

FREE LIBERTARIAN

newsletter of the Free Libertarian Party

OVER 20 000 VOTE FLP FLP HITS NEW HIGHS

Despite the handicaps of a low voter turnout, a newspaper strike and a miniscule campaign fund (under \$15,000), the FLP has achieved its most successful vote result to date and possibly opened up a base for a realistic shot at the magic 50,000 votes in the 1982 Governor's race.

With fairly complete but thoroughly unofficial vote returns in the race for Governor, it looks as if Gary Greenberg will receive a shade under 19,000 votes. This is almost double the total in the 1974 Governor's race and a 50% increase over the 1976 Presidential race. The returns in our other races are too incomplete to project a realistic final total but it is clear that several thousand voters who didn't vote for the top of the ticket voted for at least one other member of the statewide slate. The mutually exclusive vote total cast for at least one member of the ticket may show that as many as 25,000 voters pulled the FLP lever.

While it is evident that a portion of our increase is due to voter unhappiness with the top of major party slates, our most visible and dramatic gains are the obvious result of hard work by various regional organizations coupled with a highly responsive media. The pattern of our vote shows that the greater our visibility, the more successful our vote outcome. And in no case did we pull punches with the media on our issues. News headlines trumpeted our positions on legalizing heroin, pardoning victimless crime convicts, automatic tax cuts, breaking up New York State and so on.

A comparative look at this year's results with past results confirms this analysis. In 1974 the highest countywide vote percentage received was .51%. In 1976, our highest countywide percentage was .36%.

Our highest visibility this year occurred in Monroe county and the surrounding areas. This region also produced our strongest vote results. Monroe County (Rochester) received, in 1974, about 170 votes. In 1976 Monroe received about 750 votes. This year we received just under 2300 votes, which exceeded over 1% of the countywide vote. Let's take a look at the five counties that surround Monroe:

<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>1978 Vote</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>1976 Vote</u>	<u>%</u>
ORLEANS	274	2.19	48	.32
ONTARIO	231	.91	100	.28
WAYNE	205	.88	81	.25
LIVINGSTON	193	1.06	78	.32
GENESEE	66	.34	61	.23

By way of contrast, and as a control, consider the results of nearby Erie and Niagara counties (Buffalo area). In 1976 we had a high degree of visibility. This year we had very little visibility. In Erie, our vote fell from 1346 to 722. In Niagara we dropped from 232 to 97.

Our second greatest visibility area was Schenectady county and its neighbors. This is the home of the Capitol District FLP organization and they produced the second best area vote results. Here's how we stack up with the 1976 race:

<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>1978 Vote</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>1976 Vote</u>	<u>%</u>
SCHENECTADY	757	1.30	242	.33
ALBANY	628	.70	519	.36
SARATOGA	387	.75	220	.35
RENSSELAER	343	.60	213	.30
MONTGOMERY	102	.56	59	.23

And in our third most successful region, we had our third greatest visibility. This was in the Central New York area, including such areas as Syracuse, Ithaca, Cortland and Binghamton.

<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>1978 Vote</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>1976 Vote</u>	<u>%</u>
ONONDAGA	493	.35	312	.11
BROOME	215	.30	174	.19
TOMPKINS	127	.50	58	.20
CORTLAND	122	.80	67	.36
TIOGA	72	.51	32	.16

Another interesting example showing the difference in our results due to visibility occurred on Long Island. Nassau County, which has a modest campaign effort bolstered by the overflow of New York City advertising, turned in its highest FLP vote to date - 1337 votes - about a 40% increase over 1976. At the same time, neighboring Suffolk County, further from New York, had very little campaign activity and virtually no visibility. Here our vote total dropped from 1035 to 728.

New York City experienced a strong revival also. In our last city-wide outing, the 1977 Mayor's race, we barely exceeded 1000 votes for the entire city. This year there was a modest amount of radio advertising, a few successful TV appearances and a good amount of leafletting, and we jumped to just under 6000 votes. In Manhattan we received about .65% of the vote.

During the course of the campaign we broadcast about 200 radio commercials divided about equally among NYC, Rochester and Schenectady. We also distributed about 60,000 brochures with about one third in the Rochester area, one third in NYC and the remainder mostly in Schenectady and Nassau. The week before the election, we placed print ads in the Village Voice, Soho Weekly News, Our Town and The Villager.

The most obvious lesson of this campaign is that when Libertarians start pitching in we can greatly expand our effectiveness. Our most successful areas were those areas in which we performed our most work. The goal is clear. We must keep building up the abilities of our regional and grass-roots organizations. What occurs over the next four years will determine whether we get permanent ballot status. With permanent status, we will be one of the major political forces in this state.

