

Alabama Liberty

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September 2003

VOTE NO! NO MORE TAXES!

Libertarians stand out in opposition to Riley tax plan

Birmingham- August 14, 2003 - The Executive Committee of the Libertarian Party of Alabama (LPA) decided by unanimous vote to strongly oppose Governor Riley's tax plan. In their June 29 declaration, they ardently urged voters to reject it at the polls.

In their statement, the committee emphasized that the tax plan will leave no person, family, or business unaffected, and will especially harm homeowners, renters and seniors living on fixed incomes.

They added their solution, stating that Governor Riley should move away from the powerful education lobby by promoting innovative alternatives and real competition. He could also address the root causes of our overburdened courts, forensics labs, and prisons, they said.

Following their Executive Committee statement, the LPA has been putting up active resistance as the only known political party in opposition to the proposed constitutional amendment. Stephen Gordon, of Hartselle, was selected to head up the new Libertarian effort, called VoteNO!

According to Gordon, "Our approach in this effort is threefold: to educate the public, mobilize grassroots activism; as well as reaching out to disenfranchised Republicans, and others,

who feel they no longer have a political home."

"With respect to educating the public, this is a constant undertaking of Libertarians, and perhaps what we do best. Our activists have already been really busy, in activities ranging from small local meetings to turning out in force at the Alabama Tea Party. And we have hundreds, perhaps even thousands of new GOP contacts, who are now involved in the process of becoming new LP members."

Backing up Gordon's statement, Mike Rster, the Administrator of the LPA, stated, "We have received a substantial amount of money, about 50%, from what many would consider traditional GOP sources. Real fiscal conservatives no longer trust the Republicans, they are looking at alternatives including the Libertarians. We are truly the only small government party!"

While other allied organizations fighting this tax are running out of signs and stickers, this new source of income has enabled the Libertarian Party to purchase new signs and bumper stickers in the last few weeks before the election. Their first shipment of the new campaign materials is due late this week.

Libertarians are quick to point out that this tax issue clearly signifies the difference between the larger two parties and theirs. During his bid for governor, Libertarian Candidate John Sophocleus said that neither Siegelman nor Riley stood for any significant principles.

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"Taxes are not just money. Every tax represents a transfer of power and freedom from the people to the government. The underlying premise of every tax is that the money will do more good in the hands of the government than in the hands of the people who earned it." - Linda Bowles, *WorldNetDaily*

LPA Convention 2003

Dear Friends of Liberty:

Every American was promised an opportunity for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, without government interference.

The Libertarian Party of Alabama is committed to helping the citizens of Alabama create a more independent state, free from excessive taxation and unjust government intervention.

Come meet the candidates who have dedicated themselves to promoting smaller government and more personal responsibility.

Come and listen to the wonderful, inspiring guest speakers. The guest speakers include Matthew Givens (an At-Large Member in the Alabama Libertarian Party, and candidate for the Montgomery City Council), John Sophocleus (previous gubernatorial candidate for Alabama), and Matt Murphy (a talk show host for 101.1 FM The Source).

Come and get to know the people who truly care about creating smaller government, the LPA. Join us at the Libertarian Party of Alabama Convention 2003.

Sincerely,

Nicole Ward

Convention Chairman



Scene from 2002 Convention



2330 Highland Avenue, Birmingham, AL 35205

I am a Current Member

- ☐ \$50 Individual
☐ \$90 Couples

I'll pay by:

- ☐ Check or Money Order
☐ Visa /Mastercard

I am a Full Time Student

- ☐ \$25

Join the Pledge Program!

- ☐ \$5 per month
☐ \$_____ per month

Please Print:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

☐ **YES! Count me in at the Convention 2003!**

☐ I can't make it, but I would like to make a donation of \$ _____.

Credit Card #: _____

Expiration Date: ____ / ____

Name on Card: _____

Signature: _____

Press Release *continued...*

"Both favor big government, both are willing to use the power of the state to regulate the lives of others; both took millions of dollars in campaign contributions from special interests who want and expect the governor to do their bidding," he added, then closed with, "but for most Alabamians, the effective state tax rates will be indistinguishable between the two."

