

Dauben Opens MISD Campaign

Joey Dauben of Ellis County has filed to run for a seat on the Midlothian School Board in the May 15, 2004 election.

Midlothian ISD is located about 20 miles south of Dallas. The Trustee position is non-partisan.

Joey first ran for the MISD board following his graduation from the district—earning four

percent in a three-way race. A second run in 2003 left him just 19 votes short of a win in a four-way race. This time the 23 year-old activist and reporter-photographer for the Ellis County Press has an excellent chance at winning.

Experience gained as an appointed member of the Midlothian Districtwide Education Improvement Council (DEIC) makes him a more credible candidate. The incumbents tax and spend record and Joey's endorsement by the Taxpayers Alliance for



of a bond election MISD will have one of the highest rates in the state at \$1.82. MISD has also taken some criticism for a "land scam" where land for a new middle school was purchased from a City Councilman—for more than a local diary farmer wanted.

For more on Joey's race visit www.joeydauben.com or joeydauben@hotmail.com. He can also be reached 9720617-9537. Donations to the campaign may be sent to 1408 Red Oak Creek Rd., Ovilla, Texas 75154.

Good Government (TAGG) should also come into play.

"As the taxpayers trustee, I will vote against higher taxes and promote accountability and responsibility," Joey says. The tax rate for Midlothian ISD at \$1.72 per \$100 made it one of the highest in the area and the highest in Ellis County.

With the recent passage

Activist Notes

Quannah Parker, LP candidate for Court of Criminal Appeals Place 2, beat one Republican to come in second in the State Bar of Texas' 2004 Judicial Poll. Quannah received 1,472 votes from Texas lawyers to the Republican's 1,097. The Republican winner got 3,310 votes.

Bill Oliver reports that Bell County Libertarians had about 80 people take the World's Smallest Political Quiz January 24 and 25 at the Real Gun show in Belton. Of those 17 scored Libertarian and three left contact information. Bell County has a website at www.tx.lp.org/bell.

Hays County has a new website online at www.hayscountyLP.com.

Score a win for **Lubbock Libertarians** who received both print and television publicity for their meeting to fight a proposed cat leash ordinance. After the media coverage the Lubbock City Council abruptly dropped the plan.

The Lubbock LP was also fea-
Continued on page 2

Gary Nolan Visits TX

LP Presidential candidate Gary Nolan came to Texas last month for a series of meet the candidate and fundraising events. Gary met with supporters in Arlington, Waxahachie, Austin and Houston.

In Waxahachie Gary met with Plano resident Scott Jameson. Scott is seeking the LP nomination for Vice President. The Ellis County News covered the event. In Austin Gary spoke at the Distinguished Speakers Series and met with supporters at a steakhouse. In Houston after meeting supporters Gary spoke to hundreds of college students at the University of Houston. Gary raised almost \$2,000 for Texas ballot access during his Texas stay.



National Chair Geoff Neale, Vice-President candidate Scott Jameson and President candidate Gary Nolan, Austin, Feb. 21.



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Activist Reports *Continued from front*

tured on Fox News Channel 34. The topic was the Libertarians fight to change the City of Lubbock housing ordinance that limits the number of unrelated people who can live together in a single-family dwelling.

Lubbock was also host to a debate between Libertarian U.S. Representative candidates **Dr. Richard "Chip" Peterson** of Lubbock and **Steve Kirby** of Abilene. The debate was held February 14. State Chair David DeLamar and Lubbock Chair Marshall Phillips acted as a panel asking the candidates questions. Notice of the debate was published in Lubbock Online.

In Harris County Vice Chair Jeff Daiell added six more classes at Wharton Junior College to his speaking engagement list for March. Jeff will speak to students in Sugar Land and Richmond. January 24th **Monica Granger, President of the Campus Libertarians at UH**, kicked off her campaign with a press release with the provocative title "Houston Cover Girl Announces Candidacy for State Representative District 134." Monica appears on the cover of the 2004 Ladies of Liberty Calendar, brainchild of Rachel Mills of the North Carolina LP. For more on Monica visit her website at www.monicagranger.com.

