



Lone Star Liberty

The Official Monthly Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Texas

November 2005

LP Commissioner Votes Against Drug Task Force

On the agenda for Burkburnett's City Commissioners' meeting for Monday, October 17, was a resolution of support for the North Texas Drug Enforcement Task Force. Most of those in attendance presumed it would be a slam-dunk. If they did, they were not familiar with newly elected city commissioner Scott Davison.

A longtime member of the Libertarian Party, Davison was in no hurry to rubber-stamp this previously routine annual ritual.

"The War on Drugs has been a colossal failure," Davison said as he read a prepared statement into the record.

"A growing number of peaceful law-abiding citizens have come to

the realization that the War on Drugs is not the solution, but the problem," he said.

Drug Enforcement Task Forces are opposed by diverse groups including the ACLU and the National Taxpayer's Union. The Texas ACLU has 18 documented cases of civil rights abuses by task forces since 2001. The National Taxpayer's Union argues that the grant programs that fund the task forces lack accountability.

In his statement Davison acknowledged that drug warriors embody "good intentions and courage," but went on to state that despite those good intentions, the War on Drugs is "a bottomless pit of failed public policy."

Already faced with the possible cancellation of a federal grant that

sustains the Task Force, Davison's opposition was not welcomed by the task force commander who was present at the meeting.

In the end, none of Davison's fellow Burkburnett commissioners agreed with him, and the resolution was passed by a 6-1 vote with no commissioners missing or abstaining.

Davison was elected to office in May 2005. He is a retired Air Force officer, who currently is a manager for Lear-Sieglar Services, a company that trains fighter pilots.

The five member North Texas Task Force based in Wichita Falls will probably be disbanded in March 2006, according to an October 22 Time Record News report.

File for 2006 Elections Dec. 3

Individuals wanting to run for office in November 2006 as Libertarians need to file applications between Saturday, December 3, 2005 and Monday, January 2, 2006.

The application form is available online from the Texas Secretary of State's office at www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/forms/index.shtml. The correct form is the one titled "Application for Nomination by ___ Convention of ___" that was updated 9/97.

The form must be notarized. If you are running for local office the form should be sent to your County Chair. A list of County Chairs and their contact information is online at our website at www.lptexas.org. If you intend to seek a district or statewide race then you must send your application to State Chair Patrick Dixon.

Applications for the State Chair can be mailed to P.O. Box 41059, Austin, TX 78704-0018. Applications may be faxed to 512-233-0613 or emailed to Director@lptexas, however, an original copy should also be mailed. It is recommended that you call 512-442-4910 to confirm receipt of your application.

If you have any questions about how to fill out the form or what offices are up for election or are likely to be uncontested, etc. please contact Wes Benedict at Director@lptexas.org.

The best way to file is to attend a County Candidate Event or one of the regional events Wes has set up. Several are listed in this month's calendar. Assistance and notarization will be available at these events.

Vote Nov. 8th

If you haven't voted early don't forget to cast your vote on Tuesday, November 8th. There are 9 proposed amendments to the State Constitution on all ballots. Some localities will also have bond elections and some have city council and other local offices up for election.

The Libertarian Party has an official position opposing Propositions 1, 2, and 9. The Travis County LP is on record opposing the same and Harris County has come out against Proposition 2.

An October 19 LP of Texas press release described 1 and 9 as "basically a referendum on Perry's plan to constrain old and new highways with checkpoints and tax collection booths." Proposition 2 institutes a ban on same sex marriages or civil unions.



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Submissions of party news, meeting minutes, photographs, biographies of candidates, suggested websites, letters to the editor, etc. is encouraged. Please send to Laura@libertyworks.org to submit.

Around the State:Activist Update

Nathan Taylor was appointed Grayson County Chair October 19. Nathan is currently organizing a student group at Austin College in Sherman. Nathan can be reached at ntaylor@austincollege.edu or 650-483-6709.

Gray County also has a new Chair effective November 4, when current Chair **Timothy Justice** will step down in favor of his wife Amy. Timothy plans to run for State Representative District 88 in 2006. **Amy Justice** can be reached at graycountylp@hotmail.com.

Smith County Chair Eric Rathbone recently spoke at a public meeting on the proposed Loop 49 project in East Texas and earned media coverage from several Tyler television stations and a radio station.

"I used the opportunity to, among other things, remind the 200+ member audience that Congressman Gohmert failed to secure funds for this project while at the same time agreeing to the infamous \$220 million bridge to nowhere in Alaska, \$2 million for the Packard Auto Museum in Warren, Ohio and \$9.6 million for bike paths in Austin," Eric reports.

"The crowd reaction was excellent and I was gratified by the obvious and open resentment directed at Gohmert's approval of the pork filled Highway Bill. This is clearly a potent

issue for Libertarians," Eric said.

As a result of this exposure, Eric was scheduled to be interviewed as part of a group of local leaders on the topic of the Iraq War for a November 2 news program.

Harris County Chair Jeff Daiell was also scheduled to be interviewed for a television program November 2. He was invited to appear on Houston Access Ch. 17 to speak on the topic of "Drugs, Crime and Politics." Jeff is also scheduled to address five Wharton Community College classes November 14 and 15th.

Art DiBianca had a letter published in the October 20 edition of the Austin American Statesman. He was critical of the newspaper calling the Austin smoking ban "the will of the people" given that only 7% of registered voters favored the ban.

