

Texas Libertarians Earn 2006 Ballot Spot

Libertarian Candidates Performance in Texas in 2004; Badnarik US Vote Total May Reach 400,000

By Don Richards

Because of Quanah Parker and Tom Oxford, Texas Libertarians won't have to spend precious time and money on ballot access petitions for the 2006 Texas election campaign. Ballot access for a political party in Texas is assured if a candidate pulls five percent of the total in a statewide office. Parker drew 842,469 votes, some 16.06 percent of the total vote in her campaign for Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals Place 2. Oxford garnered 745,447 votes or 14.21 percent of the total in his run for Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals Place 5. Both candidates were in two-way races.

According to Laura Coker-Garcia, Editor of Lone Star Liberty, the official monthly newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Texas, "By agreeing to run, Quanah and Tom saved the Party approximately \$140,000 (judging from what it cost this year) and hundreds (perhaps thousands) of hours of volunteer time" in the arduous task of gathering petition signatures to get on this year's ballot. Says she, "I am extremely thankful for their effort."

Another big Libertarian vote-getter was Anthony Garcia, who drew 252,079 votes for Railroad Commissioner. Unfortunately this was only good for third place (3.6 percent) in a three-way race for the position. This year Libertarian candidates in Texas, running for a total of 76 offices, received some 2,397,522 votes. While this falls well below the total of 4,857,718 votes for 62 offices in 2000, it is still well above other previous Libertarian state vote totals.

LP President-Vice-President nominees Michael Badnarik and Richard Campagna drew only 38,273 votes statewide, but that was good enough for third place in a contest heavily tilted toward the Republican ticket which racked up 4,519,262 votes (61.13 percent of the total). Democrat nominees Kerry and Edwards received 2,827,835 votes (38.25 percent). Nationally, according to figures from The Washington Post, Republicans Bush-Cheney won with 58,605,517 votes, followed by Democrats Kerry-Edwards (55,074,905). The Badnarik-Campagna team, with 374,660 votes, ran fourth after the Nader-Camejo Independent ticket (391,566). Among third-party candidates, Badnarik's vote

total was higher than the combined tallies for Michael A. Peroutka of the Constitution Party (128,867) and David Cobb of the Green Party (104,667 votes).

The National LP reports that Ballot Access News publisher Richard Winger predicts that Badnarik will ultimately receive about 400,000 votes after all absentee ballots are counted and certified, which may not happen until late December. In comparison to past Libertarian candidates for President, that total would rank Badnarik fourth behind Ed Clark (921,199 votes in 1980); Harry Browne (485,759 votes in 1996); and U.S. Rep. Ron Paul, (432,297 votes in 1988). Browne re-

Continued on page 4

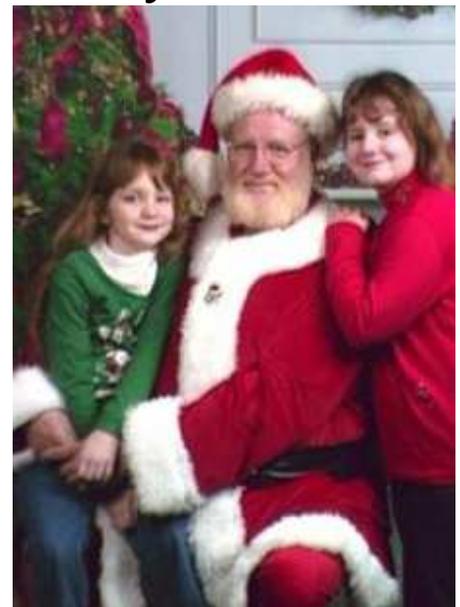
Nicholas Named Grayson Chair

Michael Nicholas of Denison was recently appointed LP Chair for Grayson County.

The newly organized county party has a handful of members who currently meet with nearby Collin County on the third Saturday of each month. The group also has an online discussion group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GraysonLPActivist>.

Michael can be reached by mail at P.O. Box 1452, Denison, TX 75021-1452, by phone at 903-465-6148, and by email at mtn55555@yahoo.com.

Libertarian kids can also reach him at LibertarianStNic@yahoo.com. The girls at right are Michael's daughters Aurielle and Maireigh.



Grayson County girls ask St. Nic for the gift of freedom for Christmas.



Lone Star Liberty

Volume 14, Issue 12
December 2004
Available monthly
online at
www.lptexas.org;

Publisher:

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Submissions of party news, meeting minutes, photographs, bios of candidate, suggested websites, letters to the editor, etc. is encouraged. Send to Laura@libertyworks.org to submit.

Can Texas Afford Success?

Elections are the measure of success for a political party. Having concluded our 2004 elections we have an opportunity to measure ourselves.

Our main accomplishments from this election cycle are:

Michael Badnarik received an all-time record for Libertarian presidential votes in Texas.

We will not need another painful and expensive petition drive to qualify for the 2006 ballot since Quannah Parker and Tom Oxford easily exceeded the 5% statewide votes to automatically qualify.