Polk County LP Chair Kris Overstreet addressed the Escapees RV Club at their political forum February 11th. He also was able to present a statement on behalf of Tina Carter, candidate for Polk County Tax-Assessor Collector.

Kris told the audience of roaming RVers—who last election cycle won their fight to vote in Polk County—that they had a choice beyond Republicans and Democrats. Kris told them the LP stands for "less governments invasion into your lives, less government spending, lower taxes."

He said the LP has a "vision of America as it used to be" where you don't have to ask permission to "open

a store, or build a house on your property or cut someone else's hair, or do anything with your body, your money, your property and your labor which doesn't harm anyone else."

"We don't make campaign promises; we stand on principles that don't come and go with election seasons. Vote Libertarian, and let us put the principles of freedom to work for you," Kris said.

Austin area Libertarians were victorious this month when the San Marcos City Council voted to remove a provision for vehicle emission testing from the Early Action Compact (EAC) put forward by the Central Texas Clean Air Force.

The Travis County LP has worked to educate citizens as to the expensive and ineffective nature of the Inspection and Maintenance (I/M) program and has organized opposition to the plan in both Hays and Travis Counties.

TCLP activists Steve Ravet and Vincent May both provided testimony to the San Marcos City Council before the vote.

"The Travis County Libertarian Party believes that the cost of cleaning the air should be borne by those who do the polluting, not the general public," Steve said. "The I/M plan exempts old cars, diesel truck, and other classes of vehicles, and they are responsible for over half the vehicular pollution in Central Texas."

Vincent May provided the Council with an LP alternative, "Remote sensing of polluting vehicles, low emission diesel fuel, and limitations on heavy diesel operation for 3 to 5 days per year are all common sense and affordable alternatives to an I/M program," Vincent argued.

The LP win lead to coverage by the Austin American-Statesman February 7 and by the Austin Chronicle on February 13. The later article was headlined "Libertarians Outraged by Clean Air Force Plans."

Vehicle Inspections: Cost Too Much, Do Too Little

by Steve Ravet

The Clean Air Force of Central Texas recently released their plan for cleaning the air in Central Texas. The centerpiece of this Early Action Compact is vehicle emission testing, an expensive burden that falls on every car owner in Central Texas. Will an Inspection and Maintenance (I/M) plan clean the air at a reasonable price? Is our air even dirty? Central Texas leaders need to make sure the answers to both questions are yes before saddling their constituents with expensive new regulations.

There is a widespread misconception that Central Texas' air is dirty. In the early 70s we were in violation of the ozone standard, set at that time at 125 parts per billion (ppb). Today we are in compliance with the current standard of 85 ppb. Our air is cleaner now than it has been at any time in the last 30 years, and the trend is continuing. This is despite a five-fold increase in the number of miles driven since the 70s. Our only air quality problem is with a handful of days in the heat of the summer, when our ozone levels exceed the federal standard. A regional pollution plan should focus on these days.

Another misconception involves highway money. Areas only lose money when they are in gross violation and they aren't doing anything about it. An area in violation that has a plan in place will qualify for additional federal funding, not lose funding. In the August 2003 CAMPO meeting, applicants proposing road projects were advised that millions of dollars were contingent on Austin violating air quality standards

Will an I/M program help clean the air? The experience of other cities says no. Denver is dropping the very test that we are being asked to adopt for 1996 and newer cars. This test does not measure tailpipe emissions; it relies on the car's computer to

self-diagnose problems. In Denver 70% of the cars that failed this self-check were perfectly clean at the tailpipe. They still had to undergo expensive repairs for a "problem" that didn't exist.

The I/M program also exempts the worst polluters - heavy diesels — from any kind of testing. Heavy diesels (dump trucks, semi trucks, and construction equipment) are greatly outnumbered by cars. Yet these diesels contribute more than half of the mobile pollution in the area.

