



Lone Star Liberty

The Official Monthly Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Texas

November 2006

Texas Libertarians make major gains, break records

by Wes Benedict, Executive Director

The Libertarian Party of Texas (LPT) showed major improvement in the 2006 general election, relative to its performance in previous years.

The party had 168 candidates on the ballot, its highest count ever.

By getting more than 5% in at least one statewide race, the LPT is automatically qualified for ballot access in 2008.

Overall trends:

In 2002, Libertarian candidates in a three-way race for U.S. House received an average of 1.6% of the vote. In 2004, they received an average of 1.7%. In 2006, they received an average of 2.6%. (Note, "three-way" means a Libertarian running against a Republican and a Democrat, with no other candidates in the race.)

In 2002, Libertarian candidates in a two-way race for U.S. House received an average of 8.8% of the vote. In 2004, they received an average of 6.9%. In 2006, they received an average of 17.0%.

In 2002, Libertarian candidates in a three-way race for Texas House received an average of 2.4% of the vote. In 2004, they received an average of 2.7%. In 2006, they received an average of 3.6%.

In 2002, Libertarian candidates in a two-way race for Texas House received an average of 10.3% of the vote. In 2004, they received an average of 9.7%. In 2006, they received an average of 16.0%.

LPT Executive Director Wes Benedict said, "The results show that voters are no longer afraid to vote Libertarian. More and more voters know who we are and what we stand for."

In this 2006 election, 22 Libertarian candidates for federal and state offices received over 20% of the vote. The last time Libertarian candidates for federal or state offices earned more than 20% of the vote was in 1992: two Libertarians broke the threshold that year.

Individual races:

Benedict said, "We're very pleased with Bob Smither's results in District 22. Bob broke the Texas Libertarian record for a Congressional candidate running against a well-funded Democrat and Republican." Preliminary results showed Smither with 6.1% of the vote.

U.S. Senate candidate Scott Jameson received 2.3%, the highest received by a Texas Libertarian for U.S. Senate since 1990.

Libertarians showed strength in local races, too. Travis County JP candidate Matt Finkel earned 34.5% of the vote against a Republican incumbent. In Brazos County, Linda Wilbert earned 18.5% in a three-way JP race. (These percentages are based on unofficial county results.)

Playing kingmaker:

It is very unusual in Texas elections for a federal or state candidate to win without a majority of the vote. However, apart from the race for Governor, several legislative races with Libertarians had winners who failed to obtain a majority. They included Texas House Districts 17, 32, 85, 93, 106, and 118.

In District 17, the Democrat led the Republican by 417 votes, while Libertarian Rod Gibbs received 1,281 votes.

In District 32, the Democrat led the Republican by 602 votes, while Libertarian Lenard Nelson received 2,026 votes.

In District 85, the Democrat led the Republican by 193 votes, while Libertarian David K. Schumacher received 798 votes.

In District 93, the Democrat led the Republican by 473 votes, while Libertarian Max W. Koch III received 755 votes.

In District 106, the Republican led the Democrat by 231 votes, while Libertarian Gene Freeman received 591 votes.

In District 118, the Democrat led the Republican by 904 votes, while Libertarian James L. Thompson received 1,699 votes.

"I'm pleased to see that we acted as kingmaker in several of these races," said LPT chair Patrick Dixon.

In 2004, Libertarian candidate Greg Knowles was credited with ousting incumbent Jack Stick from his District 50 seat. Stick lost by 569 votes, while Knowles received 2,390 votes.

Lone Star Liberty

Volume 16, Issue 9

November 2006

Available monthly online at

www.lptexas.org



Publisher:

Libertarian Party of Texas

P.O. Box 27932

Houston, TX 77227

www.lptexas.org

1-800-422-1776

State Chair:

Patrick Dixon

5200 Sundown

Lago Vista, TX 78645

Chair@lptexas.org

512-771-3936

Executive Director:

Wes Benedict

1403-B Kenwood Ave.

Austin, TX 78704

Director@lptexas.org

512-442-4910

Lone Star Liberty Editor:

Barbara Cunningham

bcunningham2@verizon.net

979-567-7262

Reporters

Barbara Cunningham,

Laura Coker-Garcia,

Layout

Laura Coker-Garcia

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.

