

# LIBERTY PLEDGE

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## newsletter

### CAMPAIGN 2002...

## *LP passes halfway mark to 2,002 candidate goal*

**T**he Libertarian Party has passed the halfway mark in its ambitious effort to run 2,002 candidates this year, LP Political Director Ron Crickenberger announced.

As of mid-June, about 1,100 Libertarian candidates declared their intention to run for local, state, and federal office, he said.

"That's already more than we've ever run in a non-presidential year!" said Crickenberger. It's also closing in on the record-setting slate of 1,400 LP candidates in 2000.

In addition, the party has crested the 200 mark for candidates for the U.S. House – "putting us close to our goal of challenging a majority of Congressional districts for the second time," he said.

To reach the goal of 2,002 candidates, a number of states have announced their largest-ever slates of LP candidates:

■ **Florida:** Thanks to Operation "Full Slate," the state LP is fielding candidates in 86 races for State House – which is just seven shy of the 93 Republican candidates, and 19 better than the 67 Democrats who are running. It's also the largest third-party slate in Florida since the 1920s.

■ **Alabama:** 61 Libertarians have been nominated for public office – including John Sophocleus, the first Libertarian candidate for governor in two decades. "This ensures voters will have another option," said State Chair Mark Bodenhausen.

■ **North Carolina:** The 144 Libertarians running for office include candidates for a majority in both houses of the General Assembly, said state Executive Director Sean Haugh. "Wow!" he said. "Only the two older parties have ever done anything like that."

### NATIONAL CONVENTION..

## *Delegates pick new Chair; change the LP Platform*

**L**ibertarians emerged from their National Convention with a new chair and significant changes to the LP Platform.

The convention, held July 3-7 in Indianapolis, Indiana, drew more than 600 delegates and about 800 total attendees. During the four days:

■ Geoff Neale, past Texas LP State Chair, was elected national chairman. With 45.8% on the first ballot, he bested Massachusetts LP State Chair Eli Israel (31.2%) and Massachusetts activist George Phillies (21.6%). After Israel withdrew from the race, Neale's win was confirmed on a voice-vote second ballot.

■ Delegates approved a new "Executive Summary" for the Platform, which adds a one-sentence overview of the party's position on each issue. Also, for the first time, delegates approved a plank endorsing proportional representative voting.

■ Cato Institute President Ed Crane was presented with the Champion of Liberty Award for his role in founding the influential think tank. In a gracious acceptance speech, he said, "There is only one party that cares about the essence of America, and I'm very proud to accept an award from that party this evening."

■ New Mexico Republican Governor Gary Johnson blasted Drug Prohibition, saying it "is tearing this country apart." In addition, he applauded Libertarians for "what you've done for this country."



■ **Geoff Neale: Wins on second ballot.**

## *Libertarians work to pass FIJA Amendment in South Dakota*

**A** Libertarian-led organization has launched a campaign to pass a FIJA constitutional amendment in South Dakota this November.

Led by longtime LP activist Bob Newland, Common Sense Justice is working to try to convince voters to add Fully Informed Jury Amendment (FIJA) language to the state constitution.

If the measure passes, it will "effectively enact a significant portion of the Libertarian Party's national platform" in South Dakota, said Newland.

Legally titled "Initiated Constitutional Amendment A," the measure allows defendants to present evidence to a jury that laws under which they are charged are flawed, or have been wrongly applied, or that the statutory punishment is too harsh.

The measure would be a powerful weapon to fight against unfair "victimless crime" laws in the state, said Newland, who is also the LP's candidate for attorney general.

Supporters of Amendment A submitted about 35,000 signatures in July 2000 to qualify the measure for the ballot.

# Party helps keep others 'honest'

By PAT HAMMOND  
Sunday News Staff

Libertarians, accustomed to being political outsiders, may be startled to learn that some New Hampshire party leaders credit them with holding the major parties true to their own convictions.

That may come as a surprise to the voting public, too — at least those who have heard of the party whose standard-bearers are frequently barred from candidate debates and even less frequently win elections.

