

LIBERTY PLEDGE

newsletter

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33 Libertarians elected in Campaign '97

*25 LP candidates win in Pennsylvania;
number of Libertarians in office hits 230*

In the greatest surge of election wins on a single day in Libertarian Party history, 33 Libertarians were elected to public office around the nation on November 4th.

With 166 Libertarians actively running for office, the flurry of victories meant that the Libertarian Party scored an unprecedented 20% winning percentage in Election '97 — with one out of every five LP candidates winning office.

"The record number of candidates and victories for an odd-year election shows that the Libertarian Party is coming of age," said LP National Director Ron Crickenberger. "We have *better* candidates running *better* campaigns in *better* targeted races."

The victories also boosted the number of Libertarians serving in public office around the country — elected or appointed — to about 230, an all-time high.

The star of Election '97 was **Pennsylvania**, where 25 LP members were elected to office. "1997 was a high-water mark for the party," said State Chair Tim Moir.

Libertarian candidates in PA picked up 19 wins in races for Inspector of Elections or Judge of Elections. Other LP members won election to a Township Board of Supervisors, School Board, as Tax Assessor, and as Constable.

In other election highlights:

■ In **Michigan**, in one of the biggest races of the year, Fred Collins won a seat on the Berkley City Council — coming

Sabrin wins 4.8% in New Jersey

The **Murray Sabrin** campaign for governor ended up with 4.86% of the vote New Jersey — the fourth best showing for a Libertarian gubernatorial candidate in party history.

Sabrin won 113,861 votes out of 2,341,027 votes cast, coming in third behind Republican governor Christie Todd Whitman (48%) and Democrat Jim McGreevey (47%).

Following the election, Sabrin said he would "reevaluate what's the best way for me to promote the libertarian agenda. It could be speaking, or teaching, or through the media."

The campaign earned national attention for Sabrin, thanks to his potential role as "spoiler" — but, in the end, he was unable to keep GOP star Whitman from winning re-election. However, Sabrin said he achieved his major goal: "We were hoping for a high-visibility campaign and we got it. We made a huge impact and we no longer can be dismissed."

within a whisker of the leading vote-getter in the race.

Collins finished third in a six-way race, and earned one of the three open seats. He won 2,072 votes (20.22%), less than a percentage point behind the winner.

"This was a non-partisan race, [but] our message was pure Libertarian," said campaign manager Barb Goushaw. "I believe this proves our message does resonate with voters."

■ In **Idaho**, Ron Wittig made history by becoming the first Libertarian to win public office in the state. Wittig was elected to the City Council in New Meadows.

■ In **Connecticut**, John Joy won a two-year term on the Oxford Zoning Board of Appeals, running unopposed.

■ In **Massachusetts**, Ron "Rocky" Jepson was elected as a Town Meeting Member in Saugus. He became the fifth Libertarian to win public office in Massachusetts.

■ In **Washington** state, John Gearhart was elected to one of six seats on the City Council in Palouse in a non-partisan, non-contested race.

■ In **Ohio**, Libertarians chalked up two wins in Election '97 — both in re-election campaigns. Bob DeBrosse was returned to the Piqua City Council for a second term by a narrow margin and Richard Shelter was re-elected as a Bethlehem Township Trustee.

■ In **California**, Mark Dierolf "coasted to an easy victory for his second term" as a Trustee for Hartnell Community College in Salinas, according to State Chair Mark Hinkle. Dierolf won 48.2% of the vote in the non-partisan race, beating four challengers for the position.

Libertarian rejects \$100,000 bribe

A Libertarian activist has turned down a \$100,000 bribe to end his opposition to a tax-financed convention center in San Diego — and vows to keep fighting to put the \$214 million project up for a public vote.

Richard Rider, described as the "Most Feared Man in Town" when it comes to opposing government spending, was offered a cool hundred K if he would agree to 60 days of silence on the proposed convention center expansion.

The offer was made by the San Diego Port Tenants Association, which supports the center.

