

THE SUPREME COURT JUST INCREASED YOUR COST OF LIVING

The price of that custom one-of-kind handmade Canadian maple end table that you can get on Etsy for \$229 just increased between \$4 and \$22, depending on where you live. The U.S. Supreme Court just ruled that online merchants must charge the applicable sales tax wherever merchandise is sold, regardless of whether the merchant has a physical presence in that state. Combined state and local sales taxes range from 1.76 percent in Alaska to 9.98 percent in Louisiana. Only Oregon, New Hampshire, and Delaware have no statewide sales tax. The court's 5-4 decision in South Dakota v. Wayfair over-

turned the 1992 Supreme Court ruling, Quill Corporation v. North Dakota. The Quill ruling had specified that only online sellers with a physical presence in a state are required to collect that state's sales tax. This physical presence requirement has now been struck down. The new case was brought by South Dakota, which wants to increase its tax take. The state's lawsuit was supported by brick-and-mortar retailers who complain that their online competition has an unfair advantage. "The disparate tax treatment of online sellers versus brick and mortar storefronts did create an advantage for e-com-

merce," said Libertarian National Committee Executive Director Wes Benedict. "A better method for leveling the playing field, though, would be to abolish the sales tax for all retail. Lower taxes for all will increase prosperity for all, consumers and merchants alike. This would have the added benefit of shrinking the size of the honey pot that politicians use to reward their friends and supporters." All persons are entitled to keep the fruits of their labor. We call for the repeal of the income tax, the abolishment of the Internal Revenue Service and all federal programs and services not

required under the U.S. Constitution. Even online sellers based in other countries will now need to collect sales tax for the states in which they sell, which creates a significant burden for modest retailers like that custom table maker in Canada. "The other unfortunate result of the Wayfair decision is that small entrepreneurs will be at a severe disadvantage to behemoths like Amazon in their ability to calculate and remit the correct tax," Benedict said. "In fact, thanks to a myriad of local and state jurisdictions, they'll probably have to contract with one of their monolithic competitors in

order to handle sales tax payments. That will increase their costs, which will ultimately hike prices still more for consumers." Since the Libertarian Party was founded in 1971, it has advocated the elimination or reduction of taxes, particularly sales taxes, which take a bigger percentage of income from low-income people than from the wealthy. This consistent, principled advocacy for freedom has helped the Libertarian Party to grow into the third largest political party in the United States. More than 18.5 million votes were cast for Libertarian candidates in the 2016 election. "Republicans won't reduce taxes without increasing

debt," Benedict said. "Democrats won't reduce taxes at all. Libertarians will reduce taxes. A record number of Libertarians are running for local, state, and federal office in 2018. All are united in working for lower taxes and decreasing the size and scope of government." The 2018 Libertarian National Convention will be held from June 30 to July 3 in New Orleans, where delegates will elect the party's officers for the next two-year term, consider endorsements of candidates, conduct other party business, and listen to candidates and other speakers from across the Libertarian movement.

FIGHTING CHILD TRAFFICKING

ST. PAUL, MN - Mary McAlister, Senior Litigation Counsel for Liberty Counsel, and Liberty Law Professor Dr. Judith Reisman will present a plenary session and a workshop regarding the sexual exploitation of children at the JuST (Juvenile Sex Trafficking) Faith Summit June 20-22 at Bethel University. The JuST Conference series, a sequence of events hosted by Shared Hope International, includes speakers, thought leaders, and individuals pas-

sionate about activism, who provide practical knowledge and actionable responses to raise awareness with the goal to end child sex trafficking in local communities. Approximately 400 pastors, leaders of faith-based organizations, and individuals seeking to fight this heinous crime in their communities are expected to attend. McAlister and Reisman will present "How Fake Science Has Corrupted the Law to Facilitate Sexual Exploitation

of Children" and "Roots of the Social Sexual Epidemic." In the 1980s, Dr. Reisman conducted the first and largest content analysis of Playboy, Penthouse, and Hustler and exposed the child pornography images in them. She has also done groundbreaking work on Dr. Albert Kinsey, proving that his team performed sexual experiments on children and infants and calling into question his studies that some claim began the "sexual revolution."

