



Published for friends and supporters of the Libertarian Party

# Liberty Pledge

NEWSLETTER

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## Is GOP Senator "courting" NH Libertarians?

Senator Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania, a moderate Republican who appears to be repositioning himself as a philosophical libertarian for an expected 1996 presidential bid, met with several key members of the Libertarian Party of New Hampshire this month — but party activists aren't quite sure why.

Specter met with LPNH Chairman Jeff Emery, LP State Representatives Don Gorman and Jim McClarin, State Liquor Commissioner Miriam Luce, and several other local LP activists on December 6th in Manchester.

Specter told Emery that he had been advised by 1988 GOP presidential candidate Pete DuPont to touch base with state Libertarians.

"But the question of *why* remained largely unanswered," said McClarin, who speculated that Specter might be "looking for support for his possible 1996 bid for the [Republican] nomination. He expressed a desire to meet with a larger group of Libertarians. He's courting Libertarians."

"I'm sure he's seen the Times/Mirror poll showing a Libertarian shift, and realizes that small-l libertarian is a hot new label," said Luce. "I think he hopes to position himself to appeal for independent votes in the primary. But he may have misconstrued our role as a [separate] political party."

McClarin said Specter gave a brief background sketch of himself, and then "invited input on matters of mutual interest." Among the topics discussed were school choice, Andre Marrou's win in Dixville Notch, the 10th Amendment Resolution, Luce's campaigns for governor, the possible future bankruptcy of the federal government, and term limits.

"A *Newsweek* photographer was on hand to record the get-together on film," said McClarin.

Specter has been positioning himself as a "fiscally conservative, socially libertarian" candidate for president, which made LP National Committee member and Pennsylvania resident Don Ernsberger scoff. "He's a traditional Rockefeller Republican!" he said.

## LP gets two-state ballot access boost

The Libertarian Party got a double dose of good news this month, learning that it had qualified to be on the ballot in two more states for the 1996 election — Utah and Illinois.

Jeanette Clinkunbroomer, Illinois LP State Chair, said the state Board of Elections — inspired by the threat of legal action — ruled that a Libertarian candidate had indeed received the required 5% of the vote in a nine-way race for University Trustee. "I think it's great! We will be on the ballot and we don't have to petition!" she said.

Clinkunbroomer estimated that it would have cost more than \$30,000 to petition to get the party on the ballot again in 1996. "We just saved a lot of money!" she said.

Meanwhile, in Utah, LP candidates *did* win enough votes to maintain ballot status, contrary to previous reports. "The Lt. Governor's office just officially announced that the LP did retain ballot access," said Brent Dotson of the Davis County LP. "Most of our candidates got at least 4% and a couple got 19%. We made it with plenty to spare."

## Warburton recovers from post-surgery coma

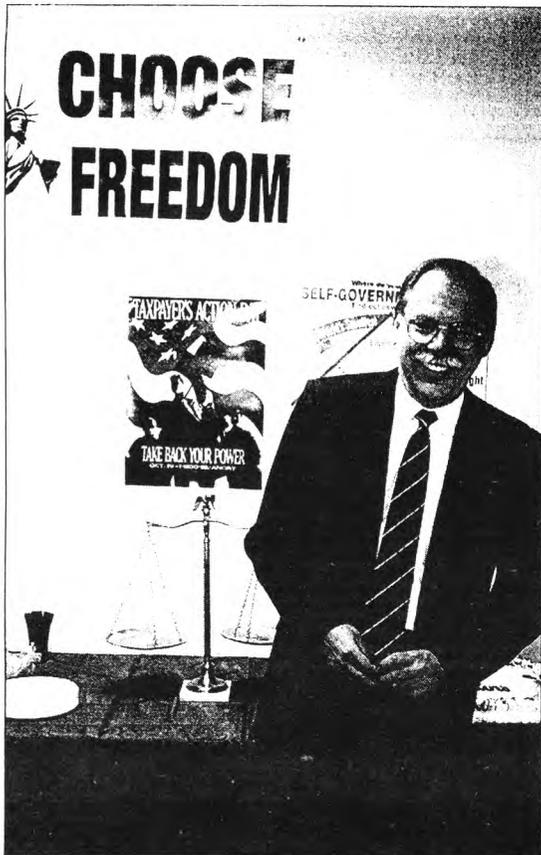
Former State Rep. Calvin Warburton — the first New Hampshire legislator to switch to the Libertarian Party — has emerged from a coma, following heart surgery.

