Election numbers: 662 LP candidates

Largest off-presidential year slate in over a decade, says LP HQ

Taking advantage of the so-called “Year of the Third Party,” The Libertarian Party will be running more than 600 candidates for public office in November — its largest number in an off-presidential year election in more than a decade.

According to the latest figures from the National LP headquarters, there are 662 Libertarian candidates for federal, state, and local office in 45 states across the USA. That compares to just 391 candidates in 1990, and a mere 206 candidates in 1986.

This means that slightly over 66% of American voters will be able to vote for at least one Libertarian candidate on November 8th, according to figures compiled by Ballot Access News editor Richard Winger. This puts the LP well ahead of the U.S. Taxpayer’s Party (21.3%), the national Patriot/Independence parties (20.6%) and the Natural Law Party (16.6%).

The states with the most LP candidates include: New Hampshire (109), California (90), Texas (57), Missouri (51), and Michigan (51). Rounding out the top 10 are Utah (36), Pennsylvania (32), Wisconsin (24), Nevada (23), and Arizona (15).

“We’re seeing what’s probably our best slate of candidate ever,” said Ron Crickenberger, Chair of the LP Campaigns Committee. “We’re seeing better quality candidates running better campaigns” — which he attributed to the large number of candidates and campaign managers who attended professional campaign training seminars around the country.

Crickenberger said the National LP has budgeted upwards of $20,000 to help “winnable” candidates in this election, and has already sent two campaign support packages — including a campaign manual, an issues “briefing” booklet, and information about Project Healthy Choice and Operation Safe Streets — to every LP candidate.

“We know that being a candidate is a grueling task; late hours, lost wages, and not nearly enough thank yous. We hope the [support package] makes that job just a little easier,” said Crickenberger.

Nolan & Bock plan national radio show

The “libertarian answer to MacNeil-Lehrer” will start appearing on radio stations around the nation, featuring the founding father of the Libertarian Party and one of the nation’s leading libertarian journalists.

The current events program, “The Fourth American Revolution,” is broadcast by satellite every Sunday evening from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm, Pacific time. Hosts are LP founder Dave Nolan and nationally syndicated columnist Alan Bock. Available for broadcast by local affiliate stations nationwide, the show features commentary on “everything under the sun . . . and beyond,” according to Nolan. “We like to think of it as a libertarian answer to MacNeil-Lehrer. More entertaining, more futurist, and definitely less establishment-oriented.”

The name of the program is drawn from Nolan and Bock’s theory that the United States is now in “the early stages of a sweeping change that will rival the original American Revolution, the Civil War and the New Deal. Our goal is to help steer that change in the direction of greater individual liberty,” said Bock.

Two LP state parties win ballot access victories

Libertarian parties in two states have won important lawsuits, putting LP candidates back on the ballot.

New York: The state LP collected more than enough signatures to get their slate of candidates back on the ballot, after a federal judge gave them a second chance. A judge ruled on September 28 that a NY law requiring district identification code numbers on ballot access petitions was unconstitutional, and granted the party 72 hours to collect new petitions. The party took advantage of the reprieve, collecting more than 9,000 signatures over one weekend, far more than the 3,500 valid petitions needed to boost them over the 15,000 legal requirement.

Colorado: LP state Senate candidate Judd Ptak was placed back on the ballot after a judge ruled that a state law requiring 1,000 petitions was unreasonable. “If Judd had not been put back on the ballot, the LP of Colorado would have been decertified,” said State Chair David Aitken. “[The judge] found that this would violate our 1st and 14th Amendment rights. The good guys win one!”
Libertarians offer a way out of the Republicrat mess

By Jeff Wright

"There are many gentlemen in the United States who think it right that we should have one great, national, consolidated government, and that it was better to bring it about slowly and imperceptibly rather than all at once."

— George Mason, Elliot's Debates on the Adoption of the Federal Constitution.

The approach of the fall election season makes it important to distinguish, in the voter's mind, a few salient points on the current state of our political parties and system.

1) Regardless of their stated preference of political party, whether Demo- crat or Republican, the majority of citizens believe the two major parties are essentially the same animal. The preponderance of these politicians ultimately vote for bigger government, more regulation, higher taxes and more power for themselves.

2) In following the voting pattern stated above these politicians vote for our city and county Charters, state and federal Constitutions, at will and without consequence. Each of these charters, whatever it is, borrows or affirms an oath of office that says they will "preserve, protect and defend" those documents. They are doing none of those things.

3) The American public appears to currently acquiesce in this raping of the land and economy by continuing to elect these politicians to office.

4)Polls, though, show the American public currently feels the country is heading down the toilet at virtually all levels. While we seem to know that something is disastrously wrong, we continue down the same path.

