Five more Libertarian victories reported from November elections

The tally of Libertarian election successes in November has jumped upward again—with five new victories added to the already impressive list.

In addition, another Libertarian was appointed mayor of a large California city in December, and an LP member was appointed to public office in South Dakota in November.

The five new election victories all occurred in Pennsylvania, bringing to 10 the total number of Libertarians elected in that state last month—and increasing to 14 the total number of LP victories around the USA in Campaign '93.

“The hits just keep on coming!” said Pennsylvania State Chair Ken Sturzenacker.

Elected to office were Robert A. Trump, Constable (Mechanicsburg); Todd Zollinger, Judge of Elections (Mechanicsburg); John T. Erb, Township Tax Collector (Lancaster County); William Vogt, Judge of Elections (North Hampton County); and Christopher Davis, Judge of Elections (Lancaster County).

All the victories were won by write-in votes, said Sturzenacker, which is why the results trickled in so late.

“In most cases, the campaigns weren’t organized in advance,” he said. “In some cases, the people didn’t know they had been elected until the vote counts were certified by the county Boards of Elections!”

“A lot of opportunities”

Sturzenacker admitted he was surprised by the number of victories, but said they illustrate an important point: “At the local level, there are a lot of opportunities. We just need to be aware of them to take advantage of them!” he said.

Sturzenacker also said the victories are crucial for building the credibility of the Pennsylvania LP.

“These will go a long way towards countering one of the last desperate raps the Republicans and Democrats try to put on us—they have some wonderful ideas but they don’t have any practical experience.” To the degree we continue to win, we can dispel that myth,” he said.

Meanwhile, in California, Bonnie Flickenger was unanimously selected by the City Council on December 14th to be the next mayor of the city of Monroe Valley.

Flickenger has served on the nonpartisan City Council of Monroe Valley, a city of almost 140,000 citizens, since 1992.

Flickenger, 51, joins Alex Joseph of Big Water, Utah, as one of only two Libertarian mayors in the USA.

And last month, South Dakota Libertarian Art Lampert was appointed to the State Board of Vocational Rehabilitation. In his new, non-partisan office, Lampert will give Libertarian input into state vocational rehabilitation programs.

Shadow Cabinet members get exposure around USA

The Libertarian Party’s Shadow Cabinet has remained active over the last several months, with members making personal appearances before two state LP groups, and another getting quoted on the front page of USA Today.

Shadow Cabinet Secretary of Health & Human Services Henry N. Butler spoke to a group of students and faculty at the University of Kansas in October, in a presentation sponsored by the college’s Libertarian student group. “The audience was very impressed by Dr. Butler’s presentation,” reported The Free Kansan, the newsletter of the LP of Kansas.

Butler is a professor of Law and Economics at the University of Kansas School of Law, and the author of The Political Economy of Global Budgeting to Control Health Care Spending.

On November 13th, Shadow Cabinet Secretary of Education John Taylor Gatto was the keynote speaker at the Libertarian Party of New Hampshire’s annual convention. Before an audience of more than 100 people, Gatto blasted the current educational system in America, calling it “the biggest, most profitable business in the country. It is a jobs program, plain and simple.”

Gatto was the 1991 New York State Teacher of the Year, and the author of the book, The Exhausted School.

On December 2nd, Shadow Cabinet Secretary Thomas Moore was cited on the front page of America’s largest newspaper, USA Today, after the LP National Headquarters arranged an interview. Although his Shadow Cabinet affiliation was not mentioned, the article was the broadest coverage any Cabinet member has yet received. Moore is a Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution. [See article on page 4].
Long consigned to the political wilderness and dismissed as a fringe element, libertarians are seeing their ideas accepted by state and local governments, once the undisputed turf of Democrats.

Regional governments increasingly are adopting free-market policies originally developed by libertarian thinkers, making what were once considered extreme views part of the mainstream.

The idea behind libertarianism is simple: give individuals maximum control over their own destiny with a minimum involvement of government at any level.

