

LIBERTY PLEDGE

newsletter

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NOVEMBER 2001

LP scores record-shattering 59 election wins

At least 59 Libertarians were elected to public office on November 6 — making it the single most successful Election Day in LP history.

Libertarians were elected or re-elected in nine states: Pennsylvania (25 wins), California (10), Washington state (9), Ohio (6), Michigan (3), Colorado (2), Virginia (2), Utah (1), and North Carolina (1).

“On November 6, we elected more Libertarians to office in a *single day* than we had in any previous *year* in Libertarian Party history,” said LP Political Director Ron Crickenberger. “That’s an amazing accomplishment.”

Eleven LP candidates were elected or re-elected to city councils in Colorado, Michigan, Ohio, and Washington state. Libertarian mayors were elected in Utah and Washington state.

LP candidates also won local races as Community

PLEDGERS: THANK YOU!

A special message from LP National Director Steve Dasbach to Liberty Pledge Program members:

The Libertarian Party owes you a profound debt of thanks. As you may have heard, the national office has been suffering from a Mail Embargo, caused by the recent anthrax attacks in Washington. Because the Post Office is decontaminating its facilities and irradiating old mail, we’ve received almost no mail for the past three weeks. And Post Office officials won’t say when regular delivery will resume.

“As a result, we’re getting almost no incoming donations or membership renewals, and we have fallen tens of thousands of dollars behind on our bills.

“What has kept us going during this crisis? People like you: Our Liberty Pledgers. Thanks to your regular donations — especially by credit card — we’ve gotten just enough money to keep our national office functioning. With your help, and the support of LP members who have made emergency online contributions, we’ve been able to pay our rent, send Unified Membership Program checks to state affiliates, fund our media efforts, and more. Without your regular, reliable help, we would have been in serious trouble.

“We don’t say thank-you enough, so I wanted you to know that we appreciate what you do for the LP. You represent the best of the Libertarian spirit. Thank you!”

College Trustees, Aldermen, Soil & Water Conservation District Directors, City Commissioners, Township Trustees, Inspectors of Elections, and County Constables.

With about 300 candidates on the ballot, the LP won about one in every five races it contested — which is also one of the highest winning percentages in party history, said Crickenberger.

In disappointing high-profile campaigns around the country, William Redpath won 0.76% for Virginia governor; Mark Edgerton won 0.22% for New Jersey governor; and Kenny Kramer won 0.18% for mayor of New York City.

The party’s previous “best-ever” Election Day had been November 1997, when 39 LP candidates won public office. That same year, a total of 44 LP candidates were elected to office.

Ed Thompson launches campaign for Wisconsin governor

Ed Thompson has formally launched his campaign to become the next governor of Wisconsin — promising to run as a “common, hard-working man” on a platform of lower taxes and less government.

“For the past year, people have been telling me they’re ready for a change,” said

Thompson, who made his campaign announcement on the steps of the state Capitol in Madison on November 15. “People are ready for a breath of fresh air in Wisconsin politics.”

Thompson, the brother of former governor Tommy Thompson, currently serves as the mayor of Tomah.



■ Ed Thompson: Tours Wisconsin.

His campaign got off to an explosive start with a “whirlwind” one-day tour of the state that included stops in Milwaukee, Green Bay, Wausau,

Superior, Eau Claire, and Sparta.

“We’re going to pull this thing off,” said Thompson. “There’s no doubt in my mind.”

A July survey found that 34% of state residents would “consider voting for a third party candidate like Ed Thompson.”

New Libertarian Party forming

By Sue Meade
Paulding Neighbor Staff Writer

A third political party was formed last month in Paulding County to give residents more choices.

The Libertarian Party of Paulding County was formed on August 23 with around 30 charter members.

The stated purpose of the Libertarian Party of Paulding County is to promote and protect the freedom of the individual and to reduce the power and presence of government in resident's lives.

"Basically, the whole premise of the Libertarian Party is that individual rights and responsibilities have preeminence over the government," said founding chairman Steve Everly.

