Missouri Libertarians Win Lawsuit

On January 19th the Missouri Court of Appeals reversed a lower court’s ruling that prevented the names of two Libertarian Party candidates from appearing on the ballot.

The court ruled that Libertarians Laura Coker-Garcia and Anthony Garcia should have had their names on the ballot for the positions of Boone County Sheriff and Boone County Assessor, respectively.

Requiring a new party to get signatures at both the state and local levels would "lead to an unwarranted burden on a new party," the court ruled.

A three-judge panel had originally ruled on October 29th that the petition requirement was reasonable.

This is the first time Missouri Libertarians have won a ballot access case in court. The effect of the decision is mostly symbolic at this point, but the Missouri Libertarians are considering pursuing the case further to sue for damages or seek a new election.

New Staff Hired

The national office has hired three new staff members in the past month.

Renee Thompson has been hired to replace Marc Montoni to work as our front-office assistant. She will be answering phones, helping with accounting work, and performing other clerical tasks.

Dan Maerten has been hired to replace Steve Feldman to maintain our database. Dan will be responsible for entering all of our cash transactions, processing address corrections and entering new inquiry names. He will also be coordinating office volunteers and helping with other duties related to membership.

Dawn Bowden has been hired as a temporary employee until we can find a suitable intern. She will be working with the Director three days a week on miscellaneous projects.

Please join us in welcoming our new staff to the national headquarters.

Texas to Run Draheim for Senate

Rick Draheim of Rockwall, Texas, is running in the special election to fill the US Senate seat vacated by Lloyd Bentsen. He is the only Libertarian running and has been endorsed by the Texas Libertarian Party Executive Committee.

Rick received the highest ever finish in a statewide 3-way Texas race involving a Libertarian, receiving over 7% of the votes cast for Railroad Commissioner last November.

Three Democrats and three Republicans have already announced their intentions of running as well. So far Rick is the only candidate who has indicated that he will petition to get on the ballot rather than paying a filing fee. The Texas Libertarians hope that this will play well with the voters.

Ross Perot’s organization is sponsoring debates and has promised to include Rick if he gets on the ballot. He will also likely be included in the statewide debates televised on the Texas PBS stations.
**South Side Journal, St. Louis, MO -- Nov. 18, 1992**

**Webb lashes out over increases in service fees**

By Steve Whitmore  
**Enterprise**  
Staff writer  
1-26-93

Simi Valley's City Council got momentarily bogged down Monday night as Webb, running for mayor, scored on 11 increases in service fees, prompting a councilwoman to use colorful language in describing the state of the council.

The council approved by a 4-1 vote the new fees. Some of those new fees are a hike in 36 police fees, including fines for parking in handicapped spaces and for reporting false alarms.

Councilwoman Sandi Webb was the lone dissenting vote against the fee hikes. She was trying, she said, to lower the costs to the public.

"I just think we need to lower these fees for the public," she said, "so we can use that money".

Moreover, Webb had both questions about the increases, and she examined a number of specific fees in public session.

The examination process caused tension to flare.

At one point, the examination process "resulted in Mayor Greg Stratton excusing that 250 for reproducing a computer diskette was nominal, at best."

"It's only 25¢," Stratton said. "That's not a lot of money."

Webb, in turn, retorted that this council was in such bad economic shape precisely because of fee increases such as these.

In fact, her exact language momentarily silenced the council and chamber audience.

"That's the reason why our country is in the biggest sh-- it's (ever been) in," Webb exclaimed.

The increase, city officials said, is because of the rise in personnel costs coupled with new laws that mandate higher fines for the parking violations.

The council adopted the fee increases shortly after the Webb outburst.

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**Libertarians pleased with results**

By Teresa Kaemmer  
**Washington Times**  
Jan. 19, 1993

The Libertarian Party is very pleased with results gained by the vote.

There are solid gains in the presidential race. The Libertarian Party's interest in the election is now directed towards ensuring that candidates are available to the people.

