



# Lone Star Liberty

*The Official Monthly Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Texas*

October 2005

## James Werner Announces for Governor



James Werner earned coverage in the September 18 Austin American Statesman with his announcement that he will seek the Libertarian nomination for Governor.

"For too long in Texas, we've run out of legitimate alternative choices to the current political stalemate," James is quoted in the article. "People just don't have any serious and genuine options."

James ran in 2004 for Congress in the 25th District against U.S. Rep. Lloyd Doggett. In that race he earned 1.7 percent of the vote, which

is typical for Libertarians in three-way races for Congress.

James told the Statesman he expects a "much higher tally" next year.

James is a software sales executive with experience running finances in the private sector.

The campaign does not yet have a website. James can be reached at PMB 352, 3005 South Lamar Blvd. D-109, Austin, Texas 78704.

Filing opens in December. The Governor nomination will be determined by delegates at the State Convention in June 2006.

## Constitutional Amendments on November Ballots

At this time the Libertarian Party of Texas has an official position on only one of the Constitutional Amendments that will appear on November ballots. The SLECT resolved in June to oppose the Constitutional Amendment banning gay marriage and civil unions. This will be proposition 2 on the ballot.

However, several individual libertarians have made public their opinion on the various propositions. Readers should be aware that not everyone offering advice agrees on the correct "libertarian" position. What follows is a guideline—use your own judgement when voting.

**Proposition 1 – HJR 54** "The constitutional amendment creating the Texas rail relocation and improvement fund and authorizing grants of money and issuance of obligations for financing the relocation, rehabilitation and expansion of rail facilities."

**Oppose.** "Proposition 1 is an open-ended corporate subsidy scheme

--- a blank check. Our state debt commitment also will be open-ended. Taxpayers will pay unlimited tax dollars to move private corporation rail lines into Gov. Perry's Trans Texas Corridor," —Austin Toll Party website.

**Proposition 2 - HJR 6** "The constitutional amendment providing that marriage in this state consists only of the union of one man and one woman and prohibiting this state or a

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**Brent Sullivan and Jeff Daiell ran an OPH at the Houston Heights Festival October 1-2. This and more LP Activist news on page two.**



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 meeting minutes, photographs,  
 biographies of candidates, suggested  
 websites, letters to the editor, etc.  
 is encouraged. Please send to  
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# Around the State:Activist Update

Harris County LP Chair **Jeff Daiell**, Congressional candidate **Brent Sullivan and White Mariott** of Montgomery County staffed an Operation Politically Homeless booth at the Houston Heights Festival the weekend of October 1st. Exact numbers of quiz takers weren't reported, but from a photo of the quiz chart it looks like at least 20 people scored in the Libertarian quadrant and that there were probably more than 100 takers.

In other news Jeff Daiell reports that thanks to generous contributions by **Steve Ravet, Wes Benedict, and Clyde Garland**, Phases I and II of the Loving County Project have both been launched.

Jeff arranged for free subscriptions to Hillsdale College's *Imprimis Magazine* to be mailed to all voters in Loving County as Phase 1 of the project. For Phase II he sent the county's voters copies of the *"Is This the New Political Party You've Been Looking For?"* along with a cover letter and his contact information.

This is intended to be an ongoing effort, an attempt to make the county a permanent LP bastion so, anyone wishing to contribute to future mailings is welcome to make checks (or money orders) out to: Loving County Project and mail them to: Jeff Daiell, Apt. 113, 8701 S. Braeswood, Houston, Texas 77031.

Jeff will also be making some appearances at Wharton County Junior College this month speaking on the topic of "Imperialism and the Welfare State: You Can't Have One Without the Other."

Lubbock County Media Coordinator **David DeLamar** had a letter published in the September 19 issue of the Avalanche Journal. David's letter disputed the argument made by a previous letter that alcohol sales need to be regulated more to stop drunk driving. David argued that the way to stop drunk driving is to hold people responsible for their actions.

Denton County LP Chair **Robert Vigus**, who is also Chair for the NT Libertarians, was quoted in a September 21 article in the North Texas Daily. The article included opinions on the debate on the appointment of John Roberts to the Supreme Court. "He's more moderate than people expected, but he's not libertarian enough for my taste, but that's to be expected," Robert is reported as saying.

Dallas County Chair **Matthew Moseley** reported a recent speaking engagements and upcoming appearances at SMU, UT Dallas and Highland Park High School.

State Transportation Committee Chair **Steve Ravet** was recently published on [www.lewrockwell.com](http://www.lewrockwell.com), a popular libertarian website. Steve wrote about government pollution from Austin's Metro buses.

Congressional candidate **Michael Badnarik** participated in a panel discussion September 30 sponsored by the UT Department of Rhetoric and Writing. About 300 UT students came to hear Mike and others discuss censorship and college "free speech zones."

Jefferson County activist Dean Tucker sent in a report on the effects of Hurricane Rita in southeast Texas.

Dean, who is from Beaumont, weathered the hurricane out in Buma. He and his family were safe there, but over 200 trees were knocked down on the property.

