LIBERTARIAN NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2001

LP scores record-shattering 59 election wins

At least 59 Libertarians were elected to public office on November 6 — making it the single most successful Election Day in LP history.

Libertarians were elected or re-elected in nine states: Pennsylvania (25 wins), California (10), Washington state (9), Ohio (6), Michigan (3), Colorado (2), Virginia (2), Utah (1), and North Carolina (1).

“On November 6, we elected more Libertarians to office in a single day than we had in any previous year in Libertarian Party history,” said LP Political Director Ron Crickenberger. “That’s an amazing accomplishment.”

Eleven LP candidates were elected or re-elected to city councils in Colorado, Michigan, Ohio, and Washington state. Libertarian mayors were elected in Utah and Washington state.

LP candidates also won local races as Community College Trustees, Aldermen, Soil & Water Conservation District Directors, City Commissioners, Township Trustees, Inspectors of Elections, and County Constables.

With about 300 candidates on the ballot, the LP won about one in every five races it contested — which is also one of the highest winning percentages in party history, said Crickenberger.

In disappointing high-profile campaigns around the country, William Redpath won 0.76% for Virginia governor; Mark Edgerton won 0.22% for New Jersey governor; and Kenny Kramer won 0.18% for mayor of New York City.

The party’s previous “best-ever” Election Day had been November 1997, when 39 LP candidates won public office. That same year, a total of 44 LP candidates were elected to office.

Ed Thompson launches campaign for Wisconsin governor

Ed Thompson has formally launched his campaign to become the next governor of Wisconsin — promising to run as a “common, hard-working man” on a platform of lower taxes and less government.

“For the past year, people have been telling me they’re ready for a change,” said Thompson, who made his campaign announcement on the steps of the state Capitol in Madison on November 15. “People are ready for a breath of fresh air in Wisconsin politics.”

Thompson, the brother of former governor Tommy Thompson, currently serves as the mayor of Tomah.

His campaign got off to an explosive start with a “whirlwind” one-day tour of the state that included stops in Milwaukee, Green Bay, Wausau, Superior, Eau Claire, and Sparta.

“We’re going to pull this thing off,” said Thompson. “There’s no doubt in my mind.”

A July survey found that 34% of state residents would “consider voting for a third party candidate like Ed Thompson.”
New Libertarian Party forming

By Sue Meade
Paulding Neighbor Staff Writer

A third political party was formed last month in Paulding County to give residents more choices.

The Libertarian Party of Paulding County was formed on August 23 with around 30 charter members.

The stated purpose of the Libertarian Party of Paulding County is to promote and protect the freedom of the individual and to reduce the power and presence of government in resident's lives.

"Basically, the whole premise of the Libertarian Party is that individual rights and responsibilities have preeminence over the government," said founding chairman Steve Everly.

"People are better able to make their own decisions, rather than the government making them for them. Libertarians try to find their own solutions rather than ask the government to fix everything," he added.

State Executive Director Mark Mosely led the members through the chartering process and conducted the first election of county officers. In addition to Everly as chairman, John Temple was chosen as vice chairman, Tara Brown as treasurer and Jeff Moravetz was elected secretary.

"This is the first time Paulding has had a Libertarian party. It is a result of just having no choice anymore," said Everly. "The Democratic Party has let a lot of people down, and the Republican Party has let a lot of people down. There really is not that much difference between the two anymore. We're tired of seeing the same old stuff, the same old tired politics."

Members of Paulding's Libertarian Party are concerned with issues such as reducing government influence on schools, easing the tax burden, and keeping true to the second amendment right to bear arms.

The founding of this charter group makes a total of 22 county affiliates in the Georgia Libertarian Party, which is the second largest group in the nation.

"The Libertarian Party is the third largest political party in this country. It is way ahead of the Green Party or any others," said Everly.

"We are forming this party to give Paulding County a voice in the state platform. We're looking forward to putting a slate of candidates in the 2002 election to give people a real choice," said Everly.

Vice-chairman John Temple of New Georgia said he has some future political aspirations.

"I joined this group because I am interested in politics and want to get involved. Eventually down the road, I would like to run for office," said Temple.

"With the Libertarian Party, you're allowed to have thoughts of your own. We have real discussions. Not everything has to follow party lines. I feel like I am a responsible adult, and I would like to have more control over my own life and my own money," said Temple.

The Libertarian Party will hold meetings at the Western Sizzlin in Hiram on the third Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. The public is invited to attend. For more information call (678) 363-0907 or email at whtthom@bellsouth.net.

More than $700 raised by party

The Libertarian Party of LaPorte County raised more than $700 at a port-a-pit chicken fund-raiser last Saturday to benefit the families of United Flight 93 heroes.

The fund-raising drive will continue until Veterans Day (Nov. 11). Anyone interested in making a contribution may contact Don Heichel II at 324-7818 or Greg Kelver at 324-4229.
Libertarian dominates debate

By Joe Borda
Times-Mirror Staff Writer

Accountant William Redpath, Libertarian Party candidate for governor, received powerful applause yesterday morning at Broad Run High School when he called for the legalization of marijuana.

"If we are going to be a free nation," he asserted, "it's time to start being free. The people to my right are just wrong."

Every other candidate and candidate's representative present stated that they were opposed to the legalization of the drug.

Del. Dick Black (R-32) observed, "Legalization has not been successful where it has been tried," adding that the experience of the Netherlands has been particularly painful.