LPA Chair Mark Bodenhausein reinforced this with, "Our national slogan is "the Party of Principle." This is the glue which holds all Libertarians together; we don't deviate from the few solid principals upon which our party is based. One of the primary ideas is to let the individual be responsible for themselves and their families. The government is a poor substitute. All these tax increases do is shift these responsibilities away from our families."

With a platform based on small government, individual freedom, and low taxes, it seems that all libertarians in the state are united in their opposition to the Riley tax plan. Bodenhausein concluded with, "I'm thankful that we live in a state where we can say 'no' to tax increases coming out of Montgomery, and that we can vote 'no' on Sept. 9th. Let's hope Riley and our legislators get the message."

—LPA

Libertarian ESSAYS on 9/9

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I have seen great quantities of data about the Riley Plan: facts, statistics and opinions; true, half true and untrue... Altogether, it provides a portrait of politics at it's worst... And it leaves a person saying, what is wrong with this picture?

To break through the confusion, I have tried to reduce this huge ugly mural into a snapshot of logic which seems to make sense: Why would anyone want to give the people in Montgomery, Rs and Ds alike, to spend as they like, twice as much money as they over-budgeted to begin with?

Budgeting is not a hard concept. It requires decisions, but it is not brain surgery. But our legislators failed miserably at this task and now they want us to bail them out, and give them a great deal more money to spend HOW?

Libertarians have always said that government should be much smaller and much less intrusive. Republicans talk a good game about smaller government, but look at Bush

Libertarian Party of Alabama BEQUESTS

To ENSURE that the ideas of liberty will brighten future generations of Alabama even after you are gone please consider the joining the LPA Bequest Program. You do not have to write an entirely new will, you can add a codicil to an existing will.

**For more information please call.
1-205-328-8683**

and Riley's record-breaking budgets! At least the Democrats are honest about wanting large government. If you want larger government, vote YES. If you think it is too large and wasteful now, help prevent it from growing by voting NO.

I can hear it now: "We over-budgeted your money by \$600,000,000 and we want you to give us twice as much so we can spend it wisely. Trust us."

What, indeed, is wrong with this picture???

Dick Coffee

*

"We find ourselves at a crossroads in our state's history."

This is the statement made by Governor Bob Riley to pave the way for his \$1.2 billion tax increase. The Governor was right. Alabama *is* at a crossroads in history. The citizens must choose between giving up even more of their hard-earned money for the government to squander away, or creating greater government accountability and financial freedom.

Everyone is probably in agreement that something needs to be done about education in Alabama. However, not all of us understand the source of Alabama's educational failure. Riley would have believe that schools are under funded. The truth is, Montgomery poorly manages them. Governor Riley has also failed to tell taxpayers that he has not earmarked one dime of the \$1.2 billion tax increase for educational purposes. He has promised the money to unnecessary special interest groups. The Alabama legislature can only solve the education crisis by responsibly managing the money given by taxpayers.

The Alabama legislature can only solve the education crisis by responsibly managing the money given by

Regarding Riley...Alabama, we told you so!

—LPA



A Message from the Administrator

Libertarian Party of Alabama

Dear friends of liberty,

Where do you we go from here? And what is it going to take to get there?

As a brief aside I would like to take a moment to say the following...What an incredible difference one person can make! I would like to commend Stephen Gordon for becoming such an incredible asset for the LPA in the very short time that he has been with us. He has brought incredible energy to the LPA. Thank you Stephen! Friends – you may have noticed his efforts in the incredibly successful Vote No! Project.

These past few months there have been some rumors circulating about various activities on the part of the LPA office and I would like to take a moment to clear some things up.

First, a great deal of discussion apparently took place with regards to our financial situation. We have been operating on a shoe string budget for quite some time. We have had a great deal of practice at this and it has been nothing new. During this time, I invested a relatively large amount of money in a fundraising letter. Although it had a very poor start, it has brought in approximately \$1600 above the costs of the mail-out. This has been a traditional means of communicating with our membership as well as asking for support. Although this letter did not perform as well as I had hoped, it brought in a profit. I understand the concern that folks would have over such an expenditure. But I must emphatically state that if our membership doesn't support us in these fundraising letters our reason for existing has become very tenuous. I urge all members to take these letters very seriously!

