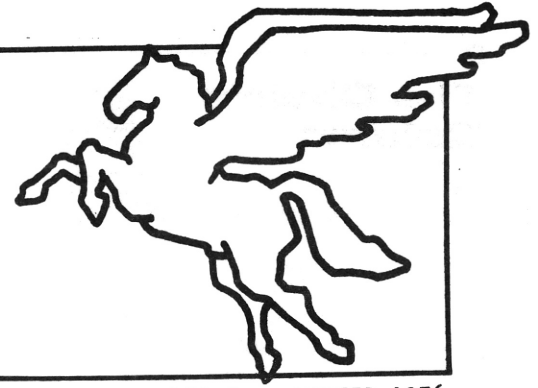


# FREE TEXAS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF TEXAS



VOLUME 1 NUMBER 2 WINTER 1976

## LP ELECTION RETURNS

### 1976 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RESULTS\*

	<b>81,462,979</b>
Jimmy Carter (Democratic Party)	40,827,394
Gerald Ford (Republican Party)	39,145,977
Eugene McCarthy (Independent)	745,042
Roger MacBride (Libertarian Party)	183,187
Lester Maddox (American Party)	170,673
Tom Anderson (American Independent Party)	153,009
Peter Camejo (Socialist Workers Party)	90,109
Gus Hall (Communist Party)	58,689
Margaret Wright (Peoples Party)	58,891
Lyndon LaRouche (U.S. Labor Party)	40,008

\* Dallas Morning News (UPI) 12/11/76

As of the 1976 Presidential election, the Libertarian Party has become the third ranked party in the United States in terms of Presidential votes. Though surpassed by the two major party candidates and well-known independent Eugene McCarthy, the LP, in the four short years of its existence, has displaced the much-publicized American Party as foremost minor party and outstripped the various long-established Marxist parties by large margins.

The last minute closeness of the Presidential election caused many people who would otherwise have voted third-party to vote for Ford or Carter, thus significantly diminishing the vote totals for all the minor parties. For the LP, however, there were some startling occurrences. In Alaska, MacBride received an amazing 6% of the Presidential vote. In the

Anchorage area he received 10%. In California the LP candidate finished third overall with nearly 60,000 votes, or about 1% of the total.

Since the Libertarian Party was not on the ballot in Texas, this state's contribution to the nationwide totals was more symbolic than actual.

Candidates for state and local offices in Texas fared rather poorly, as most libertarians evidently did not bother to write in anything but the Presidential ticket on election day. Harry Robinson and William Howell, the LPT's candidates for U.S. Senate and Texas Railroad Commission officially received less than 100 votes each.

Rob Harrison, write-in candidate for State Legislature in Dallas' District 33-F, received 21 votes despite the

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### HOWELL ELECTION CENTRAL

The state and county returns that follow are available due to the diligence and persistence of William Howell, LPT Chair. The totals are the latest that have been found, but are not necessarily complete or final.

### MacBRIDE RETURNS BY STATE (Unofficial)

Alabama	1,481
Alaska	6,461
Arizona	7,624
California	55,528
Colorado	5,382
D.C.	274
Hawaii	3,923
Idaho	2,119
Illinois	8,097
Iowa	1,452
Kansas	3,242
Kentucky	779
Louisiana	3,325
Michigan	6,462
Minnesota	3,529
Mississippi	2,698
Nebraska	1,511
Nevada	1,514
New Hampshire	936
New Jersey	9,999
New Mexico	1,082
New York	12,197
North Dakota	256
Ohio	9,470
Rhode Island	663
Utah	2,335
Washington	4,025
Wisconsin	3,100

TOTAL TO DATE 159,464

# The Chair's Column



PRIORITY:  
LOCAL ORGANIZATION

by William Howell

The most important results of the November 1976 election were not the 183,000 votes for MacBride for President but the 44,000 for Anne McCracken for University of Illinois trustee (compared with MacBride's 8,100 Illinois total), the 19,910 votes for Hal Cundari for U.S. Senate in New Jersey (versus MacBride's 9,999 in that state), the 30,000 for a local candidate in Arizona (where MacBride only got 7,624), and so on.

Wherever the Party was on the ballot, active local and state LP candidates easily beat the totals for our Presidential candidate.

Why is this? To begin with, it takes less votes for a state or local candidate to win. As a result the press takes them more seriously and gives them better coverage--meaning more voters hear about them and their views. The public is more willing to vote for them because they believe such votes are less likely to be wasted. The typical voter is more responsive to a candidate from his own district because such candidates are more likely to know the voter's problems. Finally, a person is more receptive to a live human being than to a TV commercial.

