

College-Bryan Station Wins '04 Convention Bid

By Clyde Garland

SAN ANTONIO—The Libertarian Party of Texas' State Executive Committee (SLEC) selected College-Bryan Station as the site for the 2004 State Convention in a June 29 meeting.

Bids were considered from the Bryan-College Station Convention and Visitor's Bureau and the City of Waco. Both groups had purchased tables at the LP State Conference and had representatives available to promote their venues to committee members.

College Station—home of Texas A&M University—is relatively small in population with about 150,000 residents, but it is home to the very active Brazos County Libertarian Party. Another plus is the College Station Hilton Hotel, which will host the Convention, is within

a few minutes of abundant eating establishments, entertainment, shopping and tourist attractions.

The 2004 convention has already made a splash in the Bryan-College Station area. The SLEC selection was lead story on the 5 o'clock news on local TV station KBTX on July 1. It was reported by The Eagle newspaper on July 2; and it was discussed several times on local talk radio station WTAW.

The SLEC nominated Christopher Jagge, currently Brazos County Chair, to lead the 2004 Convention Organizing Committee. Brazos County activist Sherry Garland is assisting. Contact Committee Chair Christopher Jagge at c_jagge@email.msn.com, P.O. Box 8064, College Station, TX 77844 or 979-695-9646.

LP National Committees

States need to be aware of the need to populate committees for the 2004 Convention. The Libertarian National Committee (LNC) will be making its selections at the September committee meeting.

Anyone who wants to serve on the Bylaws, Platform, or Credentials Committees should contact Steve Trinward (Steve@Trinwords.com; 421 B West Bend Dr., Nashville, TN 37209 or 615-353-6521) or Tim Hagan (inc@thagan.com;

mailshell.com; 3125 W. Warm Springs Rd. 128, Henderson, NV 89014 or 702-433-0947) so we can pass your name on to the LNC.

A list of party activism or why you want to be on the committee would be helpful.

Texas, being one of the largest state parties, selects a member for both the Platform and Credentials Committees. The National Convention is set for May 27-31 in Atlanta, GA.

Editorial

Voting Suggestions for the Constitutional Amendments

By Kris Overstreet

September 13 voters decide on as many as 22 changes to the Texas State Constitution. A very low turnout is expected because amendments are usually on November ballots—this year it's a Special Election. By voting we can influence the outcome beyond our actual numbers. Propositions marked with an asterisk are especially important.

*1: "authorizing the Veterans' Land Board to use assets in certain veterans' land and veterans' housing assistance funds to provide veterans homes for the aged or infirm and to make principal, interest, and bond enhancement payments on revenue bonds." Lets the Legislature to not merely borrow, but take away without obligation money from permanent funds set up for veterans. Continues runaway spending policies and expands debt. Vote AGAINST.

2: "establish a two-year period for the redemption of a mineral interest sold for unpaid ad valorem taxes at a tax sale." Gives taxpayers more justice from an unjust law. Vote FOR.

*3: "authorize the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation property owned by a religious organization that is leased for use as a school or that is owned with the intent of expanding or constructing a religious facility." Doesn't end

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David at Chair@LPTexas.org.

Submissions of news, articles, opinion, letters to the editor, photos, etc. are welcome. Please direct submissions to the editor. Deadline for inclusion is the 20th day of the prior month; except for the January issue, which has a deadline of Dec. 15th.

From The Chair:

Greetings,

As the Texas Libertarian Party heads into the second half of 2003 two important challenges face Texas Libertarians. These challenges are ballot access and candidate recruitment. A committee with Libertarians from around the state are working on a ballot access plan to be presented to the State Libertarian Executive Committee for approval at the September SLEC meeting. Ballot access remains our number one focus until the completion of the petition drive in the spring of 2004. Ballot access will not be easy or inexpensive but with effort Texas Libertarians can fully expect the drive to be successful.

The filing period for candidates for the November 2004

election begins December 1, 2003 and runs until January 2, 2004. County

Chairs and activists should proceed as normal by recruiting candidates for the various state, county and federal offices. Now is the time to start garnering potential candidates for office. Don't wait for December.