Second, our current financial situation is still slim. The bad news is that we have not been able to get the large donations of the past. The good news is that despite several huge losses the pledge program has recovered and continues a gradual climb upward. I consider this our best option to building a strong party.

We have adequate funds to continue running the office and various services through the office. The fundamentals are taken care of...

We have been making some incredible strides in our recent activities particularly with our networking. If I may offer a general criticism. This has been something that many libertarians are very weak at. The idea is that by

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The Alabama Liberty is published by the Libertarian Party of Alabama.

Editor-in-Chief: Mike Rster

Assistant Editor: Cheston Moore

A MESSAGE FROM "AN AMERICAN GUESSER"

— published in the *Pennsylvania Journal* on December 27, 1775.

I observed on one of the drums belonging to the marines now raising, there was painted a Rattle-Snake, with this modest motto under it, "Don't tread on me." ... it occurred to me that the Rattle-Snake is found in no other quarter of the world besides America...

I recollected that her eye excelled in brightness, that of any other animal, and that she has no eye-lids. She may therefore be esteemed an emblem of vigilance. She never begins an attack, nor, when once engaged, ever surrenders: She is therefore an emblem of magnanimity and true courage. As if anxious to prevent all pretensions of quarreling with her, the weapons with which nature has furnished her, she conceals in the roof of her mouth, so that, to those who are unacquainted with her, she appears to be a most defenseless animal; and even when those weapons are shown and extended for her defense, they appear weak and contemptible; but their wounds however small, are decisive and fatal. Conscious of this, she never wounds 'till she has generously given notice, even to her enemy, and cautioned him against the danger of treading on her.

Was I wrong, Sir, in thinking this a strong picture of the temper and conduct of America? The poison of her teeth is the necessary means of digesting her food, and at the same time is certain destruction to her enemies. This may be understood to intimate that those things which are destructive to our enemies, may be to us not only harmless, but absolutely necessary to our existence. I confess I was wholly at a loss what to make of the rattles, 'till I went back and counted them and found them just thirteen, exactly the number of the Colonies united in America; and I recollected too that this was the only part of the Snake which increased in numbers.

An American Guesser continued...

'Tis curious and amazing to observe how distinct and independent of each other the rattles of this animal are, and yet how firmly they are united together, so as never to be separated but by breaking them to pieces. One of those rattles singly, is incapable of producing sound, but the ringing of thirteen together, is sufficient to alarm the boldest man living.

Scholars believe that "An American Guesser" is none other than Benjamin Franklin.

LP/LPA Membership Confusion

Although the Libertarian Party of Alabama bases its membership and subscriber lists on those of the National LP, the memberships are now considered legally separate. Due to the legal confusion caused by the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2001 the LPA is compelled to maintain its own separate list of members and charge for membership. A shared membership falls into what the government calls a PAC to PAC transfer. The good news is that these issues are currently in court and should be ironed out shortly.

The National LP focus is on national issues. The focus of the LPA is on Alabama politics and building a political infrastructure. Only LPA Members have the right to vote at the state convention, hold office in the LPA, and to nominate and be nominated for public office as an official candidate of the LPA.

Interested in joining the LPA?

1. Simple donation of \$50 or more or a \$5+ a month pledge will insure your membership. (use form on page 8)
2. Simply send us a check or email me with your credit card# and expiration.
(MasterCard and Visa only)
3. I will need the name on the card, address, and telephone # for confirmation.

Thank you.

In liberty,

Mike Rster

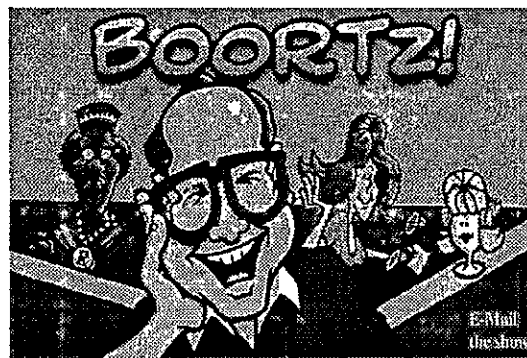
Administrator - Libertarian Party of Alabama

Wanted: Libertarian Speakers

Have a love for liberty and want to tell the world? We need speakers to educate the public at various social groups and gathering. If you have even the slightest bit of interest, please email Mike Rster at: gallatin76@aol.com.

