



Lone Star Liberty

The Official Monthly Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Texas
March 2007

48k Goal reached today

From Patrick J Dixon
Chair, Libertarian Party of Texas
www.LPTexas.org

Fellow patriots,

I want to express my deep appreciation to those of you that contributed to our effort to keep our party strong and effective.

I sincerely didn't know if we could do it. Like our 2004 ballot access drive, I felt we were taking on a project without a high probability of success. However, those of you that came through surprised us with your level of commitment.

I had thought our only chance was to bring in several large donations from wealthy individuals. We did have a very generous contribution from Timothy Smith. However, our success was not due to a few large contributors. It was due to many of you that joined our team. Instead of being reliant on a few individuals, we now have a much broader support base.

I truly appreciate the level of trust you have placed in me, Wes, Art, and our state committee. We will use your contributions as you have requested to keep our staff on the job, continue our growth, and become more effective in our battle for liberty. Those of you that support us with your contributions are truly members of the team and deserve our appreciation and respect.

I am running again for city council. It turns out that I will have a contested race. I think it will be quite challenging. A lady I appointed to the Planning and Zoning seems to be painting me as an extremist and is appealing to the fans of more zoning restrictions. I am going to have to jump on this quick if I am going to retain my seat for 2 more years.

Also, we should finally have a bill filed to end primary screenout. Be looking for more information about the bill, what the bill number is, and how to help.

Yours in Liberty,
Patrick J Dixon
Chair, Libertarian Party of Texas
www.LPTexas.org

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Volume 17, Issue 3

March 2007

Available monthly online at
www.lptexas.org



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Submissions of party news, meeting minutes, photographs, suggested web sites, letters to the editor, etc. are encouraged. Please send to Laura@libertyworks.org or to bcunningham2@verizon.net to submit.

Libertarian activists who are interested in volunteering as reporters, editors, columnists, etc. can join our working group at Lonestarliberty@yahoogroups.com.

Bill filed to allow affirmative defense for medical marijuana patients

Reprinted from AustinLiberator, From Texans for Medical Marijuana:

Great news! Representative Elliott Naishtat, a Democrat from Austin, filed a medical marijuana bill in the Texas Legislature earlier today! [Article appeared in the 18 February 2007 issue of Austin Liberator, Editor] It is not the bill we were originally advocating for, but after considering all the political factors we've realized that this bill is our best shot at having a significant impact in protecting patients this session.

House Bill 1534 offers a compassionate two-part solution.

1. Amend section 481.121 of the Texas Health and Safety Code to create an affirmative defense to prosecution for people who use marijuana based on their physician's recommendation.

2. Amend section 164.052 of the Texas Occupations Code to protect physicians from any disciplinary action solely for making a written or oral statement that the potential benefits of marijuana use would likely outweigh the health risks for a particular patient.

So what does affirmative defense mean exactly? It means after being arrested for possession of marijuana a patient would be ensured they could tell a court why they're using marijuana, whereas today judges almost always decide medical evidence is inadmissible. This legislation would automatically make such evidence admissible for bona fide patients whose physicians have recommended they use marijuana.

As you can see, with this bill marijuana use for any reason will remain illegal. After a person is arrested, if they have a recommendation to use marijuana from their physician, they will simply be given the chance to present such evidence in court so the jury can decide if they should be punished or released.

However, with this bill bona fide medical marijuana cases may not even make it that far. Former Republican legislator, prosecutor, sheriff and original author of this bill in 2001, Terry Keel, characterized it this way: "I don't know any prosecutor, under the circumstances this bill is designed to address, who would accept such a case and file it and

prosecute it. The bill is intended to provide an amendment to our statutes that accurately reflects the exercise of prosecutorial discretion as we know it today.

Bottom line, this bill could have a huge and merciful impact if passed. Please take a few minutes to call your State Representative and ask them to support HB 1534. The person answering the phone might ask you what the bill would do, so it might be helpful to have this email in front of you. You can find out who represents you in the Texas State Legislature, and their contact information, by inserting your address at the following link: <http://www.fyi.legis.state.tx.us>.

If you live in the Austin area and are not able to attend the entire lobby day next Wednesday the 21st, I hope you can join us for the press conference and rally that day from noon to 1 pm on the south steps of the Capitol.

Thank you for taking action and speaking up for Texas patients' right to speak out in their own defense.

Noelle Davis

Executive Director

www.TexansforMedicalMarijuana.org

Medical marijuana bill filed

*From Noelle Davis,
noelle@texansformedicalmarijuana.org*

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House Bill 1534, [www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlodocs/80R/billtext.html/HB01534I.htm](http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlodocs/80R/billtext/html/HB01534I.htm), offers a compassionate two-part solution.

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2. Amend section 164.052 of the Texas Occupations Code to protect physicians from any disciplinary action solely for making a written or oral statement that the potential benefits of marihuana use would likely outweigh the health risks for a particular

patient.

So what does affirmative defense mean exactly? It means after being arrested for possession of marijuana a patient would be ensured they could tell a court why they're using marijuana, whereas today judges almost always decide medical evidence is inadmissible. This legislation would automatically make such evidence admissible for bona fide patients whose physicians have recommended they use marijuana.