"People are better able to make their own decisions, rather than the government making them for them. Libertarians try to find their own solutions rather than ask the government to fix everything," he added.

State Executive Director Mark Mosely led the members through

the chartering process and conducted the first election of county officers. In addition to Everly as chairman, John Temple was chosen as vice chairman, Tara Brown as treasurer and Jeff Moravetz was elected secretary.

"This is the first time Paulding has had a Libertarian party. It is a result of just having no choice anymore," said Everly. "The Democratic Party has let a lot of people down, and the Republican Party has let a lot of people down. There really is not that much difference between the two anymore. We're tired of seeing the same old stuff, the same old tired politics."

Members of Paulding's Libertarian Party are concerned with issues such as reducing government influence on schools, easing the tax burden, and keeping true to the second amendment right to bear arms.

The founding of this charter group makes a total of 22 county affiliates in the Georgia Libertarian Party, which is the second largest group in the nation.

"The Libertarian Party is the third largest political party in this

country. It is way ahead of the Green Party or any others," said Everly.

"We are forming this party to give Paulding County a voice in the state platform. We're looking forward to putting a slate of candidates in the 2002 election to give people a real choice," said Everly.

Vice-chairman John Temple of New Georgia said he has some future political aspirations.

"I joined this group because I am interested in politics and want to get involved. Eventually down the road, I would like to run for office," said Temple.

"With the Libertarian Party, you're allowed to have thoughts of your own. We have real discussions. Not everything has to follow party lines. I feel like I am a responsible adult, and I would like to have more control over my own life and my own money," said Temple.

The Libertarian Party will hold meetings at the Western Sizzlin in Hiram on the third Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. The public is invited to attend. For more information call (678) 363-0907 or email at whthorn@bellsouth.net.



The Denver Post / Brian Brainerd

A LIBERTARIAN KICKOFF: Libertarian gubernatorial candidate Bob Glass and Elizabeth Bennett, assistant chairwoman of his campaign, submit his papers Thursday at the Colorado secretary of state's office. Glass will square off in a rare Libertarian primary fight with candidate James Vance.

- ▲ *The Paulding Neighbor*,
Dallas, Georgia, September 13, 2001
- ◀ *The Denver Post*,
Denver, Colorado, September 28, 2001
- ▼ *The La Porte Herald-Argus*,
Norfolk, Virginia, October 19, 2001

More than \$700 raised by party

The Libertarian Party of La-Porte County raised more than \$700 at a port-a-pit chicken fund-raiser last Saturday to benefit the families of United Flight 93 heroes.

The fund-raising drive will continue until Veterans Day (Nov. 11). Anyone interested in making a contribution may contact Don Heichel II at 324-7818 or Greg Kelter at 324-4229.

Libertarian dominates debate

Court upholds Ohio standard for listing parties on ballots

BY JOE BORDA
Times-Mirror Staff Writer

Accountant William Redpath, Libertarian Party candidate for governor, received powerful applause yesterday morning at Broad Run High School when he called for the legalization of marijuana.

"If we are going to be a free nation," he asserted, "it's time to start being free. The people to my right are just wrong."

Every other candidate and candidate's representative present stated that they were opposed to the legalization of the drug.

Del. Dick Black (R-32) observed, "Legalization has not been successful where it has been tried," adding that the experience of the Netherlands has been particularly painful.

Black gave no examples of the negative experiences caused by drugs in that small, European country.

Black's challenger and Loews Island resident, Patti Morrissey, said that the drug should not be legalized because research shows marijuana use to be potentially harmful to health.

Mark Tate, who was standing in for Republican gubernatorial candidate Mark Earley, said that Earley opposes the use of the drug because it has many negative health effects and promotes gang activity.

Stand-in for Democratic



Times-Mirror Staff Photo/Roman Grinev

MAKING THE ROUNDS: Broad Run High School seniors asked tough questions of Patti Morrissey, running for the House of Delegates in District 32, and other candidates at the political forum at the school yesterday morning.

candidate for governor Mark Warner, David Whitmer, said that while the Warner campaign may not fully agree with all of Early's reasons for opposing the drug's use, they nevertheless still oppose it.