Tired of the same old radio?

Tune in to hear Neal Boortz on your AM dial.



Heard everywhere throughout Alabama. A diehard Libertarian's perspective on the days news and events along with not so subtle commentary. Get your daily dose of a rude awakening with the "Mouth of the South" and visit:

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writer

freethinker



freelancer

Ted Roberts
2101 Aftonbrae
Huntsville, Al 35803
(256) 882-3456

friend to freedom

Libertarian Candidates 2003/2004**CONFIRMED:**

Matthew A. Givens

Candidate for Montgomery City Council, District 2

UNDER CONSIDERATION:

Terry Connors

Cathy Williams

Jeff Russell

Lyn Curtis Adams

Andrew Brashier

Rob Ratliff

Chuck Temm

Matthew Abernathy

Bryson Aust

Kenneth Belcher

Larry Birkhimer

Wilson Myers

William Rozier

Debi Summersell

Tim Cowles

Colby Night

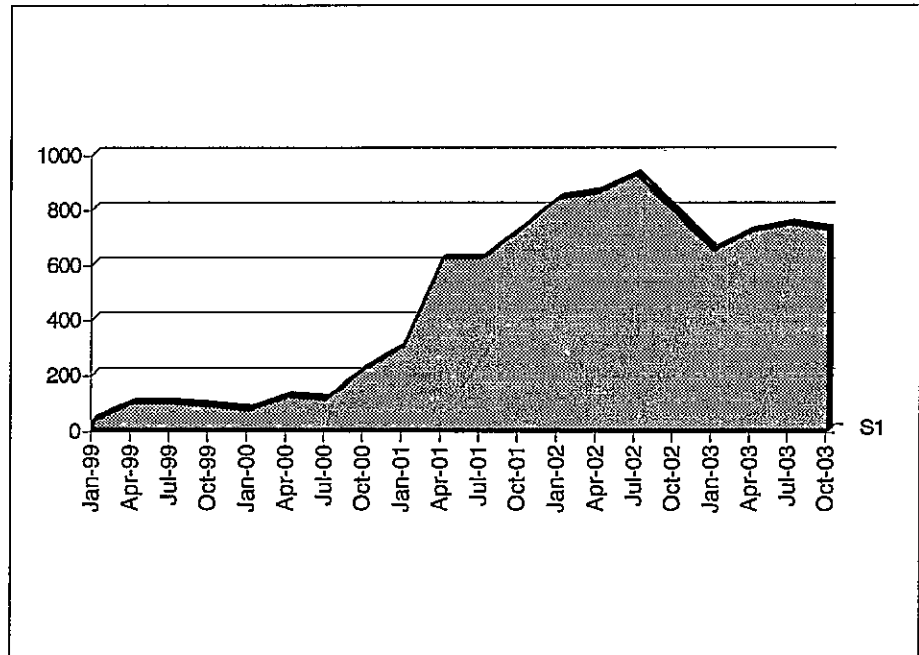
2003: You can't keep a good party down — LPA!

"I want to do my part in building a stronger, more effective party! More! More!"

JOIN THE PLEDGE PROGRAM!

(Pledgers giving \$5 or more monthly will have their National and State LP memberships automatically renewed for one year.)

January-99	35
April-99	95
July-99	95
October-99	85
January-00	70
April-00	120
July-00	110
October-00	220
January-01	300
April-01	620
July-01	620
October-01	724
January-02	839
April-02	860
July-02	925
October-02	725
January-03	650
April-03	719
July-03	745



LPA PLEDGE PROGRAM



2330 Highland Avenue, Birmingham, AL 35205

Please Print:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

- ☐ **YES! Please count me in! My contribution or pledge is enclosed (check box at right)**

I would like to give a monthly pledge of: _____

- ☐ \$25
☐ \$15
☐ \$5

I'll pay by:

- ☐ e-bill (tripled for quarterly billing) I've filled in my email address below.
☐ Visa (monthly)
☐ Mastercard (monthly)

Credit Card #: _____

Expiration Date: ____ / ____

Name on Card: _____

Signature: _____

E-Mail: _____

District Reports

Mobile District

The Mobile group continues to grow gradually. New folks cycle through, and every now and then one becomes a semi-regular. It is not uncommon for us to have a dozen at our monthly meeting, but normally there is the trusty eight or ten – not too bad for a non-election year!