Black gave no examples of the negative experiences caused by drugs in that small, European country.

Black's challenger and Loew Island resident, Patti Morrissey, said that the drug should not be legalized because research shows marijuana use to be potentially harmful to health.

Mark Tate, who was standing in for Republican gubernatorial candidate Mark Earley, said that Earley opposes the use of the drug because it has many negative health effects and promotes gang activity.

Stand-in for Democratic candidate for governor Mark Warner, David Whitmer, said that while the Warner campaign may not fully agree with all of Earley's reasons for opposing the drug's use, they nevertheless still oppose it.

Redpath received another ovation from the Broad Run seniors, some of whom will be able to vote in the November election, when he stated his reasons for opposing the Standards of Learning tests.

"I do not like SOLs. They are an entirely 'top-down' examination and are embarrassing to students," he stated.

Redpath went on to explain that the solution to the problem of a shortfall in academic achievement by students in public schools lay in increasing competition by expanding the number of private sector institutions.

"Tuition tax credits would make private schools more affordable for everyone," he said, noting the benefits that had accrued to consumers, like five-cent, long-distance calls, when AT&T was broken up 20 years ago into local telephone companies.

Libertarian candidate doesn't mind tilting at (political) windmills

If passion were any gauge, William Redpath would be right up there in the polls with his gubernatorial opponents, the two Marks Redpath, the Libertarian Party candidate for governor, certainly is campaigning diligently, can de-

tal punishment -- and wants to
tail his core issues -- election
reform, tax cuts, an end to capi-

tal punishment (think former presi-
dential candidate Ross Perot).

Some third-party and inde-
pendent candidates have been able to gain occasional success through personality and celebrity
(think Jesse Ventura in Minnesota) or considerable
wealth (think former presidential candidate Ross Perot).

What's lacking is a sustained, cogent, attractive platform that could woo enough voters from the two major parties.

Also, many people still see a vote for a third party as a wasted choice, knowing that their selection usually has little chance of winning.

That's why Redpath is pushing instant runoff voting, a sys-
tem that could help third-
party candidates.

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Another Thompson for governor of Wisconsin?

Ed Thompson says he is prepared to follow in the footsteps of his brother Tommy and run for governor of the state of Wisconsin.

Thompson, who was elected as mayor of Tomah in the Spring 2000 elections, stopped in Abbotsford on Friday during a listening tour around the state to measure support for his candidacy. He said he has only heard encouragement for his “working man’s” position on many issues affecting the state, and that he intends to announce sometime in November that he is running for governor under the Libertarian Party banner.

His resume is quite colorful. The junior Thompson operated a small grocery store in Kendall, Wis., which he sold in the 1970’s. He has owned three different taverns, gold real estate and securities, and was a guard/cook/foreman at the federal prison in Oxford, Wis. Thompson currently operates a supper club in Tomah in addition to performing his duties as mayor.

Some time ago, Thompson was embroiled in a dispute over video poker machines “help small taverns a lot and stored gambling. He said that video poker machines just to get on the primary ballot. His campaign will be eligible for matching funds if he receives five percent of the popular vote in the primary.

Without formally announcing his candidacy, Thompson says he has raised over $400,000 “from the bank and file working person, in small and medium-sized donations.” A recent fund-raising event in Baraboo raised over $7,000. He says a portion of the funds will be used to produce a mailbox that will be going out soon.

Thompson said being associated with his brother Tommy will help his campaign. “After all, we had the same father and mentor,” he said.

Gov. Scott McCallum has a few shortcomings, Thompson said. He characterizes Gov. McCallum as a nice guy, but not a dynamic leader. He says he is a career politician who knows how to side-step questions. Thompson said people respect direct responses to questions.

“Many people have told me they just can’t vote for him,” said Thompson. On the Democratic side, he said James Doyle is “disliked” and Tom Barrett is “unknown.”

Thompson, who is divorced, is proud of his four children. One daughter is a teacher in Virginia and his other daughter is a nurse practitioner in Kentucky. One son is a senior at UW-Stevens Point majoring in math, and another son is studying to be a lawyer at UW-Madison.

“He is already organizing ‘Students for Ed Thompson’ on the UW campus,” Thompson said.

He points to a recent survey commissioned by the Tavern League that showed 34 percent of respondents would consider voting for him and 22 percent said maybe. “Jesse won with 37 percent of the vote,” Thompson said.

Libertarian running hard for governor

Ken Krawchuk of Abington is building on his last effort. He wants school vouchers and cuts in government.

By Thomas Fitzgerald

The last time he ran for governor of Pennsylvania, Ken Krawchuk got 33,291 votes. He finished fourth out of four candidates in 1998. But Krawchuk's 1.1 percent of the vote was the best a Libertarian gubernatorial nominee had ever done, so he declared a sort of victory and began planning for 2002. “I had so much fun, I thought I’d do it again,” said Krawchuk, 46, a computer consultant from Abington. “By any measure, it was a record-setting campaign for the Libertarian Party.”

That fall, Krawchuk and his wife, Roberta, drove more than 10,000 miles around the state, camping out between appearances. “We love camping,” he said. “It was like a second home." The campaign cost about $11,000.

This time, Krawchuk started much earlier. He said he hoped to raise $100,000, enough to pay professional consultants and gather signatures to get the party on the ballot, with some left over for campaigning.

Krawchuk holds Libertarian positions in favor of limited government and free-market solutions to social problems.