

VIRGINIA LIBERTY

Volume 1 Issue 2

November 1996

COUNTDOWN TO ELECTION DAY FOR LIBERTARIANS

The Libertarian Party of Virginia State Central Committee has issued a recommended voter's guide for all Virginians who are concerned with increasing individual freedom and personal responsibility in the Old Dominion and the nation.

FOR PRESIDENT/ VICE PRESIDENT:

Harry Browne and Jo Jorgensen

FOR US SENATE:

"Shelley F. Tamres" (write-in)

FOR US HOUSE-6th District:

Jay Rutledge

FOR US HOUSE-10th District:

Gary Reams

FOR ALL OTHER RACES:

"Libertarian" (write-in)

The reason to write in "Libertarian" is that the State Board of Elections must compile and report the results, even of write-ins, and thus make a very powerful statement.

JORGENSEN IN VIRGINIA

Richard E. Sincere, Jr.

(A version of this article appears in Alexandria's Metro Herald on Friday, October 11, 1996)

On Comedy Central's hit chat show, Politically Incorrect with Bill Maher, the guests on the September 24 episode -- Seinfeld's Jason Alexander, Ross Perot's biographer Gerald Posner, and actress/singer Diane Carroll -- all agreed that their fellow guest, Libertarian presidential candidate Harry Browne, should be allowed to participate in the presidential debates with Bill Clinton and Bob Dole. Host Bill Maher, saying he con-



COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG
Where the first libertarians such as Thomas Jefferson, George Mason, and Patrick Henry united for a common goal.

siders himself to be a Libertarian, said he felt the debates will be poorer for Browne's absence.

Unfortunately, the joint Democrat-Republican debate commission has already spoken, laying down its ruling that Browne and Perot and other "third" party candidates will be denied the opportunity to debate Clinton and Dole. So the debates will be boring repetitions of tired rhetoric that we have heard so many times before, while Harry Browne has to take his case directly to the people by making local appearances at county fairs, fundraising dinners, and radio talk shows. Browne's running mate, 39-year-old software entrepreneur and mother Jo Jorgensen, brought the campaign to Virginia this week, making a series of appearances in Fairfax City, Charlottesville, and Richmond.

In Fairfax, Jorgensen addressed a

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EVENT CALENDAR



The State Central Committee will hold meeting November 16 in Richmond at a location to be announced. The meeting times are 12 noon to 1 p.m. for lunch and 1-4 p.m. for business. Contact State Chair Dana Johansen.

The Future of Freedom Foundation has an exciting new program this fall. The series is entitled "The Untouchables," and will be held monthly from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. at the National Press Club. Admission is free and no reservations are required. On Nov. 21, Doug Bandow will speak on Ending, Not Reforming, Social Security. On Dec. 12, Jacob Hornberger will speak on The Case for Unilateral Free Trade and Open Immigration. Call 703-934-6101 e-mail 75200.1523@compuserve.COM

The Vienna Coffee Club. On Nov. 7, Charles Adams will speak about "Those Dirty Rotten Taxes." For details contact The Future of Freedom Foundation, 703-934-6101 or visit their web site at www.fff.org/freedom/daily/.

Patrick Henry Supper Club, first Wednesday of every month; at Morrisons Cafeteria, 8220 Midlothian turnpike, Richmond. Dinner begins at 6 p.m. and program begins at 7. contact Marc Montoni. November 6th, 1996. Program to be announced. Possibles: Election returns. Harry Browne video. Announce call for 1997 Richmond-area candidates."

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(Continued from page 1 EVENT CALENDER)

The LP of Fairfax County will hold the next meeting Nov. 11 at the Anita's restaurant in Vienna, from 6:30 p.m. until 9:30. Contact Paul Gagnon, 703-329-6857 for more information.

Liberty Toastmasters. Little Cafe at Arlington courthouse, on the 2nd and last Mondays of the month, 6:45 p.m., contact Bryant Cochran at 703-780-7587.

