

# FREE TEXAS

News and Views of Texas libertarians, published by the Libertarian Party of Texas.

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## Competition beats PUC in serving public

By TOM GLASS  
FREE TEXAS CORRESPONDENT

If one issue in the last gubernatorial election made the difference in the outcome, that issue was utilities regulation. Governor Mark White promised to do something about utility rates by appointing a housewife to the Public Utility Commission and eliminating the fuel adjustment clause. Defeated Governor Bill Clements said he doubted if there was one housewife in Texas qualified to sit on the Commission. In the attorney general race, Jim Mattox advocated electing members to the Public Utility Commission.

As is usual with debates between Democrats and Republicans the argument was not over whether the industry should be regulated, but how regulation should take place.

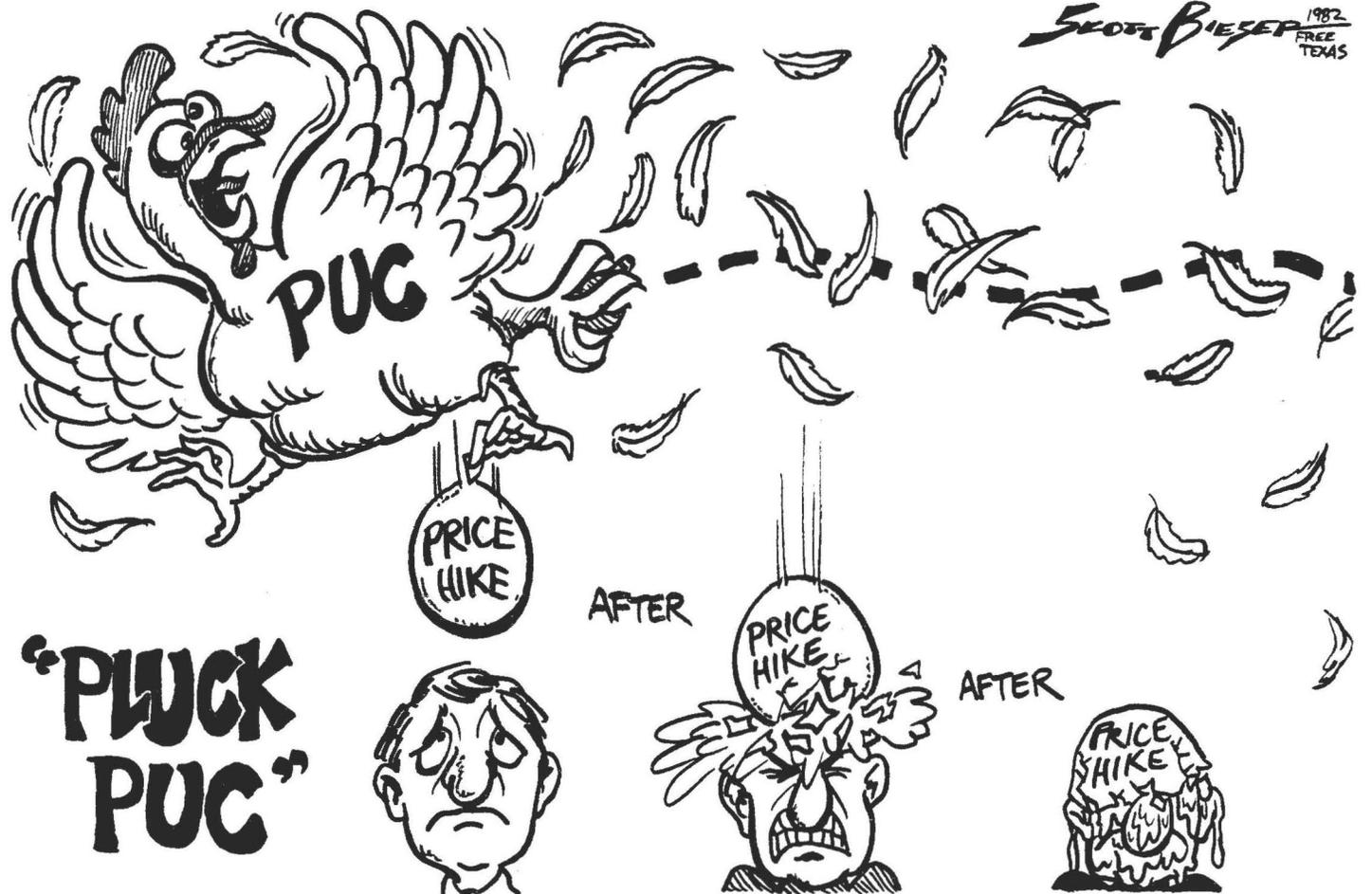
In contrast, Libertarian candidates David Hutzelman and Katherine Youngblood followed the Texas Libertarian Party platform and called for the abolition of the Public Utility Commission (slated for sunset review in 1983). Libertarians are opposed on moral grounds to any law that uses coercion to limit competition in an industry, to impose rate controls, or to guarantee a return to any corporation. In addition, the economic argument for this and all libertarian positions is far superior to the argument for regulation.

The conventional "wisdom" taught in every government school maintains utilities are "natural monopolies" that arise in a free market because of economies of scale. According to this view, "natural monopolies" always harm consumers by jacking up prices. Immune to the laws of supply and demand, these monopolies must be regulated. In exchange for being regulated, the monopoly firm gets and exclusive franchise and a guaranteed rate of return on the cost of providing the service.

The Public Utility Regulatory Act (PURA), which in 1975 established the Public Utility Commission (PUC) was founded on the unquestioned and universal assumption of the truth of those arguments. Until 1975, cities regulated utilities inside their jurisdictions, and virtually all cities still regulate electrical and natural gas rates (with appellate review by the PUC).

Several public interest groups have charged that the utilities have captured the very agencies designed to regulate them and are using this control to raise prices. For example, PURA requires a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity for any company defined as a public utility. To acquire a Certificate, a company must show the PUC why its services are needed. If any person or corporation objects (and existing companies always object), the applicant must go through prehearing conferences and a hearing before the PUC. Violation of the law is a third degree felony and operating in violation of a PUC ruling is contempt of court.

According to PUC employees Martha Bartow, in FY1982, 322 cases for cer-



tification were heard (122 were applications for electric power permits). Although she had no figures on how many permits were denied, she did indicate that the PUC "discouraged" dual certification in a geographical area. Competition is prohibited because under "natural monopoly" theory, economies of scale cannot be achieved unless one company monopolizes the industry in a given area. Failure to achieve economies of scale will in turn result in a costlier product which will automatically be passed on to the consumer under the "cost-plus-a-percentage" method of setting rates.

The underlying fallacy of this rejection of the free market is that there is no such thing as a "natural monopoly." In an award-winning article in *Reason* magazine (Oct, 1981), Jan Bellamy made the case for competition in electric utilities. The first argument against a "natural monopoly" is that 23 cities in the United States have competing electric companies including the five Texas cities of Lubbock, Vernon, Sonora, Floydada, and Seymour. Walter Primeaux, professor of economics at the University of Illinois at Urbana, has discovered that the average price for electricity in these cities is 33 percent below monopoly cities and the marginal price (the price for an additional unit) is 19 percent lower. While these cities compete on service alone (prices are still regulated by the city), the lower prices where competition exists directly refutes the theory that the lowest

costs cannot be achieved unless one company has a monopoly!

The simple fact is that people work more productively in a competitive environment. After all, if you worked at a monopoly and were rewarded solely on the percentage of how much you spent, don't you think you could figure out a way to increase expenses? Professor Primeaux supports this common sense idea by showing that one of Lubbock's two electric utilities built new capacity in the late 1970's for \$296 per kilowatt, compared to an average cost of \$739 per kilowatt for comparable plants in Wisconsin, Oregon, and Pennsylvania.

Historical evidence also refutes the theory of "natural monopoly." Gregg Jarrell in his Ph.d. Thesis at the University of Rochester began his study of the history of electric utilities in the U.S. assuming that regulation began where monopolies had already formed and were using their power to "gouge the consumer."

However, Jarrell discovered that the first states to regulate had rates 46 percent lower than late-regulating states. Also, profits were lower by 38 percent, and electrical output was higher by 23 percent. In addition, five years after regulation, electric rates and profits had increased and electric output had fallen in those states that were regulated! Although the utilities were initially opposed to regulation, within five years of the passage of the first statewide regulations the utilities were

"the main champions of the movement." In short, regulation had actually caused the very outcomes it was designed to prevent and had given the regulated industry a power it could never achieve in a free market.