In a race where we specifically targeted Republican State Representative Jack Stick, Libertarian Greg Knowles received four times the winning margin to cost Stick his seat, and the media has appropriately given us credit—because we had a full-time executive director able to promptly respond to media inquiries, we were able to capitalize on opportunities for greater exposure.

We know that we are unlikely to sweep into Congress and the White House overnight. There is a lot of work ahead. Texas is way behind other states in getting Libertarians in office. Some examples of Libertarian success in other states include: Georgia—Glenn Tatum is their executive director, and their candidate Ben Branden had a huge partisan race victory defeating both Republicans and Democrats for County Executive of Dade County.

Indiana—Brad Klopfenstein is their executive director, and they have 15 Libertarians in office.

Oregon—Richard Burke is their executive director and they have 13 Libertarians in office. They also have sponsors that donate \$3000 per month for an office building for their state headquarters.

Ohio—Robert Butler is their executive director, and they have 10 elected Libertarians.

California—They have just hired Dave Ruprecht as their executive director and have 86 Libertarians in office. Notice a pattern?

Successful states like these, as well as North Carolina, Illinois, Massachusetts, and Missouri have found a full time paid executive director is crucial to their success. That is why my first act as chair was to hire Wes Benedict as our executive director.

Our immediate concern is to settle our ballot access debt of \$12.5k. We paid down half of the \$25k obligation so far, and need to settle the rest before we can attempt further investments. We have sent out letters asking for monthly pledges that can be automatically paid by credit card. The same donation form is included in this newsletter.

Having a monthly predictable income is crucial for our budgeting and for retaining the services of our executive director.

—Patrick Dixon, State Chair

Around the State: Activist Update

Kris Overstreet, LP Media Relations Manager, was interviewed November 5 by the San Antonio Current for the Libertarian opinion on the elections.

Fred Jones had a thank you letter to voters who supported his run for State Representative printed in the November 9 Abilene Reporter News.

Tom Clark reports that this quarter the Texas Liberty Club donated copies of *Healing our World* by Dr.

Mary Ruwart, *The Triumph of Liberty* by Jim Powell, *Speaking of Liberty* by Lew Rockwell, *Princess Navinia Visits* series by James Payne and *Freehold* by Michael Williamson to the Harris County Public Library. "Dr. Ruwart's book has been so popular at the library that we are planning to donate more copies so that each branch will have one," Tom said.

Clyde Garland in Brazos County got 18 individuals attending the

Yes, I want the Libertarian Party to Succeed!

Name : _____ Address: _____ City & Zip _____
Phone (evenings): _____ Phone (day): _____ Email: _____
County: _____ Occupation: _____ Employer: _____

- _____ I can distribute Libertarian Party outreach materials.
- _____ I can hold or attend a meeting in my county.
- _____ I can design or host a website for a candidate or county party.
- _____ I am considering running for a local office in 2005.
- _____ I am interested in being an appointed County Chair.

Print this form and mail to:
Libertarian Party
PO Box 27932,
Houston, TX 77227

- _____ Enclosed is a **one-time contribution** to help reach our goals.
- _____ **Monthly Pledge** (please bill my credit card on a monthly basis.)

Amount: _____ \$1,000 _____ \$250 _____ \$100 _____ \$50 _____ \$30 _____ \$10 _____ Other

Please enclose a check or money order made payable to the Libertarian Party of Texas. (No corporate checks, please.)
Or provide the following information to authorize billing to your credit card.

Name on card: _____ Signature: _____
Visa _____ Mastercard _____ American Express _____ Discover _____
Account number: _____ Expiration: (mm/yy) _____

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.

Neil Boortz live radio broadcast November 12 to take the World's Smallest Political Quiz. Of those 15 scored Libertarian with two more on the border.

Patrick Dixon, LP of Texas State Chair, called into the show and was on air as **well**.

Jeff Daiell appeared on Susan Farris' public affairs radio show on KTSA in San Antonio November 16. He was in town to give his speech "The Property Rights basis of the Bill of Rights" to the Bexar County LP.

The Travis County LP announced that their Volunteer of the Month for October was **Dan Eisler**, who was active in candidate recruitment. The Volunteer of the Month for November is **Michael Badnarik** in recognition of all his work as the Presidential nominee.

The Harris County LP named **Lyndell Rottman** Volunteer of the Month for November for his work updating the county's website.

Kevin Anderson has an-

nounced that he will be seeking the LP nomination for U.S. Representative District 4 for 2006.

Gordon Mobley has resigned as District 24 Representative to the State Executive Committee. He will continue as Bell County Chair.

TCLP Opposes TX Amendment

The Travis County Libertarian Party (TCLP) during its meeting on November 9, 2004 adopted a position to oppose HJR 6, the proposed amendment to the Texas Constitution that would ban same sex marriage.

"Libertarians feel that the role of Government is very limited and this intrusion into citizens private lives oversteps the authority given to the State of Texas. We as Libertarians stand firm on the US and the Texas Constitutions and the protections spelled out in those documents," reports Rob Fritshe.