On campus activism. At the University of VA contact Jim Lark at 804-973-5958. At Washington and Lee, contact Wayne Dymacek at 703-463-6981. At William and Mary, contact Rebecca Erskine at 804-221-5267.

Prince William Supper Club. For more information, contact Phil Hodson 703-257-1712. Second Saturday of each month at 11AM at Bertucci's Pizza in Manassas.

Tidewater Supper Club, contact Sanford Pankin at 804-244-0516.

LPVA Treasurer David B. Brown will be resigning shortly to take a position at a management consulting firm in New York City. If you have any business with him, you can call 804-963-0744. Scott Elston has submitted his name for consideration by the SCC as a replacement.

REAMS NEEDS HELP NOW

Reams for Congress will be distributing pamphlets and posting signs according to the following schedule. Your help is essential.

Manassas - Noon Sunday 20 October - call Philip Hodson 257-1712
 Manassas - Noon Saturday 26 October - call Philip Hodson 257-1712
 Loudoun County - 1 PM Sunday 27 Oct - call Shelley Tamres 450-0218
 Fairfax County - 11 AM Saturday 2 Nov - call John Buckley 938-0012
 Manassas - Noon Sunday 3 November - call Philip Hodson 257-1712

Check out the Reams web site at
<http://www.access.digex.net/~bishop/lp/>



Please send news articles, ads, information, and letters to : Virginia Liberty, 7011-A Manchester Blvd. Suite 1776, Franconia, VA 22310 or e-mail 74633.3520@compuserve.com.

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capacity-crowd fundraising dinner on Sunday, September 29. The purpose of the dinner, said organizer John Buckley, a former member of the Virginia House of Delegates and former state chairman of the Libertarian Party, was to raise money to put Browne-Jorgensen campaign commercials on the radio throughout Virginia. (Outside of Northern VA, which falls into the D.C. radio market, radio advertising is perhaps the most cost-effective means for candidates to reach voters.) The dinner, which was oversubscribed, succeeded in raising enough money to buy a significant number of radio spots in various smaller markets around the state.

Jorgensen was joined on the speakers' platform by syndicated columnist Joseph Sobran, whose son, Michael, is considering a future race as a Libertarian candidate, and Gary Reams, the Libertarian candidate in Virginia's 10th congressional district, where he is challenging long-time Republican incumbent Frank Wolf. Wolf promised, when he was first elected 1980, that he would serve no more than ten years in office. You do the math and see how good he is at keeping promises.

Sobran spoke first, noting that while Americans today pay almost half their incomes to local, state, or federal revenue agencies, during the middle ages, serfs were required to pay only one-third of their earnings to their overlords. It seems, he said, that "the Road to Serfdom is starting to look like an escape route." The Road to Serfdom was a prescient 1944 book about totalitarianism by libertarian economist Friedrich Hayek. The columnist echoed some of the comments from Politically Incorrect by complaining about the exclusion of Harry Browne and Jo Jorgensen from the debates. He suggested that if Browne and Jorgensen participated, there might be "a terrible danger that the debates might be turned into real debates." He decried the fact that both the Republicans and Democrats accuse each other of stealing each others issues, a clear indication, he said, that neither party has principles upon which it stands.

"If the two major parties were the Socialist Party and the Libertarian Party, there would be no issue theft' -- you can't steal issues if you have principles." Sobran offered these tongue-in-cheek definitions of different politicians: "If you prefer domestic intervention by the government, you're a liberal. If you prefer foreign intervention, you're a conservative. If you prefer both, you're a moderate, and if you prefer neither, you're an

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IMPORTANT NAMES AND PHONE NUMBERS

Dana Johansen, LPVA state chair- 2601 Wagon Dr. Alexandria, Va 22302. e-mail VETODJ@aol.com

Tomas Estrada-Palma, LPVA Vice-Chair, Woodbridge, 703-492-7095 e-mail testrada@citi.net

Marc Montoni, LPVA secretary, 102155.2376@compuserve.com

John Gall, Chairman, Arlington Libertarian Committee. 4300 Old Dominion Dr. Apt #417

Paul Gagnon, chair of LP of Fairfax County, 7011-A Manchester Blvd. Suite 1776, Alexandria, VA 22310, 703-329-NVLP. e-mail 74633.3520@compuserve.com

Reams for Congress, 8033 Sudley Rd. Suite 1776, Manassas, VA 22110 Phil Hodson 703-257-1712.