The works of English political philosopher John Locke and Austrian economists F.A. Hayek and Ludwig von Mises serve as the intellectual underpinning for modern libertarian thought.

Libertarian scholars attribute the recent growth in influence to increasing skepticism about the effectiveness of growing government authority.

"People are turning away from big government and centralized solutions because they don't work and toward more reliance on free markets and individual choice," said David Boaz, executive vice president of the Cato Institute, a libertarian think tank in Washington.

As an indication of the growing influence, the Cato Institute recently moved its offices from a two-story Capitol Hill townhouse to a multilevel downtown office building.

But it is in the trend toward privatization — the idea that government shouldn't do what the private sector can do better — that libertarianism has made its mark.

Robert Poole, president of the Reason Foundation, a libertarian think tank in Los Angeles, said there is a "very significant trend" toward privatization, "the efforts of the Clinton administration notwithstanding."

Largely because of tight budgets, governments see privatization as a way to save money on overhead and administrative costs while maintaining services. This solution has often been implemented after considerable political wrangling and over the objections of government employee unions.

In New York, Mayor-elect Rudolph Giuliani made privatization a centerpiece of his campaign.

Giuliani, the first Republican elected mayor of New York in 28 years, promised to privatize city hospitals, waste collection and the operation of city buses. He also plans to eliminate 30,000 jobs from the city's 440,000-person workforce over four years.

"It's no longer an issue of contention that privatization is a solution," said E.S. Savas, a management professor at Baruch College in New York who advised Giuliani during the campaign.

"You can always rely on government to make the right decision, but only after it has exhausted every other conceivable alternative."

In Los Angeles, GOP Mayor Richard Riordan has proposed leasing Los Angeles International International Airport to private operators to help finance the hiring of additional police.

Poole, a longtime supporter of airport privatization, estimates such a

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Libertarian Warburton Is Merrill’s First Challenger

By GARRY RAYNO
Special to The Citizen

CONCORD — With a year to go before the next general election, New Hampshire has its first official gubernatorial candidate today.

Libertarian Calvin Warburton of Raymond announced this morning that he intends to seek his party's nomination. This will be Warburton’s second try for the nomination.

In the 1992 primary, Warburton lost to party nominee Miriam Luce of Windham. Luce has since become a state Liquor Commissioner and has said she won't be running for governor again.

In the 1990 election, Luce received 5 percent of the gubernatorial vote which gave the Libertarian Party ballot access for the first time during the 1990 general election. A political party needs 3 percent of the gubernatorial vote in the preceding general election to have ballot access.

The Libertarians also will be an official ballot party in the 1994 elections as well.

Warburton, a former Republican, is serving his eighth term in the House where he serves on the Constitution and Statutory Revision Committee.

The Raymond lawmaker is not likely to be the only gubernatorial candidate for the Libertarians.

New Hampshire airline pilot Steven Winter has said he is considering running for the nomination as well.

If he does run, it would be Winter's first attempt at public office.

Last month, former director of the Office of Securities Al Rubega said he has been approached by a number of people asking him to consider running for governor as a Libertarian.

Rubega, a Republican, is an attorney.

So far no Democrats or Republicans have said they are running for the corner office although Gov. Steve Merrill is considered to be a sure bet to seek a second term.


Unfair campaigning

How Badly Needed Are Fair Campaign Practices
Committees? Ask Del. Kenneth Plum, D-Reston, who found “Dump Plum” posters stapled to his posters yester-
day morning. Ask Del. Jim Scott, D-Fairfax, who was ac-
cused of “dumping” when his campaign for a state lottery building in Richmond when he tried to get the building taken out of a construction plan or at least have the question put to voters.

But especially ask John Buckley, the Independent-Lib-
tarian candidate in the 35th House District. He awoke Sun-
day to find signs reading “Vote John Buckley — Legalize Drugs” in front of churches in Vienna and Fairfax City. These signs were printed in red, just like his signs. The new signs used the same typeface, and featured white stars just like his signs. Only Buckley didn’t post them; the Fairfax County Republican Committee did.