The International Labor Organization estimates there are 4.5 million victims of sex trafficking worldwide. In the United States, this \$32 billion-a-year industry is increasing in all 50 states. Human trafficking has surpassed the illegal sale of arms and will exceed the illegal sale of drugs in the next few years. The Justice Department estimates that each year at least 200,000 children are trafficked for sex in the U.S., and 70 percent of the survivors said they were advertised online at some

point while they were being trafficked. In these scenarios, pimps and traffickers, or in some cases the victims themselves, post photos and write classified advertisements on escort sites for buyers to browse. These ads often represent children from 12-17 years old. "The JuST Faith Summit is an incredible opportunity to educate people on how to eliminate the heinous crime of child sex trafficking," said Mat Staver, Founder and Chairman of Liberty Counsel. "Mary

McAlister, Senior Litigation Counsel for Liberty Counsel, and Liberty Law Professor Dr. Judith Reisman will provide great insight gleaned from years of research that brings to light the toxic legacy of Dr. Alfred Kinsey and his claim that children are sexual from birth and unharmed by sexual activity. There is still much work to do to prevent children from being victims of these horrific crimes but this is a hopeful step," said Staver.

SUPREME COURT INCHES TOWARD MORE CELL PHONE PRIVACY PROTECTION

The government cannot track a person's location using cell phone towers unless it has a warrant, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled on June 22 in Carpenter v. United States. Timothy Carpenter, a suspect in a string of armed robberies in Detroit, was not arrested until his cell phone provider agreed to turn over to police a record of his cell tower usage. Although this data placed Carpenter near the scene of the crimes, "Government must generally obtain a warrant supported by probable cause before acquiring such records," Chief Justice John Roberts concluded in the court's 5-4 majority opinion, which law enforcement in this case had failed to do.

telecom provider by agreeing to their terms of service — which nobody actually reads — they effectively give up their expectation of privacy. The Court made the right decision, but has also just kicked the can down the road by narrowly limiting the ruling's application. Government officials may still find many other excuses for invoking third-party doctrine."

Libertarians advocate individual privacy and government transparency. We are committed to ending government's practice of spying on everyone. We support the rights recognized by the Fourth Amendment to be secure in our persons, homes, property, and communications. Protection from unreasonable search and seizure should include records held by third parties, such as email, medical, and library records.

The newest Supreme Court justice, Neil Gorsuch, wrote an interesting dissent that reads more like a concurrence.

"Gorsuch argued that, rather than focusing on privacy, the

court should make a property rights argument," Sarwark said. "In his view, Carpenter — not the cell phone company — had a property interest in the data. With this dissent, Justice Gorsuch indicated that he believes all third-party excuses for search and seizure without a warrant are incompatible with the Fourth Amendment."

Judges appointed by Libertarians can be counted on to protect both the right to privacy and the right to property, along with all the rest of the rights guaranteed by the Bill of Rights — and those not enumerated. To that end, the Libertarian Party is running a record number of candidates for local, state, and federal office in 2018.

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Wetzel County Coalition Against Drug Abuse

The Future of Wetzel County is up to YOU

The Wetzel County Coalition Against Drug Abuse is a diverse group committed to a better Wetzel County. We have been in existence for several years and we have had some great successes. Among our achievements involved several successful Rx Drug Take back days sponsored by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. Over the past 2 years we have received unwanted medications that could otherwise be sitting readily available for children, teens, and drug abusers. In addition, we are working with Magnolia HS in support of their Drug Free Clubs of America program. Magnolia now has approx. 130 student members who have pledged not to take illegal drugs. We hope to find ways to spread this very effective program to other schools in the county. We also have a Youth Advisory Council that engages in special events and programs in the community to help promote a safer, drug-free environment. We have other programs that are being implemented, as well as some that are in need of community participation. **We cannot do this alone, we need your help!**

New Martinsville Church of God

Soup Kitchen

3rd Thursday Every Month
1pm to 3pm