

It's Official: Libertarian Party is on Ballot

Texas Secretary of State Geoffrey S. Connor confirmed on July 20, 2004 that the Libertarian Party of Texas will be on the November General Election Ballot.

Under state election law the Libertarian Party was required to submit a list of affiliates or such a list plus a petition that equaled 1% of the total votes cast for Governor in the most recent election. For this cycle that meant the LP needed to turn in 45,540 signatures. Law stipulated that petition signers must be registered voters who had not voted in either of the major party primaries or signed another third-parties petition.

On May 24, LP activists turned in 82,458 signatures on a 9,398 page petition. The drive cost the Party roughly \$150,000 and required a short-

term interest-free loan totaling \$20,000 to complete. (The Party has since repaid half of this loan and expects to repay the entire amount within no more than a year.) Professional petitioners were recruited from as far away as Illinois, California and even Alaska.

"This was an exceptional effort by our volunteers and state leadership," said State Party Chair Patrick Dixon.

The Secretary of State's office employed a statistician from the University of Texas at Austin to determine if ballot access was achieved. According to the report 448 signatures were chosen at random to be thoroughly checked to see if they satisfied conditions of the election code. Of those 337 signatures were deemed valid.

The report's author concluded

that the petition contained between 58,731 and 65,324 valid signatures with a 95% confidence.

"The high validity was probably a direct result of the Ballot Access Committee's decision to monitor for validity," says Laura Coker-Garcia.

A list of Libertarian candidates was printed in last month's issue of Lone Star Liberty and is available on the state party website at www.lptexas.org.

The Secretary of State's office will prepare a list of LP candidates that is sent to each county clerk or elections official in September. Local County Chairs should make sure that the names of local candidates are turned into the county elections department if this has not been done yet. Chairs can also request to proof the ballot in September.

LP Takes July 4th Outreach Opportunity

Polk County Chair Kris Overstreet organized outreach at the Independence Day Parade and Children's Fair in Livingston.

A decorated van with Libertarian Party and Michael Badnarik for President banners was entered in the parade. Anthony Garcia, candidate for Railroad Commission, was onboard to wave to the crowds.

Following the parade activists staffed a table at the fair complete with an OPH booth run by Clyde and Sherry Garland of Brazos County. Not quite 50 people took the quiz with eight of those leaving contact information. Local activists also raised \$54 selling t-shirts, bumperstickers, and drinks.

In Travis County activists at-

tended local July 4th events, including the downtown Austin fireworks display, to distribute high-quality red, white and blue glossy copies of the

Declaration of Independence. Almost 4,500 copies were handed out. Each had a statement saying it had been provided by the Travis County Libertarian Party and included their website and phone

"It was nice to pass out things that people actually appreciated getting," reported Art DiBianca, TCLP Treasurer.

The distribution was organized by TCLP Secretary Bob Ruliffson and cost \$683, most of which was donated specifically to this project.



Clyde Garland helps passers-by to take the Quiz.



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The next online issue will be available September 10, 2004.

The October issue will be online the first of the month and should be mailed to Texas National Party members.

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.

Around the State: Activist Update

The Michael Badnarik and Richard Campagna campaign office is now open in Austin. The office is located at 6633 Hwy 290 East #100. The phone is 512-637-6860. Texas activists are welcome to drop in to volunteer or to pick up yard signs, bumperstickers, or brochures.

Michael was in Austin August 1 to celebrate his 50th birthday with a party at Momo's on 6th street. The Party featured live music from Jazz guitarist Slim Richey and the band String Theory. It also reportedly raised about \$5,000 for the campaign.

Michael was surprised at the event with a sing-along led by Yvonne Kelly of a version of "Michael Row the Boast Ashore" penned by Kent Van Cleave, David McLean and Yvonne. A professional copy is available online at www.skinnydevil.com/badnarik.html for those wishing to learn the words.

Many Travis County activists are traveling to New Mexico the week of August 8 to 14 to ride the Badnarik bus. Michael's campaign is running both television and radio commercials in the state and Michael has numerous campaign stops and media appearances planned for this swing state.

Polls in New Mexico were showing Michael Badnarik at 5% just days after his commercials, produced by Aaron Russo, hit the airwaves. A large rally, with Libertarians participation from across the state and from neighboring states, is planned for Aug. 14 in Albuquerque.