But Rider declared that there was "no way in the world" he would take the money. "It was a rather interesting offer," he said. "It was interesting because of the absurdity of it."

Rider currently has a lawsuit under review by the California Supreme Court to halt work on the convention center.

Ending racial categorization

The Libertarian Party may be wrong in its view favoring legalizing drugs, but it provides a principled voice for reducing the size of government — perhaps the single most important legislative objective these days that U.S. leaders could embrace.

Libertarians have taken another provocative stand with their call to abolish the federal government's racial classifications. As a means of protest, Libertarian activists want Americans to refuse to specify their race on census forms in the year 2000.

"For 20 long years, the U.S. government has demeaned every American by pigeonholing us according to the color of our skin," said the party's national chairman, Steve Dasbach. "In three years, when the census takers ask about our race, we hope Americans will stand up and say, 'No more.' Tell these fill-in-the-blank bureau-

crats that your race is none of the government's business."

Not long ago, U.S. officials were considering changing the federal government's five official racial classifications. After a three-year study, however, they decided to keep the classifications, and they instructed multiracial Americans to check all the boxes that apply to their heritage — e.g., Tiger Woods might check "white," "black," and "Asian."

As Dasbach pointed out, politicians for too long have used racial classifications to divide the country.

"We're all Americans," said Dasbach. "What else does the government need to know?"

Chalk up a point to Libertarians for injecting another dose of common sense into a political dialogue that too often lacks it. We hope Republicans and Democrats are listening.

Resident: Ordinance too vague

By The Courier-News Staff

FRANKLIN (Somerset) — The Township Council is reviewing its nuisance ordinance to see if it needs to be rewritten because a resident asked that it be repealed.

John Paff, chairman of the Libertarian Party of Somerset and Middlesex counties, claims the language of parts of the ordinance are too vague for the average citizen to understand and, therefore, obey.

Although the ordinance is specific with defining nuisances as the existence of poison ivy, mosquito larvae or ragweed, it prohibits "any matter, thing, condition or act which is or may become an annoyance or interfere with the comfort or general well-being of the inhabitants of this municipality."

Violators are subjected to a \$1,000 fine, 90 days in jail, or both.

"I think he has a valid concern," Mayor Kimberly Francois said. "I think this ordinance needs to be re-examined to make sure the language is clear and concise."

Municipal Attorney John Belardo is reviewing *Guidi v. City of Atlantic City* and the township's ordinance to see what needs to be done.

An identical ordinance in Atlantic City was struck down by a state appellate court for being too vague, Paff said.

Belardo said it's too early to comment on the issue, but "I intend to do so and will be in a position to respond shortly."

Francois said the council will discuss the issue at its 8 p.m. meeting on Nov. 6.

Councilman Richard Tornquist said that if the municipal attorney decides the ordinance is vague, it could be changed. But, he said a repeal is doubtful.

Paff expressed concern about the inspection of the premises clause in his letter to the township. The law prohibits anyone from hindering, obstructing, delaying, resisting or preventing a health inspector from having access to a site if a code violation is suspected.

Francois said it's not meant to let a health officer demand entry to a resident's home at any time of the day or night.

"I just think we need to look at the spirit of the ordinance entirely," Francois said.

▲ *Indianapolis News*, Indianapolis, Indiana, September 26, 1997

► *The Courier-News*, Bridgewater, New Jersey, October 27, 1997

▼ *The Post & Courier*, Charleston, South Carolina, October 7, 1997

State Libertarian Party sponsors writing contest

High school writers could win up to \$500 in an essay contest sponsored by the S.C. Libertarian Party.

The contest is open to all public, private or home-schooled high school students. The deadline for entries is Oct. 31.

The Gadsden Essay Contest — named for Christopher Gadsden, one of the South Carolina representatives to the First Continental Congress — offers a \$500 first prize, \$250 second prize and \$100 third prize for the best essays on the question "What does the phrase 'Don't tread on me' mean to you?"

