

LP Candidates Should Make '04 Ballots

May 24, the Libertarian Party of Texas delivered eight boxes of petitions containing 80,107 signatures to the Secretary of State's office. With just 45,541 valid signatures needed to secure ballot access the LP expects to have our candidates on the November General Election ballots.

Ann McGeehan, Director of Elections, reports what happens next is her department will count the signatures. Once this is done the Secretary of State's office will inform us of their count. They then consult a statistician who directs them as to how many signatures they sample. Each signature to be validated will be sent to the county it came from where the County Clerks will check the voter's status. Official ballot status may unknown until July.

However, the LP is ready for



LP activist Art DiBianca of Austin unloads petition boxes for the media.

a challenge. Internal validation was done using the statewide voter rolls and copies were made of all pages turned in.

Thanks are due to all who

helped—including top volunteer petitioners Wes Benedict, Rick McGinnis and Stacey Bourland and top donors Larry Nickerson, Richard Walker, Heinrich Foltz and Jimmie Vaughn.

Badnarik Wins Presidential Nomination



Michael Badnarik accepts the LP Nomination for President in Atlanta.

Atlanta, GA—May 30. In an exceedingly close race our own son Michael Badnarik of Austin, Texas own the Libertarian nomination for U.S. President on the third ballot. The final count was Michael 427, movie producer Aaron Russo of California 344, and None of the Above (NOTA) 11. Former radio talk show host Gary Nolan—considered by many to be the front-runner prior to the convention—had the least support after the second ballot and was eliminated from the final vote.

Results of the first ballot were almost equally divided among the three with Michael at 256, Gary with 246 and Aaron with 258. Candidates Jeffery Diket, David Hollis, various write-ins and NOTA accounted for 18 votes. Per

our rules the nomination requires a majority and provides for two votes after which on each subsequent ballot the candidate with the least votes is removed. The convention accepted a motion to speed this process by limiting the second vote to only the top three candidates.

Aaron lead the second vote with 285 votes, Michael earned 249 and Gary was just five votes behind at 244. Gary conceded the race and asked his supporters to elect Michael on the next ballot.

Michael opened his acceptance speech "never in my dreams..." Michael, a Constitutional scholar and teacher, traveled more than 25,000 miles in the months before the convention. He visited 34 states and as Fred



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Badnarik Wins

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Collins of Michigan said in nominating him—"he's done the work to gain our confidence." Joining in Michael's nomination were Pat Dixon, Texas Ballot Access Committee Chair of Austin, Alan Weiss of the Free State Project also of Austin, and Michael's mother Elaine Badnarik of Indiana.

"Michael's two younger brothers always insisted that I thought Michael could walk on water—I hope it's the Potomac," she said.

Joining Michael on the stage to celebrate his win were top campaign

aide Jon Airheart of Austin, Michael's parents, and Lynn Brown of Grapevine, TX.

Richard Campagna of Iowa won the Libertarian Party's nomination for Vice President on the first ballot with 353 votes or 56% of those voting. Tamara Millay of Missouri earned 220 votes. Our own Scott Jameson of Dallas received seven votes. Many delegates praised Scott's candidacy, but expressed reluctance to have a totally Texan federal ticket.

Dauben Gets 16% in MISD Race

Joey Dauben of Ellis County earned 116 votes or 16% in his third try for the Midlothian ISD School Board on May 15. Midlothian is located about 20 miles south of Dallas. Joey lost a seat by just 19 votes in the last election garnering the attention of his opponents who this time around took him seriously and "brought out the big guns" to defeat him.

The incumbent held his position with 397 or 54% of the vote. A second candidate, Matthew Goldman earned 222 votes or 34%.

"Despite the last-place finish this year, I still feel I accomplished what I wanted to make public, and that is the property tax situation. Nobody running for office the past three years wanted to touch on that subject except me," Joey said.

"I didn't do as well this year as I did last year," Joey said, "but I stirred the pot, I rattled the cages of a few people and a few organizations, and for that I'm proud. I'm also proud of the fact that I actually worked at trying to win the race, as opposed to just sticking my name on a ballot."

