, as well as our newly expanded Hazlitt team, South Dakota has the opportunity to become truly politically feared and respected. SAPA is only the beginning.

Title

West River South Dakota State Chair

School

South Dakota School of Mines

Favorite Political Philosopher

Hilaire Belloc



Eric Burlison ascends to higher office

Hazlitt Coalition member makes the jump from state senator to U.S. Representative.

BY JEN MAFFESSANTI

Congress was sworn in at the beginning of January, and I would like to share a little information about one of its newest members, Eric Burlison of Missouri.

Eric has been a part of Young Americans for Liberty's (YAL) coalition of legislators — the Hazlitt Coalition — for the last few years, and we are so proud of his elevation to Congress. Eric is a strong and principled leader and a true team player in the fight for liberty.

The Hazlitt Coalition, which launched in 2018, is designed to help liberty-focused legislators from all over the country network and learn from each other as they fight for liberty in their home states. Now over 320 members strong, the Coalition has had a big impact on the state level. But that influence is expanding to Washington, D.C., thanks to the people of Missouri electing Eric as their newest Congressman.

As a state legislator in Missouri, Eric sponsored and helped pass historic Second Amendment legislation that includes Constitutional Carry, Stand Your Ground, and the first-in-the-nation Second Amendment Preservation Act.

While volunteering at the disaster area following the devastating Joplin tornado, Eric learned that out-of-state doctors were prohibited from providing free care. So, Eric sponsored and passed a Good Samaritan law in 2013 that allows doctors to volunteer their services without the worry of lawsuits and red tape.

He has earned top ratings from groups like Club for Growth and the American

Conservative Union for his principled votes in the Missouri statehouse. In 2016, Burlison was recognized as the Business Advocate of the Year by Springfield Business Journal for his work on tax reform for Missouri manufacturers.

Outside of his work in politics, Eric earns a living as a tax consultant and investment adviser, as well as a software consultant for Cerner.

Eric has been working for the people of Missouri to protect their liberty for more than a decade, and the people have taken notice.

YAL has been proud to have Eric as a member of our Hazlitt Coalition of legislators working at the state level, and we are incredibly excited to have him representing Missouri and being a champion for liberty at the national level.

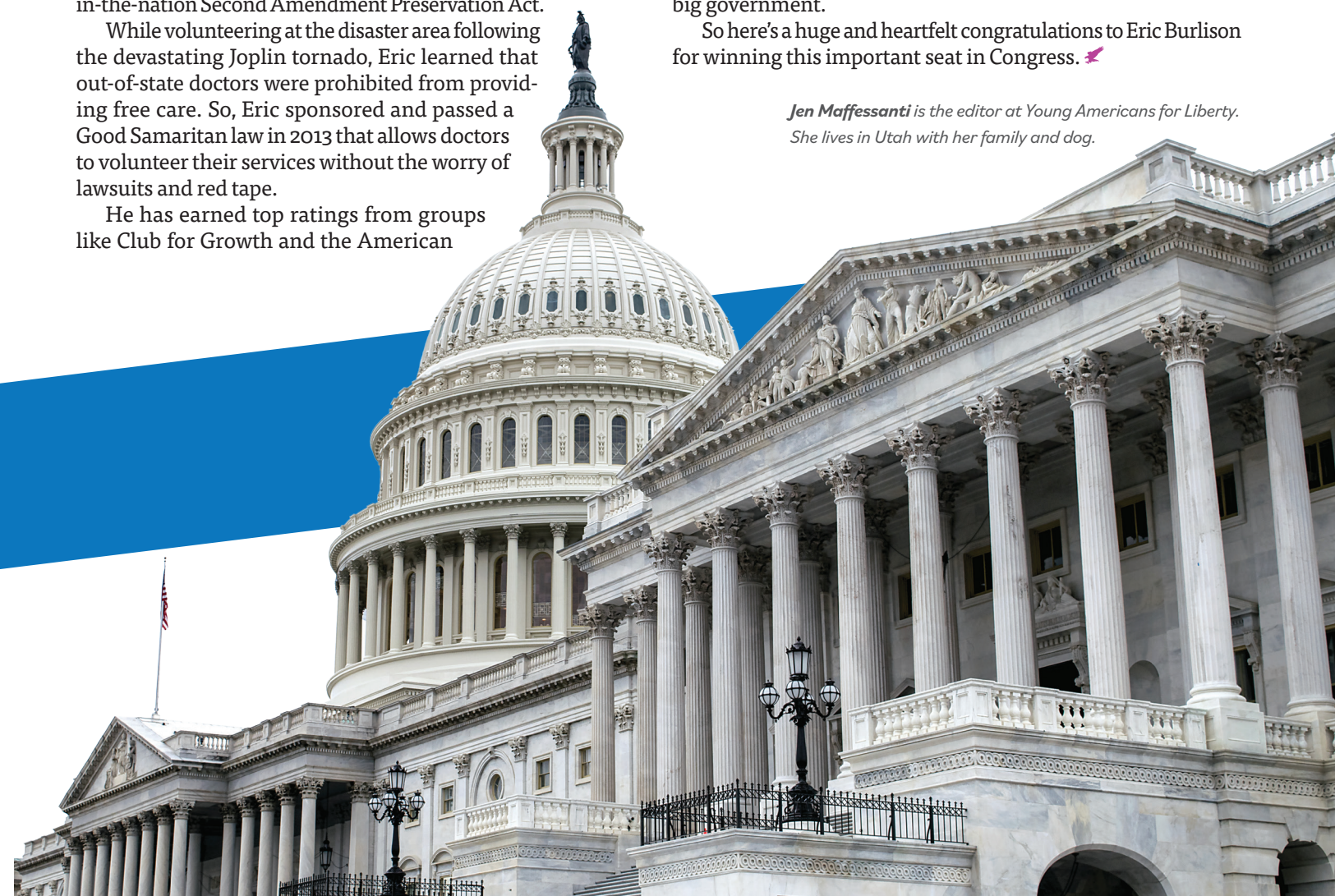
He has made it clear that he intends to continue protecting Americans' Second Amendment rights in our nation's capital, lower tax burdens, and help get federal spending under control.