Mere knowledge of the libertarian position and the moral argument for it are

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# Complete election returns

LPT candidates earn more than two-thirds of a million votes

Office	Candidates	Votes	Percentage	C-Code*
<b>Statewide</b>				
U.S. Senate	John E. Ford	23,135	0.7	4
Governor	David Hutzelman	19,370	0.6	4
Lt. Gov.	Laurel Kay Freeman	34,384	1.1	3
Atty. Gen.	Katherine S. Youngblood	70,221	2.3	3
Comptroller	Janet Tlappek	51,280	1.7	3
Treasurer	Alma Kucymbala	25,057	0.8	3
Land Comm.	Charles S. Fuller	65,750	2.2	3
Ag. Comm.	Stanley Keen	32,655	1.1	3
RR Comm.	Dick Bjornseth	35,300	1.2	4

**U.S. House of Representatives**

Dist. 1	John Traylor	2,611	2.5	2
Dist. 2	Ed Richbourg	5,588	5.8	2
Dist. 3	Jerry R. Williamson	1,445	1.1	3
Dist. 4	Bruce A. Iliams	1,132	0.9	3
Dist. 5	Richard Squire	733	0.9	4
Dist. 6	Ron Hard	5,254	5.5	2
Dist. 7	Bill Ware	1,333	1.0	3
Dist. 8	Mike Angwin	547	0.6	3
Dist. 9	Dean Allen	2,512	2.1	3
Dist. 10	William C. Kelsey	8,735	6.5	3C
Dist. 12	Ed Olson	743	0.6	3
Dist. 13	Rod Collier	1,560	1.2	3
Dist. 14	Glenn Rasmussen	1,018	0.8	3
Dist. 15	Frank L. Jones III	3,532	4.4	2
Dist. 16	Catherine A. McDivitt	1,583	1.9	2
Dist. 17	James A. Cooley II	3,369	3.0	2
Dist. 18	Thomas P. Bernhardt	2,211	2.7	3
Dist. 19	Mike Reed	1,206	1.1	3
Dist. 20	Roger V. Gar	4,178	5.6	3I
Dist. 21	Jeffrey J. Brown	1,226	0.9	3
Dist. 23	Parker Abell	498	0.5	3
Dist. 24	David Guier	995	1.1	3
Dist. 25	Jeff Calvert	861	0.8	4
Dist. 27	Steven R. Roberts	2,224	2.1	3

**State Board of Education**

Dist. 3	Nancy E. Wilson	17,898	15.1	2
Dist. 4	Estella Wilson	4,621	5.0	2
Dist. 5	Celeste A. Barkman	3,689	8.4	2
Dist. 7	Liz Phillips Barthlow	11,179	10.9	2
Dist. 8	George W. Marsden	2,100	2.6	3
Dist. 9	Keith Holden	5,889	8.0	2
Dist. 10	Harry Jones	5,138	3.6	3
Dist. 16	Victor H. Douglass Jr.	2,807	3.5	3
Dist. 18	Don Stockwell	5,812	8.3	2
Dist. 21	Sandra Keen	4,392	3.3	3
Dist. 22	Robert Yaussy	1,703	1.8	3
Dist. 24	Kenneth J. Brake	1,704	1.8	3
Dist. 25	Janet Calvert	4,745	4.9	3
Dist. 26	Paul R. LeGalley	1,898	1.4	3
Dist. 27	David Luckstead	9,668	12.9	2

**State Senate**

Dist. 1	Joyce Patricia Bell	2,841	3.4	2
Dist. 2	Charles W. Sittig	654	0.6	3
Dist. 3	Robert Winter	4,394	5.0	2
Dist. 4	Cecil Bordages	6,831	7.9	2
Dist. 5	Don Stallman	4,573	5.4	2
Dist. 6	Sharon Lucas	5,420	11.0	2
Dist. 7	David M. Odegard	5,341	6.0	2
Dist. 8	Doris E. Smith	13,627	13.2	2
Dist. 9	John L. Harris	3,678	4.3	2
Dist. 10	Chloe N. "Jack" Daniel	7,182	10.0	2
Dist. 12	Gary L. Wilkerson	1,480	1.4	3
Dist. 13	Barry J. Klein	5,156	6.7	3
Dist. 15	Jan Marks	1,962	2.4	3
Dist. 16	Mike Stephens	2,265	2.2	3
Dist. 17	Jim A. Millard	9,691	13.1	2
Dist. 20	Ron McInturff	11,726	14.5	2
Dist. 22	Robert Mitchell	1,098	1.0	3
Dist. 23	Louise Murray	1,152	1.4	3
Dist. 25	Reed Shahan	603	0.5	3
Dist. 26	Ted Norris	7,260	11.2	2
Dist. 28	Tracy Lanham	1,168	1.2	3

Dist. 29	David J. Bowie	12,182	19.6	2
Dist. 30	Dan Dotson	4,528	4.8	2
Dist. 31	Bryan Denson	1,305	1.2	2

**State Representative**

Dist. 6	Gene Mitchell	181	0.8	3
Dist. 16	Martin Sorrells	241	1.2	3
Dist. 34	Marta C. Solis	1,605	9.9	2
Dist. 36	Christina Bazan Ridley	541	2.0	3
Dist. 48	Anthony Martinez	577	1.6	3
Dist. 49	Fred Ebner	1,518	5.3	3C
Dist. 50	Scott Bieser	2,668	11.4	2
Dist. 51	Gary Edward Johnson	774	4.1	4
Dist. 70	Herta T. Chafer	397	2.1	3
Dist. 71	Cynthia S. Wilke	774	4.3	3
Dist. 72	Mary Catherine Hendrix	564	5.4	3
Dist. 73	Edward T. Walsh	1,305	10.2	2
Dist. 74	Kenneth E. Royer	1,061	12.1	2
Dist. 97	Tommy Glenn	745	3.8	3
Dist. 98	James South	237	1.3	3
Dist. 99	Wm. L. Timmons	2,618	15.6	2
Dist. 102	Tom Owens	2,562	9.5	2
Dist. 103	Rob Harrison	238	1.8	3
Dist. 107	Jobe Howell	398	7.6	2
Dist. 108	Gayla Smith	518	5.7	2
Dist. 109	Ken Fisher	467	1.8	3
Dist. 115	Tom L. Snead	1,075	7.4	3I
Dist. 129	Lloyd Harolds	234	1.5	3
Dist. 132	Bob Canup	315	1.4	3
Dist. 135	Barbara McReynolds	726	2.9	3
Dist. 136	Hugh Fry	1,121	5.9	2
Dist. 137	Aileen Grimes	497	2.8	3
Dist. 139	Donald J. Wood	1,003	7.4	2
Dist. 140	Ronald H. Levine	428	4.9	2
Dist. 144	Paul Titsworth	199	1.3	3
Dist. 149	Joe Ellerbrock	1,518	11.3	2
Dist. 150	Herbert G. Boehl	331	1.7	3

**County Races**

Bandera				
County Judge	Ken Edwards	51	1.9	3
Bexar County				
Treasurer	Jay F. C. Moore	2,072	1.1	3
Dallas County				
Treasurer	Lynn Guier (Write-In)	25		
Harris County				
Treasurer	Allan Vogel	14,816	3.6	3
El Paso County				
County Judge	Brad Harrison	11,136	17.5	2
Dist. Clerk	Lori Redue	9,209	15	2
County Clerk	Cheyenne Krel	9,535	15.7	2
County Treas.	Tod Darby	7,892	13.3	2
County Comm.				
Pct. 4	John McDivitt	1,126	4.7	3

**Aggregates**

Total number of candidates: 113

Total number of votes cast for  
Libertarian candidates: 698,081

Average LP percentage: 5.87 percent

Minimum estimated number of voters  
who cast at least one vote for a  
libertarian candidate: 149,102

Above number as percentage of number  
of votes cast for governor: 4.69

\*Competition-code, or the number and  
nature of opponents in a race. 4=4-way,  
3=3-way, 2=2-way, 3C=3-way with a  
Democrat and a Citizens candidate,  
3I=3-way with a Democrat and inde-  
pendent.

Figures based on semi-final returns from  
the Secretary of State, and from the coun-  
ty clerks for county-level races.

# Election results demonstrate substantial support

## At least 4.7 percent of voters cast one vote for a Libertarian

By SCOTT BIESER  
FREE TEXAS EDITOR

Despite a disappointing outcome in the governor's race, the Libertarian Party of Texas demonstrated in the 1982 general election it has growing statewide support among voters.

According to preliminary figures from the Secretary of State's Office, 137,920 Texas voters cast at least one vote for a Libertarian Party candidate for a state or national office. When votes for county races are included, the figures show 149,102 voters cast at least one LP vote.