Brent Sullivan, LP Candidate for Congress District 18, was a key note speaker at an Anti-Patriot Act Rally held July 30 in Houston.

"He's honed his stump speech to fine edge and got excellent crowd response," reports Yvonne Kelly who also attended.

Brent also has had recent campaign coverage on channel 2, KPFT radio and in the Houston Press. One of his main issues is opposition to the draft, which his opponent in Congress

favours. He's formed an activist group that is online at groups.yahoo.com/group/houstondraft. They are planning a rally or vigil for late September or October.

Longtime LP activist and recent candidate for US Representative **Clark Simmons** was in a serious car accident on June 21, 2004. Clark and his wife Lillian Martinez-Simmons were both injured after Lillian lost control of the car when the front tire blew out. Clark was ejected from the vehicle and sustained several broken bones among other injuries.

Clark is expected to remain in the hospital for some time. Lillian was treated and released and will be staying with their daughter out-of-state. Mail is being forwarded from their address at 2008 Frontier, Round Rock, TX and their daughter can be reached at soccer527@yahoo.com for those wishing to offer get well wishes, etc.

Former LP Presidential candidate **Gary Nolan** was on the radio in Austin the weekend of July 10 and 11. Station KLBJ 590 AM is considering adding Gary, who is returning to his roots in radio, to its weekday lineup.

Bell County Chair Gordon Mobley reports that they transferred their bank account to a free account. Also, county activists will be hosting an OPH booth in October.

Harris County Chair Jeff Daiell spoke to three community college classes.

Kris Overstreet, who volunteered to do media releases for the State Party at the July 31 meeting, sent his first release August 3. The release, issued as commentary on the State Sales Tax Holiday, called for 365 days of sales tax holiday.

The release was used by at least two media outlets-the Polk County Enterprise and the Austin Statesman online edition. Their headline was "Libertarians: No Old Taxes, Either," and contrasted us with Republicans who call for no new taxes.

Volunteers and Donors Needed Today!

Check any that apply:

- _____ I will volunteer with a local campaign Contact me with details.
_____ I can design or host a website for a candidate or county party.
_____ I am willing to serve as an appointed County Chair.
_____ I want information on how to be more active in the party.

My best donation: _____\$35_____ \$75_____ \$100_____ \$150_____ Other

Name: _____
Address: _____
City & Zip code: _____
Telephone: _____
Email: _____
Occupation: _____
Employer: _____
Precinct #: _____
County: _____

Please make checks payable to the Libertarian Party of Texas. Include this form with any donations and Mail to: PO Box 27932 , Houston, TX 77227.

Donations can also be accepted online via PayPal at the State Party website: www.lptexas.org/donations.

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.

Revenue Plan Starts

The State Executive Committee on July 31 approved four applications by counties to participate in the County Revenue Sharing Plan.

The Libertarian Party Executive Committees in Denton, Harris, Polk and Travis will now receive 20% of all revenue raised by the state party from within their counties, unless the donor has earmarked his or her donation for a special project.

In a change to the plan money received by the State Party from National's Unified Membership Plan will be included in the County Revenue Sharing Plan. However, this part of the plan will not go into effect until the money borrowed for ballot access is paid off. Also, funds will not be transferred until the county is owed at least \$25.

Counties wanting to apply to participate must be organized and have a bank account. The next SLECT meeting is October 9 in Austin.

Live and Let Live

Have a liberty related cause to promote? Terry Liberty Parker is looking for guests for his Austin area television show "Live and Let Live." If you have an issue that would be interesting to Austin area viewers contact Terry at txliberty@yahoo.com.

Ideological Lesson Plan

Teachers and homeschooling parents in the Party may want to check out the University of Virginia's online Youth Leadership Institute. The website offers a variety of political education materials including online lessons, a student mock election, and printable lesson plans. One lesson plan offered is called "Expanding the Ideological Spectrum" and has students examine a modified Nolan Chart and define various concepts including Libertarianism.

Check out the website at www.youthleadership.net.

State Party Sets Goals

The State Party set the following goals at the July 31 SLECT meeting:

To recruit, train and support County Chairs and County Organizations with the goal of having trained active County Chairs in 50 counties by November 1, 2005, including the 10 most populous counties in the state.

Further, that we have one Organized County in each State Senatorial District.

To recruit, support active candidates in 20 different races for non-partisan municipal, school board, and utility district office by March 1, 2005.