Congress needs more leaders like him, and we are pleased Eric has joined folks like Rand Paul, Chip Roy, Mike Lee, and Thomas Massie in representing liberty in Washington, D.C.

Congress swears to uphold the Constitution, but you wouldn't know it from the way most members vote and behave. Those few members who do take their oath seriously have their work cut out for them, and adding another member to their ranks will only help in their efforts to rein in the expansion of big government.

So here's a huge and heartfelt congratulations to Eric Burlison for winning this important seat in Congress. 🚀

Jen Maffessanti is the editor at Young Americans for Liberty. She lives in Utah with her family and dog.



THE HAZLITT ACTION AGENDA FOR 2023

School Choice and Self-Defense headline an ambitious policy slate.

BY TED PATTERSON



The 2023 legislative cycle is well underway across the country, and YAL's Hazlitt Coalition of liberty legislators is hard at work sponsoring and co-sponsoring liberty bills to make a huge impact this year. **YAL legislators have already sponsored 3,718 bills across the country on issues from tax repeal to criminal justice reform to health care freedom.** Our goal this year is to make 100 million Americans more free through the passage of 200 pieces of liberty legislation across the country.

More than any other issue, we see School Choice as the key issue for 2023. After more than two years of Covid lockdowns, school closures, and mask mandates for kids, parents are more aware than ever that their local government school system is failing them. When students attempted to learn from home during the pandemic, parents got a front-row seat to what their kids were actually learning, and they were not impressed.

The primary policy solution our YAL legislators are championing on School Choice this year is universal Education Savings Accounts, which are designed to allow students and parents the freedom to take their hard-earned tax dollars and use them for educational options of their own choosing — without government control or intervention.

As you and I know, there is no one-size-fits-all approach to education. Families should be able to pursue homeschooling, micro-schools, private schools, charter schools, and everything in between. Rather than being a government program, education in America should be driven by free markets and individual choices so that Americans can pursue lifelong learning that best serves their needs.

Education Savings Accounts fund students, not systems, allowing for more freedom and choice in education.

In 2023, states to watch for School Choice include Arkansas, Ohio, and South Carolina. Even states like Texas, Missouri, Virginia, and Indiana could see School Choice wins in 2023. The School Choice movement has started out strong, with both Iowa and Utah already passing universal ESAs.

Major opportunities exist on the self-defense front in 2023, as well.



Top: YAL Students in Palm Beach knock doors for Constitutional Carry. **Bottom Left:** YAL activists support Constitutional Carry. **Bottom Right:** South Dakota activists proudly support the Second Amendment.