Why is this happening? Because the Republicrat elite know that the American public is completely distracted by the struggle to make a living and pay your taxes. They know it is nearly impossible to take the time to see through the lies and deceit that have been perpetrated upon us. The elite in this country understands well, at all levels, how easy it is to keep us distracted and still claim to be "representative government."

From top to bottom our system is infected with corruption, double-dealing, abuse of power, theft, and distortion of our governmental structure. That has created a system where fully 8 out of 10 of our economy goes to pay for government. Yet, we don't seem to know how to fix this.

The only thing President Clinton had right in his campaign was that we need change. We need it fast. However, we don't need the change that the current political power is practicing on us. We should also know, at this point, that there is no way the current political power is going to invoke the changes necessary to give back the country to the people. It will have to come through other means.

Though only 20 years old the national Libertarian Party, and the LP of Colorado, has established itself as the most viable contender to attack the current political power structure. The LP has state parties in all 50 states and affiliates in most counties. It has currently over 200 elected or appointed officials in government around the nation. It has mounted six presidential campaigns since 1974. It has demonstrated the staying power necessary to accomplish a return to the founding principles of this Republic. Finally, it has the national programs and programs to guide that return.

Two major programs developed by the LP: Project Healthy Choice and Operation Safe Streets, counter the abnormal health care and crime legislation either contemplated or passed by the federal government. The LP programs accomplish the same goals as the federal legislation with less regulation, government and taxes, more freedom and liberty for all Americans. The LP has the programs, platform and policies in place to reform this country back into the one intended by its founders and ready for the 21st century.

There is only one major hurdle faced by the Libertarian Party or any other political movement capable of fixing the problems. That is, the willingness of the American people to change themselves. If Americans are indeed fed up, then we should begin to desert the parties who defy us. The LP cannot achieve its goals without the increasing support of the disaffected Republicans and Independents. America will continue down the tubes until large numbers join the political alternatives.

George Bernard Shaw once said, "Liberty means responsibility. That is why men dread it." Shaw was a socialist and knew of which he spoke. The socialists have always depended on our reluctance to take responsibility. Are we really willing to let that be true?

Jeff Wright, a resident of Colorado Springs, is membership coordinator for the Libertarian party of Colorado. For more information on the Libertarian party, send a copy of the "Liberty Pledge News," 80901.

The candidate for U.S. Senate wants Democrats and Republicans to adopt some of his party's ideas, such as legalizing drugs.

By John D. Forester Jr.

Eagle Times

His campaign literature carried this message, "This year there is finally a choice. But Don Ernsberger is candid enough to admit that the majority of voters won't choose him in the Nov. 8 election for U.S. Senate. Instead, the 46-year-old Libertarian Party standard-bearer in the race against Democratic incumbent Harris Wofford and U.S. Rep. Rick Santorum, the Republican challenger, said that, by having a voice in the campaign, he hopes other candidates will pay some moral and the Libertarian point of view.

For instance, his answer to the crime problem: Legalize drugs.

Or the party's solution to health-care reform: Leave the market alone.

Ernsberger, a high school history teacher from Warminster, Bucks County, outlined his party's strategy Thursday during a campaign swing through Reading.

"Don't see myself as a spoiler," he said of his thirdparty candidacy. "I am more than a spoiler. I believe we (Libertarians) will be seen in this campaign as a part of the electorate that wants to be taken into account."

Ernsberger said that there are no real differences between the Democratic and Republican parties. "They both say the same things, but they use different terminology," he said.

For instance, he said, the majority of Republicans in Congress would have voted for the Crime Bill if the social programs aimed at prevention had been taken out of it.

"I wouldn't have voted for that bill because it is the same old reactionary approach to crime — build more prisons and hire more cops," he said. "It doesn't get to the real reason why we have so much soaring crime."

Ernsberger paged through a copy of the "Reading Times."

"If you read all these crime stories, every single case is tied into the drug war," he said. "But there was only one line in the Crime Bill that tied into the drug-war situation."

He said the crime rate would go down drastically if the government would take the profitability out of the illegal drug trade by decriminalizing drugs.

"By doing that, you would be breaking the back of organized crime," he said.

"If you could turn back time to 1928 in Chicago and ask, why are there drive-by shootings, why are the police corrupt, why are the courts and the jails clogged, people would tell you that it was because of the prohibition of alcohol," he said. "People back then made the linkage."

But, he said, people today don't see that most crime is tied directly or indirectly to the drug trade and, therefore, won't act to end the prohibition on street drugs.

As for health care, Ernsberger said the crisis is being caused by government over-regulating the insurance industry, forcing deductibles so low that people over-use and abuse the health-care system.

He said that, if individuals were allowed to negotiate health insurance policies with higher deductibles, their premiums would go down.

Ernsberger also suggested legislation similar to Santorum's proposed health-care "IRAs," which would be tax-free savings accounts used to pay medical bills when needed. He said Santorum stole that idea from the Libertarian Party, which first proposed it in 1984.