With the vote total for the governor's race taken as the total number of ballots cast, roughly 4.7 percent of all Texas voters supported at least one LP candidate.

LP supporters hoped going into the election that gubernatorial candidate David Hutzelman would garner at least 2 percent of the vote and achieve permanent ballot status for the party in 1984 and 1986. However, Hutzelman received only 0.6 percent, or 19,370 votes, in the four-way race. He placed third followed by Citizens Party candidate Bob Poteet with 8,077 votes, or 0.3 percent.

Two other LP candidates for statewide office did receive more than two percent of the vote.

Katherine S. Youngblood, candidate for attorney general, was the highest Libertarian vote-getter in Texas with 70,221 votes, or 2.3 percent.

Charles Fuller, candidate for Texas Land Commissioner, was the second highest with 65,750 votes, or 2.2 percent.

In the 1980 election Hutzelman received roughly 87,000 votes, or 2.3 percent, in his bid for Texas Railroad Commissioner.

David J. Bowie of El Paso received the highest percentage total of any Texas LP candidate, with 19.6 percent, or 12,182 votes, in a two-way race.

Among LP candidates for U.S. Congress Bill Kelsey of Elgin led both in terms of vote total and percentage, with 8,735 votes, or 6.5 percent. Kelsey faced long-time incumbent Democrat J.J. "Jake" Pickle and Citizens Party candidate Oralee Poteet.

Although Bowie was the LP candidate for Texas Senator with Roger Gary of San Antonio the highest vote percentage, Doris E. Smith was the highest total vote-getter among state senate candidates, with 13,627 votes, or 13.2 percent.

In the state representative races, William L. Timmons achieved the highest vote percentage, with 15.6 percent, or 2,618 votes. Scott Bieser of Austin received 2,668 votes, or 11.4 percent, in his race for state legislature, but Timmons may have actually

received more votes because only 96.2 percent of the precincts in Timmons' district had reported in at the time these figures were released from the Secretary of State.

Nancy Wilson of Dallas garnered the greatest vote total and percentage of LP candidates for State Board of Education, with 17,898 votes, or 15.1 percent.

H.D. "Rick" Merrick of Del Valle, candidate for Travis County Treasurer, received the highest number of votes among LP candidates for county posts — 12,071 or 12.4 percent. Brad Harrison of El Paso gathered the highest percentage in this category, receiving 11,136 votes, or 17.5 percent, in his bid for El Paso County Judge.

The number of Texas voters who cast at least one vote for a Libertarian was not tabulated officially by the state. It was determined by careful reading of county-by-county totals supplied by the Secretary of State's Office.

The LP candidate receiving the highest number of votes was determined for each county. In cases where more than one congressional, state senate, state representative or State Board of Education district in a county, the vote totals for all LP candidates in each category were used when one of those totals was greater than the total of a single candidate.

The idea was to figure the highest number of LP votes in each county of which no two or more were cast by the same person, Fraser explained. The figures were compiled by FREE TEXAS staff.

Fraser had estimated between 4.5 and 5 percent of Texan voters had voted for at least one Libertarian at the LPT Executive Committee meeting Nov. 13 in Waco.

These results show not only that voter support for the Libertarian Party is growing, but that there is more than enough to support to convince an impartial observer the LPT deserves permanent ballot status, he said.

At the Waco meeting committee members discussed plans to lobby the state legislature to change the ballot access law, arguing that a more general measure of electoral support than the governor's race should be used to determine who gets on the ballot.

Some party members upon learning the election results hoped Youngblood, as the LPT's highest vote-getter, would consider a gubernatorial bid of her own in 1986. But in Waco she told exec-com members she would not run again for public office, instead concentrating her efforts on her law practice and on raising a family with husband Tom Glass.

# Statistics show where electoral strength lies

The Secretary of State's Office has provided election statistics broken down by county and region, and these figures may aid Libertarians in analyzing the 1982 election results.

Election returns for the nine statewide races were tabulated both for eight regions of Texas and for the six most populous Texas counties. The figures show Libertarians did best in West Texas and Central Texas, and particularly well in Travis and El Paso counties.

The Upper Gulf region was also good to Attorney General candidate Katherine S. Youngblood and Land Commissioner candidate Charles Fuller. Youngblood and Fuller both received 3.4 percent of the vote in that region.

U.S. Senator candidate John Ford did best in Central Texas, garnering 1.2 percent, and in West Texas with 1.0 percent. His highest county total was in Travis County, with 1.7 percent, and El Paso County with 1.2 percent.

David Hutzelman, LP candidate for governor, earned 1.1 percent in Central Texas, 0.8 percent in West Texas, 1.7 percent in Travis County and 1.0 percent in El Paso County.

Laurel Kay Freeman, LP candidate for lieutenant governor, picked up 1.7 percent of the vote in Central Texas and West Texas, 2.8 percent in Travis County and 2.3 percent in El Paso County.

Youngblood received 4.2 percent in Travis County and 4.3 percent in El Paso County.

Comptroller candidate Janet Tlapek received 2.2 percent in the Upper Gulf region, 3.1 percent in West Texas, 3.8 percent in El Paso County and 3.1 percent in Travis County.

Alma Kucymbala, candidate for state treasurer, polled 1.5 percent in West Texas, 1.1 percent in Central Texas, 2.3 percent in El Paso County and 1.7 percent in Travis County.

Fuller picked up 4.7 percent of the vote in El Paso County and 3.8 percent in Harris County.

Stanley Keen, candidate for agriculture commissioner, garnered 1.8 percent in West Texas, 1.3 percent in Central Texas and the Upper Gulf, 2.7 percent in El

Paso County and 1.9 percent in Travis County.

Railroad commissioner candidate Dick Bjornseth earned 1.8 percent in Central Texas, and 1.7 percent in West Texas, 2.9 percent in Travis county and 2.4 percent in El Paso County.

The worst regions for Libertarians were the Panhandle, West-Central and South Texas. The state's figures also show LP candidates did poorly in rural counties as opposed to urban and suburban counties.

County break-downs of the vote also reveal a relatively small number of LP candidates dominated the Libertarian vote. Youngblood received more votes than any other LP candidate in 32 counties, Fuller led in 24 counties, and Dan Dotson, candidate for State Senate Dist. 30, led in 22 counties.

Other LP slate leaders were Sandra Keen, candidate for State Board of Education Dist. 21 (20 counties), James A. Cooley, candidate for US Congress, Dist. 17 (18 counties), Ed Richbourg, candidate for US Congress Dist. 2 (12), Tom Kilbride, candidate for US Congress Dist. 11 (10), Don Stallman, State Senate Dist. 5 (10), Joyce Bell, State Senate Dist. 1 (9), Frank L. Jones III, US Congress Dist. 17 (8), Ron Hard, US Congress Dist. 6, (7), Ron McInturff, State Senate Dist. 20 (6), Tlapek (5), Bill Kelsey, US Congress Dist. 10 (5), Estella Wilson, State Board of Education Dist. 4 (5), Robert Winter, State Senate Dist. 3 (4), John L. Harris, State Senate Dist. 9 (4), Freeman (3), Hutzelman (2), Cecil Bordages, State Senate Dist. 4 (2), and John Traylor, US Congress Dist. 1.

LP candidates who led the slate in at least one county were Ken Edwards, Bandera County Judge candidate, Ted Norris, State Senate Dist. 26, Jim A. Millard, State Senate Dist. 17, Glenn Rasmussen, US Congress Dist. 14, David Luckstead, State Board of Education Dist. 27, Keith Holden, State Board of Education Dist. 9, Doris E. Smith, State Senate Dist. 8, Victor H. "Buddy" Douglass, State Board of Education Dist. 16, Brad Harrison, El Paso County Judge candidate, John R. Metcalf, Travis County Judge candidate, Bjornseth, Parker

Abell, US Congress Dist. 23, Tracy Lanham, State Senate Dist. 29, and Bryan Denson, State Senate Dist. 31.

Fuller and Youngblood tied for first place among Libertarians in four coun-

ties. Fuller, Youngblood and Tlapek reached a three-way tie in one county, and Youngblood and Denson tied in one county, and Traylor and Wilson tied in one county.

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*Notes from the Chair*

**Getting bigger and better**

By BILL FRASER  
STATE CHAIR

This has been a banner year for the Libertarian Party of Texas. We started off 1982 lining up candidates for the General Election ballot and were outstandingly successful. More than 120 candidates were scheduled to be on the November ballot when the February filing deadline passed — this was an all-time high for the LPT and I think also for any state party.

While ballot drives are never very pleasant, this year things went much more smoothly than in the past and we were able to accomplish what we set out to do within budget and on a timely basis. Our success this year will make planning for the next ballot access drive in 1984 easier.

