



Lone Star Liberty

The Official Monthly Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Texas

August 2006

Werner Seeks Inclusion in Televised Debate

AUSTIN - July 31- James Werner, the Libertarian Party of Texas nominee for Governor, has officially requested to participate in the October candidate debate sponsored by public broadcaster KERA and several other organizations.

A Gallup poll conducted early this year found that 20% of Americans are politically libertarian: www.cato.org/pub_display.php?pub_id=5431

LPT chair Patrick Dixon said, "Televised debates can have a significant effect on voters' decisions. We believe that Mr. Werner's participation in this debate will affect the outcome of the election by at least several percentage points. We are also aware of requests from supporters of Ms. Strayhorn and Mr. Friedman for Mr. Werner to withdraw from the election. We wonder, therefore, whether other candidates' campaigns might be putting pressure on KERA and the other sponsors to exclude Mr. Werner from this debate. We certainly hope the sponsors would resist any such pressure."

Unlike the other four candidates, Werner was not extended an invitation, but was instead sent a questionnaire by KERA asking him to defend the newsworthiness of his campaign.

"We think it's unfortunate that KERA chose to treat James Werner differently by asking him to complete a questionnaire that it did not even send

to the other candidates," said Wes Benedict, Executive Director of the LPT. "Mr. Werner is obviously running a much smaller campaign than the other candidates, but that should not be an issue. What's important is that Texas voters have access to an open and fair debate among all the candidates. We have faith that KERA and the other sponsors are going to do the right thing and include all five candidates."

IRS regulations may require KERA to admit Werner. Both KERA and co-sponsor Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas are tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organizations, required to treat all candidates equally when hosting or sponsoring a debate.

"We've read some of the IRS guidance on this issue, and it seems clear to us that James Werner should be included in this debate," said Benedict.

The IRS web site offers an election-year guide for tax-exempt organizations, available here:

<http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-tege/eotopici02.pdf> Pages 372-375 of the guide provide information about fairness in hosting candidate debates.

"I would certainly hope that a public broadcaster and a public information advocate like the Freedom of Information Foundation want the public to hear from all candidates, big and small," said Dixon.

Other than the Republican and Democratic Parties, there are three entities with statewide ballot access this year: The Libertarian Party of Texas, the Carole Strayhorn campaign, and the Kinky Friedman campaign. In order to obtain ballot access, they conducted expensive petition drives and each submitted over 45,540 valid signatures to the Texas Secretary of State. Since the 2002 gubernational election, many others have tried and failed, including Ralph Nader, the Green Party, the Constitution Party, and the Reform Party.

James Werner is a sales executive for a major software firm. Over the past 20 years, he has helped his educational clients raise tens of millions of dollars in private support. He holds a Bachelor's degree from Vanderbilt University and a Master's degree in Spanish and Latin American literature from the University of California, Los Angeles. He has actively participated in radio and television interviews since his nomination at the Libertarian state convention in June. His campaign has received coverage from a variety of news sources.

Editor's note: Encourage KERA to let Werner debate by using the contact page on the KERA Web site: <http://www.kera.org/about/contactus.lasso>

Have you wished there was something you could do to help promote the Libertarian Party, but haven't yet found an opportunity? Join our Quiz Across Texas team. We plan to give 250,000 Texans the quiz! Contact Wes Benedict at Director@LPTexas.org to join.



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is encouraged. Please send to
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mit.

Libertarian activists who
are interested in volunteering as
reporters, editors, columnists, etc.
can join our working group at
Lonestarliberty@yahoogroups.com.

Around the State: Activist Update

Patrick Warren, Libertarian for U.S. Representative, Texas District 18, will be distributing 500 copies of the World's Smallest Political Quiz in his district in the month of August. Show your support by visiting this page <http://www.lptexas.org/2006/warren/> to obtain Warren's contact information to give his campaign a hand.

Carl Wetzel is organizing field activities for the Badnarik campaign in Harris County. Can you offer to block walk, leave door hangers, make phone calls, staff a booth? Now is the time for more action, and fewer words.

To volunteer contact Wetzel at 281-578-1180.

Fred Jones, LP candidate for U.S. Congress District 19 attended a windmill meeting in Roscoe July 20. He also met with the John Birch Society in Windsor and appeared on KSLI

1280 AM radio with Karen Wilkinson, speaking about this and a variety of political/governmental issues. Jones has a website at www.jonesforcongress2006.typepad.com.

U.S. Congressional District 25 candidate **Grant Rostig** had an Op-Ed published in the Aug. 2 issue of the Brownsville Herald on the "manipulative politics of redistricting." Rostig's district is one that the court has ordered redrawn. He has a website at www.grant4congress.com.

Governor candidate **James Werner** was the subject of a July 30 article in the Dallas Morning News. "Libertarian candidate for Governor fighting third party image" was the title and a photo was included. The story quoted Werner, LP Executive Director **Wes Benedict, and Jeff Daiell**, who ran for the office in 1990 and 2002.