"He is out of the coma, and recovering," reported former State Rep. Andy Borsa on December 14th, after talking to Warburton on the phone. "He sounded good. The hospital said his condition was good."

Warburton, 84, had gone in for surgery for an aorta aneurysm in early December. At the time, he had joked, "The doctor says [this operation has] a 90% success rate. If he had said 100%, I would have seen another doctor since my predecessor in the House died as a result of the operation. I'm planning on living."

Warburton had switched from the GOP to the LP in 1991, and been re-elected as a Libertarian in 1992. He unsuccessfully sought the LP gubernatorial nomination this year instead of seeking re-election as a legislator.

Cards can be sent to Warburton's home: P.O. Box 365, Raymond, NH 03077-0365.



Ethan Miller/The Arizona Republic  
John Buttrick, Libertarian gubernatorial hopeful, awaits returns Tuesday night. The party made gains, but he managed to take just over 3 percent of the vote.

## Despite falling short of goals, Libertarians vow to return next time

By Charles Kelly  
The Arizona Republic

Libertarians didn't bag any victories in Tuesday's state election and failed to hang onto an automatic place on the ballot, but they say they scored well enough to keep them in the game.

"We are definitely going to be back," said Tamara Clark, campaign director for the Arizona Libertarian Party. "There are no ifs, ands, or buts about it."

Coming back would have been easier if their candidate for governor, John Buttrick, had captured 5 percent of the vote. That would have ensured the Libertarians an automatic place on the ballot in 1996.

Buttrick snared only a bit more than 3 percent against Republican incumbent Fife Symington, who won, and Democrat Eddie Basha, who finished second.

But Libertarians put up good numbers in several other races with their less-taxes, less-government pitch. Their best showing was that of Donna Hancock, who grabbed 27 percent of the vote for the District 18 state Senate seat. Several other Libertarian candidates for the Legislature scored near or more than 20 percent.

In statewide races, John Karow made the strongest Libertarian showing, taking 20 percent of the vote in

the attorney general's race against incumbent Republican Grant Woods, who otherwise ran unopposed.

"I was gratified that people listened to what we had to say," Karow said.

In other races, Libertarians scored modestly.

Secretary-of-state candidate Ernest Hancock got about 7 percent, as did U.S. Senate candidate Scott Grainger and state-treasurer candidate James Eric Andreassen.

It was enough to get noticed. "They became very visible, and people are recognizing them," said Dodie Londen, head of the Arizona Republican Party.

The Libertarians will use a two-pronged strategy to get back on the ballot in the next election, Clark said.

First, they plan to gather petition signatures from 5 percent of the electorate, which would put them on the ballot automatically.

They also will ask the Legislature to lower the vote-getting requirements for them to stay on the ballot.

Right now, the Libertarian gubernatorial candidate has to log 5 percent or more to assure his party of ballot status. The party will ask that it be given a berth on the ballot if any of its candidates in statewide races gets 1 percent or more of the vote.

# Libertarians add their party flag to Mass. ballot

By PAUL TENNANT  
Gazette Staff Writer

BOSTON — Peter C. Everett may have lost the battle but he won the war, so to speak.

Everett was the Libertarian candidate for secretary of state in Tuesday's election. With 65,154 votes, he placed a distant third to former state Rep. William F. Galvin, D-Brighton, who won the office with 982,001 votes; and state Sen. Arthur E. Chase, R-Worcester, who was the runner-up with 723,118 votes.

Everett's finish, however, may very well win official status for the Libertarian Party.

By virtue of winning more than three percent of the vote in his race, the Libertarians, provided the results are certified by Secretary of State Michael J. Connolly and the Governor's Council, will be entitled to a reserved place on the ballot during the 1996 presidential primary.

The party will also be entitled to a state primary to nominate a U.S. Senate candidate, as well as nominees for Congress and the Legislature.

While this was Everett's goal during the 1994 election, he said the real work for the party lies ahead.

"The hard part will be recruiting candidates," he said. "Legal parity will not give us numerical parity."