And though Libertarians may be having an impact in shaping issues, they make up only a small part of the New Hampshire voting public — far fewer than the voters who file as “undeclared.”

“The Libertarians somehow help keep Republicans focused on their free market principles,” former state Sen. Jim Rubens said. “By being a competitive party among whose core philosophies are free market, limited government and limited taxation they remind Republicans through the power of competition to stay focused on our own adherence to the principles,” the Etna conservative said.

“They sharpen up the Republican party to remember its principles in the same way that the Green party, during competitive elections, reminds Democrats of their principles — the core philosophy of bigger government and more government services,” Rubens said.

New Hampshire House Democratic Leader Peter Burling remembers when there were as many as four members of the Libertarian Party in the House, back in the last decade.

“The Libertarians we used to have were thoughtful, capable people who brought a very different perspective to the Legislature and focused all our attention quite appropriately on the question, what does government do well and why does it do anything else?” Burling said.

“The Libertarians were very close allies of mine in the drug asset forfeiture fight of 1993 and 1994,” he said, “but I think we would have differed fundamentally over the Claremont rulings and education funding.”

“The real Libertarians, the ones who understood it as a philosophy, really had an important thing to offer — the constant questioning of what we choose to do through government power,” Burling said. “And I am pleased to say guys like (former state Rep.) Don Gorman never hesitated to admit that they were sometimes conflicted by their positions.”

Some party activists disagree that Libertarians are playing a meaningful role in politics in



KEN BLEVENS



HOWARD WILSON

## Who's running for what

Here's a list of Libertarian candidates seeking office in New Hampshire.

- Ken Blevens**, U.S. Senate.
- Dan Belforti**, U.S. Representative District 1.
- Rosalie Babiarz**: U.S. Representative District 2.
- John Babiarz**, Governor.
- Carmine Smith**, State Senate District 2.
- Brad Dorsey**, State Representative Merrimack District 06.
- Frederick A. Strong**, State Representative Coos District 1.
- Howard L. Wilson**, State Representative Merrimack District 1.
- William Discipio**, State Representative Rockingham District 11.
- Rhonda M. Keiper**, State Representative Hillsborough District 15.
- Leonard Epstein**, State Representative Rockingham District 18.
- Robert Kelley**, State Representative Merrimack District 22.
- Greg A. Sears**, State Representative District 26.
- Rich Tomasso**, State Representative Hillsborough District 29.
- Phil Greazzo**, State Representative Hillsborough District 46.
- Richard B. Kahn**, Executive Council District 4.
- Howard L. Wilson**, Andover selectman.

New Hampshire.

“I don't see them as players,” state Sen. Lou D'Allesandro said. “Maybe the libertarian philosophy goes into both parties in terms of ‘less government is good government,’” the Manchester Democrat said, “but the Libertarians as an entity have no base of support.”

D'Allesandro said the number of voters who declare themselves “undeclared” is of far greater significance in New Hampshire politics than the Libertarians.

“That body moves,” D'Allesandro said, referring to the undeclared, “sometimes to the left and sometimes to the right. That sentiment has grown dramatically in New Hampshire in recent years. They don't want to be declared part of a party but they do want to vote.”

Secretary of State Bill Gardner said undeclared (sometimes also referred to as independent) voters now outnumber the voters in each of the two major parties.

Data from the year 2000 reflect 240,000 undeclared voters, 230,000 Republicans and 167,000 Democrats, he said.

Libertarians claim 427 dues-paying members in New Hampshire, but Libertarian candidates have received thousands of votes. John Lewicke, for one, a virtual unknown running against Republican Charles Bass and Democratic incumbent Dick Swett, in the 2nd congressional district race in 1994, garnered 2,986 votes (1.8 percent), even after he withdrew from the race and endorsed Bass, who subsequently won.

Rubens thinks this scenario could take place again, when Libertarian Ken Blevens faces Gov. Jeanne Shaheen and either U.S. Sen. Bob Smith or U.S. Rep. John E. Sununu in the elections for U.S. Senate in November.