This question refers to the phrase on the Gadsden Flag, which he presented to the First Continental Congress on Feb. 9, 1776. Students can check out essay details on the S.C. Libertarian Party www.awod.com/scip website.

"The essay contest will be a great opportunity for high school students to express their love of country and liberty, to learn of our American patriotic history

and to win some cash by doing so," said Rodney Travis, state chairman of the Libertarian Party.

The essay must be an original work, double-spaced, typed in English, 1,000 words or less, with proper documentation of quotes and citations. It should be attached to a cover sheet containing the entrant's name, mailing address, phone number, school and grade level. The prize money might be reapportioned in the event of a tie, and the award committee reserves the right to publish all essays.

The essay review committee will be Dr. W. William Woolsey of The Citadel, Dr. Arnold Hite of Charleston Southern University, Dr. Walter Rolandi of the University of South Carolina, and Dr. William R. Sandberg of the University of South Carolina.

Essays should be mailed by Oct. 31 to Dr. W. William Woolsey, The Citadel, 171 Moultrie, Charleston, S.C. 29409.

Understanding Libertarianism

Libertarianism is not simply defined. As the basis for the editorial philosophy of the Porterville Recorder it is easily the most misunderstood part of the paper.

The Recorder is co-owned by limited partners and Freedom Communications, Inc. a media company that specializes in newspaper but which also owns radio and television stations and publishes several magazines, mostly trade publications.

Freedom Newspapers, as it used to be called, was founded by R.C. Harry Hoiles, a crafty newspaperman who strongly believed that man was most responsible for his actions and that government should stay out of the way of those actions.

"What this country needs as much as anything else are newspapers that believe in moral principle and have enough courage to express these principles and point out practices and beliefs that violate moral principles. A newspaper that only tries to run editorials and columnists and news items that are popular is of mighty little value to its readers."

So said R.C. Hoiles.

Last week I attended a short seminar put on by the current Freedom guru of Libertarian, Tibor Machan. What came out of that meeting was that Libertarianism is not easily understood, even by me and I have been following that philosophy for more than a decade now.

In a nutshell, Libertarian philosophy is based on man's ability to govern himself. It is based on the rights of the individual and property rights. It is opposed to intrusive government.

In short, Libertarians see your life as yours, and theirs as theirs.

Robert LeFevre, a libertarian of many years, wrote once: "Freedom can be defined as the right of the person to do as he pleases with his own thoughts

and actions, provided, in so doing, that he refrain from violating the personal or property boundaries of others."

Libertarians, said LeFevre and reiterated by Machan, believe that government no longer subsidizes or interferes with any foreign power unless to defend the United States; want business to stand on its own two feet without help or hindrance from government; wish private charities handle welfare (which they once did) and wish government did not intrude on our lives. This we often state when it comes to taxation. A Libertarian see taxation as taking money from people by force to carry out someone else's agenda.

As Machan says, you wouldn't want your neighbor walking into your house and taking food just for the sake of taking it, yet that is what government does. It takes our money and often gives it to others in the form of welfare, subsidies and corporate welfare.

There are many times our Libertarian philosophy upsets some of our readers, especially those employed in government in some way, including public school employees. But, our battle is often not with those who work with government, but with a system we see as broken, failing or not producing.

In the mid-1980s the Orange Country Register, the flagship paper of Freedom Communications, wrote:

"We have nothing but disdain for political action, but we concede we are in a real world surrounded by political barricades thrown up to impede progress.

"In our opinion, there is nothing political government does which cannot be done more satisfactorily by individuals or by voluntary associations not using aggressive force."

Over the years we have written often about the failings of

Behind the news



Rick Elkins

government and or disdain for taxation. Much of that is the basis of our arguments against the public school system. We often see it as a system that could be much better and obtain better results if it was not constrained by government. Our argument is not with those who work in that system, but with the system itself. And, if it was not for forced taxation, then maybe the system would be better.

