

Dixon Defeats Incumbent; Wins City Council Spot

State LP Chair Patrick Dixon won election May 7 to the Lago Vista City Council earning 68% of the vote to defeat an incumbent.

Patrick, who described himself as "the property owner's friend" on his campaign website, has already successfully championed the property rights of one Lago Vista family. At his first council meeting Patrick asked the council to schedule a special meeting to address the issue of the Andersons who had been denied a building permit for 18 months and were about to incur charges from their lender because of the delay.

Just a week later the problem was resolved and the Andersons were able to begin building on their property.

Lago Vista, a community of about 5,100 outside Austin, has zoning ordinances that need to be revisited, Patrick told LP News. "The community is beautiful—a huge lake and hills, and a forest out there—and I think a lot more people would be attracted here if it weren't for the problems we're causing for developers and business owners."

Two other issues he campaigned on were promoting community volunteer spirit and focusing on the core mission of city government. Lago Vista has at least \$26 million in debt and an annual revenue of about \$3 million, Patrick reports. Yet, as he pointed out to fellow Council members by providing them with a copy of a May 19 Austin American Statesman article, Lago Vista is at the very bottom of the area in pay to police officers. Law enforcement is something government should do, he says.

One way to cut government without sacrificing core functions is to promote and support volunteer effort. Patrick devoted a portion of his campaign website to highlighting the effort of effective volunteer organizations in his community. He was also able to highlight his own volunteer work with the Texas Trail Tamers, a group that builds and maintains hiking trails in the Balcones Canyonlands Wildlife Refuge, and as a Board Member for Austin Children's Educational Opportunities, a group that helps poor families pay for educational needs.

To help his six fellow council members understand the principles on which he will base his votes on May 22 Patrick delivered a copy of Bastiat's *The Law* and Michael Badnarik's *Good to be King* to each member.



Patrick's campaign included running ads in the local newspaper, two direct mail pieces to about 800 people—all those who voted in the previous city elections—and hiring a caller to do phone solicitation in the days before the election.

For more information on Patrick's effect as a LP officeholder visit his website at www.patdixon.org.

LNC Considers Membership Plan

Membership dues were the main topic of the May 14-15 meeting of the Libertarian National Committee held in Addison. The committee was reacting in part to a number of state party resolutions that had been passed since the committee's February 27 meeting at which the committee voted to double the yearly National dues. Many LP state affiliates were angered by the raise and by the fact that it was accomplished by a secret ballot. Others argued that if dues were raised then payments to the state parties participating in the Unified Membership Plan

(UMP) should also increase.

Currently National dues are \$25 with the change to \$50 going into effect as of January 2006. In UMP states, such as Texas, individuals send the full dues amount to the National Party and the National Party is responsible for keeping accurate membership data and sending renewal notices to members. National also provides a membership card and a subscription to the monthly newspaper LP News for all members. Each month National rebates \$1 per member to the state party. The number of National members in a



Lone Star Liberty

Volume 15, Issue 6

June 2005

Available monthly
online at

www.lptexas.org;

Publisher:

Libertarian Party of Texas

P.O. Box 27932

Houston, TX 77227

www.lptexas.org

1-800-422-1776

State Chair:

Patrick Dixon

5200 Sundown

Lago Vista, TX 78645

Chair@lptexas.org

512-771-3936

Executive Director:

Wes Benedict

1403-B Kenwood Ave.

Austin, TX 78704

Director@lptexas.org

512-442-4910

Lone Star Liberty Editor:

Laura Coker-Garcia

9835 Sagedowne Lane

Houston, TX 77089

Laura@LibertyWorks.org

281-997-8141

Database Manager:

James VanBeek

2739 San Felipe Drive

College Station, TX 77845

jim@vanbeek.us

979-696-9766

Website Manager:

Daniel Falconer

Webmaster@lptexas.org

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.

Chair "Petitioning was our Alamo"

Some of you remember what it was like a year ago. We were fighting for our political survival. We were frantically running around the streets of Austin, Dallas, Houston and everywhere else with clipboards and pens begging strangers to sign a petition to keep us on the ballot.

Where would we be now if we had failed?

If we had failed we would not have qualified for the ballot in 2004 and probably not be on the ballot in 2006. We would not have been credited with removing a bad Republican State Representative from office. We would not have been able to use this accomplishment to persuade legislators to sponsor bills for us and influence policy. We would probably not have more organized counties than last year. We would probably not have more LP members than a year ago. We would not be prepared for what will be the best Libertarian slate and statewide campaign effort in the history of the Texas LP.