Everett, a Hanover resident employed as product planning manager for Parametric Technology, said the "acrimony and mud slinging between the Democrat Galvin and the Republican Chase" may have helped his candidacy.

"I spoke to many voters on the street who were so offended by the negative campaigns of my challeng-

ers that they felt I was the only choice they had," said Everett, who has a degree in physics and is related to Edward Everett, the U.S. senator from Massachusetts and one-time president of Harvard who was known as the most stirring orator of the day during the Civil War era.

"I think that a Libertarian presence in future campaigns will make mud slinging a loser's game, and that we will see a cleaner, more issue-oriented three-way campaigns in 1996," said Everett.

Robert Moriarty, spokesman for Connolly, said it will probably be about a month before the certification process is complete. He acknowledged, however, that indeed, if official results show Everett's vote total was better than three percent, the Libertarians are "in."

Other "non-incumbent" parties including the Mass. High Tech Party in 1990 and the American Party of the 1970s, have won official status at the polls, only to lose it in subsequent elections.

The law used to require a party to win more than three percent in a gubernatorial election, but a change approved by the voters in 1990 affords official status to a party that surpasses the threshold in any statewide race.

Everett told The Gazette the presence of a Libertarian slate also helped the party's cause this week, even if his "slate mates" didn't win more than three percent. Dean Cook and Everett's wife, Cristina Crawford, were the Libertarian candidates for governor and lieutenant govern-

or.

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## Ballot

(Continued from Pg 1)

Susan Poulin was the candidate for treasurer while Geoff Weil ran for state auditor.

Laureleigh Dozier was the Libertarian entry in the U.S. Senate race.

Libertarian candidates have succeeded in getting elected to the New Hampshire Legislature, Everett said. He pointed out they have succeeded in doing so in other states, including Alaska.

As the name implies, Libertarians emphasize the importance of personal freedom and not having government dominate peoples' lives. The party's symbol is the Statue of

Liberty.

Everett said he and other Libertarians will probably recruit coalitions from among the opponents of the mandatory seat belt law, rent control and the graduated income tax referendum questions.

On the other hand, he said he will likely find common ground with the proponents of term limits.

Everett strongly indicated that the Libertarians plan to hold on to their new official status and are not about to fold.

Their presence should make Massachusetts politics even more interesting.



**Stephen Dillon got enough votes for secretary of state to meet the legal requirement.**

# Decent showing puts Libertarians on next ballot

By Kevin Morgan  
STAR STAFF WRITER

Two percent was the magic number for Indiana Libertarians, and Stephen Dillon was the magician.

Dillon's showing in the race for Indiana secretary of state means Libertarians will get on state ballots as easily as Democrats and Republicans — at least for the next four years.

Unofficial returns had Dillon with 29,263 votes — far behind the six-

digit totals of Republican winner Sue Anne Gilroy and Democratic runner-up Timothy Jeffers, but well beyond 2 percent of the 1.3 million votes cast in that race Tuesday.

"I feel like it's a victory," Dillon, an Indianapolis attorney, said Wednesday.

The Libertarian Party is the third-largest in the nation. Its candidates generally stress individual rights and urge less government intervention.

Dillon has run in previous elections for the U.S. Senate, Marion County

prosecutor and City-County Council.

Indiana law requires candidates to get at least 2 percent of the vote in the secretary of state race for their party to get on the state ballot automatically.

Otherwise, the parties must do what the Libertarians and New Alliance Party candidates did this year — pass petitions to gather the 30,000 signatures necessary to get on their candidates on the ballot.

Dillon says that process is expensive and time-consuming.

"We spent \$30,000 of our resources just to get on the ballot," he said Wednesday.

"We spent thousands of man-hours just to get ballot status. Now we can use that energy to actually get our candidates elected to office."

New Alliance Party candidate Charles Tony Knight, with 12,812 votes in unofficial returns, appeared Wednesday to have fallen short of the 2 percent threshold.

## Libertarians view 1994 election with mixed emotions

By DAVID PITTMAN  
Citizen Political Writer

### ANALYSIS

Libertarian Party activists expressed a bittersweet reaction yesterday regarding this week's statewide general election results.

On one hand, Scott Grainger, the party's nominee for a U.S. Senate seat, pulled down 7 percent of the vote in finishing third in a three-way race — an all-time record, nationally, for a Libertarian running for the Senate.