In the primary and general election, Libertarian candidates won 23% of the vote. This is a huge increase over the 1988 election, in which Libertarian candidates won only 12% of the vote.

The Libertarian Party will continue to work towards ensuring that candidates are available to the people.

Libertarian Party Activists Launch Parking Ticket Refund Program

By ROBERT GREENE
Staff Writer

Declaring that people who return to their parking spaces late should not be treated like criminals, Libertarian Joe Fosbinder yesterday announced a program to refund fines collected on City of Los Angeles parking tickets.

Speaking at a press conference in front of a City of Los Angeles Parking Violations Bureau, Brown, chair of the Libertarian Party of Los Angeles County, claimed 99 percent of drivers who have paid parking fines in Los Angeles since 1987 are due refunds.

James Fosbinder, attorney for the party, explained that the fines are actually bail, and that violators who send in the money without appearing in court have never forfeited their bail. A year after the violation, he said, the limitations period has run and the bail must be refunded.

"The city is extorting bail from you whether you are found guilty or not," Fosbinder said.

Under the program, Brown said yesterday, the Libertarian Party would do the necessary paperwork in return for half of the refund.

Fosbinder called parking tickets a "regressive form of taxation" that "hits the poor the hardest." He explained that lower-income people generally live in apartments, and that there is less legal street space available per resident in such areas than in single-family home neighborhoods.

The attorney asserted that the poor also are hardest hit by interest charges on late payments, which he said amounted to $1,000 per year.

Brown acknowledged that individuals could apply for the refunds without the help of the Libertarian Party. But he said people acting alone "have to go through too many hoops" and wait too long for their refunds.

"It's better to let the agent, the Libertarian Party, submit the forms for you" in exchange for 50 percent, he said.

Libertarian activist Jerry Collette claimed that on Nov. 24, the party had 40 traffic tickets dismissed in Div. 64 of the Los Angeles Municipal Court. He said refunds were ordered and "are pending" for another 50 tickets.

A clerk in Div. 64 was unable to confirm the assertions yesterday afternoon.

Brown was asked whether the party's 50 percent would be a political donation. "Yes," said Brown. "No," said Collette. The two then conferred and agreed that the money would be a donation.

Asked whether the refund program was a fundraiser for the Libertarian Party, Brown smiled. "That's one result," he said.

A crowd of people who had come to the Parking Violations Bureau office to pay their fines stayed to hear the Libertarians speak. Several said they planned to take the party up on its offer.

"Are you serious?" Laura Rosenthal of West Hollywood asked. "This is a true law thing?"

Rhonda Fosbinder, a law student and James Fosbinder's wife, assured her it was legal and gave Rosenthal a form to complete. "Just fill out the form with your name, address and license tag number, and send it to us with $2 (for processing)," Rhonda Fosbinder told Rosenthal.

The party's processing fee was later reduced to $1, according to Collette.

Asked by reporters whether the city would object to the Libertarian program, Fosbinder said it had no choice but to issue the refunds. "The law is crystal clear," he said.

City Department of Transportation Parking System

Metropolitan News - Enterprise, Los Angeles, CA Dec. 11, 1992

Libertarians fight to stay legal party

Despite collecting the highest vote total in North Carolina of any third party in this century, Libertarians are fighting to remain a legal party in North Carolina, according to press release from state party headquarters.

The Libertarian Party of North Carolina's Executive Committee has secured legal counsel to consider possible court action against the State Board of Elections.

For Libertarians to re-qualify for the ballot, they must collect signatures equivalent to two percent of the votes cast in the last governor's race. Scott McLaughlin, Libertarian candidate for governor in the 1992 election, received 104,983 votes, or four percent of the vote.

Speaking at 1993's first official meeting of the Executive Board, Libertarian Party State Chair Lynn Fogwell said: "We believe the intent of the law is to demonstrate a significant interest in a party. We have done this by getting double the signature requirement in our vote total alone."

Libertarians were required to get 10 percent of the vote for governor in order to retain their status.