Other stats:

On average, Libertarians running in two-way races for statewide judicial races received 24.1% of the vote. In 2000, their average was 16.7%. (In 2002, there were no two-way statewide judicial races.) In 2004, their average was 15.1%.

In statewide races with both a Republican and a Democrat, the best Libertarian performers were Lieutenant Governor candidate Judy Baker, with 4.4%, and Railroad Commissioner candidate Tabitha Serrano, with 4.2%.

In Congressional races, the highest Libertarian result was 21.3% for Gordon R. Strickland, running in District 16.

For State Board of Education, the highest Libertarian result was 29.6% for Martin Thomen, running in District 10.

For State Senate, the highest Libertarian result was 22.2% for Phil Kurtz, running in District 17.

For State House, the highest Libertarian result was 24.0% for Kris Overstreet, running in District 18.

The highest Libertarian vote count was for Jerry Adkins (running for Supreme Court, Place 4), who received 830,331 votes (24.5%).

Percentages and vote counts are according to the Secretary of State's unofficial results as of 4:40 pm.

What Election 2006 means to the Texas LP

By Patrick Dixon, chair@lptexas.org

Fellow supporter of Liberty,

Before much time passes, I want to share with you my candid impressions of Tuesdays results, concerns that I have, and future plans.

Generally, the elections results were a dramatic boost to the Libertarian Party of Texas:

- It is irrefutable that our numbers went significantly up. Comparing similar races and candidates to previous years, this conclusion is obvious.

- We automatically qualified the party for the ballot in 2008, saving us a quarter million dollars.

- We had excellent press coverage and very little negative about our party or candi-

dates

- The fact that we were in excess of the margin of victory in several races gives us additional negotiating power in the legislative session

- Both our staff and many of our candidates are highly motivated with the results and ready to start working on 2008

- Having lots of candidates on the ballot gives us more data and better analysis of our results

A few concerns I have are:

- Several of our more active campaigns may not have measured up to your expectations and investment. I donated money towards these campaigns as several of you did and appreciate the market forces of getting a good return on investment. It is unclear whether active campaigns muster significantly better results than paper candidates at this point.

- A key metric is to exceed 5% in a 3 way statewide race. We are not quite able to reach this goal. In 2002 Barbara Hernandez got the highest 3 way statewide vote at 4.12% and this year Judy Baker got 4.38% in a statewide 3 way.

- My perception is that our party label image does not have yet have universal appeal. Putting a bunch on money behind a candidate with the "Libertarian" label may not be able to overcome the uncertainty a voter has about the perception of that label.

- Any progress we have made in the last 2 years can disappear if we do not retain our staff and raise the revenue to make their compensation competitive.

- I heard several reports of people having problems voting. Some precincts could not get the machines working. Although I think the results are generally accurate, I cannot rule out that some votes did not get counted.

- Many of us yearn for instant gratification. When we do not see immediate success we may give up and burn out. The LP has been working for 35 years and is not yet competitive in partisan races. We are dependent on those committed to the cause and growing new arrivers for patient progress.

- There were complaints from some of our supporters that some of our candidates did not show up for interviews with the media. I recognize we had people on the ballot that have families and careers and could not actively campaign. However, I think generally the quality of our candidates has gone

up. I hope our nominating conventions will become more competitive and our delegates will have increased scrutiny in their selections.

- Some may perceive this was a one-time bump as a result of independent Kinky and Grandma voters casting ballots. It is hard to measure this effect, but I believe it is intuitively credible. We may not have the same dynamic in future elections and those voters could stay home. On the other hand it may also mean that if voter turnout goes up it favors us, as well as gives our party more exposure without the spotlight on celebrity independents.

- Despite copious notice, our election night party in Austin was not as well attended as I hoped for. We had a decent crowd, but perhaps I was overly optimistic

Where do we go from here?

- First, let's clean up after ourselves and pick up any yard signs that we have put out. We can reuse these as well as the door hangers in the future, so let's be responsible stewards of our neighborhoods and resources.

- While we do not yet compete for victories in partisan races, we do win local non-partisan races. Those interested in the May municipal elections can contact me, and I will be very happy to help.

- We will be active in the 2007 state legislative session and I expect better success in pushing reforms that will improve the electoral process and advance the cause of liberty.