We can have local ballots full of candidates in 2004 and a successful, well funded petition drive in 2004 but only if each one of us will commit to doing our part to make it happen.



David DeLamar

Votes on the Constitutional Amendments

from page one—

the property tax on churches, but allows for future tax cut. Vote: FOR.

*4: "relating to the provision of parks and recreational facilities by certain conservation and reclamation districts." Allows bonds to expand, operate, and refurbish state and local parks, with special pork for Ft. Worth parks. Vote AGAINST.

5: "authorize the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation travel trailers not held or used for the production of income." Ends a tax. Vote FOR.

6: "permitting refinancing of a home equity loan with a reverse mortgage." Makes property owners more free to dispose of their property as they see fit. Vote FOR.

7: "permit a six-person jury in a district court misdemeanor trial." Reducing the number of people drafted into jury duty. Vote

FOR.

*8: "authorizing the legislature to permit a person to take office without an election if the person is the only candidate to qualify in an election for that office." Removes write-in opposition in an election. Vote AGAINST.

*9: "relating to the use of income and appreciation of the permanent school fund." Lets the state loot the permanent school fund in order to increase spending. Vote AGAINST.

10: "authorizing municipalities to donate surplus fire-fighting equipment or supplies for the benefit of rural volunteer fire departments." No higher taxes or reduced freedom. Vote FOR.

11: "to allow the legislature to enact laws authorizing and governing the operation of wineries in this state." Creates a new bureau-

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Gulf Coast Liberty

Defending liberty in southeast Texas in the Spirit of San Jacinto August 2003

Polk LP: Says No Bonds

By Kris Overstreet

LIVINGSTON— The Polk County Commissioners' Court had not even set a date for a possible bond election, yet the proposed bond already has opposition—the Libertarian Party.

The bond, whose funds are earmarked for the construction of a new courthouse facility would result in higher taxes on the poor, says Libertarian County Chair Kris Overstreet.

“Bonds are loans, paid out by the wealthy, which are paid back through the only revenue government has— tax dollars,” Overstreet said. The rich people who buy the bonds will get a tidy profit, while the poor people who can't afford to

buy bonds watch their tax dollars going into the bondholders' pockets.”

Overstreet also noted that paying for government works through bonds makes the final price tag much more expensive. Governments propose bonds based on how much money they raise- when it would be more honest to propose them based on how much it will cost taxpayers to redeem those bonds. Borrowing money makes government even more expensive- and it's the poor who feel that expense most of all.”

The possible \$12 million bond proposed at a special facility

Continued on reverse.



Stacey Bourland shreds a paper effigy of the FDA won at the LP Conference fundraising auction.

Gulf Coast Liberty Honored!

Gulf Coast Liberty was named “Best Libertarian Organization” at the recent LP of Texas State Conference. State Chair David DeLamar presented Editor Laura Coker-Garcia (me, at right) with a gold on green plaque to commemorate the announcement.

Moments later David asked if Gulf Coast could be “converted” into a statewide newsletter to revive Lone Star Liberty. I've agreed to some variation of this plan, hence this “double” issue.

Current plans are for Lone Star Liberty to be available online each month—

with a copy mailed periodically— if it can support itself through advertising or donations.

GCL remains a local newsletter mailed monthly to supporters—perhaps sometimes included in LSL as it is this month.



Thanks!

The Harris County Libertarian Party would like to thank the following individuals for their recent donations. You are appreciated!

- A.B. Benson**
- Jeremy Davis**
- Charles Edmondson**
- David Hutzelman**
- Wanda Myers**
- Samuel Pratt**

T-Shirt Sale

Rick McGinnis has “Fuel the flames of Liberty Vote Libertarian t-shirts for sale. \$20. Contact Rick at Rmcginnis@austin.rr.com.



Gulf Coast Liberty

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Polk County LP Opposes Bonds

from front page.

planning workshop held July 15 would cost taxpayers, at 5% interest, \$600,000 every year—and that without paying a penny on the principal of the loan, according to Overstreet.

