Five Libertarians Win in Spring Elections

Two Libertarians were elected to office and three were re-elected in local elections in March and April around the USA.

Libertarians won victories in Wisconsin, Michigan, and New Hampshire, reported LP Political Director Ron Crickenberger.

"Most people are focused on the upcoming elections this November, but Libertarians have been taking advantage of local elections to run strong campaigns, and add to the growing number of Libertarians in office," he said.

"Congratulations to all the new Libertarian winners — and double congratulations to those Libertarians who were re-elected."

Leading the list of election victories: A new Libertarian mayor in Wisconsin.

On April 4, LP member Ed Thompson defeated the incumbent mayor of Tomah — a city of 8,000 in the southwestern region of the state — by a margin of 58-42%.

Cut taxes
Thompson, 55, who is the brother of the state's four-term Republican Governor Tommy Thompson, won by promising to work to legalize video gambling in taverns, cut taxes, and reduce the city's debt.

"I ran because government here is out of control," said Thompson. And although the contest was non-partisan, "everybody knows I'm a Libertarian."

In Michigan, Martin Howrylak won a landslide victory in his race for Troy City Council, finishing first of four candidates on April 3. He defeated all other candidates by a margin of nearly two-to-one in the non-partisan race.

Following his win, Howrylak, who is just 25, was dubbed the "kid councilman" by the local media.

Howrylak won by focusing on a controversial vote by the City Council to grant local politicians generous pensions — calling the decision, "Greed, Arrogance, and Contempt of Taxpayers."

Apparently spooked by his strong showing, the Council unanimously voted to rescind the pension on April 10, just minutes after Howrylak was sworn in.

"Libertarians were jubilant," said Oakland County LP Vice Chair Greg Dira- sian, who worked on Howrylak's campaign. "We can and do make a difference."

In New Hampshire, three current officeholders won re-election on March 7.

John Babiarz won re-election to the School Budget Committee in Grafton.

Rosalie Babiarz was re-elected to a second term on the Recreation Committee in Grafton, where she also serves as Town Auditor.

John Drabinowicz won re-election to the town Budget Committee in Hudson, coming in second of four candidates.

"Congratulations and thanks [to all the candidates]," said State Chair Danielle Donovan. "These folks are actively working to implement Libertarian solutions to real-life problems."

2K candidates: 1K and counting
The number of Libertarians who have announced they will run for office in the 2000 election has passed the 1,000 mark, said LP Political Director Ron Crickenberger — meaning the party is halfway to its goal of "2K in 2K."

And as of April 15, more than 200 LP candidates have filed for U.S. House — so the party is more than 90% of the way to contesting a majority of Congressional seats (218), he said.

"We're making great progress, and are already running more candidates than ever before," he said. "But we still need Libertarians to step forward, file for office, and turn these goals into accomplishments."

National Convention Update
Two more big libertarian stars have been scheduled to appear at the Libertarian National Convention (June 29 to July 3, in Anaheim, California).

Pop/folk icon Melanie, best known for the song "Brand New Key," who has toured the world over her 25-year musical career. In 1999, she advised her fans, "Vote Libertarian!"

Barbara Branden, a longtime member of Ayn Rand's inner circle, who wrote the definitive biography of the Objectivist philosopher, The Passion of Ayn Rand, which was made into an award-winning 1999 film.

For information, visit: www.LP.org/conv/2000/
Libertarians to fill in one census box

By Maria Titze
Deseret News staff writer

Gov. Mike Leavitt encouraged public school students Monday to remind their parents to fill out Census Bureau questionnaires when they arrive in the mail later this month.

"Your future depends on Census 2000... a Every Utahn counts," Leavitt said, reciting the motto for the multimillion-dollar Census 2000 awareness campaign that kicks off officially in Utah March 17.

But the Libertarian Party is suggesting Utahns all but ignore the once-a-decade count of the country's population.

"I'm checking only the box that says how many people are in my house," said John Dexter, chairman of the Libertarian Party of Utah. "The federal government has no use for the rest of the information other than to decide how to allocate more unconstitutional funding."