To increase National Party Membership in Texas by 25%.

To secure ballot access for 2006, and for all future campaign seasons, through a plan due before the end of 2004.

To become a National Party Member sign up at www.lp.org/action/join.php.

Events of Interest to Texas Libertarians

Aug. 6-8 (Fri.- Sun.) Sales Tax Holiday for certain items, mostly clothing.

Aug. 10 (Tues.) 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Texas for Medical Marijuana Meeting in Austin at the ACLU of Texas Building, 1210 Rosewood.

Aug. 12 (Thur.) Last Day to Register to Vote for September 11 election.

Aug. 14 (Sat.) 1 p.m. Houston Area Goals and Planning Meeting, Allstate Office, 10924 Fuqua, Houston. Contact Tom Morrison at tcmafft25@wt.net.

Aug. 14 (Sat.) Organization Building Meetings in Collin, Dallas, Denton, and Tarrant Counties. Open to anyone interested. For times and locations contact LP Executive Director Wes Benedict at wesliberty@aol.com or 512-442-4910.

Aug. 15 (Sun.) 6 p.m. Harris County Business Meeting, 9614 Oregano Circle, Houston. Contact John Kormylo for information at elfsoft@mindspring.com or 713-271-1776.

Aug. 19 & 20 (Thur.-Fri.) Fearless Presentations Public Speaking training in Houston at the Marriott Courtyard, 3131 W. Loop S. Two day workshop costs \$795 includes book, manual, CDROM, and diploma. Visit www.leadersinstitute.com

Aug. 21 & 22 (Sat.-Sun.) 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Grassroots Candidate, Campaign and Activist training from 21st Century Democrats. Overview of local and regional political environment, Democratic Party field organizer curriculum. Huston-Tillotson College campus, Austin. \$45. Lunch provided. Register at www.21stdems.org.

Aug. 21-22 (Sat.-Sun.) Voter Registration Outreach at Pasadena Convention Center Gun Show. Contact Yvonne Kelly for information or to volunteer ykellydsl@earthlink.net.

Aug. 23 (Mon.) 5:30 -7 p.m. Kickoff Party for City of Houston Revenue Cap campaign. Post Oak Grill, Houston. Contact nonpartisan group Let the People Vote at 713-914-8402 for information and to rsvp. No charge.

Aug. 25 (Wed.) Early Voting for September 11 election begins.

Sept. 1 (Wed.) Last Day to file for a place on the November ballot for local political subdivisions.

Sept. 7 (Tue.) Early Voting Ends for September 11 election.

Sept. 11 (Sat.) 7 a.m. to 7 p.m Election Day for local political subdivisions or special elections.

Sept. 18-19 (Sat.-Sun.) Art of Libertarian Persuasion Workshop in Dallas. Harry Browne and Michael Cloud will lead a two day workshop in communication skills for Libertarians. \$250 at the door or \$195 with advance registration. Visit www.theAdvocates.org/seminars.htm or call 1-800-932-1776 for more information or to register.

Oct. 4 (Mon.) Last day to register to vote for the November General Election.

Oct. 4 (Mon.) Deadline for financial reports with the Texas Ethics Commission. All statewide, state senate and state representative candidates must file. Some County Parties are required to file. Visit the TEC online at www.ethics.state.tx.us or call 1-800-325-8506.

Oct. 9 (Sat.) 1 p.m. SLECT Meeting, at Mekong River Restaurant, 215 E. 6th Street, Austin contact Pat Dixon for information at tlppatjdixon@earthlink.net.

Oct. 18 (Mon.) Early Voting for November Election begins.

Oct. 25 (Mon.) Deadline for financial reports with the Texas Ethics Commission. See above.

Oct. 29 (Fri.) Early Voting Ends for Nov. Election.

Nov. 2 (Tues.) Election Day. Contact your local party for information on getting out the vote, campaign events, parties, etc. County Chairs and SLECT representatives are listed on the www.lptexas.org website.

Nov. 18-21 (Fri.-Sun.) Victory Institute, New Orleans, LA. Campaign training for GLBT candidates, campaign workers, community activists. Workshops on fundraising, budgets, campaign plans, etc. See www.victoryinstitute.org/training.

Dec. 11 (Sat.) 1 p.m. SLECT Meeting in Austin. Contact Pat Dixon at tlppatjdixon@earthlink.net.