



ALABAMA LIBERTY

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Taxpayers' Slate Running to Win!

Frank Monachelli and Steve Smith are running for the Birmingham city council. The two libertarian candidates are running as the "Taxpayers' Slate" in the Oct. 8th election to determine 5 of the 9 council seats.

This marks the first time that libertarians have contested for a city council position in Alabama. The prospects for victory are very good, both candidates have done their homework and have developed a winning strategy. It may take as little as 15,000 votes to get into the "runoff" and as little as 30,000 votes to win seats on the council.

David Bergland, 1984 Libertarian Presidential candidate, in a recent letter to the Party membership, endorsed the plan of running for local offices. Bergland cited the fact that Libertarians won more races than ever in 1984 (14), and that we also set a new record for total office holders (51) by concentrating on local elections. This strategy will provide candidates for higher office with experience, exposure, and credibility.

The response to the campaign has been tremendous. Steve and Frank were well recieved at the first public forum, which was sponsored by the Young Democrats. Frank appeared on the local T.V. news coverage as a result. Local businessmen have been very receptive to the Taxpayers' Slate. They are impressed with their platform and have indicated their support. Frank and Steve will be the only alternative to the dozen or so "more government" candidates on the ballot.

Their platform calls for both spending and tax cuts. They also hope to remove the regulations and red tape that have a stranglehold on the people of Birmingham. "You even have to have a city permit to have a yard sale!", Smith added.

The Taxpayers Slate has lashed out at frivolous city government spending such as:

- \$5 million for a restaurant at Vulcan Park.

- \$1 million for the Birmingham Stallions football team

- \$109,000 for public employee exercise equipment.

- \$25,000 to send city council on a "industry hunting" trip to Europe

They would further reduce the city budget by contracting-out city services to private companies and returning some services to the free market. Eliminating government involvement will mean lower costs but better services, Smith added.

The Taxpayers' Slate would begin cutting taxes by reducing the city sales tax from 2% to 1%.

Many events are scheduled for the campaign. It will center around distributing 10,000 flyers to the voters of Birmingham. The flyers will explain the platform and allow the candidates to bypass the media and go directly to the people. As money becomes available, the campaign hopes to make a direct mailing to 15,000-20,000 selected voters. The two candidates will also appear at all the traditional candidate forums around the city. An advertising blitz is also in the works

The good prospects of victory makes this election one of the most important projects undertaken by Alabama Libertarians. Victory can only be achieved with your help! Learn how you can help the campaign by contacting the following campaign directors:

Bob Chapuis	930-0196
Richard Kirby	988-4163

Steve Smith	595-9251
Frank Monachelli	322-2991

Money is also desperately needed to finance this campaign effort. A victory in this race could mean more Party supporters and therefore a lighter burden on us all in the future, so be as generous as possible. Please send a donation and show that you support liberty and these efforts. Any donation, no matter how small will be greatly appreciated and put to good use. Remember, the forces of big government only appear strong when they are unopposed. This is your chance to stand up and oppose big government and succeed!

"We have it in our power to begin the world over again"

Thomas Paine, 1776

"We are not to expect to be transported from despotism to liberty in a feather bed"

Thomas Jefferson

Two running for Council pledge budget, tax cuts

Pledging to cut Birmingham's city budget and to chop the city sales tax in half, Frank Monachelli of Southside and Steve Smith of Crestwood said Tuesday they're running for Birmingham City Council.

Monachelli and Smith plan to kick off their campaigns publicly today at 7:30 p.m. at 1157 11th Ave. South.

The two candidates belong to The Taxpayers Slate, which plans to run five people for Birmingham City Council.

Five of the nine council seats are up for grabs in the city election scheduled Oct. 8 — the seats now held by Eddie Blankenship, Bettye Fine Collins, John Katopodis, Nina Miglionico and Bill Myers.

Smith, 34, is a freelance writer and public relations consultant who ran for Congress last year as a Libertarian. He said Monachelli, 38, is a building contractor.

Both candidates promised to cut Birmingham's \$128 million 1985-86 operating budget and to lower the city sales tax from 2 cents to 1 cent on the dollar.

They also criticized the council's decisions this year to loan and invest \$1 million with the Birmingham Stallions football team, pay \$109,000 for employee exercise equipment and

spend about \$25,000 on the council's industry-hunting trip to Europe.

"We think people are tired of their money being spent by council members on trips to Europe, expensive exercise equipment and bailouts of highly paid sports teams," Smith said in a press release.

Smith and Monachelli also questioned the council's plans to spend \$5 million to build a restaurant at Vulcan Park on Red Mountain.