A new group has been created in Baldwin County and they just recently held their second meeting. Richard Medicus is leading the group.

Selma District

We had a very good dinner party on August the fifteenth with six people attending. Our secretary, Nicole, came down as our special guest. We all enjoyed meeting her and getting to know her. She has our fullest confidence and we're glad to have such a talented person in the secretary position. I appreciate her taking the time and trouble to drive all the way down here. Our other guest were Dan Bowden and Holden McAlister who came down from Tuscaloosa which was their first time coming to Selma (actually it's Valley Grande where we meet now, we are the newest town in Alabama. We will keep the Selma name since it's the largest town in the area). Thanks to Dan and Holden for coming down and meeting the Selma members. Also in attendance was Tony Andrews, no relation, Wayne Calloway, and Myself. Tony has came to three of our dinner parties. I've had some inquires and feel that if I can get them to come to their first dinner they will come back. All in all everything is doing well here, especially with the new inquires. We discussed Ballot Access, Riley's Tax Plan, the LPA's financial situation, and Dans work with his fairly new web page. Tony has indicated that he might like to help me with the Selma Web Page and has done some work along those lines. It's great to have someone of Tonys talent to help with the web page. Other local issues were also discussed. I went by the Selma Times Journal and got them to let me have the article in the center of the Op Ed page. Seven-hundred and fifty words. The first time that I've had that slot in the paper. It should be in the Friday, August 29 edition.

B'ham District

We have just added Kris Walden and Leburn Flurry as Co-Chairmen for the District. We will have our first supperclub meeting on Sept.8th with a rally on Sept.6th.

Florence District

Joey Franklin has just taken over the position. The first meeting to take place in September.

Anniston District – no report filed – vacant

Auburn District– no report filed

Montgomery District– no report filed – vacant

Huntsville District– no report filed

Tuscaloosa District– no report filed

asking for help you are creating interdependencies and relationships is often difficult considering our independent streaks!

We have made many friends in our efforts to fight the Riley Tax Increase. We have helped with putting up other organization's signs and in publicly defending a view that is currently derided by most of the intelligentsia of the state. We have appeared on television and on the radio and we have supported the cause by attending rallies. We have made many friends through these efforts. Friends, that we hope to call on in the future!

Thank you

Mike Rster

Editor's Corner...

Fellow Libertarians, it is an honor to become assistant editor for the Alabama Liberty. I appreciate the support and warm welcome that you have given to me.

Friends of liberty, this newsletter would not survive without your continued support. If you are a writer - we want your articles! Perhaps you live out of the Birmingham area and are not able to attend volunteer night. I would like you to consider writing for us. If you would like the opportunity to be published in Alabama Liberty, please contact me.

Let me take a minute to talk about propaganda. You've seen the commercials and signs saying "Let's do the right thing: Vote Yes Sept. 9th." This message put out by Montgomery is to play on the emotions of the voters. They have to make the situation desperate in order to get what they want. Far too many times, this has unfortunately worked. Governor Riley wants you to know that without this tax and reform package, there will be no change in Alabama. I would like you to keep in mind what kind of "change" he's talking about. More of our money to burn in the campfire? No thanks, Governor.

I'm confident that on September 9th, you and I will indeed do the right thing and put the fat pig on a much-needed diet - in one loud voice we will vote "no!"

Cheston Moore

Assistant Editor - cheston.moore@protective.com

ALL IT TAKES TO KEEP THE NATIONAL LP GOING IS \$25 A YEAR. WOULDN'T YOU CALL THAT A GOOD INVESTMENT? DON'T LET YOUR LP MEMBERSHIP LAPSE...RENEW EARLY.