Jay Rutledge, Virginia Sixth District Friends of Liberty, 1823 Blenheim Rd. jSW, Roanoke, VA24015, 504-981-9213

LPVA, PO Box 28263, Richmond, VA 23228, 1-800-619-1776. web site is <http://www.lp.org>

LP National Headquarters, 202-333-0008

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES

Stew Engel, district 1 rep, King George. 540-663-2279

Keith Kennedy, district 3 rep, Quanton. 804-932-8362

Lennice Werth, district 4 rep, Crewe. 804-645-8816

Paul Evans, district 5 rep, Montebello. 540-377-6454

Jay Rutledge, district 6 rep, Roanoke. 540-981-9213

Kip Karl, district 8 rep, Alexandria. 703-360-8119

John Jordan, district 9 rep, Blacksburg. 504-953-0675

Shelley Tamres, district 10 rep, Sterling. 703-450-0218

James Long, district 11 rep, Vienna. 703-938-8357

HARRY BROWNE FOR PRESIDENT. 2600 Virginia Ave., NW, Suite 100, Washington, DC 20037, 202-333-0008, fax 202-333-0072. contact Bill Winter. e-mail 73163.3063@compuserve.com .

Web sites include www.HarryBrowne96.org/ and Campaign@HarryBrowne96.org.

For campaign matierals write Sharon Ayres, campaign manager at 4094 Majestic Lane, Suite 240, Fairfax, VA 22033.

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extremist." Actually, if you prefer neither form of government intervention, you're a libertarian.

In Jo Jorgensen's remarks, the attentive and enthusiastic audience learned why. Jorgenson devoted the bulk of her speech to doing what she's been doing since she announced her intention to run for vice president: attacking Republicans for hypocrisy, for stealing Libertarian rhetoric whiles till expanding government. Jorgensen noted that the Republicans this year "could win by a landslide if they only followed through on what they promised." She pointed out that her opponent, Jack Kemp, "doesn't want to cut taxes to cut government. He wants to cut taxes to make government bigger-- using the same theory McDonald's uses when it cuts prices to increase volume." This vice-presidential candidate reminded the audience of some historical facts. Despite his promises to cut government, for instance, Ronald Reagan as president "proposed higher spending in all eight of his eight years in office." The Department of Education, which Reagan promised to abolish, was actually twice as large when he left office in 1989 as it was in 1981. Asked how to respond to the claim that a vote for Harry Browne is a wasted vote, Jorgensen said the only wasted vote is one cast for a candidate who disagrees with you -- and if you want smaller government, not bigger government, your only choice is Browne. On the other hand, she added, "It's working to our advantage that Bob Dole is showing up so low in the polls, because a vote for him is a wasted vote, too."

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Dana Johansen, the LPVA chairman, advises us five constitutional amendments will be on the ballot, as explained by the State Board of Elections. The LPVA SCC has not reviewed them sufficiently to make specific recommendations. Johansen prepared comments on each question.

BALLOT QUESTION 1

Shall the Constitution of Virginia be amended to provide that the funds of the governmental employees retirement system shall be trust funds and be invested and administered solely in the interests of the members and beneficiaries of the system?

EXPLANATION

This amendment revises the provision that requires the General Assembly to maintain a retirement system for public employees.