The Census Bureau's "long form" questionnaire has 53 questions. It asks about such things as marital status, transportation choices, employment and household plumbing.

Libertarians argue that only a count is constitutionally mandated, and the rest of the questions are "nonsensical.

"The U.S. Constitution says the purpose of the Census is to make an enumeration for apportioning Congressional districts," said Steve Dasbach, the party's national director.

The Census Bureau wouldn't need a big advertising campaign to increase participation if the questionnaire weren't so long and complicated, Dasbach added.

The Census Bureau actually has two forms being mailed to citizens on March 15. A shorter version of the questionnaire with only eight questions will be sent to more than 80 percent of Americans.

But Dasbach said, regardless of which form he receives, he'll only be telling the Census Bureau how many people live in his household.

Libertarians campaign to prepare for record number of races

By DAN McKay
Avalanche-Journal

A sign outside the Libertarian convention room on Saturday summed up the party's message: "Enough is Enough: Vote Libertarian."

"This country was founded on Libertarian principles," said local physician John Turnbow, who's challenging U.S. Rep. Larry Combest, R-Lubbock, in District 19. "Basically, we've gone away from that."

Turnbow -- who was the party's keynote speaker -- addressed about 25 people Saturday at the Lubbock County Libertarian Party's convention. Party newcomers and delegates had a chance to listen to candidates' speeches and to discuss the party's platform.

The delegates also chose the party's candidates in local races. Each of the candidates in local races. Each of the candidates was unopposed -- though delegates could choose "none of the above" if they wished.

Earning the Libertarian nominations on Saturday were candidates Michael Webb, for constable, Precinct 2; Russell King, for county commissioner, Precinct 1; David "Inky" Scott, for county commissioner, Precinct 3; Noah Davis, for county weigher; David DeLamar, for chairman, Libertarian Party of Lubbock County; The Mad Hatter, for state representative, District 83; and Brian Winn, for state representative, District 84.

"As a Libertarian, I believe the private sector can run most programs (not required by law) better than a government body," said King, who's challenging two-term Commissioner Kenny Maness, a Republican.

The Libertarian Party of Texas' platform calls for the protection of individual rights and responsibilities.

"The world we seek is one where individuals are free to follow their own dreams in their own ways, without interference from government or any authority power," the platform says.

The county Libertarian Party will have its district convention at 2 p.m. Saturday at the Godke Branch Library to choose candidates for the state Board of Education and U.S. House districts 13 and 19.

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Libertarians campaign, share views at convention

By Ken Grant
Senior editor

WILMINGTON — From choosing delegates for July's national convention to presenting a forum for presidential candidates to electing new state officers, Libertarians from throughout the first State gathered at Wilmington's Wynnham Garden Hotel Saturday to take care of party business.

The annual state convention attracted three of the seven contenders for the party's presidential nomination -- Harry Browne, Don Gorman and Barry Hess -- to share their views and campaign for the state's five delegates.

Mr. Browne, an investment advisor and author from Tennessee, ran for president on the Libertarian ticket in 1996. Like others in his party, Mr. Browne is a strong advocate of limited government.

"The world we seek is one where individuals are free to follow their own dreams in their own ways, without interference from government or any authority power," Mr. Browne said.

"The question is, How much better off could you be right now without the government's interference?"

Mr. Gorman received the "Most Effective Elected Libertarian" award in 1996 while serving in the New Hampshire legislature.

"I plan to travel through the states, speaking to every civic group out there along with the local Libertarian candidates. We need to build up the local party as much as possible," he said.

Mr. Hess, also of New Hampshire, was an active Republican until the early 1990s, when he said he felt the party no longer stood for the principles it once espoused.

"The Libertarian Party makes sense," he said. "When I explain the Libertarian platform of limited government, people say 'Me, too,' rather than 'So what.'"

Former state party chair Brad C. Thomas of Glasgow announced he is running against Rep. Michael N. Castle, R-Del., for his seat in the U.S. House of Representatives.