The car fleet, in contrast, is very clean. A relative handful of gross emitters among the fleet are responsible for most of the fleet's emissions. The I/M plan will exempt cars older than 24 years from testing, thereby missing the group most likely to contain gross emitters.

I/M is very expensive. At \$16,500 per ton of pollutant removed, it is by far the most expensive item. The problem with this measure is that a ton of pollutants removed during the winter don't have any impact on air quality. A better measure of the cost would be the cost per ton on the handful of high ozone days we have each year. Measured this way the cost is several million dollars per ton.

Even the EPA is beginning to move away from I/M programs. Greg Green is director of the EPA's Certification and Compliance Section in Ann Arbor, MI. Mr. Green told Wards Autoworld in June 2003 that the emissions-reduction gains attributed to I/M programs are small and declining annually because of the annual turnover to new vehicles with more effective emissions-control systems. In a typical urban area, about 95 percent of vehicle hydrocarbon reduction can be attributed to ongoing vehicle technology improvements - and just 5 percent to I/M programs.

Travis County Libertarians are

in favor of clean air, but oppose wasting taxpayer money. Most importantly, we believe the cost of cleaning up pollution should be borne by the polluters, not the population as a whole.

There are items in the Compact that make sense. Cleaning up Austin Energy's Fayette plant, which emits a significant fraction of the entire state's emissions is a good idea. A one-time expenditure gives benefits that last for 30 to 40 years, and the cost is amortized over that time period. A few dollars a month added to the electric bill of a family of modest income would be much better than an unexpected \$600 car repair bill.

Even vehicle inspections could be worthwhile if implemented properly. Travis County Libertarians have proposed an alternate inspection plan that would apply to all vehicles traveling our roads, even those from outside the area. The Texas DPS owns and operates remote sensing devices that can identify polluters as they drive by. These cars would have their inspections blocked until they were proven clean, thus putting the burden on the polluter.

Fiscal conservatives should oppose I/M because of its cost. Environmentalists should oppose I/M because it protects the construction and transportation industries from cleaning up their pollution. Join the Travis County Libertarian Party and insist that area leaders implement a workable and affordable plan.

Steve Ravet is a Tarris County Libertarian Party activist. This article was submitted as a column to the Austin American-Statesman. Steve can be reached at Steve.Ravet@arm.com.

For more information on the TCLP efforts visit their webpage at www.Austinliberty.org and click on "Clearing the air in Austin" or "TCLP Sways San Marcos Vote..."

Check any that apply:

- I **will petition** during March, April and May.
- I am a **notary public** and will volunteer for the petition drive.
- I can provide **room and board** to petitioners from out-of-town.
- I am a **printer/copier** and will help with printing petition sheets.
- I am enclosing a donation to **fund the petition drive**.
- I am enclosing a donation to **support party activities** (outreach, newsletter, etc.)

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.

New County Chairs

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*In unorganized counties the State Chair appoints County Chairs.

Upcoming Events

March 9 (Tues.) Precinct Conventions. Contact your County Chair for exact time and locations. Conventions open to all registered voters who did not voted in a primary or participate in another parties conventions.

March 10 (Wed.) Petitioning begins. Volunteers contact Wes Benedict at wesliberty@aol.com or 512-442-4910 or 512-659-8896.

March 13 (Sat.) County Conventions. Contact your local County Chair for the time and location. By Party rule everyone who affiliates with the LP at their precinct convention is a delegate to the county convention.

March 20 (Sat.) District Conventions. Please check the state party website at www.lptexas.org for a listing of District Convention times and locations.

May 24 (Mon.) 5 p.m. Ballot Access Petitions Drive Ends.

May 28-31 (Fri.-Mon.) LP National Convention in Atlanta, GA. Selection of LP Presidential candidates, changes to rules and platform. See LP News for more information or visit www.lp.org.

June 11-13 (Fri.-Sun.) LP State Convention in College Station. Registration forms will be in the April Lone Star Liberty.