Redpath received another ovation from the Broad Run seniors, some of whom will be able to vote in the November election, when he stated his reasons for opposing the Standards of Learning tests.

"I do not like SOLs. They are an entirely 'top-down' examination and are embarrassing to students," he stated.

Redpath went on to explain that the solution to

the problem of a shortfall in academic achievement by students in public schools lay in increasing competition by expanding the number of private sector institutions.

"Tuition tax credits would make private schools more affordable for everyone," he said, noting the benefits that had accrued to consumers, like five-cent, long-distance calls, when AT&T was broken up 20 years ago into local telephone companies.

COLUMBUS (AP) — The Secretary of State's office said it was pleased with a U.S. Supreme Court decision to let stand an Ohio law that makes it difficult for minor party candidates to put their political affiliations on the ballot.

Spokesman Carlo Loparo said the ruling Monday "further demonstrates that Ohio's benchmark for establishing political-party identification is reasonable with the law."

The Libertarian Party of Ohio claimed Ohio election law penalizes their candidates because other candidates have their affiliations listed on the ballot.

▲ *The Alliance Review*, Alliance, Ohio, October 3, 2001

◀ *The Loudoun Times-Mirror*, Leesburg, Virginia, October 17, 2001

▼ *The Virginian-Pilot*, Norfolk, Virginia, October 13, 2001

Libertarian candidate doesn't mind tilting at (political) windmills

If passion were any gauge, William Redpath would be right up there in the polls with his gubernatorial opponents, the two Marks. Redpath, the Libertarian Party candidate for governor, certainly is campaigning diligently, can detail his core issues — election reform, tax cuts, an end to capital punishment — and wants to win.

He's also a realist. "I have a chance . . . but it's 10,000 to 1 against," Redpath told *The Virginian-Pilot's* editorial board members.

That statement, at least with me, earned Redpath instant credibility.

So rather than victory, the 44-year-old Herndon resident carries on another task. That quest, perhaps quixotic, is to propel his party's platform into the public debate and continue the long, workmanlike task of cementing "Libertarian" as the



ROGER CHESLEY

of his campaign: Less intrusion by government. A repeal of "consensual crime laws" in Virginia. Cuts in government spending, but implementation of tuition tax credits for K-12 education.

And while Redpath has support for some of his views, it remains doubtful that he and the party can ever make huge inroads into the two-party system in the United States, as well as Virginia.

"I don't see a new party developing that has any purchase or pull on the American elector-

ate," notes Robert D. Holsworth, director of the Virginia Commonwealth University's Center for Public Policy.

"Even at the state level, they [Democrats and Republicans] have paid staff and are heavily computerized," Holsworth continues. "How do you develop and sustain a third party, when major parties have a major organizational advantage?"

Holsworth says the U.S. electoral system, unlike some overseas, places a premium on gathering majorities instead of targeting small percentages of voters.

Some third-party and independent candidates have been able to gain occasional success through personality and celebrity (think Jesse Ventura in Minnesota) or considerable wealth (think former presidential candidate Ross Perot). What's lacking is a sustained, cogent, attractive platform that

could woo enough voters from the two major parties.

Also, many people still see a vote for a third party as a wasteful choice, knowing that their selection usually has little chance of winning.

That's why Redpath is pushing instant runoff voting, a system that could help third-party candidates. Voters rank candidates in order of preference.

If the leading vote-getter doesn't get a majority, according to the nonprofit Center for Voting and Democracy, "a series of runoff counts are conducted, using each voter's top choice indicated on the ballot. The candidate who received the fewest first-place ballots is eliminated. All ballots are then retabulated, with each ballot

counting as one vote for each voter's favorite candidate who is still in contention."

Sound complicated? It is a little, but it's not so outlandish. San Francisco will have a charter amendment on the ballot next year to implement instant runoff voting in all citywide elections. Other localities around the country might switch to this voting method.