Florida and Nebraska present excellent opportunities to pass Constitutional Carry legislation, which makes the Constitution the only permission slip you need to carry a firearm, concealed or otherwise. The Second Amendment Preservation Act, which would prohibit state and federal enforcement of unconstitutional gun control, will likely be on the move in South Dakota and Iowa in 2023, as well. Additionally, YAL legislators are pushing to repeal "red flag" gun confiscation laws in places like Virginia and Indiana.

Other pro-liberty bills have been introduced as well. The Parental Bill of Rights bill has been introduced in Missouri, health care price transparency legislation has been introduced in New Hampshire, and grocery tax repeal bills have been introduced in Idaho and Alabama. In Michigan, a battle to defend the state's Right to Work law is also taking shape.

YAL is mobilizing all session long to support liberty legislation by generating pressure on politicians.

We do this through door-knocking, phone banking, online ads, direct mail, and texting by activists. More than a dozen "Days of Action" are planned this year across the country to get YAL students involved with door-knocking and texting operations to turn up the heat on anti-liberty politicians.

Until politicians feel political pressure from their own district, they rarely "see the light" regarding liberty policies. We teach our students that politics is a numbers game and the key to winning for liberty is building data sets of supporters who can be mobilized quickly for or against a piece of legislation.

And that's precisely what YAL is doing. 🚀

Ted Patterson is YAL's Vice President of Policy and lives in Maryland with his wife and children.

got gold?

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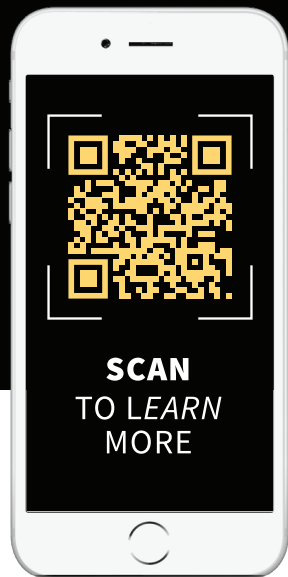
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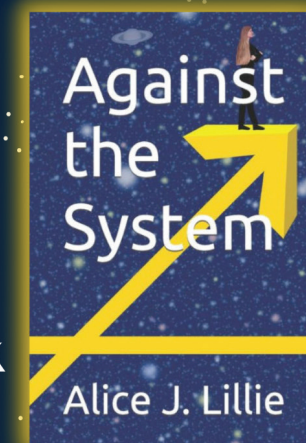
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Peyton Hornberger

YAL STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Title

Communications Director

Previous Positions at YAL

Chapter President at Truman State University

Midwest Deputy Regional Director

Northeast Regional Director

Education

Truman State University

Illinois Central College

Favorite Political Philosopher

Plato

Why do you like working at YAL?

I feel it's rare to find a job that you love doing and that fulfills you — especially a job where you can see the real impact you're having. I love being part of a hard-working team that is dedicated to making liberty win on campuses, in the community, and, of course, in state legislatures.

What are some recent projects that you've been working on?

I love working on our quarterly magazine. It's an ever-evolving project where we can showcase the awesome work we're doing and highlight the many features of Young Americans for Liberty. Recently, I've been helping out with digital media projects for students, as well as helping to revolutionize our outreach to potential new YAL members!

What are you looking forward to this year?

*2023 is going to be a huge year for Young Americans for Liberty! YAL has big plans for legislatures and on college campuses, and I am so excited to see what we can accomplish! I'm looking forward to seeing new faces join the movement, our many trainings across the country, and my personal favorite, **Revolution 2023!***

YAL's Strategy in the Media

How YAL's media strategy went from chasing clout to achieving serious results.

BY CARTER QUILL



Young Americans for Liberty has always been an action and results-first organization. Anyone who interacts seriously with YAL sees that very quickly. It was this force that really drew me into YAL in the first place. Sure, meeting leading figures like Dr. Ron Paul or spending time with other liberty lovers was a great time, but my reason for committing the last three years of my life to this mission was always because of that: the mission — tangible policy improvements that make Americans more free.

So, it's interesting that I ended up helping to spearhead YAL's media strategy. After all, the media is not always associated with achieving direct results or changing policy. A lot of organizations throw resources into chasing media coverage as the end-all-be-all. And YAL's fledgling communications department was certainly guilty of that in the beginning.

We used to have two-hour meetings every morning dedicated to finding out exactly what people in the news were talking about and trying to force our way into the conversation. At first, it seemed like we were doing the right thing, sending out three statements a week, just waiting for someone at a major news outlet to say, "Hmm, yes, let's have this college group on our show to talk about the Federal Reserve." It was no surprise that didn't happen very often.