“That’s fifteen dollars a head on every man, woman and child in Polk County,” Overstreet said, ““ If the bond term stretches as long as twenty years, the actual cost of the courthouse project would double- and the taxpayers would pay every penny of it.”

Overstreet pointed out that the 5% interest in his example presumes that interests on bonds stays near current market levels, which are at or near all-time lows.

Rather than issue bonds or raise taxes, Overstreet said the county should seek donations for new court facilities. “If the facility needs of the county are urgent,” he said, “the county should make the case to the people and businessmen

of the county rather than extort money through the taxing power or mortgage the people through a bond issue. I think the county would be surprised at how willing people are to help out in a true emergency.”

The Libertarian Party opposes bond issues as part of its stand against undisciplined government spending and excessive taxation. “Government should only borrow money in the most urgent need,” Overstreet said, “not just whenever our elected officials want more money to spend on their personal projects. Every dollar spent on interest on government debt is money taken from the poor taxpayers and wasted to make the rich richer.”

The Polk County Libertarian Party holds open meetings on the second Tuesday of every month at the Custom Shop, 220 E. Denham St. Livingston, Texas beginning at 6:00 PM. Their website is at www.livingston.net/redneck/ or call 936-685-4992.

Libertarian Activities August 2003

Aug. 3 (Sun.) Harris County Meeting at 9614 Oregano Circle. For starting time or information contact John Kormylo at elfsoft@mindspring.com or 713-271-1776.

Aug. 9 (Sat.) 12:30 p.m. Second Saturday Libertarian Lunch, at Star Pizza, 2111 Norfolk St. off Shepperd Drive in Montrose. Contact Laura Coker-Garcia at Laura@LibertyWorks.org or 281-997-8141.

Aug. 12 (Tues.) 7 p.m. Brazoria County Meeting at Golden Corral, Hwy 388 Business, in Angleton. Contact George Harper at Gharper@sat.net or 979-964-3693.

Aug. 19 (Tues.) 6:30 p.m. Jefferson County Meeting at the LogonC@fe, 3805 Calder Ave., in Beaumont. Contact John Gossage at [\[hotmail.com\]\(mailto:hotmail.com\) or 409-860-4499.](mailto:che_prof@</p></div>
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Aug. 21 (Thur.) 7 p.m. San Jacinto Supper Club at Top China Buffet, 3630 Spencer Hwy. in Pasadena. Contact Bob Lockhart at 713-475-0092

Aug. 21 (Thur.) 7 p.m. Montgomery County Meeting at the South County Community Center, 2235 Lake Robbins Drive, The Woodlands. Contact Ron Hard at ronhard54@msn.com or 281-363-9211.

Aug. 21 (Thur.) Filing Opens for political subdivision elections to be held November 2003.

Aug. 25 (Mon.) UH semester begins. For CLUH meeting schedule see www.uhcollegelibertarians.org; or contact Monica Granger at uhlibertarians@yahoo.com or 832-259-2830.



Support Freedom— Join the Party!

I want to join: _____ \$25 Basic _____ \$1,000 Lifetime

I've enclosed a donation: _____ \$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ Other

The Libertarian Party is the party of principle. To publically affirm what we believe—and to ensure that our party never strays from our principles—we ask our members to proudly sign this statement: **I do not believe in or advocate the *initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals.***

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone: _____ Email _____

Occupation: _____

Signature required for membership.

Make checks payable to the Libertarian Party of Texas

Editorial: Kris Overstreet's Voting Suggestions

from page 2

cracy to regulate wineries. Vote AGAINST.

12: "concerning civil lawsuits against doctors and health care providers, and other actions, authorizing the legislature to determine limitations on non-economic damages." Lets the Legislature limit damages such as lifetime disability, defamation, emotional trauma, etc. Without solid protections for injuries that cannot be measured in dollars, we must apply our traditional suspicion of government. Vote AGAINST.