Texas Represented at National

After the Libertarian National Convention in early July, Texas is well represented on the Libertarian National Committee.

Texas party treasurer Geoff Neale of Austin holds the LNC's treasurer seat, state party Chair Patrick Dixon of Lago Vista was elected an at-large representative, TXLP Executive Director Wes Benedict of Austin is the Region 6 representative, and Nancy Neale of Austin is the Region 6 alternate. The National Committee consists of a chair, vice-chair, treasurer, and secretary. In addition, there are 2 sets of members; regional representatives and at-large Representatives.

Each state that has an affiliate organization (state party) can attend the national convention and join with other states to form a region. If these states have a combined membership of more than 10% of total national membership, they can elect someone to be their regional representative on the national committee. They can also appoint an alternate in case the regional rep has

to miss a committee meeting. At the national convention Texas joined a region with New Mexico, Arizona, Louisiana, Utah, and Arkansas.

At-large reps are not elected based on the state or region they come from. There are 5 at large positions on the national committee. They could all from the same state, or not. The delegates at the convention vote for their top 5 choices. The candidates with the 5 highest vote totals are elected. Patrick Dixon came in third to claim one of the 5 at-large rep seats, for a two-year term.

The responsibility of every member of the LNC is to make decisions between national conventions. Where does the party invest money, cut costs, focus outreach, find the best location for the national office, etc? The LNC runs the business part of the Libertarian Party at the national level. The LNC meets 4-5 times a year in locations selected by the chair. The LNC will be in Denver in August and Washington, DC in November.

Delay on Ballot

FRIENDSWOOD, Texas – August 3, 2006 – A three-judge panel of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled that Tom Delay can not be replaced by the Republicans as the party's nominee for U. S. Congress in District 22. The only question remaining is whether Mr. DeLay will actively campaign or will simply withdraw from the race. In any case, the voters will have clear alternatives in their choice for a Representative in District 22.

Voters in District 22 now have a choice among Libertarian Bob Smither, Democrat Nick Lampson, and Republican Tom DeLay, if he chooses to not withdraw. From this field it is clear that Libertarian Smither will be the only fiscal conservative candidate in District 22.

Bob Smither has made a simple pledge to the voters of the 22nd district- "I will work to defend and expand the rights and liberty of all American citizens and I will not vote to fund any program of the federal government that is not clearly authorized by our Constitution. I will go to Washington DC as an independent voice, obligated only to the voters in District 22."

Mr. DeLay will represent a party that while controlling the White House, the Senate, and the House of Representatives has grown non-defense, discretionary federal spending at three times the rate of growth of the private sector.

The Democrat nominee, Mr. Lampson, while last a Congressman in 2004, voted to spend approximately \$4200 for every man, woman, and child in the United States.

The Smither for Congress campaign is focused on Constitutional integrity – by restoring the federal government to the limits and wisdom of our Constitution, it will be made smaller, less costly, and less intrusive, and the American people will reclaim their prosperity, their liberty, and their security.

—Release from Bob Smither.

U.S. Rep. Districts Thrown Out

The three judge court has issued this order <http://electionlawblog.org/archives/Order%20Redistricting.pdf> redrawing Congressional Districts 15, 21, 23, 25, and 28. See also the court's opinion <http://electionlawblog.org/archives/lulac-2.pdf> . The court has thrown out the results of primary elections. This will be a winner-take-all election in each district on election day, Nov. 7, 2006. If no one gets 50%, there will be runoffs on a later date, probably in December, 2006.

The Court did not mention minor-party candidates or ballot qualification, but did mention independents, and reaffirmed Texas election law that doesn't conflict with the order, so to avoid Libertarians being dropped from the ballots for U.S. Representative the Texas Libertarian Party needs to hold conven-

tions in those redrawn districts and assert its right to have those candidates placed on the ballot.

The final sentence of the order was to deny relief not granted, which includes the motions of Intervenor Jon Roland to declare a standard of proof for improper gerrymandering and to adopt a new process for districting for subsequent elections. As it stands, this map will continue until redrawn by the Texas Legislature, but nothing prevents that from happening again in 2007. There is no word from any of the litigants on appeals of this decision.

For more on this topic see <http://www.constitution.org/reform/us/tx/redistrict/cnpr.htm> where the above order and opinion will also be placed.

--Submitted by Jon Roland

Russo's Film Sells Out Openings

LOS ANGELES – There was a rush to the box office July 28 as Aaron Russo's hot documentary "America: Freedom to Fascism" opened in test markets in New York, Chicago, Austin, Tampa and Kansas City. The estimated box office for the weekend was \$61,000.

Russo, who is dedicated to providing the best experience possible to his audience, used the test markets to evaluate audience response before spreading it across the country. The film was met with standing ovations and excellent exit polls. Russo feels that the film could be technically enhanced, so he has made a decision to pull the film from theaters at the end of this week's run. He will be upgrading the quality of the footage and re-releasing the film this September in time for the political season. The film will be released in many theaters across the country to be distributed by Cinema Libre Studio.