Joey, who is just 23, is a reporter/photographer for the Ellis County Press. He was appointed to the Midlothian Districtwide Education Improvement Council after the last election. He is former LP Chair for

Ellis County and currently the Student Coordinator for the Republican Liberty Caucus of Texas. He is also active in many tax issue groups and local advocacy or interest groups.

Joey's advice to Libertarians is if we want to be taken seriously we need to go after races we can win. "Local races have the bigger impact, because you're there with the people, you're accessible, you have a better chance at winning than say, running for congress in a district with a eight-term incumbent," he says.

"Only serious candidates should run under the LP banner. If you're not willing to pump in at least \$1,000 to it and go all out with yard signs and brochures, then you might as well not even vote. It sounds harsh, but perception is everything. If the public sees the LP as nothing more than the Lib' at the end of someone's name, how is that progress?" Joey says.

Joey has announced that he will be running for State Representative District 10 against Republican incumbent Jim Pitts in 2006.

For more information on Joey visit his website at www.joeydauben.com or read his articles at www.elliscountypress.com. He can also be reached at 972-617-9537 or by email at joeydauben@aol.com.

Check any that apply:

_____ I will volunteer with a local campaign Contact me with details.

_____ I can design or host a website for a candidate or county party.

_____ I am willing to serve as an appointed County Chair.

_____ I want information on how to be more active in the party.

_____ I am enclosing a donation to **pay petition drive debt**.

_____ I am enclosing a donation to **support party activities** (outreach, newsletter, etc.)

_____ I am enclosing a donation to fund hiring an **Executive Director**.

My best donation: _____ \$35 _____ \$75 _____ \$100 _____ \$150 _____ Other

Name: _____

Address: _____

City & Zip code: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Occupation: _____

Employer: _____

Precinct #: _____

County: _____

Please make checks payable to the Libertarian Party of Texas. Include this form with any donations and Mail to: PO Box 27932 , Houston, TX 77227.

Donations can also be accepted online via PayPal at the State Party website: www.lptexas.org/donations.

Federal law requires political committees to report the name, mailing address, and occupation and name of employer for each individual whose contributions aggregate in excess of \$200 in a calendar year. The Libertarian Party of Texas also submits finance reports to the Texas Ethics Commission.

Platform Revision

On Friday, May 28 the National Platform of the LP underwent the most change since its inception in 1972. With the passage of a motion put forth by the Platform Committee delegates chose to adopt a complete revision to all planks in the platform.

This revision reformatted all the planks so that each, where possible, contained an issue statement, a statement of principle, a Libertarian solution and an Action or Transition step. None of the language in the platform was changed, added or deleted. A minority call to vote on the revision plank by plank failed.

The platform was further revised with the passage of the committee's second motion. This motion added language to the Platform to several planks where there was no language fitting the new categories.

A third motion passed allow-

ing the 2004 Platform Committee, along with any members of previous committees willing to serve, to continue the work to finish the new formatting. The committee will have a website accessible from the national party website that allows party members to participate. Progress will be posted on the website, in LP News, and to discussion lists around the country.

Further motions making changes to the planks on Foreign Intervention, Election Laws, Consumer Protection, The War on Drugs, Space Exploration, Secession, Internal Security and Civil Liberties, and Economic Policy and Foreign Aid that were promoted by the committee also passed.

Each plank also saw several amendments from the floor. A motion by Rock Howard, Travis County LP Chair, to add support for approval voting in the Election Laws plank failed.

Jon Roland of Burnet County proposed a motion to add to the Juries

plank a called for action to require all issues of law in jury trials where the government is a party to be argued in the presence of the jury (a FIJA reform). His motion was referred to committee.

National Elections

Mike Dixon, 2004 Platform Committee Chair, was elected in a landslide to National Chair. "I want an LNC that plays well with others," Mike said in his acceptance speech. Lee Wright was elected Vice Chair.

Texas has joined a new Southwestern states LNC region. Our representative is George Squyres of Flagstaff, Arizona. Contact him at gsquyres@earthlink.net or 928-635-7151. Our alternate is Tim Hagan of Nevada (brother to Dallas former Chair Kevin Hagan). Tim can be reached at natcom@thagan.mailshell.com or 702-433-0947.

