

LIBERTY PLEDGE

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newsletter

Elected Lee County Libertarians Downsize Bureaucracy and Return Tax Dollars to the People!

While most politicians abuse their power to expand government, elected Libertarians fight honorably to decrease taxes and increase freedom. Elected Libertarians, Tom Clark, Kim Hawk and Jack Tanner have been serving on the Soil and Water Board in Lee County, Florida. Utilizing their majority on the five person board, these Libertarians drastically downsized the inefficient government program, the Mobile Irrigation Lab, and even returned money to the local taxpayers.

Jack Tanner was the first Libertarian to be elected to the Lee County Soil and Water Board. He was appalled by the inefficiency of the unnecessary program. But, with only one vote, Tanner was unable to get any changes through, even though the other board members were supposedly “conservatives” representing a heavily Republican district. Thus Tom Clark and Kim Hawk ran for the board to add votes to Tanner’s small government efforts. Once elected, the board had the Libertarian majority necessary and quickly cut expenses.

The function of the board, which was created during the New Deal, was unclear from the start. Their only clear program was the Mobile Irrigation Lab. The stated purpose of MIL was to increase water conservation. It involved a team that visited people’s homes to check their sprinkler system. They would inform homeowners of any problems, make adjustments to the control clock and submit a report, they could not actually repair anything. The government program was unbelievably inefficient, with each visit costing taxpayers an average of \$445, that is a whopping \$445 per visit! Furthermore, the team only visited an average of 167 homes per year, out of 500,000 residents, most people won’t get their sprinkler system checked.

But how do all the people who don’t receive a visit from the government sprinkler checkers get by? By checking their sprinkler system themselves and paying private businesses to repair their sprinkler system for an average of \$30 to \$80.

All of the board’s functions: sprinkler checks, selling maps, soil samples, selling tree seedlings and giving farm tours could be done more efficiently by private companies that people voluntarily fund when needed. It is another sad example of paternalistic government infringing on taxpayer’s pockets and the private sector’s function.

To the chagrin of local politicians, the Libertarian-dominated board reversed the injustice. They voted to eliminate the MIL and cut their budget allocation to zero. The local bureaucrats connivingly tried to stop the Libertarians. They added emergency additions to the agenda to overrule the board’s decision; but the Libertarians went to the meetings and exposed the bureaucrats. Even more outrageous - a secret move was made to have the nearby Collier County take over the MIL functions in Lee County. The politicians were ridiculously unwilling to cut the public program. The Libertarian-majority board voted to return all of their \$100,000 budget surplus to the taxpayers by \$10 checks on a first-come, first-serve basis. The response has been overwhelming positive, people cannot believe a government board actually cut its program and returned taxes. The media has been great for the Libertarian Party.

We are very proud of Tanner, Clark, Hawk and the Lee County Libertarians. They have made a difference in their community and have shown their constituents that Libertarian politicians can be trusted to decrease taxes and increase freedom.

Donald Tabor for Virginia Senate District 14

The decision to be a Libertarian candidate for public office is a difficult one. Campaigning is time-consuming and an upward battle for third party candidates. Yet, there are times when the fate of American liberty is endangered and one feels that it is their patriotic duty to run for political office. This is how Wm. Donald Tabor Jr. felt when he decided to be a Libertarian candidate for Senate, 14th District, Virginia.

Tabor is a dentist living in Chesapeake, Virginia. He is married to his high school sweetheart, Cheryl, has two children and two grandchildren. He is Vice Chairman of the Tidewater Libertarian Party and the Fourth Congressional District Representative to the Libertarian Party of Virginia State Central Committee. Until resigning to run for the Virginia Senate, Tabor was the volunteer State Director for the Americans for Fair Taxation, which promotes fair tax.

Tabor decided to run for office after the newly Republican-majority state assembly doubled spending. He hopes to restore the small government that made Virginia the great state it is. Tabor is the only candidate running against Republican incumbent Harry Blevins, there is no Democrat in the race. Congressman Blevins is a big government Republican, who supported the costly, secretive and unproductive Regional Transportation Authority that was opposed by 71% of the public. Tabor hopes to appeal to the public by stressing his low-tax platform and exposing Blevins' big spending record.