In Austin, TX the Friday evening show sold out by mid-morning.

The film, which has strong appeal

to niche markets, has received phenomenal support from the grassroots and online community. As of opening day:

- * There are about 474,000 exact title hits on Google.

- * \$509,000 has been raised to support the film through donations from grassroots supporters.

- * The grassroots community has been very supportive of the film, with requests from all over the country to bring "America: Freedom to Fascism" to more cities.

- * One grassroots supporter went as far as chartering a bus from Allentown, PA to New York just to help people attend the premiere of the film and meet Russo.

- * The average number of unique visitors to the www.freedomtofascism.com site each month is about 150,000.

- * There have been 750,000 trailer views on the www.freedomtofascism.com site.

For more information about the movement behind and the film, please visit: www.freedomtofascism.com

Events of Interest to Texas Libertarians

Aug. 7 (Mon.) 7 to 10 p.m. Michael Badnarik's 52 Birthday, Sherlock's Pub, 9012 Research Blvd., Austin. Cake will be served, no cover charge, no presents please, but campaign contributions are always welcome.

Aug. 7 (Mon.) 7 p.m. Taylor County LP Meeting, at the new burrito and coffee shop at the United Food Store, N. Judge Ely and NE 10th Streets.

Aug. 16 (Wed.) 11:30 a.m. Rally: Texas Tea Party—a Texas-sized tax revolt. Renaissance Hotel, 9721 Arboretum Boulevard, Austin. (Outside the meeting of the Texas Association of Counties.) At 1:30 p.m. there will be speakers at the Texas Capitol Auditorium in downtown Austin. Contact Americans for Prosperity at 512-476-5905 for information.

Aug. 20 (Sun.) 1 to 4 p.m. Ron Paul's Annual Birthday Celebration; Doyle Convention Center, 2010 5th Ave., Texas City. Tom Tancredo will be speaking. Contact Penny Langford-Freeman at 1-800-Ron-Paul for information.

Aug. 27 (Sun.) 3 to 4 p.m. Harris County LP Meeting, Hong Kong City II, 9525 Southwest Fwy, Houston. Contact Guy McLendon at guy@mclendon for information.

Aug. 27 (Sun.) 4 to 6 p.m. LP Candidate Forum and Social Hour, Hong Kong City II, 9525 Southwest Fwy, Houston. All attending LP candidates will be given time to address volunteers and provide a status report on their campaign. Contact Guy McLendon for information.

Sept. 2 (Sat.) Noon Brazos County LP Meeting, C&J BBQ, 1010 S. Texas Ave., Bryan. For information contact Chair Chris Jagge at c_jagge@msn.com.

Sept. 5 (Tues.) 6:45 to 8:30 p.m. Travis County LP Meeting, Old Quarry Branch Library, 7051 Village Center Drive, Austin. 6:45 - 8:30 p.m. Social hour at 8:30 p.m. at the nearby El Arroyo restaurant, 7032 Wood Hollow Drive. Visitors welcome at both events.

Sept. 9 (Sat.) 4 to 8 p.m. James Werner Candidate Booth, Dallas Hob Nob, Reunion Arena, Dallas. Werner will have a booth at this event sponsored by

the Public Affairs Luncheon Club that has typical attendance of 5,000.

Sept. 9-10 (Sat.-Sun.) Libertarian activists register voters, Pasadena Gun Show, Pasadena Convention Center. Contact Yvonne Kelly for information at ykellydsl@earthlink.net.

Sept. 17 (Sun.) 2 p.m. LP outreach, Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade, Cedar Springs Road to Wycliff Ave., Dallas. Contact Richard Forsythe for information at radracr5@hotmail.com.

Sept. 19 (Tues.) 7 p.m. Bexar County LP meeting, Senate Candidate Scott Jameson will be speaking, Unlimited Thought Bookstore, 5525 Blanco, Suite 107, San Antonio. Contact Raymundo Aleman at rayaleman@quickca.net or 222-9489.

Sept. 23 (Sat.) SLECT Meeting, College Station.

Sept. 28 (Thur.) 7 to 9 p.m. Southwest Houston Candidate Forum, Candidate James Werner to participate, Fondren Middle School, 6333 South Braeswood, Houston. Supporters encouraged to attend. Contact Guy McLendon at guy@mclendon.net or 832-372-8131

Sept. 29-Oct. 1 (Fri-Sun.) LP Booth at Fort Bend County Fair, Rosenberg. Booth needs staffing to continue past this weekend. Contact Chair Kevin Tunstall at ktunstall@fortbendlp.org. Information on the Fair can be found at <http://www.fbcfa.org/map.htm>.

Oct. 10 (Mon.) Last day to register to vote for the November General Election.

Oct. 23 (Mon.) First Day of Early Voting for the November General Election.

Nov. 3 (Fri.) Last Day of Early Voting for the November General Election.

Nov. 7 (Tues.) Election Day.