This is not to disparage the efforts of MacBride, Bergland, and the national campaign, which I consider the most valuable event so far in the history of the movement. What I want to emphasize is that we cannot afford to fall victim to the slowly fatal disease of limiting party activity to the Presidential race every four years. This building from the top down is

what has put the American Party on a rapidly escalating slide to oblivion. It is what has kept the Republican Party in Texas from having any real influence on government.

To achieve a free society takes more than education. It takes people in government to dismantle its structures. To get them there takes a political organization capable of mobilizing people to win elections. The most successful American political organizations are those of the big city machines. They did not achieve their power by corruption--first they had to get there to have something to corrupt. They began by building a secure base of operations.

The key to creating such a base is making repeated and favorable contact with voters at the precinct level, preferably in person and at their homes. Local workers are the only contact most voters will ever have with the LP.

In Dallas we are organizing a telephone poll of Rob Harrison's state house district, asking a few key questions to find out how libertarian the respondents are. Promising ones will then be contacted with introductory information about the LP. We can then identify those persons most likely to contribute time and money, to sponsor meet-the-candidate events, and most important, to get out and vote on election day. This is how elections are won and strong political organizations are built. The state

### MacBRIDE RETURNS BY COUNTY (Unofficial)

Bandera . . . . .	3
Bell (Killeen, Temple) . . . . .	7
Bexar (San Antonio) . . . . .	18
Brazos (College Station) . . . . .	4
Collin (McKinney, Plano) . . . . .	5
Dallas . . . . .	112
Denton . . . . .	11
Ector (Odessa) . . . . .	3
El Paso . . . . .	17
Fort Bend (Richmond) . . . . .	3
Franklin (Mt. Vernon) . . . . .	2
Galveston . . . . .	5
Harris (Houston) . . . . .	136
Jefferson (Beaumont) . . . . .	1
Lubbock . . . . .	5
McLennan (Waco) . . . . .	8
Midland . . . . .	7
Nueces (Corpus Christi) . . . . .	5
Palo Pinto (Mineral Wells) . . . . .	5
Potter (Amarillo) . . . . .	5
Randall (Amarillo) . . . . .	7
Smith (Tyler) . . . . .	1
Tarrant (Ft. Worth) . . . . .	15
Travis (Austin) . . . . .	162
Young (Graham) . . . . .	5
Walker (Huntsville) . . . . .	2
Wilbarger (Vernon)* . . . . .	1

TOTAL IN COUNTIES CHECKED 555

\*There were also 3 votes in this county for Harold MacBride.

party will be encouraging all local parties to do the same in their area.

Meanwhile state headquarters has started working to get local parties set up in six new counties before the end of this year. If everyone who voted for MacBride in the unorganized counties had worked in last year's ballot drive and collected just the average number of signatures, we would

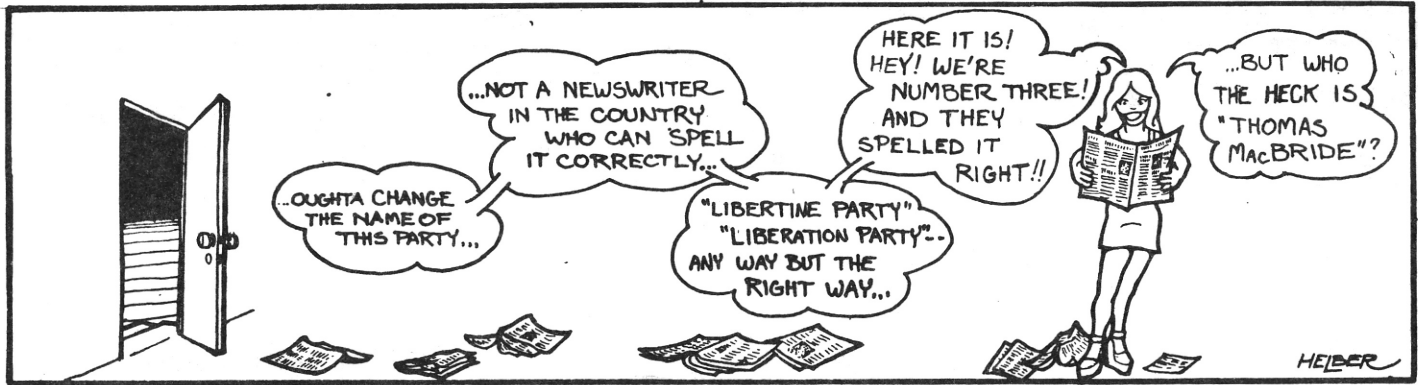
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# VOTES UNRECORDED

In addition to a reduced number of write-in votes resulting from the tight Presidential race, LP candidates in Texas had to contend with a system of vote reporting on the precinct and county levels which frequently ignored write-ins altogether.