Now, Buckley agrees with the Libertarian Party platform that says illegal drugs should be legalized. The Libertarian consider the issue a question of justice and contend that this country’s expensive war on drugs has produced few results. So what is wrong with the Republicans highlighting this contro-
sersial position of the Libertarian platform?

This is what is wrong. By printing up signs with the same color, the same typeface and the same emblems, the Repub-
licans are betting voters will confuse the signs with Buck-
ley’s own signs and not see them as a political trick. They are betting voters don’t understand the context (the ex-
pense, the success of the drug war or lack of it) of the Liber-
tarian stand. They are betting voters believe Buckley is highlighting the drug stand in his campaign, when in fact he highlighting the drug stand in his campaign, when in fact he

Weld won and still have an overwhelm-
ing majority in the Legislature, are critical.

“Weld has used a lot of the ‘reinvent-
ing government’ rhetoric,” said state
Sen. Marc Pacheco. “But the implemen-
tation has been more ideological than
entrepreneurial. He has used this ap-
proach to eliminate government serv-
ices, which is the opposite of
entrepreneurial government.”

Pacheco is sponsoring legislation that
would restrict executive agencies’ ability
key chat out of services. It is even
require the state to receive a minimum
of three bids before issuing a contract
and require more thorough documenta-
tion of the projected cost savings.

But Weld’s libertarianism extends
further than his belief in privatization.

In addition to his fiscal conservatism,
Weld also strongly supports abortion
rights and homosexual rights — ideas
offered by libertarians and opposed
by conservatives. But Weld never
describes himself as a libertarian.

In a speech last year’s Republican National
Convention, he said the govern-
ment should keep “out of your
pocketbook and out of your bedroom.”

Another city where libertarian ideas
are being tried out is Indianapolis,
which is also exploring privatization.

Indianapolis Cost-Cutting

When Republican Stephen Goldsmith
became mayor last year, he made some
judgment in how the city is run. Even
though its budget was balanced, its
bond rating was AAA and its taxes were
lower than cities of comparable size.

Nevertheless, he found that several
departments were too much too products
and services and did not know what
their real costs were. Goldsmith imple-
mented a system that forced city depart-
te to compete with private
companies to provide services for city.

“City drives within government
more quickly than anything else we’ve
done. The quality of service delivery has
gone up, while prices have gone down,”
Goldsmith said in an interview. “The
goal is not necessarily to privatize, but
to take as many services as possible into
the marketplace.”

The city’s Transportation Depart-
ment, which Goldsmith is said to be
the most entrepreneurial, has won 60%
of the contracts it has bid on. In contrast,
the Public Works Department has only won 33% of the contracts it has bid on.

“They are moving into their core area
of competency and away from areas
that they cannot effectively compete in,”
added Goldsmith.

The city also created a committee of
business leaders to examine the govern-
ment’s operations and make specific
recommendations about what services
could be eliminated or placed out for
competitive bidding.

Goldsmith said that while he is
pleased that the changes have saved
approximately $20 million, he is equally
enthusiastic about making government
smaller so the city can compete for
businesses and residences by keeping
taxes low.

Running For Office

Even if their ideas are gaining cre-
ence in government, some libertarians
aren’t content with the silent influence
of libertarian argument. Some are
running for office.

In fact, right now an estimated 100
members of the Libertarian Party
throughout the country hold elected or
appointed positions.

For example, in New Hampshire,
there are four Libertarians in the 400-
member House of Representatives and
they have forged successful coalitions
with both parties.

“We are working to streamline
government and reinforce the power
of people over the government,” said
state Rep. Don Gorman, who chairs the
Libertarian Caucus. “We find alliances
with those who are fiscal conservatives
and those who are social liberals.”

Boaz and his Cato colleague Edward
H. Crane argue that Libertarian ideas
will gain in popularity because they
represent the best way to ensure pros-
perity. And, they say, they are in
keeping with the country’s true political
rules.