Finally, there was the election itself. The results are listed in another section of FREE TEXAS so I will not repeat any here.

We did very well with the limited resources we had. While we did not get 2 percent of the vote for Governor to secure permanent ballot status, we did demonstrate that a significant portion of the electorate would vote for Libertarian Party Candidates.

Now we must move on to bigger and better things:

The State Executive Committee will meet in Dallas Jan. 8 and 9 to discuss our plan of action for 1983 and 1984. In addition we will be considering the budget for 1983. Everyone is invited to contribute ideas either through their regional representatives or in person. This meeting will be critical to the development of the LPT in 1983.

A membership drive is on to secure the maximum number of national LP members from Texas. The number of delegates to the National Convention (where the next Presidential nominee will be selected) is based largely on the number of National Members that a state party has. *Let's have the largest membership.*

Finally, one of the areas where the LPT has been weakest in the past has been fundraising. Although we do better than nearly all Libertarian organizations, we need to do better if we are to have a truly revolutionary impact in Texas. We have probably tapped-out membership and mailing lists to the maximum extent now. What we need are ideas on how to raise money from new sources, sources we may not ordinarily consider to be "Libertarian."

If anyone has suggestions, please contact any member of the State Executive Committee or the Finance Committee. If we can raise the money, I know we can make changes in the Texas political scene.

Have a peaceful, prosperous, and free holiday season.

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# Local races offer electoral opportunities

## Water district boondoggles deserving targets

By MIKE ANGWIN  
FREE TEXAS CORRESPONDENT

As Libertarians grow in number, new fields are being explored in the political realm. Individuals and groups within the party are becoming highly specialized in hundreds of different areas, and now, as a step in the political evolution which cannot be bypassed, Libertarians are effectively moving into local politics. In Texas the most fundamental of all political offices is the local water board.

In the unincorporated subdivisions surrounding larger cities, these small political bodies, often with only a few hundred residents, wield taxing power that rivals any except the federal government. In most cases, these water boards levy property taxes running into the hundreds of dollars per year per home. Yet water boards remain the most unnoticed of political bodies in Texas. It is not infrequent to find more offices available than candidates to fill them during board elections, more than 80% of the candidates run unopposed, and voter turnout rarely exceeds 10%.

Even with such voter apathy, the average water board has millions of dollars in bonded indebtedness, and retains the capability to arbitrarily increase taxes at any time it chooses to do so. If whatever project these boards may have in mind requires larger sums of money than taxpayers can generate immediately, a bond election can be held. Voter participation in these bond elections is usually only slightly higher than in the board elections and bond proposals rarely fail. The most interesting part is, once authorization has to be given by the voters, the board is free to spend the money as it chooses. Frequently residents of a community find a project only half completed and no funds left to finish construction. Their water board has applied to the state to spend the money designated for the construction on some "pressing need", the state routinely approves such board requests, and the community soon finds itself faced with a new multi-million dollar bond proposal.

In many cases, residents are never given any opportunity to participate in the expenditure of their tax money. A developer moves several friends, at least 5, into an area he wishes to develop. Under his indirect supervision they petition the state, receive approval, and create water district. Once the district is created they elect themselves to the water board. The next step is for the "friendly" developer to loan the new water board \$50,000 to \$60,000 for an engineering study. The board hires an engineering firm, plans the wells, sanitation lines, sewage treatment plants, curbs, gutters, stormsewers, fresh water lines, and facilities for several thousand homes.

At this point an application is made to the state for a bond sale authorization to cover the construction costs. The state always approves such plans as long as they meet environmental regulations. Now the five residents approve a \$20 million bond. Unable to generate such an enormous amount of taxes to cover the bonds with only five residents or even sell the bonds, the friendly developer comes forward and offers to purchase 80% of the bonds at the maximum percentage permitted by state law. Of course the water board accepts the offer and construction begins. Now the developer is having the subdivision developed for him. When the bond money is turned over the water district, the developer gets his "front money" for the engineering studies first. This allows him to make payments on the low interest loan he got at the bank using the

bonds as collateral. The bonds always bear greater interest than the loan.

If the subdivision takes off slowly, much of the initial bond is consumed by what is called capitalized interest. This is using the money borrowed to make the bond payments. In some cases this figure had taken as much as 60% of the initial bond sale. This allows the subdivision to be developed at whatever pace the market permits, the developer to reap tremendous profits, and taxpayers to be lulled by tax rates held artificially low. In any case, the subdivision usually is filled within five years. Strangely enough it's just about this time the capitalized interest runs out, property taxes skyrocket, substandard construction of facilities begins to surface, and the state starts raising hell about non-compliance with environmental standards. Of course the original 5 board members moved out 3 years ago and the developer, having sold all of his lots, is sitting back reaping the interest off the old bonds.

This may sound like an interesting scenario. It is the rule rather than the exception. Libertarians, recognizing the abuses of developer controlled water boards, the collusion of state government, and taking advantage of an overriding desire by developers to keep water boards as low key as possible, can make significant gains with the local communities by launching coordinated, well informed, and practical campaigns against such taxpayer ripoffs.

Even in older communities, where resident realtors act simultaneously as social leader and representative of the developer, water boards, property owners associations, garden clubs, and golf associations become instruments of the developer used to promote and preserve his interests in the community. Often the developer will fund a \$60,000 swimming pool for the property owners while the property owners association spends several hundred thousand dollars a year mowing and keeping up his lots. The garden club spends thousands of dollars a year beautifying the entrance of the subdivision, and the golfers pay through the nose for upkeep on the developer donated golf course. When buyers are brought into the subdivision by the developer, all of these niceties are quickly pointed out as part of the package graciously donated by the developer.

When a new bond election comes up to fund expansion which will benefit only the developer, threats are used to galvanize support. The developer is portrayed by the socially acceptable realtor as a person who is holding onto his interest in the community only because he likes the neighborhood. His profits are non-existent; after all he funds the swimming pool, the golf course, all because he's a nice fellow.

Then comes the stinger. If the bond election fails he won't be able to repair the entrance road, or will have to close down the golf course, or even sell off the property the swimming pool is on. And the land he holds around the subdivision, he'll have to sell it too! What if someone builds a cement plant there or trailer houses (long considered the scourge of suburbia)!

Of course if the bond election passes, all will remain the same and all of the new houses will be as big or bigger than the best in the subdivision now!

This is when the various civic organizations catered to by the realtor becomes valuable. Overnight they are transformed into powerful political arms of the developer. Making phone calls, going door to door, and writing letters, as long time

residents of the community they carry a great deal of influence as well as political clout.

In extremely controversial bond elections, the developer through his well paid realtor, begins an intense phase of community meetings held by the water board. A well respected, and highly paid, engineering firm is hired at taxpayer expense by the water board, to demonstrate the crucial needs of the community. Several options for construction are offered varying by millions of dollars; the engineering firm strongly recommends the highest. The water board, in an open exhibit of fiscal responsibility, agrees to the lowest.

Once the fiscal responsibility of the water board has been established, the next phase is to certify need. An expert from the state is brought in to explain how bad everything really is. Since non-compliance letters have never been sent by the state, and the subdivision is really in the pink, this is a state co-ordinated snow job designed to induce voters to expand the tax base. This is the state's only interest.

The expert explains how the water capacity must meet certain standards for fire safety, have a certain gallon per day minimum capacity must be available on sewage treatment plants for environmental preservation, how water purity levels must be maintained, and much more, never once stating fact one about the failure of this or any other particular subdivision in meeting those requirements.

This is completed with what happens to a subdivision when such standards are not met. The state comes in, runs a one time assessment on each homeowner, and fixes the system. That assessment may be \$15 or more, depending on what needs to be done.

After one such speech by a Texas Department of Water Resources representative I cornered him outside and asked him a few questions. Questions that during the meeting were, of course, ruled out of order. The first was how bad, and what in particular was wrong with this subdivision. I was told he had no idea, his job was only to inform water districts. When asked who performed the inspections, he stated he didn't know. When asked why he came tonight, he answered that water districts always have a hard time passing bonds and his job is giving this speech before bond elections. This is all this guy did for a living. He goes around, payed by the taxpayers, scaring the hell out of them so they'll pass bond elections they don't even know if they need or not.

A little additional research on my part found that our water district was NOT in non-compliance with the state and with rare exception inspections were performed by the water boards themselves. Only in cases with multiple resident complaints are inspectors sent from Austin. The last state takeover of a water board was in 1947.