"Some reports suggest the average Birmingham citizen won't even be able to afford to eat there, after being forced to help pay for it," said Smith. "It looks like another case of taking from the have-nots to subsidize the haves."

"Prosperity is not attained by taking money from some — especially low-income citizens least able to afford it — to lavish on pet projects and favored special interests," says The Taxpayers Slate statement of principles.

"Rather, city government should protect the freedom of Birmingham's people to live, work, build, save and spend as they see fit for themselves, their families and their community. The result will be a dynamic, job-rich economy and a dramatic reversal of the flow of people and resources from the city."



Smith



Monachelli

Libertarians to field 'taxpayer's slate'

By Walter Bryant
News staff writer

The Alabama Libertarian party plans to team up with "non-Libertarian, fiscally conservative" candidates in a "taxpayer's slate" for seats later this year on the Birmingham City Council.

At their state convention here Saturday, the Libertarians approved the idea of at least three members of their party being included on a five-member slate that could appeal to persons disillusioned with City Council policies.

Among council actions criticized by the Libertarians are its industry-hunting trips to Europe and efforts to help bail out the financially troubled Birmingham Stallions, which included loans and a postponement of rent payments for Legion Field.

Steve Smith, state secretary, said an advantage of running for local offices, including the city council, is that candidates don't run under a party label, "so the voters see all candidates as equal."

But candidates for Congress, the

state Legislature and governor need the endorsement of a major party to win.

Members also said the party might have a better chance in a large city than in a small town where everyone knows everyone else and "Sheriff Bubba's brother" appears a shoo-in.

The Libertarians, who said they favor less government regulation, approved resolutions ranging from opposing draft registration and compulsory seat-belt laws to favoring laws allowing parents to educate their children in their homes and making it easier for third-party candidates to get on ballots.

Seat-belt laws are "heavy-handed, dictatorial, meddlesome, and paternalistic," according to one resolution adopted Saturday.

Draft registration is "a step toward the slavery of an actual draft," another resolution said.

At a Saturday morning session, the party elected delegates to the national convention to be held in Phoenix in August.

Officers elected include Bob Chapuis

of Homewood, state party chairman; Frank Monachelli, vice chairman; Steve Smith, secretary, and Tim Gatewood, treasurer, all of Birmingham.

Smith said the state party has about 100 paid members and an undetermined number of persons who share Libertarian beliefs and may vote for Libertarian candidates.

He said the party has had a problem gaining support for its own candidates because persons with Libertarian beliefs may vote for a Democratic or Republican candidate whom they regard as the "lesser evil" but who has a better chance of winning.

Smith said the national party was organized in 1971 in Denver, and remains strongest in western states. The Alabama party organized in 1976 and since has fielded candidates for Jefferson County tax assessor, state Public Service Commission, state Legislature and U.S. Congress.

He said two of the dozen persons at the convention were from the Auburn area, the rest from Jefferson and Shelby counties.

By Alan Burris

★ ★ ★
We have it in our power to begin the world over again.
Tom Paine, 1776

★ ★ ★
If something's to be done, it were well it be done quickly.
Shakespeare (Macbeth)

★ ★ ★
The truth about the state and the principles of liberty have been recognized for hundreds of years and well understood for over one hundred years. Why is it that the public doesn't withdraw its support of the state and let it collapse? What has to be done to bring to pass this happy event?

The answer is that two conditions are required for this to happen. **First**, history has shown that the economic and social circumstances must be right for a political revolution to take place. There must be a crisis in the existing political system caused by economic and social dissatisfaction. We must wait until the state shoots itself in the foot.

It would be nice if we could just persuade everyone to support liberty. But it takes a lot to overcome apathy and fear of a change as radical as liberty. This is not to say, however, that we cannot make progress in the meantime.

Indeed, we must make progress. For the **second** condition is that we must be prepared to act decisively in the brief period while the state is hopping around holding its bloody foot, but before another even worse government takes over and shuts out liberty. The building of the Libertarian movement in preparation must take place **before** the crisis, or it will be too late.

Ironically, if the Libertarian movement were successful in substantially reducing state oppression, we might also succeed in saving the state from itself. On the other hand, the larger and stronger the Libertarian movement, the smaller the political crisis that will be required to start the second American revolution. In short, the faster we achieve the second condition, the sooner the first condition will be met.

The first condition may almost be ripe. It is becoming increasingly obvious to many people that government is a disastrous failure. A number of Socialist countries are teetering on the brink of economic collapse, held up mainly by western aid and bank loans. The enormous bank loans in turn threaten the west's banking system, because they can't be repaid.

