Nine Libertarian Party candidates victorious in November elections

Eight Libertarian Party candidates around the country were elected to office in November and one was re-elected, in spite of increasingly harsh partisan attacks by Republicans and Democrats.

“We’re becoming a threat,” said Libertarian Party national Chair Steve Dasbach. “The two-party system is reacting to us now.”

Republicans and Democrats went on the offensive against Libertarian candidates in Virginia, Arizona, Alabama, Missouri, Montana, and Pennsylvania, according to reports from around the country. “In years past, they would just ignore us. Now, in nearly half our races, they devoted considerable resources to attacking us,” said Dasbach.

“Where we ran serious races, the Republicans and Democrats saw us as a bigger threat than the other party. They would even work together to defeat us, frequently resorting to underhanded tactics,” he said.

Despite this, nine of the more than four dozen Libertarian candidates in this off-year election ended up in the winner’s circle.

In a closely watched race, Alabama LP Chairman Dr. Jimmy Blake won a seat on the Birmingham City Council, garnering 55.5% of the vote in a two-way, non-partisan race.

In New York, Rebecca Wilber became possibly the first Libertarian in state history to gain partisan public office. She was elected to the Town Board in Woodstock with 50.4% of the vote in a four-way race for two seats, running on both the Libertarian and Republican tickets.

In Ohio, Robert deBrossee captured a seat on the Piqua City Council, winning 52% of the vote in a two-way, non-partisan race.

Five Libertarians were victorious in Pennsylvania. Timothy Moir was elected Inspector of Elections, Upper Merion’s Gulph 2 precinct; Danielle Cauley won the office of Inspector of Elections, Upper Merion’s King 2 precinct; and John Pata won as a write-in candidate for Judge of Elections of the Lower 11th District, Middletown township. In addition, Ken Sturzenacker (Pennsylvania LP Chair) won a seat on the Borough Council in North Catasaqua in a two-way, non-partisan race, and Berlie Etzel was elected to the non-partisan Keystone School Board in the Ashland Township.

The flurry of election success in Pennsylvania increased to eight the total number of Libertarians in office in that state, tying them for third place with Texas and trailing only New Hampshire (20) and California (12).

In the one re-election victory, voters in Winona, Minnesota returned Libertarian Donald Salyards to his office as Director of School District 861. The race was non-partisan.

In other races around the country, an aggressive bid by seven Virginia LP members to win a partisan seat in the House of Delegates came up short. Among the highlights, State Chair John Buckley won 11% of the vote in a three-way race; Rick Sincere garnered 10% in a four-way race; and William Redpath received 12% in a three-way race.

Nobel prize winner reveals that he’s a Libertarian

The winner of the 1993 Nobel prize in chemistry has announced publicly that he’s a libertarian.

Kary Mullis, 48, won the Nobel prize this year for figuring out how to make unlimited copies of DNA—but is as interested in talking about the need for “less government interference in private lives” as he is in discussing chemistry and microbiology.

In an interview with the Fort Bragg Advocate News in California, a reporter noted that Mullis “talks about his Libertarian philosophy” as just one of “his wildly divergent interests.”

“Government, he feels, is best suited to protect groups of people from outside interference, but ill-suited to dictate how individuals should lead their private lives,” said the article. “He’s against drug laws, or any laws that interfere with personal freedom, claiming drugs don’t cause society’s problems, ‘it’s the cops that cause the problems.’ ”

Mullis has been described as an “untamed genius,” and said he rollerblades regularly, does his best thinking in a hot tub, and when in La Jolla spends most mornings surfing.

He will be heading to Stockholm, Sweden in December to accept his half of the prestigious $825,000 prize, which he shares with Canadian Michael Smith.
Auburn Star
Auburn, Indiana
October 12, 1993

Hoosier Libertarian looks to grass roots to support candidate

By William Hanrahan

In 1994 and 1995, Dasbach was organizing read good candidates for county and legislative seats, and then for city council. "By 2004, I would like to be in a position where we can make a serious run at a congressional seat. Our first congressman was a state legislator who has already shown what he can do with a few more election cycles for legislators in states other than New Han-

Everyone wins

Smart politics, or just plain smart? It really doesn't matter what Gov. Merrill's motives are in reaching out to New Hampshire's Libertarians. The bottom line is still the same: Merrill continues to score high marks in bringing common sense to the campaign trail.

