

# Sandhills Libertarian Gazette

A NEWSLETTER FOR LIBERTARIANS IN THE SOUTH CAROLINA MIDLANDS

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## What Does the Libertarian Party Stand For?

The principles of the Libertarian Party are the same principles that guide honest people in their everyday lives. Libertarians want the government to follow those same guidelines. For example:

If I force you to give me money to pay for schemes that you do not approve of, then I can be prosecuted for theft and thrown into jail. However, the government does the same thing right now when it collects taxes by threat of force. Libertarians would cut taxes and let individuals keep more of their hard-earned money. Important services such as roads, utilities, and education, could be improved by encouraging free-market competition and private financing.

If I run out of money, and decide to print some myself, I get into big trouble for counterfeiting. Right now the government does the same thing, calls it expanding the money supply, and claims that it's O.K. In fact, this causes inflation, recession, and unemployment. Libertarians would bring order to financial markets by returning to a sound money standard backed by gold or silver.

If I threaten to close your business unless you give me money, I can be accused of extortion. The government does the same thing, calls it licensing, and says that citizens are better off as a result. In fact, small minority businesses are hurt the most by licensing laws. Libertarians realize that independent consumer groups could do a better job than the government of certifying competence and quality.

If I come into your home and tell you what to eat, drink, smoke, or read, or what to do in your own bedroom, then you will rightly respond, "Leave me alone. This is none of your business." You can say the same thing if I try to force you to wear a seat belt. However, the government regulates personal behavior every day; there are many laws which do this. Libertarians believe that individuals and their families know best how to run their own lives and how best to look out for their own safety. The government should not interfere as long as nobody violates the rights of anyone else.

If I tell you how to educate your children and claim that your ideas are irrelevant, then you will properly respond, "You don't know enough about us to make that kind of decision. You don't know what is important for us." Right now the government forces you to pay for its schools, and requires you to go through a lot of red tape if you choose to educate your children at home. Libertarians believe in the separation of school and state. We welcome the diversity of different educational philosophies, and acknowledge that each family has the responsibility of choosing the education they deem most appropriate.

Libertarians are confident in the wisdom of letting individuals think and act for themselves. Governments must stop assuming that they know what's right for everyone. The only role of government should be to protect each person's right to life, liberty, and honestly-acquired property.

## Greene Continues Legal Fight For County Council Seat

The S.C. Supreme Court will soon decide whether or not to order a new election for Aiken County Council Seat #3.

Last April, Libertarian Doug Greene lost the race for the council seat to incumbent Democrat LaWana McKenzie by only 5 votes. The day after the election, Libertarians discovered that several voters in split precincts were denied the right to vote in District 3. Other irregularities were also found. If the denied voters had been allowed to vote, Greene would have won the election.

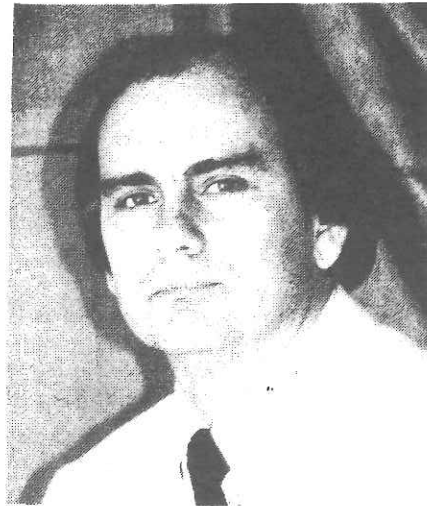
The Aiken County Libertarian Party protested the election to the county board of elections. At a May hearing, Libertarians presented affidavits and witnesses without objection, but the board ruled to uphold the election.

The A.C.L.P. and Doug Greene appealed the decision to the State Election Commission. According to Tom King, Chairman of the A.C.L.P., the May hearing "was similar to the county hearing... a kangaroo court."

Jim Leslie, Greene's attorney, said that "The State Board found that at least 6 voters were denied the right to vote in District 3 by election officials. According to S.C. case law, if election officials incorrectly deny qualified voters the right to vote, these votes should be added to the losing candidate's total. In this case, there is a substantial possibility the election results would have been affected, thus invalidating the election."

Rodger Leaks, the Vice-Chairman of the State Board, agreed with the Libertarians. In a strongly worded dissenting opinion, Leaks noted, "There were major flaws in the Aiken County Council race... Consequently, in my search for the truth, I felt obligated to vote to grant the appeal and order a new election."

On June 25, Greene and the Libertarians appealed to the S.C. Supreme Court. The Democracy Project, an international human rights organization, filed a friend-of-the-court brief supporting Greene's appeal. The Democracy Project focuses on situations where existing political parties try to use their control of government to shut out new parties.



*DOUG GREENE  
hopes the S.C.  
Supreme Court  
helps him gain  
the council seat  
stolen from him.*

Attorney General Travis Medlock asked for more time to respond to the detailed and comprehensive documents filed by the Libertarians. The Supreme Court granted an extension, and the case will be heard in October, most likely.