FROM the CHAIR*****CHUCK STEBER

It's time for a little straight talk. Going into our 1978 State Convention, last March, the FLP seemed to be on the ropes. Racked by internal dissension the party continued its downward slide culminating in what many libertarians considered as the FLP death knell, the 1977 Mayoral race.

Many people treated the convention as if it were a wake. Several believed that this was the FLP's last State Convention. Others remarked that taking on the Governor's race would prove how comotose the party has become. There were those who couldn't conceal their pleasure at this thought.

Well, many dedicated libertarians refused to throw in the towel. Piece by piece they put together the most successful campaign the party has ever conducted. The FLP is now healthier than it has been in some time. And in the coming months you are going to start seeing signs of that new vitality. In coming issues of the newsletter we will start announcing our new projects.

There is a valuable lesson to be learned from the gubernatorial race. Individual members can make a difference. Much of our success was due to various individuals who made their own personal commitments to do things. When the personal commitments were added up, the results kept expanding. If more and more libertarians start pitching in, the FLP's effectiveness would expand geometrically. The greatest roadblock to our growth is the attitude that leaves all the work to the same handful of people who then become overwhelmed and burned out. YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE. Try it.

On behalf of the FLP I would like to invite all past members, present members, friends and supporters to renew or join the FLP and the National Libertarian Party for 1979. During the course of the year, the FLP will be conducting conferences, educational events, and social activities. Anybody who renews or joins the FLP by December 25, 1978 will be entitled to special discounts at these affairs. The annual available discounts should well exceed the cost of membership dues (\$5). In addition, any member who joins the national LP by the same date, will receive a double discount.

Membership in National has other advantages for both you and the FLP. Your National dues (\$10) not only supports the National office, but it entitles you to receive the National newspaper, the LP News. The LP News is crammed full of information about LP activities around the nation.

The advantage of your National membership to the FLP is that the allocation of delegates to the presidential nominating convention in 1979 is based on the number of National members in each state as of December 31, 1978.

For your convenience, we are placing applications for State and/or National membership on a single form. Check off the appropriate boxes. You can make out a single check to the FLP for all costs and mail it to the State office.

Remember, to qualify for the special discounts, you must get your applications into the office no later than December 25, 1978.

ELECTION FLASH!!!... DICK RANDOLPH, of Fairbanks Alaska, is the first person ever elected to a state legislature running on the Libertarian Party ticket. Dick should make quite a storm up there. With prior experience as a GOP legislator, he already knows the ropes and won't be shuffled around like just another freshman. Though he could have clinched his seat easily as the GOP candidate, he chose to run solely on the Libertarian Party line. Other Libertarian candidates in Fairbanks also made impressive showings as they were barely nudged out by the GOPs or DEMs. Alaska, the nation's heaviest taxed state now has a new force to deal with. BRAVO... Elsewhere, California has chimed in with an exciting breakthrough also. Although not running on the Libertarian line, due to election law obstacles, Ed Clark, founder and first Chairman of the New York FLP, ran for governor of California as an independent. Although the printed ballot said independent, the literature and the media identified him as the Libertarian Party candidate. Ed received almost 400,000 votes (5.5%) in his campaign. The California campaign was the most heavily financed campaign ever run by Libertarians, and the results were successful beyond expectation. A new law suit has been started by the California LP to convert the Governor's vote into a qualification for permanent ballot status. The LP is optimistic about the outcome of this suit. They have already won several earlier law suits which made it easier for independent candidates to qualify for the ballot. Hard as it is to believe, the 100,000 signature requirement to place Ed on the ballot was the result of cutting back an even more onerous petition requirement. California LP ultimately filed 185,000 signatures on behalf of Ed Clark... Coming out of the 1978 elections, it now appears that the LP has permanent ballot status (at least through the 1980 Presidential race) in at least six states... LP candidates provided the marginal difference between the winners and losers in numerous elections around the country.

BRIEFLY NOTED: NY County meeting on 12/7. Topic "The Crime of Punishment". Time 7:30PM at 4 Bedford street... TAX SEMINAR. First Thursday of each month at the FLP office at 7:30PM. Free Admission... Kings County meeting on 12/11 at home of Jesse Cardillo, 418A Humboldt St. in Greenpoint. at 7:30PM... Next state committee meeting on 1/7/79 at the FLP office at 1PM.

The Albany Chapter of the FLP would like to host the 1979 state convention. It is believed that the cost of attending, with Hotel and meals, would probably be cheaper than holding the convention in NYC. A full speaker program would be planned. The decision will be made at the next State Committee meeting. We would like to know if there are any negative or positive reactions to this plan. Would NYC people come up to Albany for such a convention. Please call either Gary Greenberg (212-478-5619) or Mike Kessler (518-371-1718)

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