We succeeded because we had Wes Benedict to coordinate volunteers. We had Rick McGinnis collecting over 1,000 signatures under a bridge in Austin. We had Anthony Garcia to hire and coordinate paid petitioners. We had Dr. Jim Lark and Bill Redpath fly in from Virginia to work in the blazing sun all day for no pay. We had a contribution of \$45,000 from the LP National Committee without which we would have failed. And we had the support of every other Libertarian that volunteered labor or contributed funds.

Despite our success we are way behind. In the February 15 issue of Lone Star Liberty online I compared our progress to that of the Indiana Libertarian Party. Texas has a population almost four times that of Indiana, but just less than twice the LP members. Indiana had more 2004 candidates, more Libertarians in office (16 to our 3--counting Ron Paul) and 85 monthly donors to our 15 and two paid staff to

our one. This demonstrates that Texas clearly is not pulling its weight.

But we will succeed again because we have the best Executive Director we could hope for—Wes Benedict. We are in a negotiating position to play a decisive role in the outcome of elections throughout the state. And we are getting candidates in office today.

My campaign for Lago Vista City Council is proof that Libertarians can get elected in Texas. Implementing good government as a Libertarian will not be easy. For example, there is a proposed road project that may hurt some of our local businesses. I had a fellow council member say "I would love to get rid of some of those businesses anyway." It is clear that such servants of the people do not understand that their powers are limited to defending the rights and property of the people, not abusing their power to design a world that suits their desires at the expense of others. My first act is to give a copy of Bastiat's *The Law* and Badnarik's *Good to be King* to each of my fellow council members. They cannot argue that my decisions are not based on sound principle.

We need Libertarians on the ballot. We need strong statewide campaigns that can grow county organizations, grow membership, retain ballot status, and recruit more candidates for local office. Those local candidates can get elected as Libertarians and build a resume for future partisan campaigns under the LP label.

Our party has had its ups and downs over its 30-plus year history, but we can be proud of our steady rise to over 600 Libertarians in office. Let 2004 be our Alamo and San Jacinto. Let's never forget what it was like to fight for our survival with clipboards and pens chasing anyone that would sign their name to petition. The next 30 years can be even greater, and it's time for Texas to meet the challenge. I want Texas to lead the way!

New Membership Plan Would Be Without Dues

Continued from page one.

state is also used to determine how many delegates to the National Convention a state may have. However, in Texas membership is merely honorary since by election law delegates are selected from among those who affiliate at precinct conventions.

According to LNC member George Squyres membership dues have been a topic of heated discussion at practically every LNC meeting since 2003 and that two studies had been performed on the subject both of which determined that the party was losing money on memberships. "At each meeting there was a different reason why the topic was avoided, tabled, put off for further study ... and whatever other tactic could be used to not confront a problem that was as unpopular as reforming Social Security," George said.

At this meeting Jim Lark moved to lower the dues to \$35, but the motion failed for lack of a second. Aaron Starr made a motion to increase the UMP payout, which also failed. While no changes were made George proposed a new membership plan that would make membership free and end

the UMP program. That plan is now being considered by a three-person committee and should be heard at the August LNC meeting set for Kansas City.

"Considerable discussion over the topic found a large majority of the committee in support of the proposal, their only reservations being that not enough detail was presented to answer the questions on transition and implementation," George reported.

Under this plan membership would only require an individual's name, address and email. The only benefit to members would be a cardstock membership card. Membership in the National Party would be automatic for members of a State Affiliate Party.

The primary activity and responsibility of both the National and State Parties would be to turn members into contributors. Benefits would accrue to contributors annually on a tiered basis possibly with \$50 yearly donations being required for LP News. New incentives would be created for other donation levels.

Replacing the UMP would be a codified state affiliate agreement that would specify benefits and obligations

for both National and the States. A the minimum the new agreement would stipulate that: State Affiliates put our presidential candidate on the ballot if they have access and cooperate with LNC efforts to improve access; that the National database can be used by States if they agree to share member and donor information with National; that States will have access to discounts on LP News subscription and LP materials such as brochures; that Affiliates be responsible for the behavior of their members and candidates; that States comply with the FEC; that National will as much as possible support with training and resource development; and that role of the regions and their representatives be codified and detailed.