Last week Merrill became the first sitting governor of New Hampshire to formally address the Libertarian Party at a gathering in Concord. The governor, who just two weeks earlier named the party's 1992 gubernatorial standard bearer — Miriam Luce of Windham — to the state Liquor Commission, received a standing ovation for just showing up. Then he continued to flatten Libertarians, telling them he admired their idealism in the face of an ever-increasing stream of political rhetoric. Merrill told the common ground he shares with the party, namely a desire for higher taxes and excessive government regulation that gets in the way of growth and the free-market system. And he acknowledged that the party will continue to be a political force to reckon with in the future.

In all it's the name of politics to build a broad-based coalition in which the best ideas rise to the top regardless of who authors them, then Merrill is, indeed, demonstrating his mastery of the game. And if government translates into better games, the rest is simply a matter of style, regardless of Merrill's motives, and the ultimate victors are New Hampshire's taxpayers.

Libertarian takes candidacy seriously

By William Hanrahan

"I'm as serious as a funeral. This is not a joke to me."

Mayoral candidate David Wilson

Libertarians deemed to get wiped from wall

"This is not a joke to me."

Amarillo Daily News
Amarillo, Texas
October 9, 1993

By William Hanrahan

Regifter Staff

"For those who don't think Libertarians should make a broad-based coalition in which the best ideas rise to the top regardless of who authors them, then Merrill is, indeed, demonstrating his mastery of the game. And if gamesmanship translates into better games, the rest is simply a matter of style, regardless of Merrill's motives, and the ultimate victors are New Hampshire's taxpayers."

Everyone wins

Smart politics, or just plain smart? It really doesn't matter what Gov. Merrill's motives are in reaching out to New Hampshire's Libertarians. The bottom line is still the same: Merrill continues to score high marks in bringing common sense to the campaign trail.

Last week Merrill became the first sitting governor of New Hampshire to formally address the Libertarian Party at a gathering in Concord. The governor, who just two weeks earlier named the party's 1992 gubernatorial standard bearer — Miriam Luce of Windham — to the state Liquor Commission, received a standing ovation for just showing up. Then he continued to flatten Libertarians, telling them he admired their idealism in the face of an ever-increasing stream of political rhetoric. Merrill told the common ground he shares with the party, namely a desire for higher taxes and excessive government regulation that gets in the way of growth and the free-market system. And he acknowledged that the party will continue to be a political force to reckon with in the future.

In all it's the name of politics to build a broad-based coalition in which the best ideas rise to the top regardless of who authors them, then Merrill is, indeed, demonstrating his mastery of the game. And if gamesmanship translates into better games, the rest is simply a matter of style, regardless of Merrill's motives, and the ultimate victors are New Hampshire's taxpayers.
SALEM — The Libertarian Party of Oregon staged an anti-sales tax rally on the Capitol steps Sunday, becoming the third party to turn its back on the proposal.

Only about 30 people attended the event, but they enthusiastically applauded a series of speakers who ripped the tax plan as a misguided attempt to pick the pockets of unwilling taxpayers.

Richard P. Burke, chairman of the party, said the proposed tax was “adding insult to injury” on top of the state’s other taxes. He also criticized public schools, which would get the money.

In a visit to Sunset High School a year ago, Burke said he heard students asking, “Where is Nebraska? Is West Virginia a state?”

“More money does not mean better schools,” said Burke, whose party claims about 9,000 members statewide.

Martin Buchanan, a one-time Libertarian political candidate, dripped with sarcasm as he pretended to back the measure.

He said it was important to shift money from the “lazy and unproductive private sector” to the “hard-working and productive public sector.”

The tag line for Measure 1 is “Dedicated to schools, controlled by voters,” but Buchanan offered another one: “Dedicated to pork, controlled by legislators.” State workers already enjoy $6,000 a year more in benefits than private-sector workers, he said, and he warned that the Legislature could expand the tax to include services.

Bill Sizemore, executive director of Oregon Taxpayers United, said voters had reached a “critical mass with taxes,” and were ready to organize to oppose any more.

With property assessment jumps after Measure 5, Sizemore said, “People are really ticked. They feel betrayed.”

While the Libertarian Party opposes Measure 1 on broad grounds of economic freedom, the state Democratic Party is opposing the sales tax as especially regressive.

The state Republican Party executive committee rejected the tax by arguing that government should cut spending, although the central committee must still vote on it.

The Oregonian
Portland Oregon
October 5, 1993