“A Libertarian candidate can rarely win,” Rubens said, “and certainly Ken Blevens isn't going to win. But if you have an extremely close race the Libertarian candidate should be cognizant of that and, in my opinion, throw his support behind the Republican, particularly when we have a conservative running against a liberal.”

Gorman, a Libertarian trainer and strategist who has run seminars in many states, acknowledged Blevens' potential usefulness to the Democratic or Republican candidate, and went one step further.

“Ken Blevens will decide whether a Democrat or a Republican goes back to the U.S. Senate,” Gorman said.

“Do you think we (the Libertarian Party) are not going to get calls from the Democratic and the Republican National Committees? Of course we are,” Gorman said. “This isn't never-never land, this is real.”

Libertarians, though generally considered to be more allied to the Republicans than the Democrats, actually share common ground with both parties, analysts such as Burling observe.

“The Libertarians are not radical-right Republicans, they are not Republicans hiding out as Libertarians,” Burling said.

“I think, in the larger sense, a pale shadow of libertarian philosophy is occasionally abducted by the right wing of the Republican party and used for their own purposes, but I don't think the right wing of the Republican party are true Libertarians,” he said. “They tend to be much more mean-spirited than the Libertarians in the House ever were.”

Burling said his views have also been shaped by areas in which the Libertarians and the Democrats overlap, such as reproductive choice and the rights of people facing drug forfeiture.

“I was able to find the libertarian philosophical support for the notion that if you are going to use civil law to take over someone's property, you should at least have in place minimal civil rights protection and, to a certain extent, proportionality — meaning let the punishment fit the crime.”

“In large part, it was a joint effort involving (then Attorney General) Jeff Howard, myself, Libertarian members of the House and some of the Democrats on the Judiciary Committee,” he said.

Burling said his view was shaped by the “polite, thoughtful approach” brought by the Libertarians in the House.

Democrats and Libertarians differ on fiscal policy, Burling said, but not on social policy. Both Democrats and Libertarians agree that government power in shaping social decision-making is to be avoided, he said, and that individuals should exercise choice as much as possible.

Gorman said the Libertarians' adherence to the Constitution is critical to understanding them. “Probably the biggest effect we have in this state,” he said, “is we continually point to the Constitution as the bedrock of all the laws that are being created in the State House. If it's not constitutional, it shouldn't even happen.”

Sometimes a Libertarian sees a solution before his counterparts in the other parties do, Gorman said.

Blevens, testifying on state education funding, proposed that the state zero-budget education by declaring zero adequacy.

“Ken's argument was ‘go to zero,’” Gorman said. “It fills the mandate of the Supreme Court. And they laughed him out of the room.”

“But now,” Gorman said, “we have legislators promoting that zero-based idea.”

### ▲ The Union Leader

Manchester, New Hampshire  
June 2, 2002



# Libertarian Party holds nominating convention

MITCHELL (AP) — Members of South Dakota's Libertarian Party held their state convention this weekend at a restaurant in Mitchell.

Though only 25 people attended to nominate candidates and approve ballot initiatives, Libertarians called the convention a success. The number is five times as many people who attended two years ago.

Outgoing party chairman Nathan Barton of Rapid City and other members acknowledged that putting Libertarians on the ballot for state offices is mainly an exercise in party building and getting name recognition.

"Of course, I'm not going to be elected attorney general," Bob Newland of Hermosa said.

But Newland said that as a candidate for state office, he could be in a better position to push a ballot initiative that would permit lawyers to argue to juries that they have the right to consider whether a law is legal, whether it is misapplied in individual cases and whether punishment provisions are excessive.

New party chairman Brian Lerohl of Fairview said his main goal for the Libertarian Party is to have it call atten-

tion to legislative attacks on the Bill of Rights.

But not all members of the party are so pessimistic about their chances of winning.

At the top of the ticket are a few candidates running for federal office who are not willing to say that they are running only to make a point.