Libertarianism is often associated with conservatism, but that is not always the case. There are instances, such as the decriminalization of drugs, that the Libertarian philosophy falls on the side of liberalism. It is a philosophy that runs the spectrum, but always follows the belief that man is responsible.

In short, we believe that people should govern themselves and not have government telling them how to live their lives. It is not an easy position to take, but in recent years it has found a niche in America. I do believe that if more people would accept their duty to live responsible lives, then this would be a better world.

Rick Elkins is managing editor for the Recorder.

NOTEBOOK

Santorum criticized

How did Pennsylvania Republican Sen. Rick Santorum wind up in the midst of a news release gravely titled "Uncle Sam doesn't want you to have sex" that the Libertarian Party sent out Thursday?

The release notes that Wednesday marked the start of the new federal fiscal year. It said the federal government on that day began handing out to states the first \$50 million for a program urging young Americans to "just say no" to sex.

The Libertarians critically cited Santorum for his longtime backing of the GOP-inspired program. They said Santorum had hailed the program as "a really Republican step."

Steve Dasbach, the Libertarians' national chairman, says in the release, "You don't teach responsibility by having Washington, D.C. — a city notorious for the sexual escapades of Teddy Kennedy, Bob Packwood, Wilbur Mills, Bill Clinton and Dick Morris — waste our money on lectures about abstinence."

▲ *The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*
Pittsburgh, PA, October 5, 1997

◀ *The Porterville Recorder*
Porterville, CA, October 2, 1997

▼ *The Casper Star-Tribune*
Casper, Wyoming, October 22, 1997

Big Horn sheriff gets Libertarian award

By **GEORGE ROTH**
Northeast Wyoming correspondent

TEN SLEEP — Big Horn County sheriff Dave Mattis was awarded the Wyoming Libertarian Party's Lexington award last week for his policy of requiring federal agencies to obtain permission before conducting an investigation or operation in the county.

But the U.S. attorney for the District of Wyoming said that while federal agents haven't had problems in Big Horn County, the sheriff's policy won't stand up under law.

The Lexington award is presented to Wyoming residents or public officials "who have demonstrated an outstanding level of service in the cause of liberty," according to a news release from the Libertarian Party's Casper office.

Party Chairman Steve Richardson said the award was presented to Mattis for "a courageous move that deserves recognition."

"Not only has the sheriff stood up to serve and protect the community, but he is also explaining and promoting his policy to other sheriffs all over the country," Richardson said.

The sheriff was given the award Saturday at a special meeting at Basin Town Hall. Mattis said Monday that his policy requests federal agencies to contact him if they make a seizure or an arrest in Big Horn County.

"It's somewhat of a request and a requirement," he said. "It's a gray area."

The sheriff said he is honored by the award and believes he received it "because I take my oath of office seriously."

Richardson said Mattis "stands up to

protect and serve."

"It's hard to find someone who stands up to protect citizen's rights. It should not go unrewarded," he said.

Wyoming's senior federal law official said he is not aware of any problem arising from Mattis' policy, and that as far as he knew, federal agents receive good cooperation from the county sheriff's department.

Dave Freudenthal, U.S. attorney for the District of Wyoming, said that as a strict matter of law, federal agents are not required to notify local law enforcement authorities when the agents act in local jurisdictions. He added, however, law enforcement people usually cooperate with one another.

"The sheriff's entitled to know," he said. Freudenthal added that he is not interested in creating a conflict and is "reluctant to perceive" a conflict in the policy.

Court lets stand state election rules

By LAURIE ASSEO
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — The Illinois Libertarian Party Monday lost a Supreme Court challenge to the state's rule governing how minor-party congressional candidates qualify for the election ballot.

The court, without comment, turned down the party's argument that the rule violates its candidates' rights and unlawfully maintains "the ballot monopoly of the Democrats and Republicans."

Last April, the justices ruled in a Minnesota case that states can bar candidates from appearing under more than one party banner on an election ballot. The court said states can adopt "reasonable election regulations that may, in practice, favor the traditional two-party system."