The biggest disappointment for the Libertarians, however, was the failure of John Buttrick, Libertari-

an gubernatorial nominee, to pull down 5 percent of the vote. Had Buttrick passed the 5 percent barrier, it would have ensured ballot access for the party's candidates in statewide elections in 1996.

Still, party officials hope they can avoid having to collect signatures to qualify their candidates for the next ballot. They can do that if they boost the number of voters registered with the party from about 8,000 to about 14,000, which would qualify the Libertarians as a permanent party in Arizona.

Pima County is Arizona's only county in which Libertarians are regarded as a permanent party. The reason is that a Libertarian candidate for Pima County attorney, Bob Bushkin, received 20 percent of the vote two years ago.

Despite strong showings during statewide televised debates in which Buttrick articulately expressed the Libertarian philosophy on a variety of issues, his candidacy did not take off. Still, Buttrick said, he did succeed in introducing voters to Libertarian ideas.

"We reached more people than ever before and we quadrupled our

public consciousness," said Buttrick. "I had about 40,000 people vote for me Tuesday. If we can just get a small fraction of those people to register as Libertarians, we will qualify for the ballot."

In the two months before general election voter registration was cut off, Libertarians were adding more than 100 people a week to their registration rolls. A large number of those new Libertarians registered in Pima County.

In that two-month period, registered Libertarians in Pima County increased from 1,400 to 1,700, said Peter Schmerl, chairman of the

Pima County Libertarian Party.

Grainger's showing, stronger than Buttrick's is largely attributed to the fact that the \$30 billion anti-crime law, which contains a ban on the manufacture and importation of certain assault-style weapons, was an issue in the Senate race, but not in the gubernatorial contest.

Jon Kyl, the GOP winner of the U.S. Senate race, though a critic of gun-control measures, voted for the crime bill as a member of the U.S. House. Some gun-rights proponents saw Kyl's vote as a betrayal and shifted to Grainger.

## Libertarians look to influence policy

By Mike Smith  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

WINDHAM — When voters went to the polls last week and cast their ballots, there was a small percentage of people who voted knowing their candidate would not win. Their aim was more to make a statement and keep their party on the ballot as it continues to grow.

The Libertarian Party, the fastest growing party in the country, garnered enough votes with Steve Winter's 4 percent showing in the governor's race, to maintain ballot status for the next

election. Three percent is needed for ballot status, and for the third straight election the Libertarians were chosen by at least 4 percent of those voting.

New Hampshire's most well known Libertarian and the first Libertarian to hold a statewide political position, Miriam Luce of Windham, says that right now it's not necessary for the party to win, but it is important that it help determine policy.

Luce, who registered 5 percent of the gubernatorial vote during her run in 1990 and four percent in 1992 doesn't feel it's essential for the party to approach double

figures percentage-wise to make an impact.

"I'm not sure that's the most important issue," said Luce. "What I'd like to see the party do is take an interest in policy not necessarily power. If you look at this last election, most of the Republicans elected were Libertarians."

"Just as the Socialist Party had their platform adopted by the Democrats back in the '20s and '30s, you might just see the Libertarian policies adopted by the Republicans."

"What we have to do is keep the heat on and continue to grow,"

says Luce. "In this state we need to increase our membership, have more candidates go out and run to win and increase our credibility with the media. And we need people to go out and do all those little jobs that it takes to help grow a party."

Luce sees her party as influencing the direction the state takes.

"I think the future is as an engine that produces new ideas to be used by the people in power," she says.

But Luce added that it would not take much for the Libertarians to gain enough power to sway

policy. "If 48 percent of the legislature were Republican and 48 percent were Democrat, and 4 percent Libertarian, that would be all the leverage you'd need to force a coalition and force any vote your way, if it all broke out right," she says. "Democrats are (generally) socially tolerant...and Republicans (generally) fiscally responsible. With 4 percent you could turn the legislature toward the Libertarian line."

"Like the rudder on the back of a ship, it's not much of the ship but it turns the whole ship."

## Libertarians lure voters tired of government abuse and lack of focus

By Jack Stapleton Jr.  
Southwest Missourian

Top officials of Missouri's newest political party, the Libertarians, believe the Nov. 8 election was a watershed event for their group, paving the way for what they feel certain will become a permanent third party in the state.