- We have until December 2007 to recruit our next slate of candidates. Preliminary plans are to make some trips around the state to help with local efforts to organize and get candidates filed for nomination

In summary, I think that although a candid opinion admits imperfection in the analysis, I feel we absolutely have made a measurable improvement that has been worth our investment. I want to thank everyone that has helped our efforts over the last 2 years. I especially want to thank every candidate that put their name on the ballot next to the "Libertarian" label.

I look forward to the next 2 years and appreciate your sustaining support.

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

Post-election wrap-up

*by Carl Anderson, Vice-Chairman.
Libertarian Party of Bexar County*

This is a revised version of a message originally addressed to the Libertarian Party of Bexar County, and specially revised for publication in *Lone Star Liberty*. The original message can be found at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bexarcountylp/message/72>.

I am sure that the Libertarian Party is pleased with the election results, for we achieved our primary goals of getting more voter recognition than ever, and securing automatic ballot access for 2008.

I am also sure that we are pleased with the resignation of Donald Rumsfeld, seen by many politicians and military leaders as an incompetent Secretary of Defense. It remains to be seen how the new SecDef, Robert Gates, will fare. Hopefully Mr. Gates will not be another political puppet of George Bush.

However, we must be displeased with the partisan squabbling that is sure to come with the Democratic majority in Congress and a Republican President. Thus, we must continue our vigilance in exposing the misdeeds of Republicans and Democrats who care only for themselves and care not for the welfare of the American people, inevitably resulting in more Americans joining the Libertarians.

I'd like to remind anyone who put up LP signs and Libertarian candidate signs to collect them ASAP, so we show property owners who allowed us to post our signs, that we are a responsible party who respects property rights (as many Republicans and Democrats fail to collect their signs and leave them up for months).

If your town is having municipal elections in 2007, then I urge LP members to run for city leadership positions such as City Council and even Mayor (a prime example of this is our own Pat Dixon). If your municipal elections are non-partisan (such as San Antonio), then the LP can NOT officially support you. However, this does not prevent LP members from volunteering to assist candidates on their campaigns, and does not prevent individual contributions.

All in all, we deserve a pat on the back. Every year, the Libertarian Party grows stronger in membership and gains more public recognition.

Working Together for Liberty

September 30, 2006

On September 16th, 2006, a meeting was held, "Common Ground – The US Constitution". During that meeting, the Reform & Constitution Party Harris County Chairs agreed to block walk to support Libertarian Party candidates. True to their words, HCRP Chair David Collison and HCCP Chair Clell Drumheller joined HCLP Chair Guy McLendon to block walk in support of the Bob Smither for Congress Campaign.

The event started at the home of Dina Zak in Fort Bend County Precinct 4110, an attendee at the Sept 16th Common Ground event. Ms Zak's residence is located in a neighborhood behind First Colony Mall in Sugar Land. Smither for Congress block walking team #1 Guy & Gloria McLendon placed two yard signs, and team #2 Clell & David placed about 6 signs.

A tip for classroom presentations

by Jeff Daiell

This is too late for the 2006 election, but might come in handy for future elections, and for anyone promoting the LP in general.

If you bring a sign-up sheet for people who want more information, have a supporter sit on the front row.

I've observed, in the several years I've been addressing classes, that if someone on the front row stops to ask questions, express support, express disagreement, or sign up for more data, several others will. If not, often no one will. That first row is the key.

Candidate Website Chosen for Library of Congress

The United States Library of Congress preserves the Nation's cultural artifacts and provides enduring access to them. The Library's traditional functions, acquiring, cataloging, preserving and serving collection materials of historical importance to the Congress and to the American people to foster education and scholarship extend to digital materials, including Web sites. The United States Library of Congress selected Barbara Cunningham's Web site at www.politicalgateway.com/cand.php?id=465 for inclusion in its historic collections of Internet materials related to Election 2006.

The Library of Congress or its agent will engage in the collection of content from the Web site at regular intervals and will make this collection available to researchers onsite at Library facilities as well as to offsite researchers by hosting the collection on the Library's public access Web site.

Cunningham's site was identified as a Web site of interest related to Election 2006 and may be included in future collections related to national elections. Cunningham ran for Congress in District 25 against Lloyd Doggett, garnering 4.23% of the total vote in a four-way race.