The Libertarian Party, he said, is trying to be a wedge, forcing more differences between the two major parties, which he said both represent government expansion.

"We are able to give the American people different ideas from the one intended by its founders and ready for the 21st century."

Don Ernsberger
doesn't expect victory

ELECTION '94

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L. Neil Smith speaks and writes his mind

Fort Collins writer has earned national fame

By Lee Tomjack

For the Triangle Review

If you log onto the net with your computer, you might come across a Fort Collins writer talking about his latest literary offering. Paull B. Davis, a resident of Pocatello, Idaho, recently had the opportunity to talk to him. Davis is the president of Liberty Pledge News, a publication that focuses on libertarian literature.

Smith has been a prolific writer for over 25 years. His first novel, The Probability Brooch, was published in 1977. Since then, he has written over 50 novels and novellas, including The Illuminatus! Trilogy, a series of three novels that were published in the 1970s and 1980s. The trilogy is considered to be a classic of the genre and has been translated into over 20 languages.

Smith is a self-taught writer who began his career as a journalist. He worked for various newspapers and magazines, including The Rocky Mountain News and The Denver Post. He also worked as a freelance writer and editor.

Smith's works are characterized by their innovative ideas and complex characters. His writing often explores themes of economics, politics, and philosophy. He is known for his ability to create a sense of tension and suspense in his stories.

Smith's latest novel, The Venus Belt, was published in 2019. The novel is a science fiction story about a group of people who are stranded on a distant planet. The story explores themes of survival, trust, and the nature of reality.

Smith is also a political writer. He has written about a wide range of topics, including economics, politics, and culture. He is known for his ability to express complex ideas in a clear and concise manner.

Smith is a regular contributor to Liberty Pledge News and has written numerous articles for the publication. He is also a member of the editorial board of the publication.

Smith lives in Fort Collins, Colorado, with his wife and four children. He is a devoted father and a dedicated writer.
A party in search of a leader
Libertarians seek respect and viable candidates

By Kevin McKeever
Staff Writer

In a state that four years ago embraced the idea of an independent governor, running on a minor-party ticket in Connecticut might guarantee some respect among the population.

Not so, even if that party happens to be the Libertarian Party — the third-largest in the United States.

"Nobody calls you a wacko to your face, but they’re thinking some of your views are extreme without even hearing them," said Gordon Haave of Greenwich, Libertarian candidate for state representative in the 15th District.

But according to party officials, recognition for the Libertarians — who collected a party-high 3.7 million votes in state and federal elections in 1992 — has been inching forward as voters continually grow disillusioned and distrustful of government and the two-party system.

Founded in 1971, the Libertarian philosophy is rooted in the principles of individuality, respect for the Constitution and minimal government intrusion.

The members’ philosophy is that government intrusion should be minimal, save the protection of citizens’ lives, constitutional property and rights and property. Libertarians believe people should truly govern themselves and assist one another.

"It’s the concept of natural law that was the basis of the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution," said Carl Vasser, chair of the Libertarian Party of Connecticut. "As long as it does not hurt anyone or infringe on another’s freedom, it is generally acceptable."

Eliminating income taxes and gun-control laws and legalizing drugs to reduce their allure to the criminal element are steadfast platforms.

The message has caught on somewhat, at least in terms of the number of candidates and votes the party’s collected since its inception. About 125 Libertarians hold elective office nationwide, although none have ever in Connecticut.

In addition to Haave and Stamford resident Irving Susman, who is challenging U.S. Rep. Christopher Shays, R-Stamford, for the 4th District seat, 15 other candidates of the Libertarian Party acknowledge and accept as a party or candidate: revise laws to enable all candidates and parties causing candidates and parties causing candidates to be excluded from the ballot.

They conceded their candidates tend to be professionals from technical fields without much experience running for office, alone or filling the ballot, as in the case of several other candidates. But it has been put into effect for the first time in the state this year as a result of a legal challenge.

Schneider’s assessment of the Sterling candidacy is similar — it may help some third-party voters and Independents from the so-called third party, but it would have been more effective, he said, if the Libertarian Party had had a candidate or strong person to rally around even if it wasn’t one they all admired.

But he could have given us ballot access for four years in New York with the votes he would haven gotten. That would have been something.

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All parties are creations of personality," he said, citing what Ronald Reagan did for the Republicans in the 1980s and Perot did for dissatisfied voters in 1992. "What the Libertarian need is a person — a horse to ride in on. They need a guy to get votes.

But unlike a Connecticut Party with Gov. Lowell Weicker Jr., the Libertarian stable has candidates out of its party, track record or public acclaim. They conceded their candidates tend to be professionals from technical fields without much experience running for office, alone or filling the ballot, as in the case of several other candidates. But it has been put into effect for the first time in the state this year as a result of a legal challenge.

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