Conceding that neither of their candidates for statewide office had a chance of being elected, the officials nevertheless believe that growing disenchantment with the two established political parties will boost the appeal of Libertarians to Missourians who normally describe themselves as independents.

The growing strength of Libertarians hasn't escaped some of the state's political observers. At a recent meeting of the Missouri Political Science Association, the future of the party was noted by speakers and observers of the state's political scene. One MPSA panel member, who teaches political science, even expressed the view that Libertarians could eventually become strong enough to affect the outcome of state elections.

That is the hope of the party's two principal leaders at the moment: Phil Horras, a disabled veteran who is chairman of the Missouri group, and Bill Johnson, who was the party's candidate for the U.S. Senate. Horras and Johnson are both residents of the Springfield area, home of the Libertarian state office.

Johnson, who has a colorful background that includes military action with the Contras in Nicaragua and a continent-long walk of Africa, believes the Libertarians' status as a permanent political party in Missouri means almost certain validation of its eventual success in the state. In fact, Johnson predicts that by the year 2000, Libertarians will be powerful enough to field a full slate of statewide officeholders. First, he

says, the group must win a couple of elections at the local or county level, and after that should come ballot victories for some legislative candidates.

In fact, Johnson believes that within a couple of elections, Libertarians will have gained seats in the General Assembly, a feat he believes is not only possible but essential for increased party visibility in the state. "If we can elect a few legislators, then we will automatically be granted a higher status than we're accorded at the moment."

At least some participants in the recent political science meeting agree that a few legislative victories might be all the Libertarians need to gain their desired foothold in the Show-Me State political arena.

Johnson says Libertarian membership has been driven by two equally important factors: government abuse and the failure of both parties to address important but unresolved problems, both at the national and state levels. Asked to describe governmental intrusions that gain his ire, Johnson quickly rattles them off: seat belt laws, statutes regulating drug sales, laws that govern abortions and gun control regulations.

Johnson and Horras both freely predict the loss of public support of both major parties, contending that Republicans are headed for a philosophical split that will divide the party's more moderate membership from its highly conservative right wing. As for the Democrats, they charge the party constantly elects members who really don't represent the true feelings of its members.

Noting that Libertarians hold many of the views of members of Ross Perot's United We Stand America, Johnson says the principal difference is in the social area, issues covering such questions as abortion and drug use. He says Perot followers are more conservative on these issues than Libertarians, while finding common ground on political policies and the role of state and federal governments.

The Libertarian Party was founded Dec. 11, 1971, by disillusioned members of both major parties, through the efforts of David Nolan. The following year, the group held its first national convention in Denver, and a philosophy professor from the University of Southern California, John Hospers, was nominated for president. The party's vice presidential candidate that year, Tonie Nathan, became the first woman in U.S. history to receive an electoral vote.

Four years later, the presidential nominee, Roger MacBride, achieved ballot status in 32 states, including Missouri, and received more than 170,000 votes. In 1978, Ed Clark, the party's candidate for governor of California, received 5 percent of the vote, and Dick Randolph became the first Libertarian elected a state legislator in Alaska. By the 1980 election, Clark appeared on the presidential ballot in all 50 states, receiving nearly 1 million votes. Two years later, a party congressional candidate in Louisiana, James Agnew, got 23 percent of the district votes.

In the off-year 1990 election, more than 2 million votes were cast for Libertarian candidates, and in the 1992 election, the party's presidential candidate, Andre Marrou, defeated George Bush in several New Hampshire primary polls. In the same election, more than 700 Libertarian candidates nationwide received more than 3.7 million votes for state and federal offices.

In Missouri, in addition to Johnson's candidacy for the U.S. Senate, a Libertarian member, Grant Stauffer, was on the ballot for state auditor. Libertarians sought election in six of the state's nine congressional races, while 18 were candidates for the Missouri House of Representatives and two for the Missouri Senate.

Johnson promises to be back in 1996, when he predicts the party will not only have a more complete slate of candidates, but will actually elect members to governmental posts in Jefferson City.