Present Constitution

The Constitution now contains one brief statement directing the General Assembly to maintain a retirement system for state employees. The General Assembly provides by law how the system operates, what retirement benefits are provided and how taxpayers and employees pay for retirement benefits. The Virginia Retirement System trust Funds come from employer and employee contributions. The amounts of those contributions are set as provided by law. Money contributed by today's employers (the state and participating localities) and today's public employees, and earnings on that money, will pay the future costs of the retirement benefits for those employees. The Commonwealth uses "actuarial principles" to predict what those cost will be and to set those contribution rates. Actuarial principles take into account life expectancy and other factors to predict those costs.

Proposed Change

In 1993, the General Assembly directed the joint Legislative Audit and Review commission to study the Virginia Retirement System. The Commission reported a number of recommendations to the 1994 General Assembly. One recommendation was that the General Assembly consider a constitutional amendment to strengthen the independence of the retirement system and to protect funds belonging to the system. The Commission pointed out that the Virginia Retirement System operates under state statutes and federal tax laws. Those laws require the system to operate for the benefit of its members and retirees but, like any other law, are subject to change by the legislature. The Commission suggested that a constitutional amendment could guarantee that the funds belonging to the system would be independent trust funds and used solely for the benefit of the members and beneficiaries of the system. The proposed change would require the Commonwealth to hold the system's funds separate from other state revenues and prevent the Commonwealth from using the funds for any other purpose. In response to the Commission's report, the General assembly has proposed the addition of the following specific requirements to the Constitution: There will be a retirement system for state employees and for the employees of localities and school divisions that join the system. The funds held by the retirement system will be independent trust funds, will be kept separate from other public funds, and will be invested only in the interests of the system's members and beneficiaries. The funds will be used only for benefits, refunds and the administrative expenses of the retirement system. Retirement system benefits must be funded on a basis that is consistent with "generally accepted actuarial principles." Johansen found no fault with this amendment.

BALLOT QUESTION 2

Shall the Constitution of Virginia be amended to, provide that the victims of crime shall be treated with fairness, dignity and respect in the criminal justice process and that the General Assembly may define, by law, the rights of victims of crime?

Explanation

This amendment adds a provision to the Virginia Constitution's Bill of rights concerning victims of crime. The new language describes the General Assembly's authority to pass laws concerning the rights or protections for victims of crime.

Present Constitution

The Bill of Rights in the present Constitution does not mention victims of crime.

Proposed Change

The proposed amendment adds a new provision to the Bill of Rights. The new provision begins with the statement that victims of crime should be treated with "fairness, dignity and respect" by the Commonwealth and its officers and employees. It also says that the General Assembly may provide by law that the victim of a crime will have certain rights. The General Assembly will be able to define and spell out what these rights will be.

The new provision lists seven examples of what rights might be provided by law for victims of crime. These examples include:

- * protection of the victim through appropriate bail and release conditions for the criminal,
- * Proper treatment of the victim;
- * the right of the victim to make a statement when the criminal is sentenced;
- * notice to the victim of the progress of the case;
- * restitution to the victim for harm done to him;
- * notice to the victim if the criminal is released or escapes; and

* the right of the victim to confer with the prosecutor. The General Assembly may provide by law for one or more of these rights and may provide different or additional rights or protections for victims of crime. In fact, the General Assembly has already passed several laws that give victims of crime some of these rights and protections.

The new provision does not give any victim of a crime the right to participate in a criminal case by appealing a decision or asking the court to change any decision. The new provision does not give any person the right to sue the Commonwealth or any public officer or employee for a violation of these rights. Finally, the new provision does not change any right that the Constitution of the United States or Virginia now guarantees to any person accused of, or tried for, a crime. Johansen believes this could be a blank check for General Assembly power.

BALLOT QUESTION 3

Shall the Constitution of Virginia be amended to authorize the General Assembly to allow the Commonwealth the right of an appeal in all cases, including criminal cases, provided that the appeal would not violate the Virginia or United States Constitution.