“We need to restore in this country
the founders’ understanding of govern-
ment: a necessary evil, created for
the sole purpose of securing our rights,
with a few clearly specified powers,” they
wrote in their recent book, “Market
Liberalism.”

The Fairfax Journal, Fairfax, Virginia, November 2, 1993
COVER STORY

Fliers may want savings over service

By Del Jones
and Julia Lawlor
USA TODAY

Flight attendants, who start as low as $12,000 per year, are paid meagerly. No question.

But for all the rhetoric stirred by last month's strike against American Airlines, few have dared to breathe perhaps the key question — a 60-year-old question. Are flight attendants indispensible guardians of passengers' safety and well-being? Or, are they flying waitresses (85% are women) and waiters who are becoming less important to passengers willing to sacrifice frills for cheap fares?

Flight attendants find the second suggestion repugnant. "We're very highly trained in first aid and CPR," says Wendy Palmer, an American Airlines flight attendant based in Nashville. "Our goal is to evacuate an airplane in a minute or less. That's what we're there for. In the meantime, we do serve drinks and food."

But maybe the time has come to let the free market determine if passengers value flight attendants enough to pay for them, says Thomas Moore, senior fellow at the Hoover Institution. Customers willing, there's no reason airlines can't hand out sandwiches and soft drinks as passengers board. Then they could be on their way with, perhaps, one safety expert on board.

"I'd suspect some people would be willing to pay dirt-cheap fares," and fly with fewer attendants, says Bill Winter, spokesman for the Libertarian party, an opponent of government regulation. "Other (airlines) would go in the opposite direction and there would be three attendants for each flier."

Already millions of passengers have shown an eagerness to sacrifice service for lower fares. Southwest Airlines, which doesn't offer meals or assigned seating, has been the fastest-growing and most profitable airline in the industry. Southwest never staffs a jet with more attendants than the Federal Aviation Administration requires. And because they aren't serving meals, they have enough time to sing safety instructions, play practical jokes on passengers and pick up trash between flights.

No one knows how many flight attendants airlines would use if FAA minimums were eliminated, says Winter of the Libertarian party. But he trusts a market free of government interference.

Union president Maki says an end to FAA minimums probably would mean fewer flight attendants on short flights. But customers would demand service on long trips. However, for safety reasons, getting rid of FAA minimums is "crazy," she says.

And, it's not going to happen. No airline has lobbied for the FAA minimum to be lowered. Probably none will as long as all carriers have to follow the same rules.

Flight attendants "absolutely can be of aid, and there are examples where they literally saved the day," says airline consultant James O'Donnell.

He may be a critic of flight attendant demands for higher pay, but O'Donnell says he wouldn't fly without them.

Contributing: Rhonda Richards

Libertarian waging aggressive Senate campaign

Jon E. Coon going all out for Riegle's seat

By Jerry Ernst
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

Henderson — Not long ago, Jon E. Coon was concerned largely with felling trees. Now he wants to topple politicians.

Coon, a candidate for U.S. Sen. Donald W. Riegle's seat, is waging one of the more aggressive campaigns by a national third-party candidate in Michigan.

Having dispensed with his job and all other interests but his family, the Shiawassee County resident has been running all out for a half-year as a Libertarian and said he doesn't plan to let up until the 1994 general election.

He said he spends most of his time asking people about the governmental actions and repealing laws that forbid "victimless" crimes as drug use, pornography, prostitution and homosexuality.

"The base of the two major parties keeps getting smaller and smaller. There are more people who consider themselves independent each year."

Recent polls indicate 25% of the electorate is independent, and Coon agrees with such Libertarian tenets as ending government subsidies, rescinding most governmental regulations, limiting the armed forces to defensive actions and repealing laws that forbid victimless crimes as drug use, pornography, prostitution and homosexuality.

"The support (H. Ross) Perot got convinced me the people in this state and country would be willing to consider another alternative," says Coon, who is constantly on the campaign war chest, which would probably roll over in contributions and pledges for another year.