Go to <http://tlo2.tlc.state.tx.us/statutes/pe.toc.htm>, to read the definition of an affirmative defense in the Texas Penal Code.

As you can see, with this bill marijuana use for any reason will remain illegal. After a person is arrested, if they have a recommendation to use marijuana from their physician, they will simply be given the chance to present such evidence in court so the jury can decide if they should be punished or released.

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What is a libertarian?

Reprinted from Austin Liberator

Here's Daniel M. St. Andre's opinion:

Libertarians believe that every person is the absolute owner of his or her own life as long as he respects the liberty of others. Government should engage in the minimum amount of initiatory force (such as levying

taxes to provide some public goods such as defense, law, and roads, as well as some minimal regulation), because we believe it helps to ensure maximum individual freedom. We also believe that a free market can adequately provide these functions in most cases when government gets out of the way. Libertarians generally do not oppose force used in response to initiatory aggressions such as direct attack, physical violence, fraud or trespassing subject to the respect for liberty mentioned above.

If you would like to write a brief description of what you think a libertarian is for possible publication in this space, write cattledriver2002@yahoo.com or bcunningham2@verizon.net.

Let's Make the Texas Legislature Listen to the Taxpayer...for once

From: C Smith, bluesmith11@yahoo.com

I have become so sick of the Texas Legislature over the last few sessions, ever increasing size of government, spend-happy bureaucrats, rising property taxes, wasteful spending. Did you know that the Tax Foundation's national report ranked Texas as having the 9th highest property taxes in the nation? Over the past decade, state spending has exploded 125 percent. In 2005, the average Texan had to work for the government until April 19th just to pay federal, state, and local taxes. Also, from 1999-2005 property tax appraisals in Texas went up 75 percent while personal income only increased 35 percent.

Meanwhile at the beginning of this 80th meeting at the state house, there is an estimated budget surplus of about \$14 billion dollars; somebody needs to tell these kooks in Austin what's up with the taxpayer.

So I set out looking for who has the juice to take up the cause of the taxpayer, since it seems that we are continually being burdened by more government. There are a few pretty good organizations out there: Bold Texas at www.boldtexas.com addresses the issues pretty well, but the best and most promising group looks to be Texans for Fiscal Responsibility at www.empowertexans.com. They look to have their ducks in a row, and are approaching this legislative session with the gusto necessary to crack a few heads in the state

house.

These guys have already applied a good amount of pressure to the house and senate to address pertinent tax and spend issues like: a stronger spending limit, spending accountability, and tax relief.

In fact, I had the pleasure of listening to TFR's president Michael Sullivan speak recently and was very encouraged by his passion and dedication regarding these issues.

"The greatest threat to our state's economic growth, and the welfare of all Texans, is the weight of government. Texans for Fiscal Responsibility exists to create and sustain a system of strong fiscal stewardship within all levels of Texas government; empowering Texans through limited government, low taxes and personal liberty."

Anyway, I thought that this group does a pretty good job of philosophically championing our common values, so I thought I'd put it on y'all's radar screens.

Ron Paul introduces bill to legalize hemp farming

Reprinted from Austin Liberator

From Texas NORML:

For the second time since the federal government outlawed hemp farming in the United States, a federal bill has been introduced that would remove restrictions on the cultivation of non-psychoactive industrial hemp. The chief sponsor of H.R. 1009, the "Industrial Hemp Farming Act of 2007," is Representative Ron Paul (R-TX) and the nine original co-sponsors are Representatives Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), Barney Frank (D-MA), Raul Grijalva (D-AZ), Maurice Hinchey (D-NY), Dennis Kucinich (D-OH), Jim McDermott (D-WA), George Mille (D-CA), Pete Stark (D-CA) and Lynn Woolsey (D-CA).

The bill's text may be viewed online at: <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c110:H.R.1009>:

Please contact your Representatives and urge them to support HR 1009 by clicking here:

<http://capwiz.com/votehemp/issues/alert/?alertid=3D9370876>

More information about hemp legislation and the crop's many uses can be found at: <http://www.VoteHemp.com>

Ron Paul to appear in first Republican presidential candidate debate

*From an email passed on to me from the
Republican Liberty Caucus:
Reprinted from AustinLiberator*

Mark your calendars - The first National Presidential Debate from New Hampshire is scheduled for Wed., April 4. It will be hosted by CNN's Wolf Blitzer and carried live on CNN TV, radio and cnn.com from 7 - 9 PM (EST).

More details later on. I've sent Blitzer an e-mail stating that I'm elated that Ron Paul has been invited and how much more interesting this debate will be with his participation. You might consider doing likewise. IMHO, it will be more difficult for the other networks to ignore/exclude him after this.

This is great news — thank you all for staying on top of the media, blogs, etc. and promoting Ron's candidacy..

Keep up the fight, Yvonne

Ron Paul, a Republican U.S. Representative from Texas, was the Libertarian Party presidential candidate in 1988.

NBA or NFL??