Real wages in the west are declining because of ever higher taxation, and government confiscation and destruction of almost all capital for productivity improvement. High unemployment is chronic and growing.

Government can no longer keep special interest groups happy with more money from taxation, which approaches the limits of toler-

ation. Government deficits are growing everywhere. Tax resistance is spreading. The squabbles about dividing the loot and about who is to be plundered are getting louder. People are sick of imperialism and the threat of war. There has been chronic inflation in most nations for decades.

Nothing so weakens government as persistent inflation.

John Kenneth Galbraith, 1958

By late 1981, total Third World indebtedness had grown to over half a trillion dollars. Private banks held approximately two-thirds of the paper.... Each year the average maturity of the debt decreases and the interest charges increase, exacerbating the debt burden. LDC's (lesser developed countries) use about half of all their current loans merely to pay off previous debts. Statistical extrapolation shows that if present trends continue, this pay-off percentage will exceed 90 percent by 1990.

Tyler Cowen, 1982

While the financial world is preoccupied with the debt-ridden governments in Latin America and Eastern Europe, Denmark and other capitalist European countries have been sinking into an equally deep pool of government-backed foreign borrowings. Ireland, Belgium, Greece, Italy, Portugal and Spain are also heavily indebted to foreign lenders and falling ever deeper in debt.... Bankers agree that most of this foreign debt has been accumulated over the years to enable many European governments to continue their high levels of public spending, particularly for generous social-welfare programs.

David Brand, 1982

Between 1965 and 1981, the average U.S. worker's real wages declined by one-fifth.

Robert B. Reich, 1983

The concept of civil disobedience, of demonstrations against authority, has people acting in a way that would not have been considered patriotic or acceptable in the past. It accelerated in the Viet Nam War era, and now there is more disregard for the law. It is not as antisocial as it was to evade taxes.

Commissioner of the IRS Roscoe Egger, Jr., 1983

...another survey found that three out of four of those polled would refuse to inform on a serious tax evader if they had evidence to convict him. A slogan spray-painted in red on a bridge spanning Boston's Charles River seems to sum up a growing sentiment: TAXATION IS THEFT!

Time, March 28, 1983

An invasion of armies can be resisted, but not an idea whose time has come.

Victor Hugo, 1852

The politicians are working hard to bring about the first condition. The **second** condition for liberty, a prepared libertarian movement, is our job. We must build a movement large enough to educate the public to understand that the state is responsible for our problems, and that liberty is the only solution. And the movement must be strong enough to provide leadership for the transition to liberty.

PARTY NEWS

JESSE JACKSON, NATIONAL BAR ENDORSER H.R. 2320

Jesse Jackson, Operation Push, the National Rainbow Coalition, and the National Bar Association have all endorsed H.R. 2320, the bill that allows "reasonable" access to the ballot. This brings the total to 31 endorsements, other than that of political parties.

Congressional Digests lists ballot access as one of two things (the other is federal elections laws) that will keep the Libertarian Party from becoming a third force in American politics. Every libertarian must get involved with this effort. It only takes a short time (especially if you have access to a word processor) to write short letters to your Congressman and Congressman Al Swift in support of H.R. 2320.

Richard Winger is coordinating this effort for the Libertarian Party. He has a monthly newsletter that updates the bill's progress. He also hopes to lobby in Washington with the support of your donations. He can be contacted for his newsletter or donations at 3201 Baker St., San Francisco, CA 94123.

Can anyone think of a prominent Alabama politician who would endorse this bill. Remember, it has to be in his best interests. Someone who has had to fight these ballot access requirements in the past and would have done much better in National elections in the absence of these laws. Someone who would not have to act directly on the bill but who would have a big influence. Someone who is considering running for reelection and needs all the support he can get. (Hint: He lives in Montgomery and gets around in a wheelchair)

BALLOT ACCESS

The ballot access drive has been making some progress. Even if H.R. 2320 is passed we will still have to continue the ballot drive until we establish permanent ballot status. Please contact Bob Chapuis to get involved in the ballot drive or for more copies of the petition.

DOWNTOWN LIBERTARIAN DINNER CLUB

The Dinner Club meets every third Wednesday for dinner and a program. Recent programs have included a talk on gun control, and a movie on the American Revolution. September will find Steve Smith and Frank Monachelli giving a talk and update on their campaign for city council. Dinner starts at 6:30, the program at 7:00 at the Shoney's on 18th Street South. Everyone is welcomed.

DRAFT INFORMATION HOTLINE: 1-800-SLAVERY

LIBERTARIAN PARTY HOTLINE; 1-800-682-1776