- ▲ (Top) *The Indianapolis Star*, Indianapolis, Indiana, November 10, 1994
- ▲ (2nd) *Tuscon Citizen*, Tuscon, Arizona, November 11, 1994
- ▲ (3rd) *The Derry News*, Derry, New Hampshire, November 16, 1994
- ▲ (Bottom) *The Southwest Missourian*, Cape Girardeau, Missouri, November 13, 1994

# 3rd option

## Libertarians offer specifics on cutting government

**C**hange? You want change? When I was a child, I loved Lewis Carroll. Now I read the *New York Times*. Leading the *Times*' "Week in Review" section Oct. 23 was an essay by Richard Berke entitled "Running on Empty: Where Did All The Issues Go?"

Candidates in the 1994 off-year election are not campaigning on issues like free trade or health care, sighs Mr. Berke.

Instead, Berke finds that Democrat and Republican alike are out on the hustings crying "Government is not the answer."

But "even the campaign's one big issue doesn't look and sound much like a campaign issue," Mr. Berke further complains. "It may be that some Americans would cheerfully tolerate a few more potholes on the Interstate highways, or drastic cuts in Social Security, for the cause of shrinking the Government. No one can tell, because no one is asking. Instead, politicians are crafting broad anti-Government sound bites to capitalize on public disaffection without discussing the proper role of the Government they seek to reform."

Leave aside for the moment the Freudian capitalization of the word "Government," as well as the malarkey about potholes. (Interstate highways sold to private, toll-charging firms would not be potholed. Nor does anyone want to cut Social Security benefits except the incumbents: Libertarians favor paying back investors all that's been deposited in their names and closing down the Ponzi scheme for good.)

But wait till you hear Mr. Berke's example of a politician who refuses to confront "the proper role of the Government."

"At an issues forum last week in Fort Walton Beach, Fla.," Berke reports, "Joe Scarborough, a Republican House candidate, offered one answer for every question about policy. Welfare reform? 'I personally don't believe the Federal Government should be involved in welfare.' Health care? 'That's an issue for the states.' Crime? 'The federal government shouldn't be involved.'"

Is anyone else sharing this epiphany? What candidate Scarborough is doing is precisely "discussing the proper role of the Government." Not only that, but based on the limited powers delegated to Congress in the Constitution, he answered every question in the only way an honest man contemplating taking the oath of office for the U.S. Congress could answer. Yet Mr. Berke of the *Times* thinks he didn't answer the questions at all. This is like the comedy routine from *The Kids in the Hall* in which the lovely young thing keeps saying "I broke up with you last week. I moved out. We're finished. I never want to see you again," and the young suitor keeps asking "Yes, but what does this mean for our future?"



**Libertarian**

Vin Suprynowicz

It would indeed be hard to miss the change in America's political rhetoric in recent months. Libertarian U.S. Senate candidate Scott Grainger and gubernatorial candidate John Buttrick went on television to debate their twin Republican opponents on Arizona public television Oct. 16 and 23, and whenever it was Grainger or Buttrick's turn to answer first, their opponents virtually piled on top of each other with their "me-too," smaller-government responses.

Challenge them to name a single government office they'd close, of course, and these weasels grow squint-eyed and choke for breath as they visualize the rank and file of the "public service" unions cupping their ears at home. But if Libertarians are such "unelectable radicals," how come everyone's suddenly impersonating them?

No, not every Libertarian candidate is the best qualified — yet. But in Nevada, Scott Kjar in Assembly District 41 is, as are James Frye for lieutenant governor, Paul Pratt for Assembly District 12, and James Dan for Assembly District 31 in Washoe County to the north.

In Arizona, where the party is larger, Buttrick and Grainger are head and shoulders the better men for their jobs, as are John Karow for attorney general, Ernie Hancock for secretary of state, Mark Yannone and Phillip Murphy for Congress, Rick Tompkins for State Senate District 17, Gary Fallon in House District 24, Tracy Dugger in House District 27, and John Marek in House District 6.

So why do reporters at "mainstream" newspapers and TV stations still throw away press releases like Kjar's?

Because if the public were allowed to hear it, more than likely they'd vote for it. And in their hearts, that's the kind of "change" that terrifies the shuffling would-be bureaucrats who inhabit many of our newsrooms on this Halloween in America, 1994.