EXPLANATION

The Virginia Constitution limits the Commonwealth's or prosecution's right to appeal in criminal cases. The constitution sets out a general rule that the prosecution cannot ask a higher court to overturn the decision in a criminal case with two exceptions. The first exception permits appeals by the Commonwealth when the crime involves state revenues or taxes. The second exception allows the Commonwealth to appeal certain decisions during the early stages of a felony case before the jury is sworn or, if it is not a jury case, before the judge hears any evidence. For example, the Commonwealth may appeal to a higher court to overturn the decision, made by the judge before the trial begins, that the Commonwealth may not use evidence which it obtained through a search or confession.

Most states do not have a constitutional provision on this topic but provide by law when the prosecution may appeal and what the limits are on the appeal rights of the prosecution.

The United States and Virginia Constitutions also limit the right of the prosecution to appeal through the "double jeopardy" principle. No person can be tried or "put in jeopardy" twice for the same offense. The Commonwealth cannot try a person more than once for one crime.

Proposed Change

The proposed amendment replaces the present Constitution's provision which limits the Commonwealth's right of appeal. The new language permits the General assembly to pass laws on the question of when the Commonwealth may appeal. The laws passed by the General Assembly must not violate other provisions of the United States or Virginia Constitutions. The rules against trying a person twice for the same crime will still apply. Johansen disputes the concept of Commonwealth's right to appeal and the proposed item gives the State even more power. Not a good idea.

BALLOT QUESTION 4

Shall the Constitution of Virginia be amended so that the form for voter registration applications may be revised and so that Voters who move within Virginia