In other action the LNC voted to renew Executive Director Joe Seehusen's contract, heard reports on moving the National office to less expensive offices at the Watergate, discussed FEC reporting, and adopted a policy on sexual harassment. Chris Farris of the National office reported that the new database is not completely implemented, but that minor problems remaining are being worked out.

Around the State: Activist Update

Dallas County LP Chair **Marshall Beerwinkle** has resigned from office to allow the appointment of **Matthew Moseley** to the position. "I plan on making some serious headway for the party here in Dallas to get it back on its feet and into the public light again," Matthew said. He can be reached at matthew.moseley@acs-inc.com.

Grayson County LP Chair **Michael Nicholas**, who was appointed in December 2004, has resigned. Grayson is now unorganized.

State Chair **Patrick Dixon** wrote to the producers of Law and Order in complaint of their May 11

episode. The episode depicted a lawyer arguing for the recusal of a judge based on anti-Christian bias that was shown by his being supported by the Libertarian Party. Patrick pointed out that "associating the Libertarian Party with anti-Christian bias is both insulting and factually incorrect."

May 21 The Houston Chronicle ran an article about **Ron Paul** titled "Republican Plays By His Own Rules." "Paul's yes votes follow traditional libertarian values: lowering or abolishing federal taxes, slashing government spending and limiting federal regulation and international intervention," the article explained.

Jon Airheart, Executive Assistant to **Michael Badnarik**, reports that the campaign to elect Michael in 2006 has appointed a treasurer and that they are seeking applicants for the position of campaign manager and website staff. Anyone interested should call Mike at 807-727-6510. Jon hinted that Michael will announce the race he will be seeking on July 4. He is said to be considering U.S. Senate or U.S. Congress.

The Austin American Statesman mentioned the LP in a May 31 brief on the 2006 elections and again credited the LP with GOP Rep. Jack Stick's loss to Mark Strama.

Yes, I want the Texas Libertarian Party to Succeed!

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 am considering running for a local office in 2005.
- _____ I am interested in being an appointed County Chair.

Print this form and mail to:
Libertarian Party
PO Box 27932,
Houston, TX 77227

_____ Enclosed is a **one-time contribution** to help reach our goals.
_____ **Monthly Pledge** (please bill my credit card on a monthly basis.)

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.

Letters: Organize Now to Fight Stealth Income Tax

Dear Fellow LP Members:

Please feel free to distribute the following email that I sent to my representatives. We need to fire-up the membership on this backdoor state income tax, or we'll be seeing rising tax rates (and job losses) for years to come. We might consider contacting our Tennessee brethren/sisters to see how they battled their legislators and defeated attempts at a state income tax.

Also, please send me a list of service provider organizations who would be willing to join with us in a lawsuit, should the Legislature fail to bring this matter before a vote of the people.

Thank you all for your help and consideration in this matter.

Dear Representatives of the People,
Here in Jefferson County, we have already experienced the sorrows/financial woes which ensue upon ille-

gal taxation, without legally-mandated due process. In our particular case, a bond issue (for the Ford Park entertainment complex) was passed without a vote by the people.

The Libertarian Party was alone in the legal fight to get this issue put before the people (case was thrown out by a Republican Federal District Judge in New Orleans). Where were the Republicrats? (Counting the anticipated income from the park? Unfortunately, said income has not arrived, and taxpayers are footing the bill!). For service providers, Any payroll tax or net business income tax will amount to a state income tax. Passage of this particular tax provision will be vigorously challenged in the Texas court system. The other taxation base issues are open to debate—this income tax provision is not!

If you want a state income tax, ask the people for permission I and

check with Tennessee to see how their failed income tax drives have gone!

We are currently working to assemble a service providers coalition which will legally challenge this illegal usurpation of the right of the people to vote on income tax' issues.

*John Granger, Lumberton.
Libertyjohn@gt.rr.com*

Asserting Our Rights invites Texas Libertarians to a national demonstration Sat. Aug. 6 on the National Mall, Washington, DC.

AOR is organized to ensure that government schools act in accordance with the Bill of Rights and US Contstitution. They are looking for speakers, media outreach help, sponsorship and attendance. AOR will provide transportation if needed.

Find more information at www.APROD.org.