Once the residents are scared into a frenzy over the seemingly real possibility of state takeover, the realtor-controlled civic organizations redouble their efforts. Rumors about inadequate water pressure for fire protection, and standing sewage in inaccessible areas of the subdivision circulate freely. By the time the bond election is held voters are driven by fear of life, property, and financial security. Without strong opposition the system works well. Even with opposition, the bond has an excellent chance of passing.

Other political bodies have entwining laws and regulations that also enhance the position of the developer. In the area of regs governing the construction of facilities, supposedly designed to protect the interest of the taxpayer, none works as much to the advantage of the developer as

ETJ, extra territorial jurisdiction. Any city with a population in excess of 100,000 in the state has the power to set its own standards for water district construction within 5 miles of its city limits. This is called ETJ. Houston has a strict yet unenforced code water boards use to drive up the construction costs within their districts. These standards can always be backed off from later, and the extra funds can be used for whatever the district board chooses: even a playground was recently approved in one Montgomery County water district by the state.

Yet in the case of a developer controlled board, this "over engineering" takes an even less credible form. Existing water districts are only allowed to pay 70% of the developer's costs for the laying of water and sewer lines in a newly developed area within an existing subdivision. The board can refuse to pay anything — just have main taps available at the edge of the new area.

However, developer controlled boards are usually more than willing to pay all they can. The claimed justification is an increased tax base. With the high estimate of construction as a base figure, a developer board signs a buy agreement with the developer then goes in and builds the system as cheaply as the board is willing to allow him to do it, sells it to the water district for the pre-agreed price, and pockets enough to more than offset any initial investment he may have made in the new area. Of course the water board, using the engineer paid for by the developer, has a right of inspection of the work. The few that do rarely know what they are looking at, and if they do, usually keep their mouths shut.

The net result is, the taxpayer gets the shaft and to the tune of millions of dollars.

Attempting to throw a monkey wrench into such activities is where Libertarians have several distinct advantages. First we are quickly identified as being opposed to taxation: anything we do or alternative suggestions we make are looked at very closely by taxpayers.

Secondly, we are the vanguards of free enterprise, and profits made morally are known to be respected by us. A developer making profits by using the law as a weapon to shove down the taxpayers throat is, to us, as criminal as the laws themselves. We can stand before the community and defend free enterprise and the morality of profit while striking deadly blows to those who seek to use and abuse the law for profit.

Thirdly and finally, Libertarians are, for the most part, an unknown quality in community affairs. Each individual Libertarian can, at least in the short run, tailor his approach to his community in the manner he deems most suited for himself and the community. Outspoken, committed, well informed, and directing his political assault to the issues at hand, a Libertarian can introduce the new ideas inherent in the Libertarian philosophy in a very smooth way. Community acceptance can be built rapidly, and conversions to the Libertarian Party can be developed.

Without sacrificing principal, the most important single tip is to remain within the realm of applicable politics. Run for a water board, become acknowledged as a Libertarian, but stay away from foreign policy as well as national economic policy. Concentrate all your efforts on the issues at hand; the results may be surprising.

Angwin was LP candidate for U.S. Congress, Dist. 8, in the November general election.

## Moderation in pursuit of extremism

# A new look at movement factionalism

By KATHERINE S. YOUNGBLOOD  
HOUSTON CORRESPONDENT

Very seldom, if ever, is the word "extremist" used in any other than a negative manner. It is almost always intended as a pejorative term, as though it were synonymous with the word "fanatic." While fanatics are always extremists, the converse is not true. Whether an extremist is a fanatic or not depends on what he is extreme about.

Consistent adherence to a rational and principled moral code is, by definition, not fanaticism (which, by definition, involves the irrational). As Barry Goldwater told us almost 20 years ago, extremism in the pursuit of liberty is no vice: moderation in the defense of liberty is no virtue. Nevertheless, all consistent defenders of liberty have run the risk of being labelled "extremist" and viewed as fanatics.

The men who were responsible for the most important event in human history — the American Revolution — were extremists, as were also those men and women who fought to rid our country of the evil of slavery. They were scorned by the more "conventional" citizenry, that is, until their moral philosophy became the conventional wisdom, after which time they were enshrined as sainted visionaries.

Libertarians share an extreme devotion to individual liberty when compared to the normal regard for liberty in our society. Properly and positively speaking, we are all extremists. Perhaps some day libertarians will bring about such a change in society that the term "libertarian extremist" will be, not a redundancy, but a contradiction in terms, our ideas having become the norm. But for the present, we are all extremists, like it or not.

Yet even within the Libertarian Party, there exists three distinct varieties, or, if you will, "degrees" of extremism. For the sake of discussion, I have labelled these groups: mild extremists, moderate extremists and extreme extremists. These labels are not intended to describe the level of commitment to libertarian principles, but rather the manner in which members of each group present the virtues of libertarianism to the unenlightened.

Of these three species, the extreme extremist is by far the most often discussed, but the least often sighted. Also known as "flashers" or "mooners," this breed represents a small but significant part of the broader libertarian movement. Extreme extremists, it is said, present libertarian ideas in the most abrasive terms possible, using the most negative, emotionally-laden words which can be summoned from their usually considerable vocabularies. More often than not, members of this group have been libertarians for a long time, but they are not presently active in party politics.

One can identify an extreme extremist by his tendency to become excited, emotional, or even angry when discussing his beliefs, and by his distinctive cry of "taxation is theft." He is reported to talk too loudly and to "turn people off."

Extreme extremists are quite rare within the Texas LP and do not exert much influence on the direction of the party. So, while they don't do much good insofar as spreading the libertarian message is concerned, neither do they do much harm. Nevertheless, however elusive they may be, their mere existence has had a severe traumatizing effect on the behavior of another group — the mild extremists.

Libertarian watchers can easily spot a mild extremist. While not all that numerous, sightings of the mild extremist are frequent at any libertarian function. They are very social and personable and very active in party politics.

In sharp contrast to their "flashier" cousins, this mild-mannered variety has never been known to become excited or emotional or to even raise his voice. Mild extremists exhibit a paranoid fear of the extreme ex-

trémists, even though very few have ever been actually harmed by one and some have never even seen one.

Mild extremists will tell you that they merely seek to phrase their discussions in the most palatable, non-threatening, and familiar terms possible. They only want to avoid offending anyone who has not heard of our ideas or never considered the possibility of a radical change from the status quo.

But it has been observed that in their efforts to make us seem just like the party next door — comfortable as an old shoe — they often neglect to inform their listeners exactly what libertarianism is and what makes us fundamentally different from any other party that has ever existed.

It is in this way that the mild extremist seems to have been overly affected by the extreme extremist. For example, in a discussion on the presentation of the libertarian view of taxation, e.g., whether the phrase "taxation is theft" should be used, the mild extremist will argue that it should not and will give as his rationale the fact that the extreme extremist is so fond of this phrase. He will say something to the effect that "we can't just drop our pants, scream 'taxation is theft,' and run away!" This despite the fact that no one has even mentioned the possibility of doing such a thing.

The extreme extremist, therefore, serves as a strawman which the mild extremist seeks to destroy in order to avoid the very real and very difficult problem of how to present libertarian principles honestly and persuasively.

Being out there on the conversion frontlines can be unpleasant, I will admit, but it is an essential part of any lasting change. Without the education of non-libertarians of the crucial distinction between them and us, they will stay "them" and we will stay "us."

By now you will have identified the moderate extremist for yourself. This group include the majority of the LP rank and file.

They refuse to accept the notion that one must make a choice between being principled and being persuasive. Although it is an exceedingly difficult task and mistakes are often made, the moderate extremists can be found out there in the thick of the action, seeking to articulate the principle of individual self-ownership in a way that will gain the acceptance of their listeners.

Some harsh realities of life can be softened very little, if any. Taxation is theft; the draft is slavery; government education is socialism. If a necessary precondition to our making such statements is that the truth of the statement must be commonly perceived by our listeners it is certain that those words will never be said to non-libertarians and, therefore, the ideas never discussed or the commonly held misconceptions challenged. We must say the unsayable before others can think the unthinkable, so that we can all do the undoable task of creating a libertarian society.

I have long advocated a two-tiered approach to any particular problem: the articulation of the libertarian moral premise and the application of that principle to the topic under discussion. If one consistently begins each discussion with the idea that an individual's life is his own to be lived exactly as he wishes, provided that he does not interfere through physical force or fraud with the identical rights of others, and that therefore, the government has no moral right to initiate force to prevent him from, say, smoking marijuana, sooner or later the listener will detect a pattern.

When that happens, the germ of an idea has been planted which will continue to present the libertarian argument to this person even when you are not present.

