



THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY

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Culture clash convention? Libertarians gather in Washington

Libertarian Party "goes to where the sinners are" for July 4th event

WASHINGTON, DC – Libertarians will spend the 4th of July doing what they do best – lambasting big government and extolling individual liberty.

But they'll do it in the most unlikely place: Washington, DC, where they gather tomorrow for their national presidential nominating convention.

"It's an oxymoron – Libertarians in Washington, DC. But, like the Bible says, you must go to where the sinners are," quipped the party's National Chairman Steve Dasbach.

About 1,000 Libertarian Party delegates and alternates will be in attendance when the convention is gaveled to order on Thursday, July 4, at 9:30 am.

The convention at the Hyatt Regency-Capitol Hill hotel is just a few blocks from the massive marble facades of government power – the departments of Transportation, Labor, Energy, Education, and so on – that Libertarians have promised to abolish or sell to private industry.

"Meeting in Washington, DC, one of America's most highly taxed, bureaucratic, crime-ridden, and decaying cities, is instructional for us Libertarians. It reminds us exactly why we're Libertarians," said Dasbach. "After all, Washington, DC, is proof that government doesn't work."

On the agenda at the convention will be the selection of the Libertarian Party's 1996 presidential candidate on Saturday and platform debate on Thursday and Friday.

Although challenges might occur on a few planks – such as abortion and NAFTA – the party is expected to largely retain the current language of its platform, which calls for a massive transfer of power from government back to individuals.

The party will also reaffirm its 25-year commitment to working peacefully through the political process to roll back the size and cost of government. In fact, the party is so opposed to the use of force that its 1995 program states: "We reject the initiation of force by anyone Libertarians seek a world in which voluntary cooperation replaces force in human relationships."

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