

Sandhills Libertarian Gazette

A NEWSLETTER FOR LIBERTARIANS IN THE SOUTH CAROLINA MIDLANDS

Looking Ahead

Projects Planned for 1987

While no Libertarian candidates were elected to office last November in South Carolina (a result which was anticipated - see page 2), Libertarians are now actively planning several projects for the coming year. Hopefully, these activities will have a significant effect on the political climate in South Carolina.

At the top of the agenda is another campaign to halt the Local Government Finance Act, which would allow cities and counties to impose a variety of new taxes on their citizens. This bill has both Democratic and Republican supporters. The Libertarian Party is the only political party that has opposed it. Libertarians realize that the Local Government Finance Act would increase the tax burden on the working people of South Carolina. It would also hamper economic development, create an unwieldy bureaucracy, and make it more difficult for small businesses to offer new jobs.

Last spring, Libertarians launched a petition drive against this bill, and other anti-tax groups (T.R.I.M., Richland County Citizens for Tax Relief) helped fight the bill. It died in committee but is being resurrected this year.

This year, the fight against taxes will be more difficult, since pro-tax forces have been organizing for months. Last fall, Columbia Mayor T. Patton Adams, S.C.N.B. President Robert McCoy, and O.V. Player (President of the S.C. Association of Counties) formed a statewide coalition to support the passage of the Local Government Finance Act (referred to by Libertarians as the City-County Tax Bill). The Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce also joined the coalition to support the bill. Many supporters of the bill claim that it will help reduce property taxes, but it's clear that the real reason for the bill is to increase the amount of money that local governments can take from the taxpayers. Unfortunately, none of the above persons or groups seems interested in cutting government spending.

The key to economic prosperity is to reduce the government's power to tax and regulate small businesses into oblivion. Instead of higher taxes, we should insist on less government spending and more privatization of government services.

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Another effort is underway to fight the Local Government Finance Act. Since support for this bill is so formidable, Libertarians need all the help they can get. A petition drive is planned, and so is a letter-writing campaign. Everyone who can help in any way whatsoever should contact one of the persons listed below. If you can spare a few minutes of your time to write a couple of letters or get a few signatures on a petition, or if you can spare a little of your hard-earned money, please help.

Additional projects include the traditional Tax Protest Day on April 15th, efforts to fight the legislature's attempt to make zoning easier, and possibly a raffle to be held in late spring. Also, last year, Libertarians spoke against the mandatory seat belt bill and the Dietetic Practice Act (which would make it illegal for anyone without a government license to give nutritional advice). Other individuals also spoke against these bills, and neither was passed. However, they might come up again and will need to be opposed. Needless to say, we need lots of persons to help fight each of these government encroachments on our freedom (unfortunately, we can't yet clone ourselves, and neither can we spread ourselves too thin). If you are remotely interested in helping with any project, please call one of the contact persons or write to the Libertarian Party.

S.C.L.P. LOCAL CONTACTS:

AIKEN: John Heaton (648-9806)
CHARLESTON: Joan DiGiovanni (795-6048)
COLUMBIA: Bill Griffin (755-9304)
FLORENCE: John Harllee (669-8345)
GREENVILLE: Bill McCuen (232-7476)
HILTON HEAD: Steve Heyl (681-4068)
MYRTLE BEACH: Jim Wilson (449-5053)
ROCK HILL: Cliff Ross (327-3337)

Official 1986 S.C.L.P. Election Results

Name of Candidate	Office Sought	Vote Total	Percentage	Number and Party of Other Candidates
William Griffin	Governor	4,211	0.6%	3(Democrat, Republican, and American)
Mark Johnson	Lt. Governor	6,285	0.8%	2(Democrat, Republican)
David Morris	Secretary of State	13,247	1.8%	3(Democrat, Republican, and American)
Jan Chapman	State Treasurer	23,634	4.0%	3(Democrat, American and United Citizens)
Andrew Amendola	Comptroller General	26,043	4.5%	1(Democrat)
John Heaton	Superintendent of Education	28,115	4.8%	2(Democrat, American)
Steve Vandervelde	U.S. Senate	4,789	0.6%	3(Democrat, Republican, and American)