The Library of Congress Election Web archives are important because they contribute to the historical record of our national elections, capturing information that could otherwise be lost. With the growing role of the Web as an influential medium, records of historic events could be considered incomplete without materials that were "born digital" and never printed on paper. The Library has developed three previous Election Web Archives, in 2000, 2002 and 2004. These Election Archives are available along with our other Web Archive collections through the Library's Web site (<http://www.loc.gov/webcapture>).

Events

21 November 2006

Bexar County Libertarian Party Business Meeting, 7:00 PM, Unlimited Thought Bookstore, 5525 Blanco, Suite 107. Maurice Sochia: What a False Tax Is

19 December 2006

Bexar County Libertarian Party Business Meeting, 7:00 PM, Unlimited Thought Bookstore, 5525 Blanco, Suite 107. Ray Aleman: America's War on People: Victims of Drug Prohibition

13 January 2007

SLEC Meeting, Austin, Texas. Location to be announced.

16 January 2007

Bexar County LP General Meeting, 7:00 PM, Unlimited Thought Foundation Bookstore, 5525 Blanco Road, Suite 107, San Antonio.

20 February 2007

Bexar County LP General Meeting, 7:00 PM, Unlimited Thought Foundation Bookstore, 5525 Blanco Road, Suite 107, San Antonio

20 March 2007

Bexar County LP Business Meeting, 7:00 PM, Unlimited Thought Foundation Bookstore, 5525 Blanco Road, Suite 107, San Antonio

17 April 2007

Bexar County LP General Meeting, 7:00 PM, Unlimited Thought Foundation Bookstore, 5525 Blanco Road, Suite 107, San Antonio

15 May 2007

Bexar County LP General Meeting, 7:00 PM, Unlimited Thought Foundation Bookstore,

5525 Blanco Road, Suite 107, San Antonio

19 June 2007

Bexar County LP Business Meeting, 7:00 PM, Unlimited Thought Foundation Bookstore, 5525 Blanco Road, Suite 107, San Antonio

17 July 2007

Bexar County LP General Meeting, 7:00 PM, Unlimited Thought Foundation Bookstore, 5525 Blanco Road, Suite 107, San Antonio

21 August 2007

Bexar County LP General Meeting, 7:00 PM, Unlimited Thought Foundation Bookstore, 5525 Blanco Road, Suite 107, San Antonio

18 September 2007

Bexar County LP Business Meeting, 7:00 PM, Unlimited Thought Foundation Bookstore, 5525 Blanco Road, Suite 107, San Antonio

16 October 2007

Bexar County LP General Meeting, 7:00 PM, Unlimited Thought Foundation Bookstore, 5525 Blanco Road, Suite 107, San Antonio

20 November 2007

Bexar County LP General Meeting, 7:00 PM, Unlimited Thought Foundation Bookstore, 5525 Blanco Road, Suite 107, San Antonio

18 December 2007

Bexar County LP Business Meeting, 7:00 PM, Unlimited Thought Foundation Bookstore, 5525 Blanco Road, Suite 107, San Antonio

DONATE and/or ORDER MORE MATERIALS 2006-09

Help us reach our **STRETCH** goal of 250,000 door hangers placed throughout Texas. \$100 will help us pay for 2000 more door hangers!

Enclosed is a **one-time donation** for you to put to use immediately for our November 2006 outreach efforts:

\$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 the "Libertarian Party of Texas."

State law requires us to report the occupation of any individual who contributes more than \$50 in a reporting period. Employer optional. Political contributions are not tax deductible. No corporate contributions.

Occupation: _____ Employer: _____

Materials are FREE! We need donors and volunteers. Some of you are both:

	<p>Door hangers</p> <p>If you've already put up 200, consider ordering 400 this time.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 200 (for beginners) <input type="checkbox"/> 400 <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____</p>		
	<p>Yard signs Qty ____ (10 max)</p>	<p>Bumper stickers Qty ____ (20 max)</p>	

Donors of \$50 or more please do exceed our suggested maximum quantities for materials!

Your contact information:

Name:
Mr/Ms/Dr _____ First _____ Middle _____

Last _____ Suffix _____ Nickname _____

Address:
Street _____ Add2/Apt _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ County _____

Phone:
Home _____ Home 2 _____

Work _____ Cell _____

E-mail (print clearly): _____

Occupation: _____

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).

Please return in the enclosed envelope today!

Mail to: Libertarian Party of Texas, PO Box 41059, Austin, TX 78704. Fax to: 512-233-0613