



ILLINOIS LIBERTARIAN

Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Illinois

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Campaign Strategy

by Sue Walton, and Kenneth Prazak

Election season is here again. The perennial question arises. Should we or should we not run state-wide candidates? Senator Paul Simon is running for re-election. And the Governor's race is wide open with tax-loving Secretary of State, Jim Edgar, running for the Republicans (as well as Steve Baer of the United Republican Fund and Dr. Robert Marshall of NTUI) and Attorney General Neal Hartigan running for the Democrats.

In the past the Libertarian Party of Illinois has not exactly made an auspicious showing for Governor or Senator, if the often stated goal of receiving five percent of the vote is the barometer.

If there is any libertarian in the state that would like to run a serious campaign for Governor or Senator, please let state chair, Sue Walton know.

However, maybe it is time to consider an alternative to the vastly expensive task of running a state-wide slate of candidates. Possibly, it is time to pursue an endeavor that has a decent chance of winning.

As has been reported in the *Illinois Libertarian* the past few months, the National Taxpayers United of Illinois (NTUI) is organizing a petition drive that would greatly limit the ability of the politicians in Springfield to raise taxes. With the burgeoning tax revolt brewing in this state, this tax

accountability initiative should have a good chance to get on the ballot and a great chance of winning.

If we libertarians were to get behind this initiative with the fervor and finance that we normally reserve for state-wide campaigns, we could accomplish at least four goals. One, we dramatically increase the initiative's chance for success. Two, we will have participated in a badly needed victory that goes a long way dispelling any notion that we, as a party, are losers. Three, we should be able to recruit more people into the party with this coalescing effort. And four, we will begin

to reverse the trend of the tax/spending ways of Springfield. The coordinator for this initiative drive is the extremely capable, affable, and approachable, Paul Jacob.

Another initiative still on the drawing board in this state is the Fully Informed Jury Amendment (FIJA).

Again, here is great way to coalesce and bring more people into the party, while vastly increasing our spheres of freedom and influence.

In keeping with this grass roots approach, we could run local candidacies for state legislature or Congress. So far, Lenny Grum is considering running for state representative. State rep. candidates need only 3500 signatures. He lives in Lake-of-the-Hills. Any other takers?

Candidates Wanted!

U.S. Senator?

Governor?

Congressman

State Representative

Local Offices and Boards

Suggestions on Local Campaigning

by Kenneth Prazak

After targeting a politician that is especially vulnerable, i.e. one who voted for tax increases last time around, a prospective candidate needs to develop his organization. One needn't spend a lot of money to run a local campaign. Here are a few suggestions. Instead of depleting the LIFBAC treasury for ballot access, why not raise the money yourself. You will need petitioners, canvassers, and contributors. Run a few ads in a local newspaper to receive local support. For example,

Individuals wanted to stop big government,
phone

Help repeal the June 30 tax massacre,
phone

Are you tired of paying double for education,
phone

Stop gun confiscation,
phone

Help restore individual rights,
phone

These ads will be small and inexpensive. What if no one responds to your ads? It is then not worth running for office if you can't get at least some local support. At least you will find out right away. Chances are, though, that you will get some response. Those that do respond most likely will have friends who think likewise. If you are already active in community organizations, you should be able to pick up some support there. With five or more dedicated people putting in five hours a week, (and yourself putting in 25 hours per week), you can get on the ballot and run an effective campaign.

Another way to get more volunteers in your organization is to coalesce with the tax accountability amendment people in your area. Your organization could help with the tax amendment, and maybe they can help you get elected.

Once your organization is set, start contacting all the community organizations you can find and speak to them about the issues they care about. Taxes and education are big right now. We should get a receptive audience on those issues.

This is just a bare-bones-beginning-of-a-plan to run locally. If we are to grow as a party, we must grow from the grass-roots. Please send suggestions to IL. LIB. to enhance or change this plan for local political organization. We can continue this forum on through election day.

Outreach Through Advertising

LPI has formed an Advertising committee and we need your help in every area of the state. Our mission is to build awareness of the name of the Libertarian Party of Illinois. One of our long-range (5-year) goals is to place printed ads in every publication we can afford. In the short run (1 year) our first goal, for print media only, is to take advantage of every free classified ad opportunity offered in Illinois. There are hundreds of newspapers across hundreds of cities and towns that offer free space for classified ads. These ads are to be run in every issue, not just one-shot efforts.

This committee already has had success running several carefully-worded ads in two publications. In the *Reader*, we ran a new ad every week in the "Wanted" section. In the *Reporter/Progress* Newspapers we advertise the Libertarian Supper Club of Dupage in the Club Calendar every week. Both are free.