Paula Gabriele

Events of Interest to Texas Libertarians

June 3 (Fri.) 7 p.m. Texans Against the Trans Texas Corridor meeting, Seaton Star Hall, 5 miles east of Temple on Hwy 53. Carol Keeton Strayhorn, Texas Comptroller, David & Linda Stall of www.corridarwatch.org, Mike Baron and Steve Adler, eminent domain attorneys and others address this vital issue. Learn what the TTC is and isn't and how it can impact you regardless of where you live. Public invited.

June 5 (Sun.) 3 p.m. Harris County LP Meeting, 9614 Oregano Circle, Houston. Contact Jeff Daiell at jeffdaiell@yahoo.com.

June 7 (Tues.) 6:45 to 8:30 p.m. Travis County LP meeting, Mekong River Restaurant, 215 E. 6th Street, Austin. For information contact Chair Rock Howard at rockmh@austin.rr.com.

June 10 (Fri.) Noon. Social Security Debate, Fairmont Hotel, Ross and Akard, Dallas. Dr. John Goodman of National Center for Policy Analysis debates Dr. Jason Furman Economic Advisor to President Clinton. Tickets \$40. See www.ncpa.org/event/20050610-ssdebate.htm.

June 14 (Tues.) 7 p.m. Williamson County LP Meeting, Hunan Lion Chinese Restaurant, IH-35 Sam Bass Road, Round Rock.

June 11 (Sat.) Noon to 4 p.m. SLECT Meeting, China King Buffet, 2402 Texas Ave. S., College Station. Phone 979-694-7959 for directions. Contact Chair@lptexas.org for information. Lunch available for \$7.30 per person.

June 19 (Sun.) 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Freedom Bash Liberty Barbecue, Lake Park, Lewisville. Sponsored by the Free State Project North Texas Group. 2004 Presidential candidate Michael Badnarik will be a special guest. Music by Shanghai 5, organized games for children and horseshoes and volleyball for adults. Tickets are \$12 for 13 and up, \$7 for ages 6 to 12 and 5 and under are free and include chicken and beef fajitas, hamburgers and hotdogs and side dishes. Bring your own beverages. Tickets must be purchased by June 15. For more information or to get your tickets go to <http://bbq.reallibertynow.com>. Contact for the event is James Strater at james@reallibertynow.com. The Dallas County LP will not hold its regular monthly meeting and encourages members to attend the barbecue.

June 21 (Tues.) 7 p.m. Bexar County LP Meeting, Unlimited Thought Bookstore, 5525 Blanco Suite 107, San Antonio. For information contact Davydoodle_@hotmail.com.

June 25 (Sat.) 8:45 p.m. LP Entry in Houston Pride Parade. Volunteers needed! Contact Jeff Daiell for information at jeffdaiell@yahoo.com.

June 29-July 3 (Wed-Sun.) Liberty Dollar University 6, RCO Congress and Badnarik Constitution Class in Austin. All events at the Best Western Seville Plaza Inn at 4323 South IH 35, Austin. Gathering for Liberty Dollar Associations from 6 p.m. to lunch on Saturday; RCO Congress from 1:30 to 4 p.m. on Saturday; Constitution Class on Sunday. Cost to attend is \$200 for Liberty Associates and RCOs that have not attended before. \$100 additional if bringing a spouse. Free to RCOs who have previously participated. Call 888-421-6181 to pay and reserve a space. For more information.

July 4 (Mon.) Independence Day.

Bexar County LP Pot Luck Barbecue, location to be announced. Contact Rose Shea at 655-6655 for food list or Davydoodle_@hotmail.com for more information. **Travis County Outreach** at Zilker Park in Austin includes handing out free copies of the Declaration of Independence. Contact Bob Ruliffson at cattledriver2002@yahoo.com to donate or volunteer.

Sept. 16-18 (Fri.-Sat.) Texas State LP Conference, Radisson Town Lake, 111 E. Cesar Chavez St., Austin. Conference events will include a main track of campaign and candidate workshops provided by the Leadership Institute, www.leadershipinstitute.org. Other events include more workshops, speakers, social events, and a children's program. More details to follow as plans are finalized.

Sept. 23-28 (Sat.-Thur.) Grassroots Educational Cruise, Galveston. East Coast Republican Assembly is sponsoring a 5 day cruise on the Carnival Cruise line for "all Constitutionally minded individuals of any political persuasion" to learn how to build coalitions, lobby, and work effectively with local, state and federal government. Workshops taught by activists with Americans for Prosperity. Total cost varies, but can be as low as \$500. Contact Carol Baker at 281-376-0858 or Kando@swbell.net for information.