LIBERTARIAN PARTY of Virginia

BAC ELECTION INSERT

<p>BAC (Ballot Access Committee) NEWS - by Shelley Tamres, BAC Chair</p> <p>We did it!!! Over 27,000 sigs turned in to the Board of Elections (BOE) to qualify Harry & Jo for the Virginia ballot in November!</p> <p>I want to thank everyone involved in the volunteer petition drive, whether your involvement was to circulate petitions, make phone calls to arrange petitioners and places to petition, notarize petitions, mail petitions to the membership, deliver petitions to the BOE, staff fairbooths at the Fairfax and Prince William County Fairs, etc. The following individuals performed this work on a volunteer basis: Seth Allen, Brad Barnhill, Alan Baughcum, Jennifer Boone, John Boushka, Christine Bregar, John Buckley, James Campbell, Harriet Cobb, Gordon Cruickshank, Jo Lori Drake, Mike Duffy, James Dupont, Wayne Dymacek, Stew Engel, Tomas Estrada-Palma, John Gall, Reed Halsted, Philip Hodson, Thomas Hopper, Jesse Howell, Larry Hunt, Bert Huser, Dana Johansen, John Jordan, Kip Karl, Stephen & Carole Kirkpatrick, Steve Labianca, Jim Lark, Robert Lauderdale, Greg Lloyd, Jim Long, Robert Lorey, Paul McKnight, Marc Montoni, Jim Murdock, Donald Ober, Sanford Pankin, Richard Parlour, Patrick Perry, Gary Reams, Bill Redpath, Douglas Rogers,</p>	<p>Bennett Rutledge, Jay Rutledge, Harsha Sankar, David Saum, Rick Sincere, Robert Stermer, Mark Stewart, Richard Stonage, Sharon Stowell, Shelley Tamres, Matt Thexton, Henry Thrasher, Thomas Trenkle, Jim Turbett, Jim Turney, J. D. von Pischke, Lennice Werth, Gary Westmoreland, Kris Williams.</p> <p>Everyone please give 3 cheers to Sanford Pankin, our Number 1 petitioner! Sanford turned in 360 LP sigs on a volunteer basis plus 6,494 LP and 4,718 Natural Law sigs on a paid basis. WOW!!!</p> <p>Special thanks to my petitioning coordinators: Jennifer Boone, Jo Lori Drake, Philip Hodson, Jesse Howell, Dana Johansen, Greg Lloyd, Sanford Pankin, and Jay Rutledge. Also, special thanks to our LPVA Secretary, Marc Montoni, for doing all four turn-ins at the BOE for me and saving me a number of trips to Richmond during working hours.</p> <p>And, of course, I couldn't have functioned in this job without the constant support, advice, and assistance from Bill Redpath, the National BAC Chair, and Kris Williams, LPN's Special Projects Manager.</p> <p>If I've forgotten to mention anyone who performed volunteer work, please let me know so we can mention you in the next issue. I'm reachable at (703) 450-0218 or via email at:</p>	<p>"shelleytam@aol.com".</p> <p>Now let's get out there and VOTE November 5th!!!</p> <p>TAMRES FOR SENATE - by Philip Hodson, Chair, LP of Prince William Co.</p> <p>Shelley F. Tamres has been endorsed by the LPVA State Central Committee as our <u>write-in</u> candidate for U.S. Senate. This fall, if you find that you can not hold your nose tightly enough to vote for Republicrat Warner or his evil twin, Demopublican Warner, then vote for Shelley F. Tamres.</p> <p>Shelley F. Tamres has been the LPVA's Tenth Congressional District Representative for two years, and is acknowledged as one of the hardest working members of the State Central Committee. Shelley was a key player in the Rilee for Congress Campaign, and is now Treasurer of the Reams for Congress Committee. When you go to the polls to vote for Browne-Jorgensen this fall, you will be exercising a privilege that Shelley F. Tamres made possible through her dedicated service as our state ballot access coordinator. A lot of people worked very hard to put our candidates on the ballot, and every one of them will tell you that Shelley F. Tamres was essential to our success.</p> <p>(continued on back as <i>Senate</i>)</p>
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<p>(Senate continued from front)</p> <p>Shelley has never held elective office, and is not actively campaigning to win. She lends her name to the LP so that we can emphasize our rejection of the ruling parties. Contrast her values and actions with those of some elected politicians that we all know about, and you will conclude, as I have, that she is deserving of our trust and our votes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shelley F. Tamres has never voted to increase your taxes. • Shelley F. Tamres has never broken a campaign promise - and wouldn't even if she were elected. • Shelley F. Tamres has never bounced checks with the U.S. House Bank. • Shelley F. Tamres has never diverted campaign funds to her own use - and wouldn't even if she had any. • Shelley F. Tamres has never directed the FBI to investigate her political rivals or sent her thugs to break into their headquarters - and wouldn't even if she had thugs. 	<p>never vote for a budget deficit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shelley F. Tamres doesn't need to invent memories about church burnings to say that she condemns them. • Shelley F. Tamres thinks that gun registration should only mean sending in your warranty card. • Shelley F. Tamres won't even lie about her age. • Shelley F. Tamres owns a station wagon, but she always rides in front, and never underneath a blanket. <p>WRITE-IN Shelley F. Tamres for U. S. Senate.</p>	<p>passed a resolution asking all Libertarians to write in the word "LIBERTARIAN". For any offices for which there is no Libertarian nor an acceptable alternative from the old parties, just write in that one single word.</p> <p>I introduced this resolution before the committee for several reasons. First, voting officials in Virginia are required to report EVERY vote. When you write in the word "LIBERTARIAN", you can let it be known that you do NOT endorse the status quo; that you will NOT waste your vote. As we grow larger, increasing numbers of votes for "LIBERTARIAN" will begin to catch the eyes of elected officials.</p> <p>Further, it will also allow me or another volunteer to assess our voting strength. Because each vote for "LIBERTARIAN" will be recorded, I can report back to you that "43 Libertarians voted in Fairfax", or "43,000 Libertarians voted in Urbanna". Being able to assess our strength in different areas may help convince people to run for office as Libertarians if they see there is some support -- after all, no one likes to feel alone!</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shelley F. Tamres has never been convicted of taking kickbacks for building permits. • Shelley F. Tamres has never been involved in Central American drug or gun smuggling. • Shelley F. Tamres has never sent out the state troopers to get herself a date. • Shelley F. Tamres has never driven her date over the edge of a bridge. • Shelley F. Tamres has never used her franking privileges to sell postage illegally. • When Shelley F. Tamres says, "The buck stops here!" she means that she would 	<p>TIRED OF WASTING YOUR VOTE? - by Marc Montoni, Secretary, LPVA</p> <p>You're a dues-paid member of the Libertarian party. You call in to radio talk shows once in awhile. You circulated our Browne petition around your office. You write letters to the editor of your local paper once in awhile.</p> <p>You, like most of us proud libertarians, are convinced that the other guys are taking us down the wrong path. But at the ballot box there's maybe one -- or none -- other Libertarian to vote for. The other elective offices have all sorts of teeming nerds and hangers-on from the old parties vying for the spot. Unless you can find some gems in that crowd, the likelihood is that you'll either not vote for any, or you'll vote for the evil of two lessers, or some combination thereof.</p> <p>It doesn't have to be that way.</p> <p>The LPVA State Committee has</p>	<p>Plus, just writing in the single word "LIBERTARIAN" keeps it simple -- we all know how to spell it.</p> <p>Remember: Lots of people vote for Daffy Duck. Expressing your disgust by writing in the feathered animatoid is meaningless. Let them know you're disgusted -- but let them know you know the REASON!</p> <p>For all offices without a real Libertarian candidate: WRITE IN "LIBERTARIAN"</p>