Unlike major party politicians, Tabor campaigns on clear, principled platforms. Tabor supports accountable, transparent government that respects individual liberty. He stands against eminent domain, the drug war and unnecessary government interference in the free market. Tabor proudly supports the right to bear arms and school choice. As a true Libertarian, Tabor fears big government and would like to return to America's small government roots so as to increase our liberty and prosperity.

Tabor is dedicated to Virginia and Libertarianism. He has decided to commit his best efforts to

this important campaign. He is going door to door talking with voters and distributing door-hangers and flyers. He is calling people in rural areas who voted in the last state election. He has considered mass mailing, but finds it is not cost effective for him. Tabor has utilized low-cost internet advertising, and has an informative website at: taborvasenate.com. The site provides detailed explanations of his political views and his plans as Senator to improve the 14th district. The site also offers a venue for questions or suggestions and the opportunity to donate money. Tabor is encouraged by the positive response of voters he has spoken with, who are very upset with the current government.



Tabor has already made it on the ballot. There are 117,000 registered voters in Tabor's district, 25% of which are expected to vote. Thus Tabor could win with about 14,000 votes, but he

needs your help! If you have any family or friends in the 14th district, ask them to consider voting for Donald Tabor. If you are able to volunteer your time to promote Tabor's campaign in his community, he needs people to help spread the word. Tabor is rigorously campaigning, but to be successful he must have the support of the Libertarian community!

Running for office represents an honorable dedication to America, democracy and the Libertarian Party. Libertarian candidates give voters a real choice at the ballot. In addition, our candidates further Libertarian awareness and make the LP a concrete political force. We thank Donald Tabor for his dignified campaign, his name on the ballot gives legitimacy to the Libertarian Party and hope for America, he is a true Champion of Liberty.

Liberty Pledger Profile: Edward Klapproth

The effectiveness of the Libertarian Party depends on the vital support of our dedicated members. We thank each of you for your voluntary devotion to liberty and would like to highlight one of you: model Libertarian, Prof. Edward Klapproth. Edward is a Life Member, Liberty Pledge Club Member and Nevada 1776 Brigade Pledger, who regularly engages in grassroots Libertarian activism.

Edward was born in New Jersey. He prides himself in a family line of soldiers, going back to the Revolutionary War. He moved to Hawaii, where he got a M.A. in political science and an M.A.T. in ESL. Edward was lay chaplain for the Jaycees and is taking classes to become a certified faith counselor. Edward left Hawaii for the smaller government of Nevada, where he now teaches political science.

Edward was attracted to the Libertarian Party for its defense of America's founding principles. He believes in limited government and individual responsibility. Edward supports personal rights, saying he deeply values "The right of an individual to have control of his life and property...to practice one's lifestyle free from government interference." It is these fundamental American values that make Libertarianism a belief system that will always impassion American hearts.

Like most Libertarians, Edward is an admirer of Jefferson, and is unwilling to idly sit by as big government erodes his freedom. Edward quoted Jefferson's wisdom that, "All tyranny needs to gain a foothold is for people of good conscience to remain silent." Edward proudly states that, "I am not a person to remain silent as I watch the government, both Democrats and Republicans, lead this great country of ours down the road of tyranny to an Orwellian dictatorship where Big Brother or Big Sister will strip away our sacred rights and freedom." Edward patriotically fights the authoritarian direction of our government by engaging in grassroots activism.

As a political science professor, Edward is able to inform his students about the Libertarian alternative. In a university system often

teaching a left-wing bias, it is important to have professors like Edward who teaches students that paternalistic government endangers our constitutional rights. Edward is a grassroots Libertarian activist. He regularly does community outreach, distributing pamphlets, buttons and telling people on the street, at church and at organizations like the NRA about the Libertarian Party. He also writes Libertarian editorials to his local newspapers.