In Illinois, a party can easily put candidates on election ballots for all statewide, local and congressional races if the party's candidate received at least 5 percent of the vote in the last election for governor.

If a party received at least 5 percent of the vote in certain other elections — including U.S. senator, state attorney general or University of Illinois Board of Trustees — its candidates can easily qualify for the ballot only in statewide races, not congressional or local races.

The Illinois Libertarian Party got more than 5 percent of the vote in the 1994 Board of Trustees election. Therefore, its congressional candidates had to gather an average 7,610 signatures to get on the ballot while Democrats and Republicans needed fewer than 1,000 signatures.

Beginning in 1996, University of Illinois trustees are appointed, not elected.

The Libertarians and a handful of congressional candidates sued state election board members in November 1995. A federal judge ruled against them, as did the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which said the rules were a valid effort to create "an orderly election process."

The appeal acted on today said the ballot rule harmed the minor party's members' right to vote and form political associations, and also created an unlawful qualification for holding congressional office.

The case is *Libertarian Party of Illinois v. Rednour*, No. 97-25.

▲ *Chicago Daily Law Bulletin*, Chicago, IL, October 6, 1997

▶ (TOP) *The Daily Oklahoman*, Oklahoma City, OK, October 12, 1997

▶ *The Union Leader*, Manchester, NH, October 14, 1997

Endangered Rights

SOMEONE call Sarah Brady. The gun-control zealot should be interested in a new General Accounting Office (GAO) study showing 60,000 government employees in 45 agencies now routinely carry guns on the job.

The GAO says the number of armed federal employees has risen about 20 percent over the past 10 years. And it's not just G-men. Poultry inspectors, park rangers, disaster aid workers and special agents from NASA, the Small Business Administration, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Department of Veterans Affairs are allowed to "carry" while working.

Credit Libertarian Party Chairman Steve Dasbach for directing attention to

the report. "Congress has passed over 3,000 criminal laws, and federal agencies have churned out hundreds of thousands of regulations that carry criminal penalties," Dasbach says. "The result is ordinary Americans run a constant risk of violating laws they've never even heard of as federal agents scramble to enforce those laws at the point of a gun."

Certainly, many federal employees legitimately need a firearm to perform their duties. But poultry inspectors? At a minimum the proliferation of weapons among federal workers, at a time when government is making it harder for individual citizens to exercise their Second Amendment rights, is curious indeed.

Libertarians To Nominate Candidates for '98 Elections

By DONN TIBBETTS
State House Bureau Chief

CONCORD — Expecting to nominate a full slate of candidates for the 1998 elections, Granite State Libertarians will hold their convention Saturday at the Holiday Inn in Nashua.

They hope their eventual choice for governor or U.S. Senate can attract a minimum 4 percent of the state's gubernatorial vote next year and regain ballot status for the Libertarian Party in New Hampshire.

Under the old law, Libertarians failed to keep their ballot status by only gaining 3 percent of the gubernatorial vote in 1996. But this year, the Legislature amended the law so ballot status can be attained by garnering 4 percent of the vote in either the U.S. Senate or gubernatorial elections.

The Libertarian convention will be highlighted by the appearances of Nadine Strossen, national president of the American Civil Liberties Union; Bob Hannon, New England Director of the Con-

cord Coalition; Jacob "Bumper" Homburger, founding president of the Future of American Freedom Foundation; and Barbara Goushaw, founder of the Libertarian Campaign Managers' Association of Michigan.

The 1996 Libertarian gubernatorial standard-bearer, Robert Kingsbury of Laconia, attracted little more than 1 percent of the gubernatorial vote. As a result, the state's 3,205 registered Libertarian voters are now considered to be "undeclared" voters.

Secretary of State Bill Gardner explained he had no choice in the matter but to follow state law, which mandated that a political party must receive at least 3 percent of the total number of votes cast for the office of governor at a general election to keep its party status.

The Libertarians gained ballot status in 1990 when Miriam Luce was the party's nominee and attained 5 percent of the gubernatorial vote.