"We need to stop the continuing expansion of government spending," Mr. Thomas said.

The party's membership elected Jay Lawrence as state chair and John Ellingsworth IV as vice chair. James G. Conk will take over as secretary, and Terri Lewis was elected to another term as treasurer.

Sussex County chairman Jack Dalton is mayor of Bridgeville and the only Libertarian holding office in Delaware. He says the ideas of the party work.

"We've seen that welfare reform will work, people self-governing will work. We don't need all of the entitlements; we don't need all of the subsidizing," he said.

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Ted should worry about Howell's run

Forget about Jack E. Robinson. It's Carla Howell, the surprising Libertarian candidate, who is likely to make headlines in the upcoming debate. If you recall, she's the one who ran against Ted Kennedy, who now is said to be considering a debate with Monument candidate Steve Forbes. "Eliminate the federal income tax and replace it with nothing. No flat tax, no sales tax," said Howell.

The Libertarian movement is on the rise. It's not just the old guard of libertarians who are concerned about the direction of the country. "We're not searching for political leaders," said Howell, "we're looking for candidates who will lead by example." She's a firm believer in limited government, personal freedom, and the right to choose one's own lifestyle. "The younger crowd isn't as aware of what it can't do," she said. "They need to know that they have the power to make a difference."
Libertarian Party builds steam at local, state levels

BY JULIE HANSON

When Libertarian Patrick El-Azem of Chelmsford announced his candidacy for state representative last month, he already had plenty of company.

Carla Howell, also a Libertarian, is making a run for Democrat Ted Kennedy’s United States Senate seat and Weston resident John Sullivan has entered the race as a Libertarian candidate for the Fifth Middlesex. District seat now held by state Sen. Susan Fargo. Just last week James D. Molsson of Billerica announced he would run against state Rep. Bill Greene, D-Billerica.

In all, the Libertarian party nationwide has 25 candidates running for state representative seats and five for state senate in the 2000 elections.

“We’ve managed to double our size in each of the last two election cycles,” said Elias Israel, chair of the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts. “We expect to be a growing influence this year, next year and the year after that,” Israel said.

Libertarian Marketing Director Berolin attributes the growth to several factors. “A number of people are disgusted by the status quo,” Berolin said.

The number of unenrolled and independent voters in Massachusetts is larger than the number of Democrats and Republicans combined. Berolin said many voters are now looking to the Libertarian party as an alternative. She believes the success of third-party candidates such as Gov. Jesse Ventura of Minnesota have paved the way for others and people are ready to listen to the fresh ideas of small parties.

“In brief, the Libertarian Party stands for individual liberty, personal responsibility and a small, constitutionally-limited, government,” said Laura El-Azem, press relations secretary for the Chelmsford Libertarian Committee.

The Libertarians held their first national convention in 1972, nominating philosophy professor John Hospers for president. His back-to-basics platform revolved around a free-market economy, a dedication to civil liberties and personal freedom and a foreign policy of non-intervention, peace and free trade. Also that year, Libertarian vice-presidential candidate Tonie Nathan became the first woman in U.S. history to receive an electoral vote.

The Libertarians have fielded a presidential candidate in every election since that time. The Libertarians have historically been strong in New Hampshire, according to George Geka of the National Libertarian Party. The party’s greatest victory to date occurred in Duxbury North, N.H. — the first town in the nation to vote during the 1992 presidential primaries. Presidential incumbent George Bush was defeated 11 votes to 9 by Libertarian candidate Andre Marrou. That same year Libertarian legislators Cal Warburton and Findlay Rothhaus were re-elected and newcomers Don Galian and Andy Bora were elected to the legislature for their first terms.

In 1996 more than 20,000 Massachusetts voters backed Libertarian presidential candidate Harry Browne. The Libertarian party retains ballot status in 34 states including Massachusetts.

Membership is growing in New England. “The trend is up,” said David Roscoe, the local membership secretary.