After a few months of mixed results, we changed strategies. If YAL was going to be in the media, we needed to lead with our best foot forward. **Instead of sending statement after statement about world events, we decided to tell the activists' stories. That was a big change.** The most interesting thing about Young Americans for Liberty is the vast number of young Americans fighting for liberty. So we started telling their stories, and that's when a very interesting thing happened.

Here is the thing about colleges: they rely, in part, on alumni donations. And when alumni see on the news that a student was kicked off of their old stomping grounds for practicing Free Speech or not wearing a mask, or simply holding a poster with a picture of a gun on it (yes, that one really happened), they might withhold donations to their alma mater.

Instead of sending statement after statement about world events, we decided to tell the activists' stories.

In October, 2022, we had an activist get kicked off a private campus while recruiting for YAL. After writing an open letter to the college that many alumni saw, we very quickly received apologies and a guarantee that no more student freedoms would be trampled on.

Today, we are taking that same principle of using media to affect university policy and leveraging it to affect state policy. It was a logical next step. To test this, we set our sights on National School Choice Week at the end of January 2023. After all, School Choice is my personal favorite issue that YAL is working on, so why not go all in?

We hosted movie screenings, knocked on doors, made phone calls, and were laser-focused on activism for School Choice. A few major media outlets took notice, including Fox News, The Daily Caller, The Epoch Times, Yahoo News, and Newsmax. More than that, though, we plan to use this credibility as a leader on School Choice to hold legislators accountable to commitments they've made.

For example, in Virginia, establishment leadership watered down a bill that would leave 200,000 students without access to School Choice — so we fought it — not just by having our activists knock on doors and make calls, but also by writing op-eds and articles to make it known what the establishment was trying to do.

School Choice is just the beginning. We have so many incredible efforts going on in 2023, and **we plan on using the media in every way we can to affect change in states across the country.** YAL activists are more than just talkers — they're doers — and it's been a blessing to be part of a team that uses its microphone to get things done. 🚀

Carter Quill is the Director of Media Relations at Young Americans for Liberty. He lives in Charlotte, North Carolina.





Laurel Libby

LEGISLATOR SPOTLIGHT

Position

Maine State Representative,
District 90

Years elected

2020, 2022

Legislation

2021 - 2022

Certificate Of Need (CON) repeal,
Nursing Home visitation during
Covid, and Gas Tax Suspension

2023

I'm attempting CON repeal again
with a different bill tactic and
continued list-building, introducing
School Choice following the
continued failure of the current
public education system, and have
submitted a bill for the repeal of the
income tax combined with a zero-
base budget. Maine has some of the
highest taxes in the country, and it's
time to bring the fight to that area!

Education

I graduated from homeschool
and attended Roberts Wesleyan
College for my Bachelor of Science
in Nursing.

Biggest Influences

My faith and my family.

Fun Fact

I ran the Midnight Sun Marathon in
Anchorage, Alaska, in 2005.

Favorite part of Hazlitt Coalition

I came into politics from a background in health care, not as a
lifelong politico. The resources that the Hazlitt Coalition offers
have been invaluable, from education at the Hazlitt Summit
and online seminars to networking with other legislators
and the model legislation available from leading liberty
organizations around the country, just to name a few.

Top Issues

Medical Freedom, CON Repeal, School Choice,
Lower Taxes, Privacy

What brought you to the liberty movement?

In 2019, Maine passed the most punitive vaccine law in the
country, kicking 7,000 kids out of school before Covid was
even a thought. I got involved at the grassroots level and
gathered 4,000 signatures to help get a People's Veto on
the ballot. The Veto was unsuccessful at the polls, but it
motivated me to get more involved in state politics.

What inspired you to run?