Edward says he is so active because, "We need a commitment of time and money if we are to win back our freedoms. Our Founding Fathers pledged their lives and sacred honor to create our nation. Can we do any less to restore it?" Grassroots activism is an effective method to personally tell your community why Libertarianism is the answer. The dedicated efforts of Libertarians like yourself and Edward are what the Libertarian Party needs, on behalf of America, we give you our admiration and thanks.

Welcome to the Liberty Pledge Club!

Donald Connerley	Robert Meyers
Michael Coon	Jerry Nachison
Jeanne Davis	Lance Nieuwsma
Liz Deforest	Elizabeth Poehlman
Drew Depirro	Jeffrey Robinson
David Englert	Julie Sabri
Colin Hottman	Tara Shelton
Robert Jahelka	Sean Turner
Edward Klapproth	Lari Vickrey

William Ward

Thank you for your generous support!

Ballot Access: A Vital Issue For Libertarians

As Libertarians, we often grow consumed with the seemingly insurmountable amount of work needed to put America back on the right path. However, in our pursuits of a moral tax or ending government largesse, we sometimes overlook what needs to come first. A little known sin of the American electoral process is the ballot access procedures of many states that shut out third parties like the Libertarian Party. While ballot access equality may not seem like a glamorous fight, in reality, it is one of the most important struggles Libertarians face.

Why is ballot access so important? Ballot access is by all intents and purposes the gateway into the political system. In order to start making changes from inside the political system, Libertarian candidates must be able to get on the ballot for voters to elect them to office.

We wish we could say that the American democratic process is fairest in the world, but that would not be completely true. Unfortunately for the American voter, the choices presented during an election are the product of an unfair system designed by the Democrats and Republicans to keep third parties off of the ballot. The two main parties claim strict ballot regulations keep the elections from becoming a "circus," with scores of minor parties clogging up the ballot. However, the only real effect ballot access laws have is that they maintain the status quo of the political system dominated by the main two parties. Despite all the obstacles set up against third parties, progress has been made in many states. Jimmy Cook, chairman of the Oklahoma Libertarian Party, is leading the fight against his state's ballot access laws, which are some of the toughest in the nation. Instead of trying to gather more than 50,000 signatures to get on the ballot for one election cycle, the OKLP has decided to invest its resources into a long-term solution that will benefit all third parties, and hopefully give the voters the freedom they have previously lacked. To do this, the OKLP has formed a coalition with the Oklahoma Green and Constitution parties in order to pool

resources and get 92,000 signatures to put a ballot access initiative to the voters of Oklahoma; which if successful, would permanently change the requirements to get on the ballot. "After every election cycle, we lose our ballot access and we become independents again," says Cook. "Frankly, it's difficult to get people excited about it since we do it every four years."

There has also been significant progress in the courts. A 2005 lawsuit filed by the ACLU in Iowa was settled in favor of third parties, which allow voters a chance to register for a minor party if the party submits 850 signatures, a copy of the By-laws, and has been on the ballot in the last 10 years. Also, a Maryland Court of Appeals decided even if a signature was obtained on a petition meant for a different county, it would still be valid. Unfortunately, an Oregon court ruled in favor of ballot access laws that keep "spoiler" candidates off the ballot—a decision that will be appealed.

"Despite the importance of third and new parties to our political system, the topic of restrictive ballot-access laws gets very little scholarly attention," said Richard Winger in a 1994 article on the subject. Winger runs www.ballot-access.org, a Web site that tracks ballot access news across the nation. "Groups that are harmed the most by ballot-access laws tend to lack the clout required to command media attention."

Without a doubt, ballot access is one of the most important issues the Libertarian Party faces at this moment. But with your help, it is an issue we can win. It requires significant financial resources, and lots of volunteering. Members of the Libertarian Party can donate directly to the LNC, which funds ballot access campaigns. Additionally, many states have ballot access campaigns currently in the works, and could always use volunteers for petitioning and signature drives. You can contact LNC Affiliate and Volunteer Coordinator, Elizabeth Brooks, at Elizabeth.brooks@lp.org, to find out how you can help lend a hand in petitioning.