Roscoe said rising taxes and an overall dissatisfaction with the government is bringing more people to the Libertarian Party. He has 854 people on his mailing list. Massachusetts has 750 party members who have signed the Libertarian Pledge of Non-aggression. The pledge is a cornerstone of the party’s beliefs. It states that no person, group or form of government has the right to initiate force against any other person, group or form of government. Aggression is simply defined as forcing anyone to take an action against his or her will. In this context taxes are an act of aggression.

The party’s focus on personal responsibility requires that criminals pay the price for violating other’s rights. The Libertarian crime program seeks to protect victim’s rights by requiring that criminals fully compensate their victims for property and medical costs as well as pain suffering. Convicted criminals would serve all of their time without parole.

Libertarians tend to favor less government involvement in just about everything. In order to make American companies competitive, Libertarians believe the government must put an end to foreign subsidies, domestic trade barriers and tariffs. The party has also spoken against minimum wage laws.

Libertarians have taken on controversial stands in their fight for personal freedom, among them the weakening of gun control and the legalization of drugs.

“The party supports the push to privatize many government departments, such as the Department of Education. If the DOE was eliminated, the Libertarians would push for such measures as tax credits to give parents the financial ability to choose among schools. Financial incentives would be considered for businesses and individuals to help fund the educational system. Privatization also plays a part in the party’s health care plan.”

The Westford Libertarian Town Committee will hold its annual caucus on March 9 at the J. V. Fletcher Library. The caucus begins at 7 p.m. Invitations have been mailed to all Westford Libertarians.

“We’re really excited about this caucus,” said Bel- an DeRosa, chair of the Westford Libertarian Town Committee. “This is a great opportunity for local Libertarians to meet and vote on the future of our party and our town committees.”

At the caucus, Libertarians will vote for delegates to the state convention. Westford will send three official delegates to the state convention as well as many alternate delegates. While all Libertarians are encouraged to attend the state convention April 15, at the Newton Marriott, the Westford delegates will help choose the next Libertarian presidential candidate by selecting delegates for the national convention.

“Since our caucus is just after the Libertarian Primary Monday on March 7, we’re expecting lots of excitement and activity,” said Joe Pacelli, member of the town committee and candidate for Representative.

After the caucus business is completed, the regular Libertarian town committee meeting will commence. On the agenda are a discussion of support for local candidates and a scholarship fund for local high school seniors.

Libertarian Senate hopeful focuses on education

By DOUG MATTSON
The Union

Well before he voted for Richard Nixon in the 1960 presidential election, Jon Petersen was a Republican. Just like his dad.

However, upset with what he called the party’s inability to shrink government, Petersen abandoned the GOP to become a Libertarian in 1988.

“I kept seeing (President Ronald) Reagan was making promises, and they never came to fruition,” he said.

With his new party, the 61-year-old went on to run for state treasurer twice, the state Assembly twice and the state Senate once, all while living in the Bay Area.

Now, two years after moving to Grass Valley, Petersen is seeking the state Senate seat from District 1. He’s one of 114 state party members vying for either a state or federal office.

Petersen is aware he isn’t likely to become a state senator anytime soon.

“The odds are pretty small, but what I do expect is that more people will learn about that Libertarian Party,” he said.

Petersen’s No. 1 goal is diminishing government, and he points to education as a top reason that should be handled.

Home-schooled students perform better than students at public schools, which are bogged down by state mandates, he claims.

Home-schooled students “know who they are. They don’t have to worry about their self-esteem and don’t have to be propped up with words like ‘self-esteem’ because they know who they are.

“They don’t try to run in packs or form gangs and cliques. It’s sort of amazing to see,” he said.

Petersen would also like to see state government operate unfettered by the federal government.

An example, he said, is federal prosecution of medical-marijuana cases in California, where voters approved the Compassionate Use Act, which he supports.

Petersen is a semi-retired computer programmer. He works as a consultant to IBM through New York-based Computer Task Group. He and wife, Marianne, also a Libertarian, have seven children and seven grandchildren.