So far, the appeal has cost the A.C.L.P. hundreds of dollars. Attorney Jim Leslie of Irmo is working for less than his usual fees, since Aiken Libertarians Tom King and Mary Lou Seymour have done much of the legal research and clerical work. National Libertarian Party counsel Bill Hall and attorney Robin Steward of Columbia have also provided assistance.

"If we can't expose and stop this illegal practice on the part of election officials," said Steve Vandervelde, Chairman of the S.C. Libertarian Party, "there is no sense in Libertarians or anyone else 'not in the power structure' running for public office in South Carolina. Even if we win, as we did in Aiken County, it will be stolen from us. Whether we win office or not, as Libertarians we must attempt to defend liberty where possible, no matter what the odds. What is so chilling is not only that this particular election was affected by individuals being arbitrarily denied their voting rights, but that the outcome of any close election in South Carolina could now be similarly affected."

According to Doug Greene, "If we win this important voting rights case, it will mean not only a new election here, but also vital protection for all future Libertarian candidates in S.C."

The A.C.L.P. needs help paying the costs of this appeal. Please send contributions to A.C.L.P., Drawer Q, Bath, S.C. 29816.

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Editorial

# Just Say No To Higher Sales Taxes

Voters in Lexington and Richland counties will soon make a decision that will directly affect the local economy. The Local Option Sales Tax, also referred to by Libertarians as the Local Unnecessary Sales Tax (L.U.S.T.), comes up for a referendum vote in November.

The Libertarian Party has fought against this tax since 1986. It is important for this tax increase to be defeated. Make no mistake about it - we are talking about a large tax increase. Nobody seriously believes that property taxes will really be lowered; they will keep going up in future years.

Local governments don't need any more of our money. They are already wasting a lot of what they take. When I run low on money, I must cut back on expenditures. If I could vote myself more money, I wouldn't be very careful spending it.

For many years, the Reason Foundation and other libertarian groups have pointed out that local governments can save money by opening up municipal services to the free market. Privatization can save money and improve services in a variety of areas such as firefighting, waste disposal, schools, utilities, and even some parts of law enforcement. This has really worked in other areas, and there is no reason why it can't work here.

South Carolina's state and local tax burden is the highest in the southeast. During the past few years, those states with the highest taxes had the slowest economic growth. We don't need to make a bad situation worse!

Higher sales taxes will take money from the poor and give it to the rich. Poor persons, minorities, and the elderly will be hit hard by sales taxes but will not get much of a property tax cut.

Many persons can deduct property taxes when they fill out federal income tax forms, but sales taxes are not deductible. Therefore, if sales taxes go up and property taxes go down, these persons will be forced to send more money to Washington, D.C. for no good reason. They will have less money to spend locally. Money will flow out of the state, and this will hurt the local economy.

Raising sales taxes during a recession will have a devastating impact on small businesses. It's no

secret that small businesses provide most of the new jobs in South Carolina. Their sales will be hurt by both the recession and the higher sales taxes. These small businesses will cut down on jobs, and unemployment will get worse. This will cut local government revenues, forcing them to raise property taxes even further. We will thus have the worst of both worlds - higher sales and property taxes!

Citizens need to be aware of what will really happen if they listen to the misguided advice of government officials who want more of our money to waste.



**I.S.I.L. WORLD NEWS**

## CANADIAN PATIENTS TURN TO THE U.S.A.

Canadians languishing on hospital waiting lists due to rationing of services in the Canadian government health care system may soon find their pains eased south of the border.

A new insurance policy launched in Winnipeg last month is offering Canadians treatment in dozens of American hospitals. The policy will cost between \$300 and \$800 per year and will even cover food and lodging for a loved one for 15 days.

The policy targets the estimated 300,000 Canadians who face months-long waiting periods for so-called "non-emergency" surgery.

Policy holders seeking gallbladder operations, CAT scans, and dozens of other procedures will have a 45-day waiting period which covers transfer of medical records to an American facility.

American advocates of nationalized health care please take note.

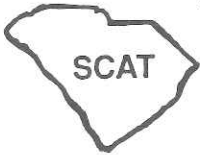
Submitted by Bruce Evoy  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

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**"Society in every state is a blessing, but government, even in its best state, is but a necessary evil; in its worst state, an intolerable one."**

Thomas Paine, 1776

**"That government is best which governs least."**

Early American Slogan

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The editor thanks Sandy Morris for her help in assembling this newsletter, and Amy Whitaker for typesetting most of the headlines.


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This issue of the Sandhills Libertarian Gazette is published by the Editor for the benefit of the South Carolina Libertarian Party.

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Bill Brooks, Jr.  
 President

Did you know:

America's Founders Were Victimless Criminals?

George Washington grew marijuana by the acre and distilled liquor in his own home brewery.

John Hancock (bold signer of the Declaration) was "The Prince of Smugglers" and president of the first Continental Congress.

Benjamin Franklin loved French orgies, had illegitimate black sons, and owned the colony's largest collection of pornography.

Thomas Jefferson also grew marijuana and attempted to lottery his estate to raise funds when bankrupt.

All our Founding Fathers were tax evaders, draft resisters, drinkers, smugglers — condemned to death by their lawfully established King.

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