When he wrote he'd heard that a couple of trees had fallen on his home and one had done severe damage to a sun room. His brother Dennis, also an LP activist and past candidate, reported that things were far worse in Beaumont than what was reported in the media. Dean expects power to be off for as long as a month.

Jefferson County is an organized county for the LP and is home to about 20 active libertarians. Reports from others in affected areas have not yet been received.

# TX Seeks National Platform Committee Member

According to LP Bylaws the 10 states with the largest membership may appoint a representative to the National Platform Committee. State Chair Patrick Dixon is seeking applicants for this position for the 2006 National Convention to be held the first weekend in July, 2006 in Portland, Oregon.

The 2004 National LP Convention saw the most changes to the Platform since its inception in 1972 with a rules suspension that allowed the entire platform to be replaced by a rewritten version that recast all planks, where possible, to have an issue statement, a statement of principle, a Libertarian solution, and an action or transition step. The 2006 Platform Committee is expected to further this effort to create a more coherent platform.

Prospective members should expect to spend "a few hours a week" until the convention and then plan to attend two days of meetings prior to the official start of the convention, says LNC Representative George Squyres.

The work leading up to the convention will be done online over a discussion list with the work product posted at the website.

"What will likely be the plan of attack is each committee member accepting responsibility for three planks. They will work on the rewriting of them, monitor input from the membership and feedback on sug-

gested rewrites," said George. "Members may be responding online to some of that input." At the Convention the committee will draw together all the work for a final report out to the delegates.

"My hope is that we will have enough support by the convention to give us a realistic chance of another suspension of the rules to pass a large number of rewritten planks in one motion," said George. "I believe that by the convention we can (have) enough agreement on about 30 planks that will be uncontroversial that, that group can be passed in one motion. Then we can spend the rest of the time working through the ones that have some controversy and get as many of them passed as possible."

George points out that those appointed to the committee should not only be willing to do the work, but should also be known and respected as "stand up Libertarians" as the committee will need to lobby, politic and sell the convention delegates on the job they are doing.

"If we do a good enough job we can get this done. If we have to proceed as we have done historically, arguing each plank separately, we will get about six planks per convention passed and it will take almost two decades to get the platform rewritten. The website is open to all party mem-

bers so hopefully the work will have been recognized long before we get to Portland and we should not encounter any stiff opposition," says George.

Those interested in the Platform position should provide short answers to the following questions and email their response to Chair@LPtexs.org for consideration by the LP of Texas.

- 1) How I think the platform can be improved
- 2) My experience working with the Libertarian Party Platform at conventions (National & Local)
- 3) My position on the purity versus pragmatism debate going on in the LP, and how the new platform format affects those conflicts
- 4) My biggest disagreement with the platform
- 5) How well I collaborate with others on writing documents
- 6) How much time will I be able to put into this
- 7) My opinion on the Iraq Exit Strategy plan and the debate within the party over it
- 8) How many state LP conventions and National LP conventions have you attended?
- 9) Do you plan to attend the next LP convention in Portland?

## Letter to the Editor: Monica Granger supports petition for bus "thief"

Here's a link (<http://www.pennywit.com/drupal/node/3206>) to a story about some different private rescue efforts in Louisiana, including one Mr. Gibson, who "stole" a school bus in Louisiana to save 100 people (there may be case law supporting commandeering of private property in times of emergency). He is now being prosecuted for this action by what I perceive to be self-seeking government workers, busily running to and fro implementing the letter of the law and mak-

ing themselves look productive, while completely losing its spirit (we have laws for safety - to save lives, yes?).

I disagree with the last statement of the petition, which calls for government provision of a full, four-year scholarship to the 18-year old Mr. Gibson. Any money flowing from government to Mr. Gibson should arrive in the form of payment for court costs, pain and suffering in jail, et cetera.

This isn't the type of ordeal that an idealistic young kid should be

subjected to. The kid's got honor - and he's being punished for it by the most likely of candidates - government that can't stand to be grandstanded by private citizens. After all, this chips away at the shiny "only government can save you" veneer; too much of this and people might start believing in themselves and their neighbors again. Here's a link to the petition: <http://www.petitiononline.com/JG0007Q/petition.html>. Take a minute or two, please.

# Constitutional Amendments on November Ballots

political subdivision of this state from creating or recognizing any legal status identical or similar to marriage."

**Oppose.** Opposed by the LP of Texas by resolution.

**Proposition 3 - HJR 80** "The constitutional amendment clarifying that certain economic development programs do not constitute a debt."

**No position.** An argument for opposition is this allows local governments to get around limits on debt. A contrary argument is that this is an example of the state interfering in city business and that this should not be addressed by constitutional amendment.

**Proposition 4 - SJR 17** "The constitutional amendment authorizing the denial of bail to a criminal defendant who violates a condition of the defendant's release pending trial."

**No position.**

**Proposition 5 - SJR 21** "The constitutional amendment allowing the

legislature to define rates of interest for commercial loans."