I think that mild extremists, being more attuned to the political process than are moderates, do not appreciate the importance of merely planting this seed of thought and

allowing the nature of an intellectually honest individual to take its course. Too often, the mild extremist looks merely to the end of this conversation or to the current election to determine his success in convincing others.

In appropriate circumstances (such as when an immediate transition to a libertarian goal may not be possible, as in the elimination of Social Security), the application phase of the argument could be further divided into two parts: the ideal situation which would exist in the libertarian society toward which we are working and the interim measures which we propose to get us from where we are now to where we want to be.

For example, if the subject is education, one should unequivocally state that libertarians believe the government should not own or control the means of production of any good or service, including education; therefore, we oppose any government involvement in education whatsoever. As a means of working toward a complete separation of state and education, we support the concept of tuition tax credits or, if appropriate, vouchers, as a means of acquainting the public with the advantage of free market education.

In any discussion of principles versus pragmatism, I am always reminded of Ayn Rand's three rules which can be found in her

essay, "The Anatomy of a Compromise."

1. In any *conflict* between two men (or two groups) who hold the *same* basic principles, it is the more consistent one who wins.

2. In any *collaboration* between two men (or two groups) who hold *different* basic principles, it is the more evil or irrational one who wins.

3. When opposite basic principles are clearly and openly defined, it works to the advantage of the rational side; when they are *not* clearly defined, but are hidden or evaded, it works to the advantage of the irrational side.

Based on these rules (which I have found from my own experience to be valid), there is no such thing as a pragmatic evasion of your principles. In the long run, the denial of your principles will destroy you and give victory to your enemies. That's hardly what I call "practical."

The first rule persuades me that the moderate extremists will continue to win out over the mild extremists. And, if this is so, then, in accordance with the third rule, our clearly and openly defined rational libertarian principles will gradually gain the advantage over the unarticulated, irrational principles of our adversaries.

*Youngblood is a Houston attorney*

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## Editor's Notes

## Immigration issue confounds candidates

By SCOTT BIESER  
FREE TEXAS EDITOR

In the final weeks of the 1980 Presidential campaign, Libertarian Party candidate Ed Clark caused a stir in the party ranks when he retreated from the standard Libertarian call for open immigration, stating he felt the movement of workers across our borders probably should be restricted until our economy is strengthened and domestic unemployment is no longer a serious concern.

In the closing days of the 1982 Texas Gubernatorial campaign, LP candidate David Hutzelman said on an Austin radio talk show that he, too would wait until better economic times before proposing that immigration restrictions be lifted.

Also in the 1982 campaign, an LP candidate for state representative from Houston told the press he simply disagreed with the party platform on this matter and favored immigration quotas.

This is not an attack on Clark or Hutzelman. I know both men to be well-informed, highly principled libertarians who are not afraid to take controversial stands even when it means losing votes. But their cases serve to illustrate a disturbing tendency among many Libertarians to waffle on this question during the heat of electoral campaigns. The final example listed shows we definitely have a problem convincing people — even some of our own people — that open immigration is both the most moral and most practical policy.

For those readers who are unfamiliar with the arguments, let's review them briefly:

The moral side — every individual has the inalienable right to offer his goods and services for trade with whoever agrees to trade (provided the good or service itself does not violate another person's right to his life, liberty or property). As a conse-

quence, an individual has the right to travel to the place where the trade is being made — even if he must cross national boundaries to do so.

Therefore, restricting movement of people across national boundaries is a direct violation of people's rights — both those of the would-be traveler and of others who wish to trade with them.

The practical side — Production is enhanced when the most economical means of production can be used. Increased production in a free economy increases the well-being of everyone, at least in the long-run. If non-citizens are willing to work harder for lower wages, then their labor is more economical than domestic labor which provides less production and demands higher wages. Therefore, we would generally be better off if foreigners were free to come here and offer their goods and services.

Agreed, it takes more than the above explanation to turn most people around. But the problem is not just that people are misinformed about the effects of open versus regulated borders. It is deeper.

There are two forces motivating people who are against open immigration. Both are based on fear.

Most of these restrictionists will admit to the first fear — of competition. Their argument goes, these foreigners are undercutting American workers by offering their labor for wages which, if Americans accepted them, would mean a drastic lowering of their standards of living. The foreign immigrant workers becomes a threat to the American worker's security, even though that same American worker as a consumer benefits from cheap foreign labor which produces the many goods and services he buys.

This disorder of reasoning afflicts not only laborers but business leaders, who complain about imported foreign goods "unfairly" competing with American-

made products.

The bottom line is, when times get tough, many believe the right to compete freely for jobs or markets must be reserved to Americans, with foreigners getting only the discards like dogs begging for scraps from the dinner table.

The second motivation of many restrictionists is not ordinarily admitted, although members of the Ku Klux Klan have recently provided a definite clue as to its nature.

Face it — the alien workers we're talking about are not Germans or Britons, or other northern European types whose cultures became the basis for ours. They are mostly Hispanics, largely from Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean islands. They look different from most of us, and they act differently from most of us.

So most of us react with racism. The racists regard the "Meskin" laborer as not only an economic threat but a personal one, bringing a strange language and a culture which often clashes with the dominant culture in this country. The problem is compounded when the immigrants, sensing the Americans' paranoia, respond with their own fear and suspicion.

The proper way to deal with the restrictionists' economic fears is to present well-documented arguments showing how they really benefit from competition, and that "unfair competition" is a contradiction of terms.

The way to deal with racism is, of course, to promote the philosophy of individualism, so that people see one another as unique individuals rather than simply members of a stereotypical group. But in addition, we must promote not just a tolerance but an appreciation of cultural differences, of how these differences can combine to produce new creativity.

And what of Libertarians who back off from the principled stand for open borders? These people are (I hope) not bigots or economic illiterates, and understand why free immigration is both moral and practical.

I don't know the background of Clark's retreat, but I do know what happened to Hutzelman. Shortly before his Austin appearance, he was on a San Antonio talk show during which he stated the straight

Libertarian line on this matter. As a result the show was deluged by calls from very angry people who would not listen to reason and seemed ready to converge on the radio station and tar and feather our hapless candidate.

Once burned, twice shy, as they say, and so it is understandable that the next time Hutzelman appeared on the air he compromised his stand on immigration.

Here is the awful conflict: To be really effective, a candidate must be sensitive to the feelings of the people he is trying to reach. Both Hutzelman and Clark have this sensitivity. But a sensitive person is much more likely to back off from a touchy subject than the more hard-nosed among us who don't give a tinker's damn what people think.

We must continue to recruit sensitive communicators as candidates but we must avoid compromises such as this if we are to remain "The Party of Principle." We could, of course, instead select candidates with "more backbone" but I fear these folks would needlessly alienate the public.

Ultimately, we must recognize that if a free society is to be achieved we must affect a massive re-education of the public. We are not faced with millions of people who are really libertarians but don't know it yet, but with people who, educated in the government schools and exposed to statist media, possess thoroughly statist attitudes of protectionism and bigotry.

While electioneering is an important job for the Libertarian Party, if the educational groundwork is not also laid down we will be grievously disappointed by the results.

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Editor: Scott Bieser

## Contributors:

Tom Glass, Mike Angwin, Katherine S. Youngblood, Bill Fraser.

## Distribution:

Bill Kelsey, Frank Bieser, Rosemarie Panzerro, Carl Hickerson-Bull, Heidi Hazlett, Gary Johnson, Fred Ebner, Janice Sharp

# Texas Libertarians plan for 1983

By STUART LAJOIE  
FREE TEXAS CORRESPONDENT

Texas party officials discussed ways to increase funding and better ways to select and prepare candidates for elected office during the LPT State Executive Committee meeting in Nov. 13 in Waco.

However, little action was taken in Waco; the meeting turned out to be mostly a brainstorming session in preparation for the January meeting in Dallas at which the 1983 budget will be worked out.

Two ways suggested to raise more money were to organize a separate fund-raising program for the ballot drive and to restrict circulation of *FREE TEXAS* to subscribers and party contributors. Presently *FREE TEXAS* is sent free to the entire state party mailing list.

The committee approved a special mail-out to encourage Texas libertarians to join the national party which included an option to join the state party and subscribe to *FREE TEXAS*. A consensus was also reached that starting next year the bi-monthly newspaper would be sent to the entire mailing list only twice a year, with contributors and subscribers receiving the remaining four issues. The two high-circulation issues would be larger and geared more toward outreach.

Assuring quality among candidates was the most hotly-debated topic at the Waco meeting, with committee members seeking ways to ensure candidates represent Libertarian positions accurately and persuasively. Creation of a "purity committee" to oversee candidates was expressly ruled out.