*Vin Suprynowicz is the assistant editorial page editor of the Las Vegas Review-Journal.*

### IN MY OPINION

## Minor-party candidates get ignored

By TONIE NATHAN

**R**ecently in Medford I bought a "Voters' Guide" authorized by the League of Women Voters of Oregon's Education Fund purporting to be a "nonpartisan report on Ballot Measures and Candidates." I was unpleasantly surprised and chagrined to discover that of the 11 Libertarian candidates running for office in November, only two are mentioned.

Dan Vanderploeg of Portland is covered in the gubernatorial list. Jon Zimmer of Lake Oswego is covered in the list of candidates for U.S. representative, District 5. Not listed at all are Libertarian candidates Dan Wilson of Beaverton, running for the U.S. House in District 1; Gary L. Sublett of La Grande, in District 2; or Gene Nanni of Portland, in District 3.

Since these three are on the records of the elections division in Salem, I couldn't understand how their names could have been omitted from the League's "nonpartisan" publication. Several independent candidates' names are mentioned in the guide, most often with a "No response received before deadline" notice by their names. Even a write-in candidate is included. This leads a reader to assume that every candidate's name is in the guide, even if he didn't respond.

I called the League to find out why the names of the three Libertarians running for Congress were not included and was told that questionnaires were indeed sent, although at least two candidates claim they never received one. But the first general mailing of the League's Voters' Guide was sent out around Aug. 17, some two weeks before the state's filing deadline.

Obviously if candidates waited until the last day of filing, as many did, the League would not know of them.

While this may explain the absence of Libertarians in the pamphlet, it does not excuse the error. I can suggest some election law changes that might make it easier for various civic groups interested in information on all the candidates.

Because candidates who are running as independents or nominees of minor parties are excluded from the primary ballot, they receive little, if any, attention from the media during the primary season. This is largely because the law forbids minor-party candidates from officially registering for the November ballot until 15 days after the May primary.

This means that when media and forums throughout the state ask for official candidate lists immediately after the primary elections, they get lists that exclude independent or third-party candidates. Such "other" candidates are then ignored because they are unknown.

This is not accidental. The Republicans and Democrats do not want competition. The laws they pass are intended to make it difficult for independent candidates and minor parties.

There is a valid reason for this, illustrated by the 14 percent vote siphoned off by an independent gubernatorial candidate in 1992, which would have otherwise gone to the losing Republican candidate, thereby allowing him to win.

However, there is a way voters could vote for a candidate they support who has no realistic chance to win, without "throwing away" their votes. Election laws could be amended to allow a first and second preference on the ballot. Then in the event no candidate received a majority, the two front-runners could be awarded any second choices given them from among the votes cast for the remaining candidates on the ballot, thus ensuring a majority winner.

This way a voter could indicate his preference without spoiling the chances of election for his second choice.

Such a system would do the most important thing any politician could wish: It would give weight to voters' real preferences.

But until such a change in election law is passed, I would suggest that voting for the lesser of two evils is still evil. It is better to vote for the candidate who best represents one's views, even if one's choice doesn't win, because this is the most important message the voting public can send about its beliefs.

The state Voters' Pamphlet still gives voters an excellent opportunity to judge all the candidates' views. Read it!

*Tonie Nathan of Eugene was the first vice presidential candidate of the Libertarian Party and the first woman in U.S. history to win an Electoral College vote. Mail in response to this column can be sent to her in care of the op-ed page at The Oregonian, 1320 S.W. Broadway, Portland 97201.*

## Libertarians' total gains right to be on ballots in '96 elections

The Associated Press

AUSTIN — The Libertarian Party has maintained its right to put candidates on the ballot for the 1996 general election.

Mark Bell, a spokesman for the secretary of state's office, said yesterday that the party secured "ballot access" by receiving 5 percent of the total vote in a statewide race during Tuesday's election.

Libertarian John Hawley re-

ceived 18.7 percent of the vote in his race for Place 1 on the Texas Supreme Court against winner Raul Gonzalez, a Democrat who received 81.3 percent of the vote. There was no Republican in the race.

Hawley's showing was enough to ensure that the Libertarian Party can list candidates on the ballot in the 1996 general election, Bell said.

▲ *The Mesa Tribune*  
Mesa, Arizona  
October 31, 1994

◀ *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*  
Fort Worth, Texas  
November 10, 1994

► *The Oregonian*  
Portland, Oregon  
November 1, 1994