"As a married man of 20 years

Leonard Kunkell reports that his brother **Gary Kunkell** was killed in a truck roll-over 12:30 p.m. September 25. Gary was new to the Party becoming active in this spring's ballot access drive. Condolences may be sent to Leonard at image10@swbell.net.

and the father of three teenagers, I want my family to know that Texas does not discriminate against lovers who choose to support society by participating in the stable institution of marriage," said Alan Weiss. "We should all reject bigotry and prejudice and realize that gay, lesbian, and transgendered Texans are still Texans, with all the rights and responsibilities that entails. While civil unions might appear to be a reasonable compromise, it is plain as day that the State should not violate consenting adults' rights to marry each other. The State of Texas shouldn't be in the business of discrimination."

2004 Election Results for LP in Texas *from front page*

ceived 384,429 votes in his second run for president in 2000. Joe Seehusen, LP Executive Director, lauding the accomplishments of the Badnarik-Campagna effort, asserts, "The fact that they came within a whisker of beating Ralph Nader, a nationally recognized figure with almost unlimited access to the media, is genuinely impressive."

In Texas, perhaps the most significant development in this year's election was the utter disappearance of the Greens. Coming from nowhere in 2000, the Green Party was then headed by Nader, who received 3.1 million votes nationwide. In Texas he grabbed 137,994 votes of 1,360,301 Green votes for six offices in the that year's Presidential race. In the non-presidential year of 2002 the Greens ran for 25 offices and scored 705,255 votes. With the virtual disappearance of Nader, (who received 5,035 write-ins in this year's Texas election), the Greens, who did not meet Texas ballot requirements, appear to have fled elsewhere. Two questions linger: (1) Will Nader bother to run again with his two-word platform ("Corporate Greed!")? and (2)

Will the Greens ever again be a factor without a notorious name to head up a campaign?

Texas LP Presidential Race Finish

Year	Candidate	Texas Votes	Place
2004	Badnarik(L)	38723	3
2004	Nader (W-I)	5035	4
2000	Browne (L)	23160	4
2000	Nader (G)	137994	3
1996	Browne (L)	20269	3
1996	All other	11953	—
1992	Marrou (L)	19699	4
1992	Perot (Ind)	1354781	3

*From the Texas Secretary of State Statistics.

Events of Interest to Texas Libertarians

Dec. 3 (Fri.) 7:30 - 9:30 a.m. Charter Schools, Vouchers, and School Choice Education Roundtable in Austin presented by Austin Chamber and IBM. St. Edwards University, 3001 S. Congress, Austin. \$10-\$20. For information visit www.austinchamber.org.

Dec. 5 (Sun.) 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Introduction to the Constitution Class with Michael Badnarik. \$50, includes classroom edition of "Good to be the King." Contact class@ConstitutionPreservation.org for information or to register.

Dec. 7 (Tues.) Travis County LP Meeting, at Mekong River Restaurant, 215 E. 6th Street, Austin. Contact Rock Howard at rockmh@austin.rr.com.

Dec. 10 (Fri.) Medicaid: \$28 Billion and Counting Policy Forum, Driskill Hotel, Austin. Speaker will be Steve Moore. See www.texaspolicy.com for details.

Dec. 10 (Fri.) 10:30 a.m. Campaign Finance Reform Summit in Dallas. Wilshire Baptist Church, 4613 Abrams Road. Billed as a discussion of the problem and proposed solutions. For information call 512-472-1007 or email patrick@campaignsforpeople.org.

Dec. 11 (Sat.) 1 p.m. SLECT Meeting, at Mekong River Restaurant, 215 E. 6th Street, Austin. Contact Pat Dixon for information at tlpapatjdixon@earthlink.net.

Dec. 11 (Sat.) 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Introduction to the Constitution Class with Michael Badnarik. \$50, includes classroom edition of "Good to be the King." Contact class@ConstitutionPreservation.org.

Dec. 14 (Tues.) 7 p.m. Williamson County LP Meeting, Tequila Azul Restaurant, Round Rock. For information contact Dave Howard at dhoward7999@austin.rr.com.

Dec. 18 (Sat.) Collin, Dallas, Denton and Tarrant County Activist Meetings. Time and location varies. Contact Wes Benedict at wesliberty@aol.com or 512-442-4910.

Jan. 11 (Tues.) 79th Texas Legislature Opens.

Jan. 11 (Tues.) Noon to 5 p.m. Texas Impact Legislative Training in Austin. Legislative orientation and local liaison training for individuals interested in bringing social action to their religious congregations. First United Methodist Church, Austin. \$20 includes lunch. For information or to register contact justice@texasimpact.com or 512-472-3903.

Jan. 18 (Tues.) Deadline for final financial reports with the Texas Ethics Commission. All statewide, state senate and state representative candidates who did not mark an earlier report "final" must file. Visit the TEC online at www.ethics.state.tx.us or call 1-800-325-8506.