The Advertising committee meets weekly at Eric Banfield's apartment in Westmont. It is easy to join this committee, no matter where you are. If you are near enough to attend our meetings, bring a local paper, shopper, newsletter, or anything offering free ads. (If you live too far away, contact Eric Banfield by phone or mail, and mail us a copy of the intended publication and maybe a suggestion for an ad.) Together we'll design an ad for that paper's audience. Then you'll be in charge of filling out any forms, mailing the ads, ensuring their publication, saving copies, and recording all details—including addresses, deadlines, etc., and reporting to the Advertising committee. (Do not run any unapproved ads using the name of the Libertarian Party of Illinois or any of its formally-recognized clubs.) Awards will be considered for those who run the most ads.

This is a good opportunity for members to become active in promoting the Libertarian Party of Illinois and its clubs. Join us!

Contact: Eric C. Banfield, Northern vice-chair, LPI, Chair, LPI Advertising Committee, 300 west 60th St. #202A, Westmont, Il. 60559, h)708-960-1552, w)312-368-3041.

Biting the Ideological Bullet

by Dave Hoscheidt

In the September/October 1989 issue of the Libertarian Party News, It was reported that a new strategy had been adopted by the Party at the 1989 convention in Philadelphia. Karl Hess reported that "the new emphasis is on party building through local political activism with broad appeals rather than restricting outreach to 'perfect' libertarian positions." From this, one can derive that we cannot become a major contender on the political scene unless we cease shocking the voters by taking positions too broad in scope for the voters to understand at one sitting. Libertarians must therefore be willing to "bite the ideological bullet" and make some painful choices about which positions should be advanced now and which positions would be put off for the future. There is the possibility that unless such a softening of position takes place, the future growth of the Party will be severely limited.

Proposals to *abolish* would have to be abandoned in favor of *limiting, adjusting* or *replacing*. The income tax should be reduced rather than instantly abolished. Taxation is a *burden* rather than theft. All talk of abolishing the FBI and CIA would have to stop forthwith. We would propose that the U.S. allow the Europeans to "assume a leading role" in NATO rather than proposing immediate withdrawal. Urban zoning will not be *abolished* but merely *replaced* by giving

neighborhood associations the option of adopting private covenants and restrictions. Drugs would be decriminalized and dealt with as a health problem. The Postal Service would not be privatized, although it would be proposed that "those wishing to compete with the postal service be allowed to do so." Regarding Social Security, we would propose "long-term planning designed to maintain the health of the system." The Food and Drug Administration would not be abolished, but more experimental drugs would be allowed.

If we embark upon the dangerous task of softening our positions, the legitimate concern would arise as to how we would know the difference between clever political strategy and genuine ideological heresy. A general guideline would be as follows: No one can be accused of ideological heresy if the position advanced would lead to less government power over people's lives or would lead to no greater governmental power—provided that any suggestion for the maintenance of the status quo is balanced by a certain number of suggestions for reducing state power.

The adoption of gradualism would be for strategic purposes only. If we do not wish to employ violent means to overthrow the State, and if we voluntarily submit to the discipline of the U.S. Constitution, it would seem that we should play the game according to the rules of those who call the shots—the voters.

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Is Liberty of Value to Any of Us?

by Walter Williams

reprinted from the State-Journal Register, Sept. 28, 1989

During his 1968 presidential campaign, Gov. George Wallace, D-Ala., was fond of preaching, "There's not a dime's worth of difference between Democrats and Republicans." I'd agree, although I'd bicker a bit on the difference.

Massachusetts Sen. Ted Kennedy, a Democrat, makes the Internal Revenue Service reach into our pockets for poor people and cities, while Kansas Sen. Bob Dole, a Republican, has them do the same for farmers and businessmen. The bottom line is: Both parties serve the purposes of other people.

The Libertarian Party is different. Libertarians are against Congress forcing one American to toil for another American. They're also against government restrictions on activities that do not involve violence, theft, intimidation, threats, or embezzlement.

Libertarian values, virtually absent among today's politicians, are like those of Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and George Mason. Like these men, Libertarians believe that natural law—what some might call God-given—not government gives people certain inalienable rights. Government's job is protection, not abrogation, of these rights.

The average politician, judge or president is either contemptuous or ignorant of natural law and the inalienable rights expressed in our Declaration of Independence. They self-servingly think the only rights we possess are those granted by government. As such, our leaders share much in common with history's tyrants.