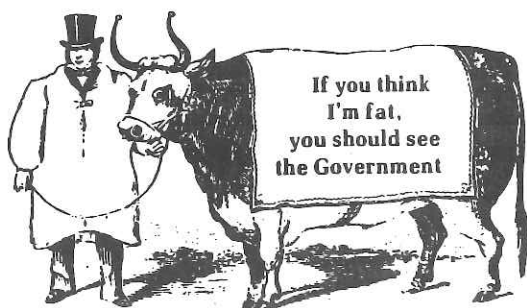
EDITOR'S COMMENTS ON ELECTION RESULTS

I am, of course, disappointed that none of our candidates broke the 5% mark, but this result is somewhat understandable if one realizes that we faced more opposition from non-major parties than we have had in past years. All Libertarian candidates received more votes than their opponents from the American and United Citizens parties.

I am not surprised that Bill Griffin, Mark Johnson, and Steve Vandervelde received fewer votes than other Libertarian candidates. People are less likely to vote for a third party candidate in major races such as those for Governor, Lt. Governor, and the U.S. Senate. Griffin and Johnson put a lot of effort into their campaigns. However, the Daniel-Campbell and Theodore-Hartnett races were so close that many persons who voted for other Libertarian candidates decided to vote for a major candidate for Governor and Lt. Governor as the "lesser of two evils." I know this for a fact, because several of my friends told me that they voted for me but decided to vote for Campbell for Governor. If the race for Secretary of State had been more hotly contested, and if people had cared more about the outcome, I would have received fewer votes, since I didn't do a lot of campaigning.

It's satisfying to see that John Heaton received the highest Libertarian vote total, and that Jan Chapman and Andrew Amendola also did relatively well. Heaton put a lot of effort into his campaign, and it paid off.

Libertarians realize that it will be a long time before any of us get elected to a major office. The Democrats and Republicans have a lot of money behind them, and they can easily cater to special interest groups. Also, Libertarians are not professional politicians. Most of us have full-time jobs in the private sector and cannot afford to take time off to run a major campaign. Despite this, we will continue to be heard from in the coming years, and there will be Libertarian candidates in 1988.



John Wrisley to speak at February 4 meeting



Libertarians will hold a public meeting on Wednesday, February 4, at the Richland County Public Library (1400 Sumter St., Columbia). All interested persons are invited. The meeting will begin at 7:00 P.M., and the guest speaker will be John Wrisley.

Wrisley, a former television news anchor on Channel 19, is well known to local libertarians - he has spoken to libertarian groups on numerous occasions. At present, he is a freelance communications consultant and is an editor on S.C.E.T.V. network's "Carolina Journal," where he specializes in money issues. For a long time, he has had a great interest in numismatics and has been a student of monetary history. He is a member of the Committee for Monetary Research and Education, a national committee of businessmen and scholars which publishes educational material based on free market economics.

After a few introductory remarks by local libertarians, Wrisley will speak on two topics: the world monetary situation and the Local Government Finance Act. Wrisley has opposed higher taxes for a long time and actively opposes any bills that would raise local taxes.

Don't miss this opportunity to hear one of Columbia's most dynamic speakers who knows more about monetary issues than most economists. There will be an opportunity for questions from the audience. Please arrive promptly, since the meeting must end by 8:30 P.M.

"Since the general civilization of mankind, I believe there are more instances of the abridgement of the freedom of the people by gradual and silent encroachments of those in power than by violent and sudden usurpations."

James Madison, 1788

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YOU MAY BE A LIBERTARIAN AT HEART WITHOUT EVEN BEING AWARE OF IT.

Do you believe in an economic system based on open competition instead of big-business-controlled government agencies?

Do you believe the government — through its meddling, corruption, catering to special interests, awarding of subsidies and bail-outs and special bank privileges — has shown itself to be totally incapable or unwilling to control the declining dollar, or in fact, to act benevolently for the working person?

Do you believe that voluntary agreements between companies or individuals are none of the government's business — provided that no force or fraud is involved nor intended against anyone else?

Do you believe the government should stop trying to impose its morality on the American people, that no crime has been committed if there is no victim? Do you believe it is wrong to use the time, budgets and resources of our police, courts and prisons to persecute people who may be harming no one but themselves?

Do you believe government should leave the buying of seatbelts, motorcycle helmets or any other item designed for personal safety up to the individual?

Do you believe government spending and taxation should be cut?

If you answered "yes" to most of these questions, congratulations. You may be more of a Libertarian than you thought.

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EDITOR: David Morris