13: "permit counties, cities and towns, and junior college districts to establish an ad valorem tax freeze on residence homesteads of the disabled and of the elderly and their spouses." Lets local districts end property tax hikes for people on limited incomes. Vote FOR.

*14: "providing for authorization of the issuing of notes or the borrowing of money on a short-term basis by a state transportation agency for transportation-related projects, and the issuance of bonds and other public securities secured by the state highway fund." Bonds cost taxpayers far more than their issue value. Government must live within its means to reduce taxation for good. Vote AGAINST.

15: "providing that certain benefits under certain local public retirement systems may not be reduced or impaired." Protects government worker's retirement plans from reduction or elimination by local governments seeking to balance their books. Makes it more difficult to cut spending and reduce taxation. Vote AGAINST.

16: authorizing a home equity line of credit, providing for administrative interpretation of home equity lending law, and otherwise relating to the making, refinancing, repayment, and enforcement of home equity loans." Same arguments here as Prop. 6. Vote FOR.

17: "prohibit an increase in the total amount of school district ad valorem taxes that may be imposed on the residence homestead of a disabled person." A direct, unequivocal tax freeze. Vote FOR.

18: "authorizing the legislature to permit a person to assume an office of a political subdivision without an election if the person is the only candidate to qualify in an election for that office." Same arguments here as to Prop. 8. Vote AGAINST.

19: "repeal the authority of the legislature to provide for the creation of rural fire prevention districts." Converts rural fire preven-

tion districts into emergency response districts. Eliminating one class helps reduce bureaucracy. Vote FOR.

*20: "authorizing the issuance of general obligation bonds or notes not to exceed \$250 million payable from the general revenues of the state to provide loans to defense-related communities, that will be repaid by the defense-related community, for economic development projects, including projects that enhance the military value of military installations." Borrow money to give it to government contractors and the Federal government to expand their coffers. Vote AGAINST.

21: "permit a current or retired faculty member of a public college or university to receive compensation for service on the governing body of a water district." Concentration of power is a step toward abuse of power. Vote AGAINST.

22: "authorizing the appointment of a temporary replacement officer to fill a vacancy created when a public officer enters active duty in the United States armed forces." Those who serve in the military should not, at the same time, hold civil office; this is a principle as old as the American Republic. Vote AGAINST.



Lone Star Liberty

The Libertarian Party of Texas

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Events of Interest to Texas Libertarians

Aug. 14 (Thur.) Last day to register to vote for the September elections.

Aug. 21 (Thur.) Filing opens for political subdivision elections held November 2003.

Aug. 27 (Wed.) Early Voting opens for September elections.

Sept. 5 (Fri.) Last day to request ballot by mail for September elections.

Sept. 9 (Tues.) Last day of early voting for September elections.

Sept. 13 (Sat.) Election Day—Special Election on Proposed Amendments to the Texas Constitution; some city elections, school, water and hospital district elections, local county propositions. Check your local newspaper or County Clerk's office website to determine what will be on the ballot.

Sept. 17—23 Constitution Week. Volunteers needed to organize LP Outreach activities. For more information on celebrating Constitution Week—see www.constitutioncenter.org. Or contact Guy McLendon at guy@mclendon.net.

Sept. 20 (Sat.) LP of Texas SLEC meeting in Austin. Time and location to be announced.

Sept. 22 (Mon.) Last day to file for political subdivision elections for November elections.

Nov. 4 (Tues.) Election Day—for local political subdivisions—Mayor and City Council races in Houston and other cities that do not elect in May.

Nov. 8 (Sat.) Grassroots Get Out the Vote Workshop in Weatherford, TX. Organized by the Leadership Institute, a nonpartisan conservative candidate training group from Virginia, see www.lead-inst.org for information.

“Libertarian Party Official(s) have picked College Station to host their 2004 state party convention.” —Staff Reporter, Bryan-College Station Eagle, Tuesday July 1, 2003.

“Voters disgusted with bloated government and virtually indistinguishable political parties could find an alternative in the Libertarian Party, leaders of the group said Saturday.” —Rebeca Rodriguez, San Antonio Express-News, Sunday June 29, 2003.