U.S. Senate candidate Kurt Evans, a Wessington Springs teacher, and House candidate Terry Begay of Volin, a retired corrections officer, think they have a chance to win.

"It's a long shot, but I would not rule it out," Evans said. "Tell the truth, and trust voters to make the right decision."

Evans ran unsuccessfully for the House in 1996.

Begay had planned to run as a Democrat but became a Libertarian in January when he decided he did not want to be bound by the Democratic party line.

South Dakota Libertarians are drawn to the party by its philosophy of minimalist government. The party not only draws former Democrats and Republicans but also people such as Eric Nace of Mitchell, who said he leaned toward anarchism before joining the Libertarian party.

## OpEdge

QUOTES AND STATS  
TO MAKE YOU THINK

### Texas Libertarians rising

While the Texas Republicans meet in convention this week in Dallas, a group that could cause them problems will convene a couple miles away.

No, not the Democrats, though they are indeed the Republicans' biggest competitor. The Democrats meet a week later in El Paso.

The potential saddleburr for the Republicans is the Libertarian Party. It will hold its nominating convention several blocks away in Dallas while the GOP, which holds every statewide elective office, hears from state and national officials.

While the Green Party is a potential drain from the Democrats, by drawing off environmentalists and others to the Democrats' left, the Libertarians flank the Republicans on both the right and left.

They want minimum government regulation of industries, few subsidies to businesses and individuals, and little government involvement.

"Libertarians are about individual rights and responsibilities more than anything else," said Geoffrey Neale of Austin, the Texas party's chairman.

But that includes keeping government out of people's personal lives, and their bedrooms — while the Republicans officially condemn homosexuality, and want to outlaw the current right of most Texas women to choose whether to abort a pregnancy.

Dave McNeely,

Austin American-Statesman

# Metheny to run for LaPorte County sheriff

BY JEFF TUCKER  
The News-Dispatch

The Libertarian Party of LaPorte County has announced it has slated more candidates for the fall election, including nominating local cable television host Dennis Metheny for LaPorte County sheriff.

Metheny, 54, will face incumbent Democrat Jim Arnold and Republican challenger Mark Ludlow in the Nov. 4 election.

"I think it's time that we bring fiscal responsibility back to the sheriff's department. I want less government and I want a more constitutional government," said Metheny, host for 6 1/2 years of the sometimes controversial show "Time to Blow the Whistle" on local public access television.

Metheny said he has invited Arnold to be a guest on his show to debate the issues.

"I've told him I haven't attacked anybody that has come on my show to discuss anything," Metheny said. "He told me to keep it clean and I said I'll

keep it clean if you'll keep it clean."

Arnold said Thursday he was open to the proposal.

"I consider it an honor that he would invite me and I will seriously consider appearing on his program," the sheriff said.

Metheny, who lives in Coolspring Township just outside Michigan City, said one local law enforcement program he'd seek to nix as sheriff would be the enforcement of Indiana's law requiring passengers of vehicles to wear seat-belts.

"I'm against this seat-belt pullover," he said. "I think it's an infringement on our constitutional rights and I'm going to do everything possible as sheriff to get the law removed. In this county, they pick up more than a thousand people every three months. That's \$25 a ticket and all that money leaves La-

Porte County."

The sheriff's race will mark Metheny's eighth election attempt, all unsuccessful so far, including a 1998 run for the Democratic nomination for state representative and seven attempts for Michigan City Area Schools school board. The fall election will be the first time Metheny has run as a Libertarian.

"I just felt that the Democratic Party and I no longer were on the same level," Metheny explained, saying he had been an active Democrat since 1988 before leaving the party last year. "The LaPorte County leaders don't seem to be working for the people."

Most recently, Metheny was defeated in the May primary when he sought an at-large seat on the board of trustees for the Michigan City Area Schools. Metheny finished third of three candidates, garnering 1,156 votes, or 24 percent of the votes in the race.

The local Libertarians have also filed other candidates to fill other ballot vacancies.

William R. Fennell will run for the

LaPorte County Council's 3rd District seat and Walter Hurt will run for the Council's 2nd District seat.