Some candidates in the 1982 election annoyed other party members by either dropping out of sight, telling the news media "I'm only running because the party asked me to," or making outrageous public statements which were contradictory to libertarian positions.

"We need a change of attitude about recruiting candidates," said Gary Johnson, party secretary. "We shouldn't run around signing up anybody who comes along."

Regional Representatives Robert Mitchell and Tom Glass proposed more regional candidates' workshops as a way to educate candidates on the finer points of libertarianism and help them deal with the media.

Members also discussed requiring candidates to sign a pledge or contract stating they will meet minimum requirements for activism and not contradict the party's Statement of Principles. Although such a pledge would not be realistically enforceable, some members said it should give candidates a psychological commitment to conduct themselves in a responsible manner.

Other items related to electoral campaigns were proposals to provide county chairs with a calendar of elections to make certain obscure local offices do not escape attention, to encourage more Libertarians to run in local elections, to provide delegates to county and district conventions with better information, to encourage candidates to join Toastmasters, to provide workshops on fundraising and effective campaign spending, and to concentrate the bulk of state campaign funds on a few selected local races where a Libertarian has a realistic chance of winning or at least making a strong showing.

Mitchell said candidates, and for that matter all Libertarians, should write letters to the editor of their local newspapers which include the LPT address to interested readers may contact the party.

In other business, the committee looked ahead to the 1984 ballot access drive and ways to either avoid it or ensure its success.

Chairman Bill Fraser estimated that roughly five percent of all Texas voters voted for at least one Libertarian candidate. This figure could be used to persuade either a judge or the Texas Legislature that a more broad-based means of determining electoral support than the governor's race should be used to decide whether a party should be on the ballot, he said.

Bill Elliot, party treasurer, said the party should start saving now for the ballot drive, quoting Fund-raising Chair Mike Holmes as suggesting 10 percent of the Independence Pledge income be set aside for this purpose.

Fraser and other committee members suggested a separate fund-raising effort be set up for the ballot drive, but agreed with Elliot that the effort should begin early.

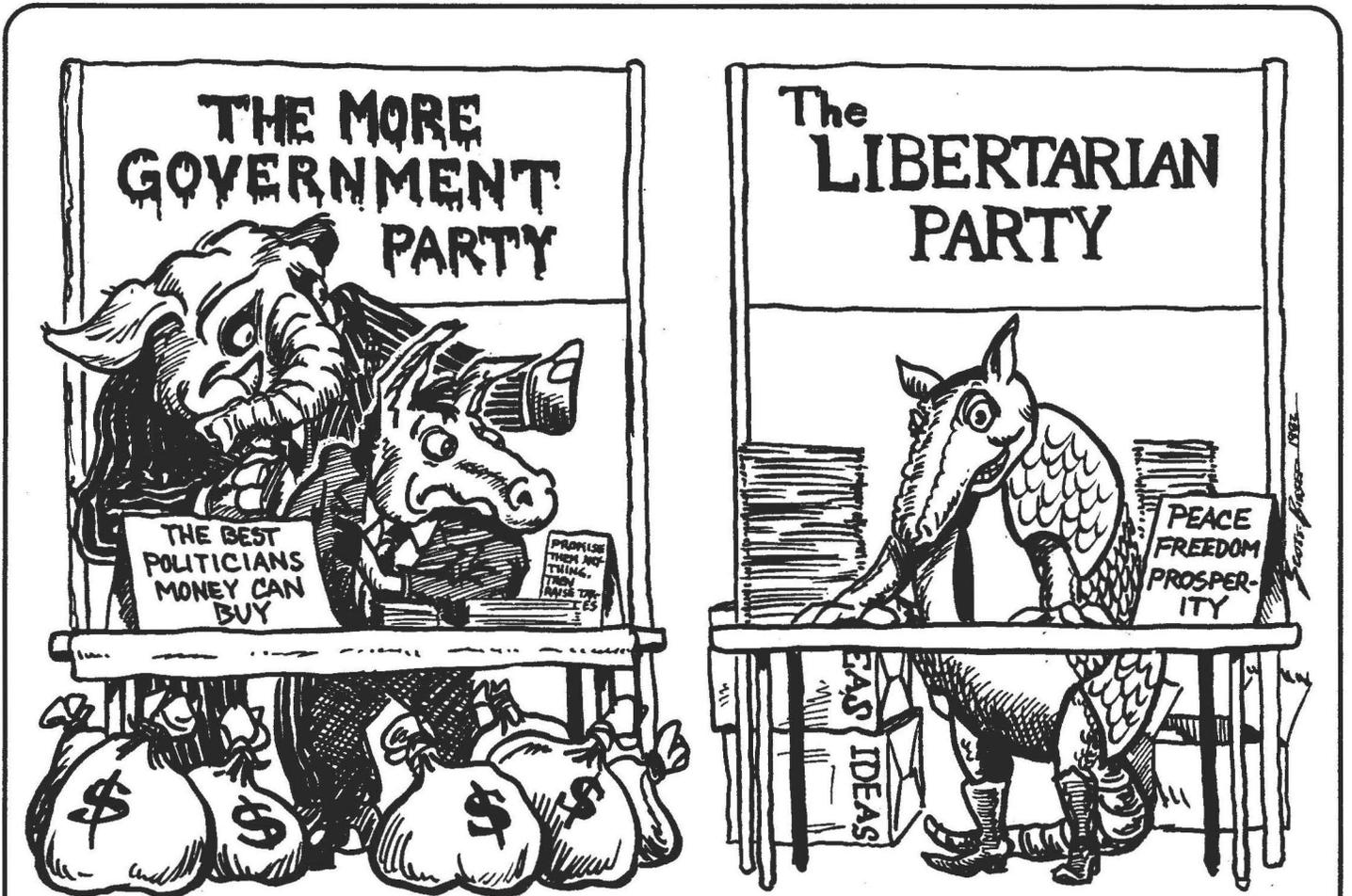
Fraser announced that gubernatorial candidate David Hutzelman would receive a certificate of appreciation for his campaign efforts. The certificate was not yet completed at the time of the meeting but Fraser said it would be soon.

He also announced he is appointing Roger Gary of San Antonio to replace Honey Lanham as Texas' alternate representative to the National LP Committee. Lanham resigned that post when she was appointed interim national director in August.

Elliot forwarded a solicitation from Gerard C. S. Mildner to work for the party as a paid organizer and fundraiser. A packet from Mildner detailed a door-to-door fundraising campaign. Committee members expressed some interest in the idea but wanted to interview Mildner in person before making a decision.

Glass said the party would do well to employ a full-time state director, as the national party does. This idea has been proposed before but rejected so far due to lack of funds.

Local Libertarian organizations will be allowed to use the state party's non-profit mailing permit so long as they abide by postal regulations, the committee decided. The regulations require that the name of the Libertarian Party of Texas be included on all matter mailed under the permit.



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\*Contributors of \$25-\$49 per month will be named Finance Committee Consulting Members.  
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# Lanham confirmed as National Director, plans year's events

Honey Lanham of Houston was appointed permanent National Director of the Libertarian Party by the LP National Committee during its Dec. 11-12 meeting in Orlando, Fla.

Lanham, who is a former State Chair for the LP of Texas, was named interim director last August when National Chair Alicia Garcia Clark fired former director Eric O'Keefe.

O'Keefe's firing on the last day of the August Natcom meeting raised a storm of protest from some committee members, who circulated a petition among national party members nationwide asking the national Judicial Committee to rule against O'Keefe's dismissal. The petition specifically protested the committee's vote to uphold Clark's termination order.

However, the Judicial Committee voted in Orlando to sustain Clark's right to fire the National Director, and the National Committee voted again to fire O'Keefe, 18-10.

After that vote, the committee voted 20-6 to confirm Lanham as permanent National Director, with several members who voted not to fire O'Keefe lending their support to Lanham.

Lanham said the national office is planning several public events next year to highlight libertarian positions on Social Security, taxation and draft registration. She said Libertarians who have run for office in previous elections will be encouraged to come out and take a stand on these issues.

Currently the National LP is working hard on its membership drive, Lanham said. The current paid national membership is about 6,000 and party officials hope to double that number by the end of February, she said.

Texas LP officials are making an extra effort to recruit enough national members to have the largest state delegation at the National Convention next summer. Lanham said this goal is possible even though Texas, with 345 national members, is far behind California, with 1,357 members.

There are many Texas activists who have either not joined the national party yet or let their memberships expire, she explained, adding, "I think there's a chance to do it if we really work hard."

Lanham said National Finance Chair Matt Monroe has started a Liberty Pledge project, similar to the LPT's Independence Pledge, to reduce the national party's debt and provide a regular monthly income.