I do agree with some of Redpath's platform, and I'm glad he's enunciating those issues. He would end Virginia's archaic, discriminatory sodomy law. He would allow Virginia voters to petition directly to get initiatives on the ballot, instead of having to seek the General Assembly's permission.

I oppose the tuition tax credit

plank, in part, because I fear it would damage the public schools in the long run.

Alas, a poll last month gave Redpath just 1 percent of the vote. He has not been invited to debates featuring opponents Mark Earley and Mark Warner. Also, the Libertarian standard-bearer will spend a fraction of what the Earley and Warner campaigns have at their disposal.

While I don't mind voting my conscience, I'll gravitate to one of the Marks come Nov. 6.

Still, I think it's great to have more political participation, not less. Will the Libertarians become the third standard party? Maybe not. But at least they're spicing up the political debate.

Roger Chesley is an associate editor of *The Virginian-Pilot*. Reach him at 446-2329 or e-mail him at rchesley@pilotonline.com

Alas, a poll last month gave Redpath just 1 percent of the vote.

Another Thompson for governor of Wisconsin?

Ed Thompson says he is prepared to follow in the footsteps of his brother Tommy and run for governor of the state of Wisconsin.

Thompson, who was elected as mayor of Tomah in the Spring 2000 election, stopped in Abbotsford on Friday during a listening tour around the state to measure support for his candidacy. He said he has only heard encouragement for his "working man's" position on many issues affecting the state, and that he intends to announce sometime in November that he is running for governor under the Libertarian Party banner.

His resume is quite colorful. The junior Thompson operated a small grocery store in Kendall, Wis., which he sold in the 1970's. He has owned three different taverns, sold real estate and securities, and was a guard/cook/foreman at the federal prison in Oxford, Wis. Thompson currently operates a supper club in Tomah in addition to performing his duties as mayor.

Some time ago, Thompson was embroiled in a dispute over video poker machines and his support for Vegas-style gambling to compete with the state-monitored gambling. He said that video poker machines "help small taverns a lot and level the playing field."

Since last April, Ed Thompson and his entourage have been traveling the state from Milwaukee to Ashland learning what is on the minds of voters.

"People are basically fed up with career politicians," he said. "Our system has produced a horrible tax situation with the third highest tax rate in the nation. Our Legislature and Governor just worked together to pass the worst budget in the nation."

Thompson said he agrees with Todd Berry of the Wisconsin Taxpayer's Alliance that the budget is effectively \$400 million short. The nearly-declared candidate said smaller government is needed and taxes must be cut. Bloated programs like the prison system must be scaled back and that monitoring bracelets should be used in lieu of incarceration of many prisoners.

"In addition, our war on drugs is a total failure," said Thompson. "It is a medical and character problem, not a criminal prob-

lem. The war on drugs is not winnable. We could control the situation and maybe even put a tax on drugs."

Thompson said farmers are concerned about the operation of the DNR, property rights and fair pricing of their products. He said schools need to have enough classroom materials and more local control.

As far as politicians go, Thompson said term limits are a must. He said two terms for a governor and a legislator are enough.

"I don't see any long-term planning," he said. "Their short-term outlook seems geared on getting re-elected."

Once signed up by an uncle as a Democrat, Thompson claims to have been an independent all his life. He said he will assemble good people around him, no matter what party they are from, to perform the mission of downsizing government and making it accountable to the taxpayers.

He notes the Libertarian Party stands for less government, liberty and freedom. In his view, the Libertarian motto combines the civil liberties message of the Democrats and the pro-business approach of the Republicans.

One line he draws is with special interest groups. He said they won't get any favors from him, which should be a two-way street because special interest groups don't give sizeable donations to third-party candidates, anyway.

Thompson says he has opened up city government in Tomah. City council meetings are televised, as is a community update segment done regularly. He said he will do his best to open up government at the state level as well.

Thompson said when he was elected mayor, the city government operated with 24 committees. He has worked with the eight-member city council to whittle the committees down to 15.

An interesting parallel occurs with Gov. Jesse Ventura of Minnesota, who won election to the governor's post there as a third-party candidate.