Those candidates join Doug Barnes and Don Heichel, who were nominated in April to run for the council's 1st and 4th district seats, respectively.

Local Libertarian Party Chairman Greg Kelver noted while Heichel is running against Democratic incumbent Ann Spevak for the 4th District seat, no Republican ran for the seat in the May primary, although the local GOP met in a caucus in LaPorte Thursday night to fill ballot vacancies.

Kelver said filling so many vacancies creates a historic election for the third party.

"We have now slated candidates for all County Council races in LaPorte County," Kelver said Wednesday in a news release announcing the latest Libertarian candidates. "For the first time ever, LaPorte County voters who believe in smaller, less intrusive government can cast their vote for local Libertarian candidates. We sincerely

hope voters will get informed about our candidates and take advantage of this opportunity to send a message to the old parties this fall."

Kelver also noted Libertarians plan to run candidates for state representative seats as well. Presently, state Rep. Scott Pelath, D-Michigan City, and state Rep. Mary Kay Budak, R-LaPorte, are unchallenged in the fall election. Kelver said Libertarians plan to announce a candidate for Indiana's 2nd Congressional District race as well.

"As we run more candidates and voters learn about the principles of the Libertarian Party, it really is inevitable that Libertarians will start winning elections throughout Indiana," Kelver said.

The Libertarian Party selects candidates in conventions and does not run candidates in the primary elections. The Libertarians will convene their national convention July 3 in Indianapolis. The party's state convention was in April in Indianapolis. Next year's state convention will be held in LaPorte County.



METHENY

## 800 Libertarians hold spirited meeting Tout small victories amid lack of resources, recognition

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The way many Libertarians see it, they have come a long way since their party's humble beginnings in a Colorado living room in 1971.

The disenchantment of a few over the Vietnam War and President Nixon's wage-and-price controls has grown into what they say is the nation's best-organized and most successful third party.

"Other parties come and go," said David Nolan, considered the party's founding father. "The reason we have staying power is that we are consistent."

The Libertarian Party has about 25,000 dues-paying members, according to press secretary George Getz. About 800 of them were in Indianapolis over the weekend for the Libertarian National Convention, touting their candidates and their principles of individual liberty, smaller government and free trade.

It was also a showcase for their small political victories — in large part because those are the only ones they can celebrate.

Libertarians hold nearly 500 elected or appointed offices nationwide, but most are at the local level: city or town councils, park boards and school boards, airport districts and justices of the peace. There are no Libertarian state legislators, and nobody has ever been elected to

Congress on the party label.

In 2000, repeat presidential candidate Harry Browne got only 0.04 percent of the vote. Twenty years earlier, according to the convention guide, Ed Clark "waged the most successful national Libertarian campaign in party history" by getting about 1 percent of the presidential vote.

"They spread their resources so thin by running a large number of candidates to give the appearance of being bigger than they are, and then with no resources they get crushed and that reinforces the loser image," said Paul Hager, who quit the party and became a Republican after losing his bid to be nominated for Indiana secretary of state.

Some at the convention, including the party's first presidential candidate, John Hospers, did not disagree.

"It's just a small aggregation of people in a lot of different places at the same time, but it doesn't amount to one huge thing in any one place," said Mr. Hospers, who got about 3,900 votes in the 1972 presidential election.

"What we don't have is the money, the power and the recognition," said Gail Lightfoot, who is running for secretary of state for a second time in California this year.

"It's a Catch-22. Without getting

elected, you don't get the power, you don't get the money, and it's going to be that way for the lesser-known political parties," she said.

On Saturday, the convention chose Geoff Neale, a software company president and consultant from Texas, to lead the party's push as its national chairman. He promised to work to get the party's message out to more people and provide the party's candidates better professional training.

Lack of money didn't keep spirits down at the convention, a smaller version of the red-white-and-blue hoopla of the Republican and Democratic conventions.

