

LIBERTY PLEDGE

NEWSLETTER

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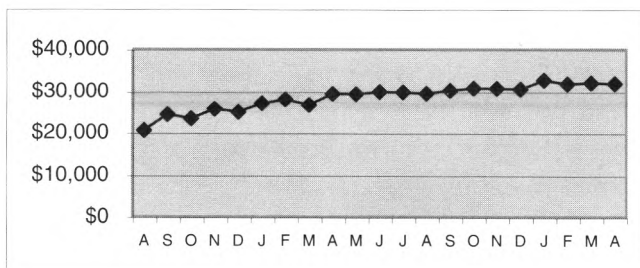
Monthly Pledges are 31% of 2011 LNC Budget

by Wes Benedict
Executive Director
Libertarian National Committee

The Libertarian Party's 2011 budget of \$1,324,500 is counting on \$408,000 of monthly pledge revenue. That's 31% of the total budget, averaging \$34,000 per month!

The graph that follows shows our monthly pledge total has been fairly steady, around \$32,000 for four months.

I was hired as your Executive Director in July of 2009. In August of 2009 we were down to \$20,504 per month. Growth to the \$32,000 level is impressive (56% increase), but averaging \$34,000 per month for 2011 is definitely going to be tough.



I first found out about the LP in 1996 while working on my MBA at the University of Michigan. I was excited to find a group of people with the same political views as mine, and I joined right away. I was pleasantly surprised by the quality of the party activism, and in 1997 I signed up for a monthly pledge even though I had to pay for it out of savings since I was still in school.

I let my monthly pledge lapse in 2000, but I restarted about two years later. I am proud to have

made more than ten full years' worth of monthly pledge donations to the national Libertarian Party so far in my lifetime.

Recently one of our staff members noticed that some of our donors had tried to sign up for a monthly pledge by mail, but we missed adding them to our pledge list.

I apologize for our mistake.

I am committed to good customer service, and I'm constantly looking for ways to improve. I don't like it when we make mistakes, so I try to maintain an open and supportive environment that encourages our staff to bring up problems rather than paper over them.

That way we can correct errors and continuously improve.

Along those lines, I can assure you that our staff and members have been quite vocal about pointing out any mistakes that I make!

In any case, as a result of our effort to correct this error, there are dozens of people added to our pledge program this month. Many may have signed up a few months ago. Page 3 shows the names of our new pledgers. If you think you were added by mistake, please let us know.

Occasionally donors may accidentally select the monthly pledge option on our donation forms. If this is your first issue of *Liberty Pledge Newsletter* and you never intended to sign up for a monthly pledge, please just let us know by returning a note to us in the enclosed envelope, or call us at 202-333-0008.

The Libertarian Party continues to deliver a big bang for the buck promoting free markets, civil liberties, and peace.

LP Headquarters assists our members, candidates, and affiliates, maintains our LP.org website, publicizes our views with press releases followed by media appearances, and whatever else we can afford to get done.

I am especially thankful for the funding stability provided by monthly pledgers like you.

Libertarian Party: On the Trail

Burlison re-elected to Springfield City Council

from the Missouri LP, April 6, 2011

The Missouri Libertarian Party would like to congratulate **Doug Burlison** on his re-election to the Springfield City Council, General (at-large) Seat C on Tuesday. Burlison was first elected in 2007, beating an incumbent. One of the factors that led to his 2007 election was his being the Chief Petitioner seeking the first state audit of the City of Springfield, an investigation which uncovered substantial misappropriation of funds. Burlison won the three-way Feb 22 primary and handily won re-election with 62% of the vote on April 5. Doug is one of two Libertarians on the Springfield City Council. **Bob Stephens** was elected in 2009 to General Seat A.

The Missouri LP is also pleased that the smoking ban on the April 5 ballot in the City of Cape Girardeau was defeated, despite some \$100,000 spent by the proponents of the ban. Local Libertarians, including 2010 congressional candidate Rick Vandeven were instrumental in the campaign to defeat the smoking ban.

Local election results

from the Illinois LP, April 8, 2011

Three members of the Libertarian Party of Illinois won elections in the local nonpartisan races in Illinois this past Tuesday. "The people of Illinois are thirsty for real candidates representing real people, not just the special interests," reports LP-Illinois State Chair, **Lupe Diaz**. "We now have more Libertarians elected to office in Illinois than ever before which bodes well for the future of the LP-Illinois and liberty throughout the state."