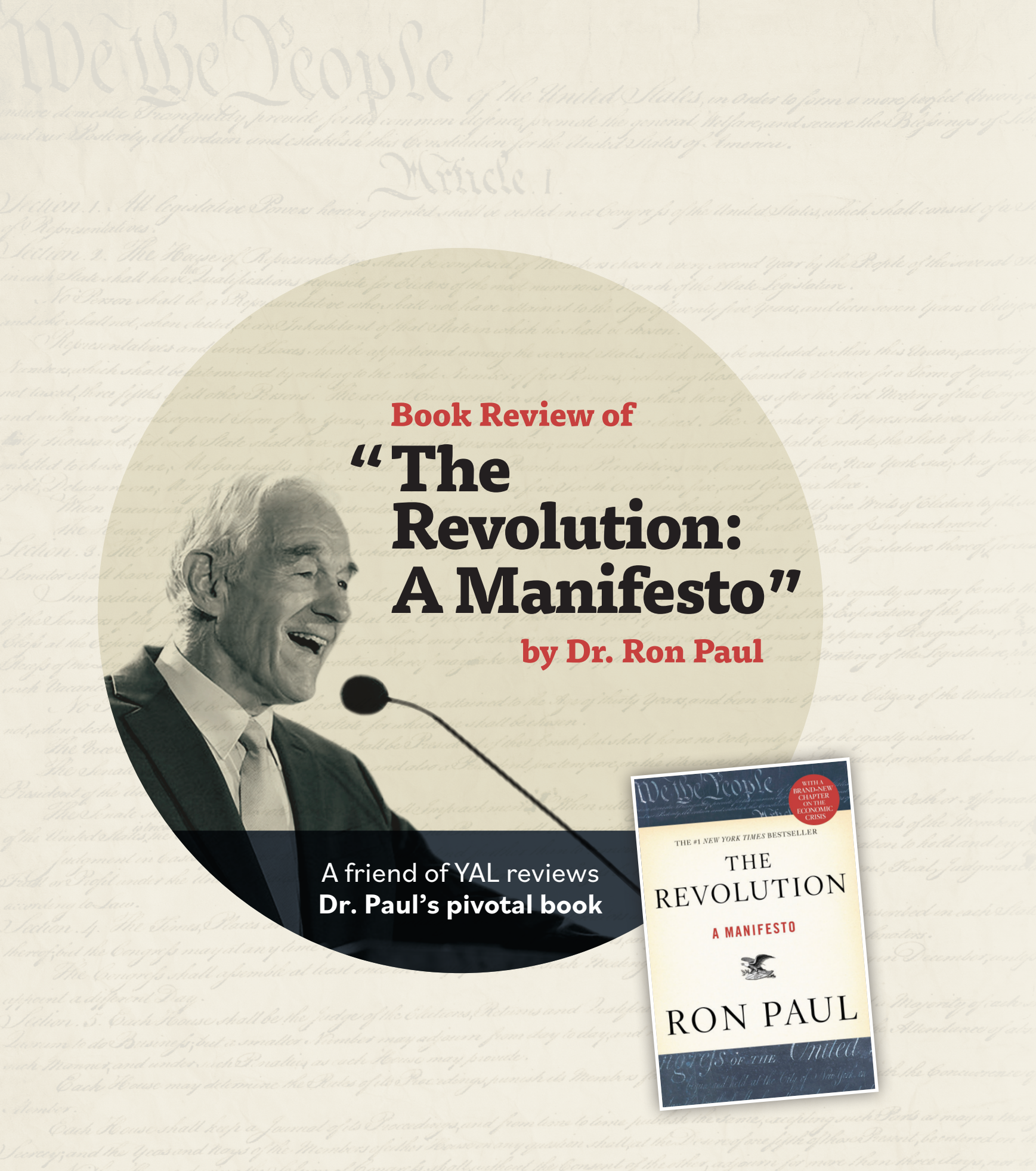
I contacted my State Representative numerous times during
the 2019 session, asking her to vote my way on multiple bills,
including medical freedom. She declined, always making polite
excuses for her votes, so I ran against her in 2020 and kicked a
two-term incumbent out of office!

How do you overcome pressure from the establishment?

The pressure within the Republican party is insidious. I have
found it to be true that if you are making people mad, you
know you are over the target. In that case, double down!

What is your advice for young activists?

Success is never guaranteed, but that's beside the point.
Our job is to stand for what is right, period.