When a platform statement was adopted condemning gerrymandering in drawing up new political districts, dozens of delegates hollered and did high fives. Others carried T-shirts touting their views: One showed a donkey and an elephant pointing guns, with the donkey saying "Your money!" and the elephant saying "Your rights."

"We are not a personality-driven party," Mr. Nolan said. "We are not a party that follows a George Wallace or a Ross Perot or a Ralph Nader. We are a party of people who believe in consistent steps in principles."

## Libertarian proposes big budget cuts

SALEM (AP) — Tom Cox, the only candidate seeking the Libertarian gubernatorial nomination, said the state can solve its budget problems without raising taxes or taking more money from schools.

Cox has proposed nearly \$1.8 billion in reductions by cutting a number of services and eliminating some departments.

Cox said Wednesday that tax increases would kill the economic recovery and borrowing other funds was a reckless idea.

The Libertarian called for eliminating the Economic and Community Development Department, the Department of Agriculture and a number of small commissions. Cox said he thought both departments were unnecessary because they largely subsidize business activities. Cox also said he would eliminate all state support of drug and alcohol treatment, Oregon Public Broadcasting and the Oregon Historical Society.

His largest reductions would come in the state's main human-service programs and in the state Corrections Department. He called for cutting more than \$850 million from the Department of Human Services by making heavy reductions in the Oregon Health Plan and in other social services.

▲ *The Washington Times* • Washington, DC • July 8, 2002

▶ *The Grants Pass Daily Courier*  
Grants Pass, Oregon • June 13, 2002

▼ *The Sioux City Journal* • Sioux City, Iowa, June 15, 2002

## Libertarian candidate brings gubernatorial campaign to city

By Kate Thompson  
Journal staff writer

Clyde Cleveland wants to be governor of Iowa. As the Libertarian candidate, some would say he has no chance of winning. But don't tell him.

"I really believe we can change things, that we can win," said Cleveland. "We're really serious. The bottom up concept resonates with people."

Cleveland will visit Sioux City at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Wilbur Aalfs Public Library with copies of the book he has written with Ed Noyes, a criminal de-



Cleveland

fense attorney from Iowa City. Noyes, also a Libertarian, is running for attorney general.

The title of the book is "Restoring the Heart of America: a return to government by the people." That's the theme of 52-year-old Cleveland's campaign for governor as well. His running mate is Richard Campagna, a professor at the University of Iowa.

"The first few chapters of the book lay out our philosophy of returning power and resources to local communities because that is where we can solve problems," Cleveland said. "The rest of the chapters look, on an issue-by-issue basis, at how we can

solve problems from the bottom up."

Cleveland, who now lives in Fairfield, Iowa, says the reason he can win the governor's race is because of independent voters. There are 700,000 registered independent Iowa voters and only about 500,000 each who are Republicans and Democrats.

"There is a huge, deep well of discontent with the major parties," he said. He also points to the success of Minnesota governor Jesse Ventura.

"Enough people took him seriously," Cleveland says.

He's counting on his book to give him the kind of celebrity status that drew attention to Ventura, he said.

"We've already been on national radio to an audience of 23 million," he

said. Republicans and Democrats alike care more about maintaining their own power than they do about people, he said.

"The only way we can change things is if we elect someone who is not tied to those institutions," he said. "If I get elected, it would be a pretty strong message that change is being required by people in Iowa."

If elected, Cleveland said his first action will be to cut his own salary by 30 percent. Then he intends to cut the rest of state government by 30 percent within four years.

"In the last 20 years, the size of government has tripled and population has remained the same," he said.

Cleveland said he would establish performance-based standards for government. When that was done in New Zealand, the country moved two-thirds of government employees to the private sector.

"If we are going to save the state of Iowa and keep our children from leaving, we can't continue to be one of the highest-taxed states in the country," he said. "We need to start doing things differently, putting more things under local control and local responsibility."

When he's not running for governor, Cleveland runs a marketing company, Puremark Inc. He's also a public speaker. He has a Web site for additional information on his ideas at [www.clevelandforgovernor.org](http://www.clevelandforgovernor.org).