*(Continued from page 4, AMENDMENTS)
may be allowed to vote in their former precincts under the conditions and time limits provided by law?*

EXPLANATION

This amendment gives the General Assembly more authority to enact laws concerning two matters effecting voters; what information should be required on an application to register to vote and how voters may continue to vote after they move within the Commonwealth.

Present Constitution

Virginia's Constitution sets out a detailed list of the information required on voter registration applications. Most states provide what information new voter must give on an application to register by legislation, rather than in their constitutions. The National voter Registration Act of 1993 provides for a national form for registering to vote in federal elections. That form does not require all of the information required by Virginia's current Constitution. For example, the federal form does not require place of birth. So long as Virginia's Constitution requires more information than the federal form does, there is a possibility that Virginia will have to keep a separate list of voters who register using the federal form. Those voters would be eligible to vote in federal elections but not in State elections.

Proposed change

The proposed amendment keeps the present Constitution's requirements for information on full name, date of birth, residence address, social security number, if any, and United States citizenship. The amendment deletes other specific items of information. However, the amendment gives the General Assembly authority to require other information by law and will allow Virginia to accept the federal form for federal, state, and local elections.

Present constitution

As a rule, voters must be residents of the precinct where they vote. When voters move to another precinct, they must transfer their registration to the new precinct and vote there. Virginia's constitution gives voters who move from one precinct to another within Virginia up to a year to change their voter registration to the new address and permits voters to continue

voting in their old precinct through the next November general election. In certain cases, the National Voter Registration Act differs from Virginia law, gives voters more time to change their registration, and permits them to continue voting for their congressman for two federal elections.

Proposed Change

The proposed amendment replaces the Constitution's present provision with new language. The new provision will allow the General Assembly to provide by law how voters who move within the commonwealth may continue to vote until they change their registration. The new language states that the General Assembly may set the time limits and conditions under which voters who move within the Commonwealth may continue to vote in their old precincts. For example, the General Assembly could give voters more time, in appropriate cases, to transfer their registration to the new residence and could eliminate the difference between the National Act and state election laws on this issue. Johansen says the amendment was proposed because the Fed interfered with Virginia business. He believes this may keep administrative costs down.

BALLOT QUESTION 5

Shall the Constitution of Virginia be amended to remove the language which prohibits the General Assembly from passing a law permitting incorporation of any church or religious organization?

EXPLANATION

This amendment deletes a provision in the present Constitution that prohibits the incorporation of churches and religious denominations. The amendment will allow the General Assembly to provide, by law, permission for churches to incorporate. When a group of people form a corporation under state law, the corporation is treated as a separate entity from the group. Among other things, the law allows a corporation to own property separate from the group and to continue to own the property in the name of the corporation although the members of the group change from time to time.