**Support.** As summarized this amendment looks to add government regulation, yet, the government is already regulating this area, what the text of SJR 21 actually does is allow the legislature to create exemptions from the maximum rates of interest that can be charged for commercial loans. Thus passage of this amendment has the potential to allow for more freedom.

**Proposition 6 - HJR 87** "The constitutional amendment to include one additional public member and a constitutional county court judge in the membership of the State Commission on Judicial Conduct."

**No position.**

**Proposition 7 - SJR 7** "The constitutional amendment authorizing line-of-credit advances under a reverse mortgage."

**Support.**

**Proposition 8 - SJR 40** "The

constitutional amendment providing for the clearing of land titles by relinquishing and releasing any state claim to sovereign ownership or title to interest in certain land in Upshur County and in Smith County."

**Support.** "While this only affects people in Upshur and Smith Counties it gives a clear message that we support property rights. An amendment forcing the state to give up something to the people is always good," said SLECT District 5 Rep. Barbara Cunningham.

**Proposition 9 - HJR 79** "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for a six-year term for a board member of a regional mobility authority."

**Oppose.** This is what the Austin Toll Party organization had to say about this one: "Proposition 9 allows non-elected, unaccountable Regional Mobility Authority board members extended term limits of 6 years."

## Yes, I will act today to promote Liberty in Texas!

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 2006.
- 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.

# Events of Interest to Texas Libertarians

**Oct. 4 (Tues.) 6:45 to 8:30 p.m. Travis County LP meeting,** Mekong River Restaurant, 215 E. 6th Street, Austin. For information contact Chair Rock Howard at rockmh@austin.rr.com.

**Oct. 8 (Sat.) Noon to 3 p.m. AustinTollParty Rally** against Constitutional Amendments 1 & 9, Unitarian Church, 4700 Grover, Austin. Statewide kick-off and strategy meeting. Call 512-371-9926 or email linda@austintollparty.com for information.

**Oct. 8 (Sat.) 9 a.m. to Noon, "People's Law School" at University of Houston,** 100 Law Center, Houston. Free classes in business law, bankruptcy, insurance, consumer law, credit and debt collection, family law, health insurance law, landlord tenant law, small claims court and how to deal with an attorney. Each person may choose three classes to attend. Space is limited and you must register. Do so online at [www.peopleslawyer.net](http://www.peopleslawyer.net).

**Oct. 9 (Sun.) p.m. Harris County LP Meeting,** 9614 Oregano Circle, Houston. Contact Jeff Daiell at jeffdaiell@yahoo.com.

**Oct. 11 (Tues.) Last Day to Register to Vote** for the November 2005 elections.

**Oct. 15 (Sat.) 2 p.m. Collin County LP Meeting,** at IHOP, 933 N. Central Expressway, Plano.

**Oct. 18 (Tues.) Bexar County LP Meeting,** Unlimited Thought Bookstore, 5525 Blanco, Suite 107. Contact David Alter at davydoodle\_@hotmail.com.

**Oct. 19-20 (Wed.-Thur.) Campaign Seminar, Austin.** Hosted by Texas Farm Bureau at the Omni Austin Hotel Southpark. Two day training for candidates, spouses, and activists. Cost \$110. Deadline to register is past, but check with Ken Hodges at 254-751-8741 or khodges@txfb.org to see if space is still available.

**Oct. 24 (Mon.) Early Voting Begins** for the November 2005 elections.

**Nov. 4 (Fri.) Early Voting Ends** for the November 2005 elections.

**Nov. 5 (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](mailto:c_jagge@msn.com).

**Nov. 8 (Tues.) 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Election Day: Constitutional Amendments,** local political subdivisions including Houston City races.

**Nov. 15 (Tues.) Bexar County LP Meeting,** Unlimited Thought Bookstore, 5525 Blanco, Suite 107. Speaker Maurice Sochia: The Source of the Taxing Authority of the Federal Republic Central Government.

**Dec. 3 (Sat.) Filing Opens for LP Nominations** for offices up for election in November 2006. Offices up for election and nomination forms are available from the Secretary of State's office at <http://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/>. Forms must be notarized and returned to either your County Chair or the State Chair depending on office.

**Dec. 3 (Sat.) Brazos County LP Candidate Extravaganza,** rally for announced candidates, sign-up for others interested in running, guest speakers. Cost \$15. Time and location to be determined.

**Dec. 10 (Sat.) State Libertarian Executive Committee of Texas (SLECT) Meeting, Dallas.** Time and location yet to be determined.

**Jan. 2 (Mon.) 6 p.m. Filing Ends** for LP nominations for offices up for election in November 2006.

**Jan. 9 (Mon.) Candidate Lists Due:** State LP Chair will deliver to county chairs list of statewide and district candidates.

**Jan. 12 (Thurs.) Candidate Lists Due:** LP Chairs required to turn candidate lists in to local and state election officials.

**Feb. 6 (Mon.) Last Day to Register to Vote** for participation in precinct and county conventions.

**March 7 (Tues.) Evening. Precinct Conventions.** Contact your County Chair for time and location. Notice is also posted on the County Commissioner's bulletin board.