The San Antonio Express included Libertarian opposition to Proposition 3 in a October 21 story on the proposed amendments. The Travis County LP had sent a press release noting their opposition to the amendment. The paper quoted Wes Benedict: "Local governments should not be in the business of handing out tax abatements to preferred groups or corporations. Instead to attract jobs and economic development taxes should be reduced for all, and businesses should compete on a level playing field."

Letter to the Editor:

It took America over 200 years to accumulate \$1 trillion in debt. Now we add another trillion every year or two.

Total government spending grew by 33 percent during George Bush's first term. This reckless, non-stop spending takes over 40% of every dollar -- everyone makes -- every year. But for our legislators— all this money is not enough.

Senators Hutchinson and Cornyn, and our representatives in the

House, spend far, far more than what they take from us. The additional spending is charged to the future. It is really stealing from our children. Do you suppose they do it intentionally -- or is it that they don't know any better?

If we had the constitutional balanced-budget amendment as proposed by the National Taxpayers Union, we could protect our children from a lot of this theft. www.ntu.org

Mike Ford

Essay Contest

Write about economic liberty and win money! The Association of Private Enterprise (APEE) is offering an essay contest to full-time students 25 years or younger.

The winning essay will earn \$2,500. Second prize is \$2,000 and third is \$1,500. Several honorable mentions will earn \$250 each.

The contest, which has a December 1, 2005, deadline, gives students a choice of three topics to write about: "What Causes Prosperity?" or "What is the Appropriate Role of Regulation in a Free Economy?" or "Can Markets Protect the Environment?" APEE offers three online ar-

ticles for each topic. Essays should be between 1,000 and 2,000 words.

This "Essay Contest on the Benefits of a Free Economy" is funded by the Templeton Foundation. Complete instructions can be found at www.apee.org.

LP Kids Games

Try these games that teach free market principals.

This one teaches the concept "Tragedy of the commons" <http://www.bunnygame.org/index.htm>

This one teaches why its good to trade even with a stronger partner (comparative advantage) <http://desertislandgame.com/>

Help Wanted

The Libertarian Party of Denton County, Texas is seeking a qualified individual for the part-time position of Executive Director.

Must be able to operate with little supervision, and have a grasp of Denton County demographics. Primary duty is fundraising with secondary duties being recruit ment and event planning.

Pay is based on performance: 10% of revenue brought into the county party.

Interested candidates should email their resume and contact information to info@lptx.org

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 will run for a office in 2006.
- _____ I am interested in being an appointed County Chair.
- _____ Enclosed is a **one-time contribution** to help reach our goals.
- _____ **Monthly Pledge** (please bill my credit card on a monthly basis.)

Print this form and mail to:
Libertarian Party
P.O. Box 41059
Austin, TX 78704

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

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.

Nov. 6 (Sun.) 1 p.m. Harris County LP Meeting, 9614 Oregano Circle, Houston. Contact Jeff Daiell at jeffdaiell@yahoo.com.

Nov. 7 (Mon.) 4 to 5:30 p.m. The Cold War Legacy and the Post-Cold War World, Brown Room, LBJ Library, UT Austin. See www.utexas.edu/lbj/about/map.html for information.

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

Nov. 15 (Tues.) 7 p.m. 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. Contact David Alter at davydoodle_@hotmail.com.

Nov. 19 (Sat.) 8:30 to 2 p.m. State Highway 130 Corridor Summit, Texas Disposal Systems Exotic Game Ranch and Pavilion, 12200 Carl Road, Creedmoor. Envision Central Texas.

Nov. 21 (Mon.) Taming American Power: The Global Response to U.S. Primacy, Brown Room, LBJ Library, UT Austin.

Nov. 24 (Thur.) Thanksgiving!

Dec. 3 (Sat.) Noon. Brazos County LP Candidate Extravaganza, C+J BBQ, 1010 S. Texas Ave., Bryan. Rally for announced candidates, sign-up for others interested in running, guest speaker: State Chair and elected Lago Vista Councilman Patrick Dixon on "How I Found Victory on Election Day." Cost \$15. Tickets & RSVP call 779-1775.

Dec. 3 (Sat.) 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Houston Area LP Candidates Event, location not yet confirmed. Contact Wes Benedict for information at director@lptexas.org.

Dec. 4 (Sun.) 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Central Texas LP Candidates Event, La Palapa Mexican Restaurant & Cantina, 6640 Hwy 290 East, Austin. Open to all. Candidates should arrive at 4 p.m. to complete paperwork. Short candidate speeches are from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. Contact Wes Benedict for information at Director@lptexas.org.

Dec. 10 (Sat.) Noon. State Libertarian Executive Committee of Texas (SLECT) Meeting, El Chico Restaurant, 1111 N. Beckley Ave., Desoto. Contact State Chair Patrick Dixon at Chair@lptexas.org for information.

Dec. 10 (Sat.) 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Dallas Area LP Candidates Event, Abuelo's Mexican Food Embassy, 2520 S. Stemmons Fwy, Lewisville. Candidates should arrive at 4 p.m. Contact Wes Benedict at Director@lptexas.org for information.

Dec. 15 (Thur.) Bill of Rights Day!

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.) Primary Election Day.

March 14 (Tues.) Libertarian Party Precinct Conventions.

March 18 (Sat.) Libertarian Party County Conventions.

March 25 (Sat.) Libertarian Party District Conventions.

Nov. 7 (Tues.) Election Day.