Present Constitution

The Constitution now says: "The General Assembly shall not grant a charter of incorporation to any church or religious denomination, but may secure the title to church property to an extent to be limited by law." Article IV, Section 14. Members of the General Assembly and scholars have dis-

agreed on the exact meaning of this limit on the powers of the General Assembly. Some people argue that it means that the General Assembly cannot pass a law that gives a specific church a charter of incorporation. Others argue that the provision means that the General Assembly cannot pass allowing churches in general to incorporate. In 1969, the Commission on Constitutional Revision recommended that this provision be deleted from the Constitution. The Commission questioned whether the provision discriminated against religious bodies. It thought that the provision might violate the First Amendment of the United States Constitution by limiting religious freedom. The Commission said the provision denied religious bodies the choice to incorporate when other groups have that choice.

The 1969 General Assembly disagreed with the Commission and kept the provision in the Constitution. Some members agreed with the Commission, but a majority opposed any change. The majority argued that churches have no need to incorporate and that the provision protects churches from interference by the state.

Proposed Change

The proposed amendment deletes the present prohibition. The amendment strikes the 7 words "shall not grant a charter of incorporation to any church or religious denomination, but." (The amendment does not change the provision that authorizes the General Assembly to pass laws limiting church property holdings.)

If the amendment is adopted, the General Assembly will be able to give churches and religious bodies the option to incorporate under state law.

The preceding material was provided by the State Board of Elections with a brief commentary by Dana Johanson who advises all voters to scrutinize the issues carefully before voting. His opinions do not reflect the views of this paper or LPVA SCC. The editor is grateful for Dana's assistance in this manner.

FROM THE EDITOR- Paul E. Gagnon

"These are the times that trouble mens souls," said Paine. Yet, I believe we are also in the most exciting of times. The majority of Americans seem to be drowning in a hum-drum existence only punctuated by the spectacle of two politicians bashing each other over who has the privilege of legalized theft of the taxpayers dollar.

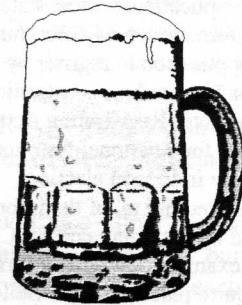
Yet, there is an under current of anger linked with an insight of how the political system really works. Each day brings many individuals closer to the libertarian philosophy. Yet, making that last move to the party is difficult. Even though libertarianism is the heart and soul of the Declaration of Independence, let us never forget how radical it truly is, and that we are a radical party. Yes, we speak in moderate and scholarly tones and most of us wear the suit and tie conservative image but we are cut from the same radical cloth as Jefferson, Franklin, Mason, Henry and Paine! Many of our fellow citizens will cling to the cult of authority so long as they can keep the illusion alive. We must be patient.

We should not allow ourselves the luxury of apathy and self pity when success does not reward our efforts immediately. Ours is a time of preparation, of being ready for the day when we will have to take our stand at Lexington and Concord. Until that time, we must EDUCATE, AGITATE, and ORGANIZE!

We educate ready minds by running political campaigns, hosting booths at fairs and computer shows, writing letters to the editor. We agitate by networking with single interest groups and help them to see that freedom is a seamless web. We organize by hosting supper clubs, forming county and precinct committees, on campus activism. We need more individuals willing to do more than be passive members. We need patriots, activists and radicals. A victory at Yorktown will come only at great expense of time and effort. For libertarians who fought the battle over 200 years ago, it all seemed so grim but they persevered and thus, they triumphed.

THE SAM ADAMS AWARDS

Hoist 3 tankards of Sam Adams Ale to our champion of liberty of the year SANFORD PANKIN. He has sacrificed much for the cause of liberty. He left his job to spend all his time in getting petition signatures for ballot access and never stopped working for the cause of liberty.



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Stew L. Engel
PO Box 491
King George VA 22485-0491