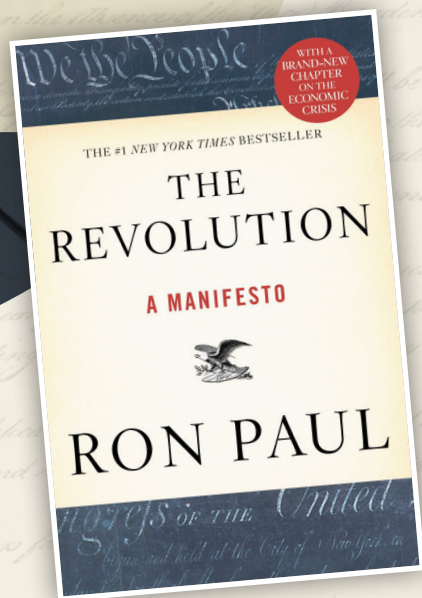


Book Review of

“The Revolution: A Manifesto”

by Dr. Ron Paul

A friend of YAL reviews Dr. Paul’s pivotal book



The year is 2008, and Dr. Ron Paul is running for president of the United States. Dr. Paul is not your average politician, spewing forth empty promises just to get the vote. No, Dr. Paul preached something new yet also steeped in tradition. He preached a philosophy that was shocking to many who heard it. **Dr. Paul stood firmly on the principle that the government should be limited in size and scope and should reflect the wisdom of the Founding Fathers.**

Rather than allowing the government to become more powerful in the name of “progress,” Dr. Paul knew that real progress would be fewer programs, less taxation, and ending the Federal Reserve. Dr. Paul even called for bringing our troops home, arguing that our foreign policy was a complete mess.

In fact, everything Dr. Paul stood for was completely derived from his understanding and appreciation of the Constitution.

These were just a few of the “radical” ideas that, to the discomfort of many Republicans, Dr. Paul’s “constitutionalism” called for. How completely baffling that this message of returning to our roots and limiting our government was so controversial in 2008! On April 30th of that same year, Dr. Ron Paul’s *The Revolution: A Manifesto* was published. It would go on to become a New York Times #1 best seller.

Fast forward to 2023, and his revolution continues through the work of Young Americans for Liberty.

Young Americans for Liberty (YAL) is an organization dedicated to the protection of liberty and the promotion of constitutionalism. YAL’s main objective is to empower the youth of our nation with the ideas of liberty by establishing chapters on university campuses across the nation. YAL teaches students to know their rights and, more importantly, to stand up for their rights by advancing liberty on their own college campuses — and in American politics.

It’s no coincidence that YAL so closely reflects Dr. Paul’s ideals. In fact, **YAL was born out of his 2008 presidential campaign, around the very same time that *The Revolution* was published.** While Dr. Paul may not have won the presidency, his message resonated with young people across the country.

So it should come as no surprise that this 192-page book contains the foundation of what YAL stands for. Both make powerful yet simple cases for protecting and expanding liberty in the United States of America.

The Revolution is divided into seven chapters, each representing a set of principled ideas. They are:

- The False Choices of American Politics*
- The Foreign Policy of the Founding Fathers*
- The Constitution*
- Economic Freedom*
- Civil Liberties and Personal Freedom*
- The Forbidden Issue in American Politics*
- The Revolution*

This is a book that appeals to all those who cherish freedom and the American founding. If you believe that U.S. foreign policy is a mess and we need to bring the troops home rather than trying to nation-build and meddle in the affairs of other countries, you will enjoy this book.

“The point is a simple one: When our government meddles around the world, it can stir up hornet’s nests and thereby jeopardize the safety of the American people. That’s just common sense!” Page 22

Dr. Paul rightly argues that the Constitution should not be treated as a “living” document, changing to adhere to what is convenient for politicians.

“Drug prohibition creates a black market combat zone that society cannot control.” Page 125

***The Revolution: A Manifesto* stands out as a reassurance that if you believe in the principles of liberty, you are not alone.** The lovers of big-government, one-size-fits-all solutions will tell you that those principles are outdated, that if you’ll just get back in line and calm down, our leaders will take care of the problems for us.

But Dr. Paul offers us an alternative by sharing the logic of the Founding Fathers.

The Revolution is a deeply important text to Young Americans for Liberty. It is an immortalization of the philosophies and principles upon which YAL was founded and which Dr. Paul put forward nearly 15 years ago.

It expounds upon a revolutionary idea: **the Founding Fathers got it right with the creation of the Constitution.** Certain ideas and principles are timeless, and as Dr. Paul makes clear in his book, the ideas of liberty and constitutionalism are rightly considered so. ✈

John Rodgers is an International English and Drama Educator, Musical Theatre and Animation Producer, and the 2022 National Communications Intern at Young Americans for Liberty. He currently lives in Austin, Texas.



Virginia Walden Ford speaks to YAL at our annual Empower the Revolution event.



For information, please write to:

Young Americans for Liberty Inc.
3267 Bee Caves Road Ste. 107-65
Austin, TX 78746

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