Thirty-six (36) have been accused of spousal abuse. Seven (7) have been arrested for fraud. Nineteen (19) have been accused of writing bad checks. One hundred seventeen (117) have directly or indirectly bankrupted at least two (2) businesses. Three (3) have done time for assault. Seventy-one (71), repeat seventy-one (71) cannot get a credit card due to bad credit. Fourteen (14) have been arrested on drug-related charges. Eight (8) have been arrested for shoplifting. Twenty-one (21) currently are defendants in lawsuits, and eighty-four (84) have been arrested for drunk driving in the last year

Can you guess which organization this is, the NBA or the NF:?

Give up yet?

Neither. It's the 535 members of the United States Congress. The same group of Idiots that crank out hundreds of new laws each year designed to keep the rest of us in line.

AND THEY JUST VOTED THEMSELVES \$15,000 PER MONTH PENSION FOR LIFE AFTER SERVING ONLY ONE TERM IN CONGRESS.

Events

12 March 2007 Filing Period for Local, Non-Partisan, Elections ends

17 March 2007 HCLP Affiliates Business Meeting, University Center - The Underground Room #90 "Pacific", 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM

20 March 2007 Bexar County LP Business Meeting, 7:00 PM China Bay Chinese buffet, 1007 NW Loop 410, San Antonio, TX 78213, (210)524-9333

31 March 2007 West Houston Libertarians, West Katy, RSVP, Contact Carl Wetzel at 281-578-1180 or cwetzel@houston.rr.com for more information.

14 April 2007 Despots Left & Right - The Mises Circle in Houston, 9:30 AM - 2PM, Vargo's Restaurant, 2401 Fondren, Houston, Guest Speaker - 2008 Presidential Candidate Dr. Ron Paul

17 April 2007 Bexar County LP General Meeting, 7:00 PM China Bay Chinese buffet, 1007 NW Loop 410, San Antonio, TX 78213, (210)524-9333

21 April 2007 SLEC meeting, Noon to 5:00 PM, Monument Inn, 4406 Battleground, Houston, TX 77571

30 April 2007 Early Voting begins

5 May 2007 Early Voting ends

15 May 2007 Bexar County LP General Meeting, 7:00 PM, China Bay Chinese buffet, 1007 NW Loop 410, San Antonio, TX 78213, (210)524-9333

21 May 2007 Texas Election Day

19 June 2007 Bexar County LP Business Meeting, 7:00 PM, China Bay Chinese buffet, 1007 NW Loop 410, San Antonio, TX 78213, (210)524-9333

17 July 2007 Bexar County LP General Meeting, 7:00 PM, China Bay Chinese buffet, 1007 NW Loop 410, San Antonio, TX 78213, (210)524-933

21 August 2007 Bexar County LP General Meeting, 7:00 PM, China Bay Chinese buffet, 1007 NW Loop 410, San Antonio, TX 78213, (210)524-933

18 Sept 2007 Bexar County LP Business Meeting, 7:00 PM, China Bay Chinese buffet, 1007 NW Loop 410, San Antonio, TX 78213, (210)524-933

16 October 2007 Bexar County LP General Meeting, 7:00 PM, China Bay Chinese buffet, 1007 NW Loop 410, San Antonio, TX 78213, (210)524-933

20 Nov 2007 Bexar County LP General Meeting, 7:00 PM, China Bay Chinese buffet, 1007 NW Loop 410, San Antonio, TX 78213, (210)524-933

18 Dec 2007 Bexar County LP Business Meeting, 7:00 PM, China Bay Chinese buffet, 1007 NW Loop 410, San Antonio, TX 78213, (210)524-933

LPT Donation Form LSL

(Note: You can also donate online at LPTexas.org. Click "Donate".)

- You can count on me to help! I will join the Monthly Pledge Group to fund our ongoing efforts for liberty. I am enclosing my best monthly pledge of:

[] \$250 [] \$100 [] \$50
[] \$25 [] \$10 [] Other \$ _____

- Enclosed is a **one-time donation**:

[] \$1,000 [] \$500 [] \$250 [] \$100
[] \$50 [] \$25 [] Other \$ _____

__ Visa __ MC __ AmEx __ Disc Card Number: _____

Name as it appears on card: _____

Expiration Date: _____ Signature: _____

Please make checks payable to "Libertarian Party of Texas."

State law requires us to report the occupation of any individual who contributes more than \$50 in a reporting period. Political contributions are not tax deductible.

Occupation: _____

Please help us stay in touch:

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Title _____ First _____ Middle _____

Last _____ Suffix _____ Nickname _____

Address:

Street _____ Add2/Apt _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ County _____

Phone:

Home _____ Home 2 _____

Work _____ Cell _____

E-mail (print clearly): _____

For additional information, please contact our Executive Director, Wes Benedict, at (512) 442-4910, 8:00 am - 10:00 pm, 7 days a week (Director@LPTexas.org).

You can **fax** your credit card donation to 512-233-0613.

Or mail to:

Libertarian Party of Texas

PO Box 41059

Austin, TX 78704

Thank you!