There is nothing older and uglier in human history, whether it's King George, Stalin, Hitler or the U.S. Congress,

than the notion that some people should be forcibly used to serve the purposes of other people. The only debate among tyrants, big and small, is how, and how much.

"Come on, Williams," you say. "Our politicians are nothing like those sinister creatures." Check it out! The earnings of the first two hours of work every day are not yours to keep. The government takes them to give to poor people, farmers, businessmen, and other hustlers. If you rebel against being so-used, Congress sends its agents to get you.

Libertarians take a strong stance against this injustice. I suspect most Americans would as well, if they thought about it. Then, why aren't the Libertarians a viable political party? The answer is either I'm wrong in believing the Americans respect liberty and private property, or Libertarians do a poor job of promoting the moral superiority of their values.

Part of the problem may be the Libertarian call to decriminalize drugs, prostitution and gambling leaving some people nonplused. Thus, left with the impression that Libertarians are immoral, the average American would never cast his vote for a Libertarian candidate. The truth of the matter is: Libertarians probably feel that drugs, prostitution and gambling are not really great activities, but government prohibition makes a bad matter worse.

Thomas Jefferson said, "The natural progress of things is for government to gain ground and for liberty to yield." Therein lies the real Libertarian agenda: halting the cancer of government growth. If Americans ever recapture the spirit of Thomas Paine and Patrick Henry, the Libertarian Party will be our ticket to restoration of constitutional and moral government.

Walter Williams is a columnist with the Heritage features Syndicate.

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Illinois Libertarian Calendar

December 3

- **SCC Meeting**, Sunday, 1:00 P.M., at Steve Reed's apartment, call for directions, 312-764-5828.

December 4

- **DuPage Libertarian Club**, Monday, 6:30 P.M. at the Minuette Restaurant, Ogden and Main St., Lisle, Il. Meets first Monday of every month, same place and time. For more info: Steve Nelson, 708-969-1088.

December 12

- **National Conference: Challenge for the 90s: Drug-Free Neighborhoods**, Tuesday, 9:00 AM, David Boaz of the Cato Institute will speak.; \$25 for that session. More info: call Ken Smith, 312-243-3035.

December 14

- **North Cook County Libertarian Club, and North Shore Individualist Annual Holiday Party**. More info: Greg Bezdek, 312-251-2870 or Sue Walton, 708-475-0391.

January 8

- **DuPage Libertarian Club**, Monday, 6:30 P.M. at the Minuette Restaurant, Ogden and Main St., Lisle, Il. Meets first Monday of every month (different this month), same place and time. For more info: Steve Nelson, 708-969-1088.

January 11

- **North Cook County Libertarian Club, and North Shore Individualist** meeting Thursday, 7:00 P.M., Jim Tobin and the NTUI will speak on the Tax Accountability Amendment, at the Henry George School, 4536 N. Ravenswood, Chicago. Location: just south of Wilson on Ravenswood on the west side of the tracks. One and a half blocks north of the CTA Ravenswood line Montrose Station, one and a half blocks south of the CNW north line, Ravenswood. More info: 312-561-9660.

January 22

- **NCCLP Supper Club** resumes at a new location: Monday, Angelo's Restaurant & Lounge, 1418 West Morse, Chicago, one-half block west of the Morse EL. Angelo's serves alcohol; it's the Rogers Park equivalent to LCD's Minuette. 7 PM. More info: Harvey Gould, 708-729-2262.
- **Northwest Libertarian Club**, Call Dan Coit form more info, (708-803-8855)

Tax Accountability Amendment

Paul Jacob, coordinator, 708-253-5555

Honor Roll

The Illinois Libertarian Party salutes those leaders who have shown the courage to speak out for decriminalization of drugs.

- Milton Friedman Nobel Laureate
William F. Buckley Jr Publisher National Review
Mike Royko Chicago Tribune Columnist
Kurt Schmoke Mayor of Baltimore, Md., former prosecutor
Alan Dershowitz Law Professor
Randy Barnett Law Professor
Frank Zappa Musician
George Carlin Comedian
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Stephan Chapman Chicago Tribune columnist
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Jefferson Morely journalist for the Nation
Stacy Taylor radio personality, WLS
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Tom Braden liberal journalist

On the Fence

- Patrick Buchanan conservative journalist
William Raspberry syndicated columnist

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Libertarian Party of Illinois, P.O. Box 313, Chicago, IL. 60690.

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To assist in the LPI's organizing efforts, please provide as much of the following information as you can (most items are listed on your voter's registration card)

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State Senator District No. _____ State Representative District No. _____

Local: Ward No. _____ Precinct No. _____

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Signature _____ Date _____

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