"I recently met with him for over an hour," Thompson said. "He really gave me inspiration. He said if I do well in the primary, he will be over here to help."

Getting on the ballot will be somewhat of a challenge. Thompson needs 10,000



Hat close to ring

Ed Thompson, Tomah, stopped in Abbotsford last Friday to discuss his potential as a Libertarian Party gubernatorial candidate. Thompson, who is the brother of former governor Tommy Thompson, said he will declare his candidacy in November.

signatures just to get on the primary ballot. His campaign will be eligible for matching funds if he receives five percent of the popular vote in the primary.

Without formally announcing his candidacy, Thompson says he has raised over \$40,000 "from the rank and file working person, in small and medium-sized donations." A recent fund-raising event in Baraboo raised over \$7,000. He says a portion of the funds will be used to produce a mailer that will be going out soon.

Thompson said being associated with his brother Tommy will help his campaign.

"After all, we had the same father and mentor," he said.

Gov. Scott McCallum has a few shortcomings, Thompson said. He characterizes Gov. McCallum as a nice guy, but not a dynamic leader. He says he is a career politician who knows how to side-step questions. Thompson said people respect

direct responses to questions.

"Many people have told me they just can't vote for him," said Thompson.

On the Democratic side, he said James Doyle is "disliked" and Tom Barrett is "unknown."

Thompson, who is divorced, is proud of his four children. One daughter is a teacher in Virginia and his other daughter is a nurse practitioner in Kentucky. One son is a senior at UW-Stevens Point majoring in math, and another son is studying to be a lawyer at UW-Madison.

"He is already organizing 'Students for Ed Thompson' on the UW campus," Thompson said.

He points to a recent survey commissioned by the Tavern League that showed 34 percent of respondents would consider voting for him and 22 percent said maybe.

"Jesse won with 37 percent of the vote," Thompson said.

▲ *The Tribune Phonograph*, Abbotsford, Wisconsin, October 17, 2001

▼ *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, September 11, 2001

Libertarian running hard for governor

Ken Krawchuk of Abington is building on his last effort. He wants school vouchers and cuts in government.

By Thomas Fitzgerald
INQUIRER HARRISBURG BUREAU

The last time he ran for governor of Pennsylvania, Ken Krawchuk got 33,591 votes.

He finished fourth out of four candidates in 1998. But Krawchuk's 1.1 per-

cent of the vote was the best a Libertarian gubernatorial nominee had ever done, so he declared a sort of victory and began planning for 2002.

"I had so much fun, I thought I'd do it again," said Krawchuk, 48, a computer consultant from Abington. "By any measure, it was a record-setting campaign for the Libertarian Party."

That fall, Krawchuk and his wife, Roberta, drove more than 10,000 miles around the state, camping out between appearances. "We love camping," he said. "It was like a second honeymoon." The campaign cost about \$11,000.

This time, Krawchuk started much earlier. He said he hoped to raise \$100,000, enough to pay professional petitioners to gather signatures to get the party on the ballot, with some left over for campaigning.

Krawchuk holds Libertarian positions in favor of limited government and free-market solutions to social problems.

KRAWCHUK from B1
"Just cut back government in general," he said.

In education, he favors vouchers that would allow students to attend any public school in the state. He also would end the practice of seizing the assets of people accused of crimes and would eliminate the state board that sets minimum prices for milk. "They literally transfer money from the pockets of inner-city people ... to the pockets of the factory farms," he said.

To get on the ballot, Krawchuk, or any independent candidate for governor, must gather signatures on nominating petitions equal to 2 percent of the votes for the highest-polling candidate in this fall's state-

wide election for appellate judges. State law also requires that the signatures come from at least 10 counties.

Based on past judicial races, Krawchuk estimates he will need about 24,000 signatures — plus a cushion to withstand challenges.

Which leads him to another campaign issue: ballot access.

"Everybody deserves a chance," he said.

In 1994, Krawchuk ran for the state House; he got only 5 percent of the vote but was the first third-party candidate to be endorsed by the National Rifle Association.

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Ken Krawchuk hopes to raise \$100,000 for his campaign.