Monroe said the National LP debt has been reduced from \$170,000 last August to \$137,000 now and will be "substantially reduced by the time of the National Convention. My goal of course is to have a debt-free party."

Monroe is Texas' representative on the National Committee and helped develop and launch the Independence Pledge when he was Finance Chair for the LPT.

The next National Committee meeting will be March 12-13 in San Mateo, Calif.

# Four Libertarians win nationwide in local races

While the Texas LP did not enjoy any electoral victories in November, Libertarians in four other states elected candidates to local office.

Paul Dillon was elected to the Philomath, Ore. City Council. Pat Summers was successful in her bid for the Missoula, Mont. Urban Transportation District Board. Bruce Womack will join the Fairbanks, Alaska Borough Assembly and Steve Oviatt is the new High Bailiff of Grand Isle County, Vermont.

# PUC from page 1

insufficient to persuade most nonlibertarians. Each advocate must understand how laws restricting liberty harm every one. The certainty this knowledge brings makes for an effective spokesman whose outrage at regulatory stupidity cannot be overlooked.

Regulation of public utilities? Just another example of misguided policies that are harming consumers and benefiting the regulated industry!

Glass is Region III Representative on the LPT State Executive Committee.

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# DIRECTORY

**Libertarian Party of Texas**  
P.O. Box 56426  
Houston, TX 77256

**Free Texas**  
2401 Manor Road #134  
Austin, TX 78722

**OFFICERS**

**Region XIII NatCom Representative**  
Matt Monroe 12  
1213 Hermann Dr #55  
Houston, TX 77004  
713-224-2919

**Region XIII Nat. Com Alternate**  
Honey Lanham  
414 North Post Oak Lane  
Houston, TX 70024  
713-682-1113

**LP of Texas Chair**  
Bill Fraser  
601 Branard  
Houston, TX 77006  
713/572-8774

**LPT Vice-Chair**  
Alma Kucymbala  
3221 Hudnall #1112  
Dallas, TX 75235  
214-521-8596

**LPT Secretary**  
Gary Edward Johnson  
1500 Royal Crest Dr. #132  
Austin, TX 78741  
512/441-6378

**Treasurer**  
Bill Elliot  
P.O. Box 56426  
Houston, TX 77256

**Finance Committee**  
Mike Holmes, Chair  
David Scott  
Bill Ware  
Sue Bjornseth

**Mailing List Committee**  
Kurtis Bortke, Chair

**COUNTY CONTACTS**

**Bandera County LP**  
Kevin James Krippa  
P.O. Box 237  
Pipe Creek, TX 78063  
512 535-4279

**Bastrop County LP**  
William G. Kelsey  
Route 1 Box 813  
Elgin 78621  
512 276-7962

**Bexar County LP**  
William Kirkham  
707 NW Loop 410 #74  
San Antonio, TX 78216  
512 340-2596

**Brazoria County LP**  
Scott Denson  
1116 Phillips St.  
Alvin, TX 77511  
713 846-8146

**Brazos County LP**  
Noel Parsons  
1009 Hereford  
College Station, TX 77840

**Cameron County LP**  
Fara A. Jones  
Route 1 Box 29  
Harlingen, TX 78550  
512 423-2104

**Collin County LP**  
Barbara Briggs  
236 Valley Creek Pl.  
Richardson, TX 75080  
214, 234-6930

**Dallas County LP**  
Martin Murray  
2211 Blue Star Lane  
Dallas, TX 75235  
214/351-0391

**Denton County LP**  
Steve Pruitt  
1901 Lakeview Circle #616  
Lewisville, TX 75067

**Donley County LP**  
William C. Taylor  
Box 667  
Clarendon, TX 79226  
806/874-3448

**Ector County LP**  
Bob Hurt  
5517 Dakota  
Odessa, TX 79762  
915-367-5100

**Ellis County LP**  
Martin Gibson  
Route 3  
Waxahachie, TX 75165

**El Paso County LP**  
John McDivitt  
LP of El Paso  
P.O. Box 12927  
El Paso, TX 79912  
915 584-3499

**Fort Bend County LP**  
Harold L. Reed  
2010 Melody Lane  
Richmond, TX  
713 342-5846

**Galveston County LP**  
Dean Allen  
P.O. Box 2362  
Texas City, TX 77590  
713/945-7874

**Gray County**  
Mark Collier  
1309 East Kings Mill  
Pampa, TX  
806 656-6753

**Gregg County LP**  
Roger Sherman  
207 East Young St.  
Longview, TX 75602  
214, 757-5449

**Hale County LP**  
Barbara Kirchhoff  
Route #2  
Hale Center, TX 79041  
806/889-3373

**Harris County LP**  
Maria Trevino  
Mailing Address:  
HCLP  
P.O. Box 27932  
Houston, TX 77027  
HCLP Headquarters:  
2520 Times Blvd.  
Houston, TX  
713/520-1524

**Harrison County LP**  
Deborah Traylor  
Box 667  
Delia  
Longview, TX 75601  
214/758-6465

**Hood County LP**  
Rick Richardson  
Rt. 3, Box 257  
Grandbury, TX 76048  
817/573-8455

**Hunt County LP**  
Betty Howard  
Route 4 Box 193-A  
Terrell 75160  
214 563-1253

**Hutchinson County LP**  
Kevin Hagan  
P.O. Box 5261  
Borger, TX 79007  
806/274-4643

**Irion County LP**  
Sandra Keen  
P.O. Box 979  
Mertzon, TX 76941  
915 835-5704

**Jefferson County LP**  
David N. Hudson  
1516 South 27th #216  
Nederland, TX 77627  
713 724-1859

**Liberty County LP**  
Charles Wiggins  
2521 Beaumont Ave.  
Liberty, TX 77575  
713 336-6956

**Lubbock County LP**  
Tracy Lanham  
2204 10th  
Lubbock TX. 79401  
806/747-4999

**McLennan County LP**  
Brian W. Carpenter  
800 North 44th St.  
Waco, TX 76710  
817, 754-8918

**Medina County LP**  
Parker Abell  
606 Pearson St.  
Natalia, TX 78059  
512/663-2105

**Midland County LP**  
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105 Thornridge Dr.  
Midland, TX. 79703  
915/694-5963

**Montgomery County LP**  
Ron Hard  
P.O. Box 432  
Conroe, TX 77305  
713/856-4897

**Nueces County LP**  
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401 Cole  
Corpus Christi, TX 78404  
512 882-4375

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455 Lexington  
Vidor, TX 77662  
713 769-1151

**Palo Pinto County LP**  
Woody Stroud  
1308 SW 11th Ave.  
Mineral Wells, TX. 76067  
817 325-9779

**Potter County LP**  
Vera Poindexter  
3600 NE 22nd  
Amarillo, TX 79107  
806/381-0855

**Randall County LP**  
Don Grabbe  
Box 304  
Amarillo, TX 79105  
806/499-3445

**San Patricio County LP**  
Frank L. Jones III  
P.O. Box 663  
Ingleside, TX 78362  
512/776-2436

**Smith County LP**  
Wayne Fleming  
3207 Shady Trail Dr.  
Tyler, TX 75702  
214/592-9876

**Tarrant County LP**  
Joe Barnett  
1013 Rosewood  
Arlington, TX 76010  
817/261-7819

**Titus County LP**  
Stephen Lunde  
1001 East Ferguson  
Mt. Pleasant, TX 75455  
214/572-9505

**Tom Green County LP**  
Brent DeMerville  
P.O. Box 781  
San Angelo, TX 76902  
915/949-7287

**Travis County LP**  
Keith Vanderlee  
7487 Chevy Chase #103  
Austin, TX 78752  
512/453-9707

**Upshur County LP**  
Gary Reese  
Route 3 Box 18  
Gilmer, TX 75644  
214 843-3944

**Van Zandt County LP**  
Bill Baird  
170 North Hwy 19  
Canton, TX 75103  
214/560-1740

**Victoria County LP**  
Michael Clark  
P.O. Box 1225  
Victoria 77902  
512/573-5683

**Walker County LP**  
David Glass  
Rt. 8, Box 258  
Huntsville, TX 77340  
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Thomas Denney  
P.O. Box 499  
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**Wharton County LP**  
Charles H. Parsons  
RR#1 Box 425  
Wharton, TX 77488  
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Box 677  
Wheeler, TX 79096

**Wichita County LP**  
Robert Becker  
Rt. 2, E9W. Arrowhead  
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817/767-1905

**Wood County LP**  
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801 Circle Dr.  
Winnsboro, TX 75494  
214/342-3093

**Young County LP**  
Dan Dotson  
805 Cherry  
Graham, TX 76046  
817/549-3663