Even in an election where a major write-in candidacy was recognized by the press, several precincts among those checked reported no write-ins at all. Many more precincts reported only the write-in votes for the Supreme Court Associate Justice office, where the media attention was focused.

Craig Miller headed an effort in Dallas County to obtain an accurate count of

the write-in votes for Roger MacBride and for various libertarian candidates. His initial survey showed only 64% of the precincts in the county recorded write-ins cast in any race other than the Supreme Court. A similar effort was made in Harris County by Dave Hutzelman, where it was estimated that only 33% of the precincts reported write-ins for all races. Even in the precincts which recorded write-in votes, the totals were frequently inaccurate.

The statistics being compiled from the 1976 election prove the necessity of ballot status for any serious candidate. Victory cannot be won with uncounted votes.

## CHAIR, cont.

have been on the ballot. Our efforts to change the election code in this year's legislative session are under way, and indications are that we have a reasonable chance of eliminating the most flagrantly discriminatory restrictions on ballot status.

But that's next year. What is important right now is establishing local contact to prepare for campaigns. If you are at all able to help, whether by telephone or in person, contact your county chair. If you are in an unorganized county, contact the state headquarters. We need to get this started as soon as possible. The effectiveness of the LP depends on what we do at the local level in the next few years.

### MEMBERSHIP / SUBSCRIPTION FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

"I hereby certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals."

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Sustaining member - \$50

\_\_\_\_ Life member - \$100

\_\_\_\_ Life Sustaining member - \$250

\_\_\_\_ Other contribution - \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Send more information - \$1    \_\_\_\_ Contributing member - \$10

\_\_\_\_ Subscription only - \$5    \_\_\_\_ Supporting member - \$20

# COUNTY REPORTS

## Bexar County

Chair: Carol Galloway  
100 Lorenz #202  
San Antonio TX 78209  
(512) 828-5204

## Dallas County

P.O. Box 12618  
Dallas TX 75225  
Chair: Margaret Bosse  
(214) 827-7325 (w) 748-2043

## Harris County

P.O. Box 5202  
Houston TX 77012  
Chair: Alan Vogel  
(713) 527-8498

## Palo Pinto County

Chair: Woody Stroud  
1308 S.W. 11th Ave.  
Mineral Wells TX 76067

## Tarrant County

Chair: Mrs. E. R. Mauldin  
2428 Annglen  
Ft. Worth TX  
(817) 536-0127

## Travis County

Chair: Mike Grossberg  
2602 Gualalupe #9  
Austin TX  
(512) 474-4766

## Young County

Chair: Charles Graham  
Box 155  
Graham TX 76046  
(817) 549-3530 (w) 664-3021

## SEEKS SPECIAL ELECTION

# RON PAUL

Congressman Ron Paul of Houston is a libertarian. Although on the ballot as a Republican, he was an early contributor to the Libertarian Party, refers to himself as a libertarian, and openly consorts with members of the Harris County LP.

Paul was elected to Congress to fill out the term of Bob Casey who resigned early last year, and has acted with a degree of self-assertiveness rare in freshmen Congressmen. His leadership of active opposition to the D.C. gun control bill won him recognition across the nation and a place on the Democrats' "hit list," targeting his district for heavy funding and

special efforts in the November election. Even in a traditionally Democratic district, he lost by a tiny margin of 94 votes.

On the basis of widespread voting irregularities in his district, Ron Paul is seeking a court-ordered special election in January to decide the issue. Although by law the LPT cannot endorse another party's candidate, FREE TEXAS would like to urge its readers to consider what a libertarian in Congress is worth to them, and to vote (if in Paul's district), to work (if in the Houston area), and to contribute accordingly. This is a chance not to be wasted.

## ELECTION, cont.

distribution of thousands of pieces of literature. Nearly half the precincts, however, failed to report write-in votes.

Said Rob, "The experience gained in the campaign was worth more than any number of votes that we could reasonably have expected to get. I intend to run again in two years, and that experience will be a major asset. But only if we get on the ballot will it do any good. People will not write in local candidates."

Libertarian candidates predictably ran strongest in the Austin area where the combination of a large student population receptive to new ideas, hard work by the local LP and Libertarian campus organizations, and vote reporting and recording properly carried out gave MacBride 162 votes, and a "victory" to Jeff Alexander, LP candidate for Inspector of Hides and Animals, an actual elected office with no ballot listing. Austin libertarians simply wrote in the office as well as the candidate.

**LIBERTARIAN  
PARTY  
OF TEXAS**

PO BOX 12618 DALLAS TX 75225



DAVID F NOLAN  
15063 E STANFORD AVE  
DENVER CO 80232