In the northern part of the state, **Doug Marks**, member of the Fox Valley Libertarian Party (FVLP), was the highest vote getter in his race for Carpentersville Trustee. He ran with Paul Humpher,

the second highest vote getter in the race. The FVLP worked to get both elected. "It's time to let free markets and small government prevail," declared Marks on hearing of his victory. He has already been assigned to chair a committee that will review all ordinances with the prospect of removing unnecessary, burdensome and unconstitutional ones. Another top vote getter that the FVLP helped elect was Campaign for Liberty Chair of Dundee Township, Allen Skillicorn, who won a spot on East Dundee's Village Board.

Downstate is represented by Libertarian victor, **Steve Hellin**, winning a space on O'Fallon's School Board. "Local elections matter, and every vote counts - I came in third place by a margin of only 10 votes. While it was disappointing to see less than 15% voter turnout for our school board race, I am still encouraged by the 1,066 voters who came to the polls looking to add at least one new face to the board. I am humbled by the opportunity to serve O'Fallon in this capacity," Hellin expressed.

From central Illinois, Libertarian **Karin Vermillion** won a spot on the Mahomet Library Board.

LP Illinois members **Don Stover** (Greenville City Council), **Karen Green** (Bloomington City Council, Ward 2), **Edwin Everly** (Rantoul Township High School Board), **Brian Sasso** (Lincoln-Way School Board), **J.D. Horton** (Grayville Mayor) all ran valiant campaigns but did not win their respective positions this time. They will continue to fight for economic and personal freedom.

Libertarians throughout the state are proud of the efforts of all these dedicated candidates.

Which City Council Candidates Inhaled?

from Pat Dixon (Travis County, Texas LP), April 30, 2010

Did you know Max Nofziger enjoys pat downs? Did you know Kathie Tovo and Randi

Libertarian Party: On the Trail

Shade have used marijuana, but **Kris Bailey** has not? That and much more was on display Wednesday night at the Travis County Libertarian Party (TCLP) forum for Austin City Council candidates.

Every candidate on the ballot (with one exception) participated in the forum....

One of the notable moments occurred on a question from the audience asking if the candidates would support a publicly accessible video surveillance camera in the offices of council members. Randi Shade said she would not support it because there is no crime going on in there. A good laugh was had by all.

Another one that got a response from the audience was Kris Bailey talking about privatization and theorizing that this could be applied to the police force. I asked how a private police force would be different from the mafia, and he responded by asking how the current police force is different from the mafia. The audience enjoyed that one....

I could go on, but I think from what you see it is apparent that Libertarians ask more interesting questions than you get from the typical forum and the answers are more revealing about the candidates.

New and renewing Liberty Pledgers

Arnold Adicoff	Laura R. Delhomme
Daniel Althoff	Roy L. Denney
Lila Anderson	Thomas Dooley
Michael S. Anderson	Kerry Duffy
Kenneth Anton	Patrick Edwards
Kenneth O. Archbold	P. Jacob Erbes
Benjamin I. Bachrach	John R. Ewbank
Gordon J. Bakken	Don Fairman
Louis A. Baron	Katherine E. Florentine
Betty Bertaux	Allyn E. Florini
Robert G. Blamar	Shawn D. Fox
Pete Blome	Chase Franklin
Dwayne S. Borgstrand	Russell R. Freeman
Peter Bothwell	Nathan Frith
Robert D. Brown	Dale C. Gard
Mark Bryngelson	Ethan Garofolo
Taylor G. Burton	Ernst F. Ghermann
John Caveny	Aubrey W. Gibson
Dean B. Cherry	Michael Goyette
Lawrence A. Ciano	George S. Halepis
Bruce Clausen	Bert G. Hassler
Frank Clement	Harry Herbert
Jamie Clements	Dianne Hirsch
Michael C. Colley	Pamela J. Hoiles
John A. Collins	Graham R. Hope
William C. Collins	David A. Howard
Greg Colvin	Robert J. Huff
Bud Cookson	Maryellen Huggard
Peter Cox	Samuel Hunt
Mallory F. Cross	Matthew Hunter
John R. Decker	Tom Hurley

New and renewing Liberty Pledgers (continued)

Gregory James	Bruce R. Machol	John Poitras	Russ Schwarzer	Yavane T. Stubbs
Jack Jenkins	Treighton Mauldin	Vera Powers	Valerie Scoleri	Robert A. Suprenant
George Jones	Michael McCalpin	Richard L. Reinert	Mark A. Selfridge	Richard H. Timberlake
Jeffrey S. Keup	Charles McLaughlin	David P. Robertson	Pedro R. Serra	Jerry Titus
Zaeem A. Khan	William P. McMillen	Gil Robinson	Glen Sewell	Edward H. Tonkin
David R. Kietzke	William Mcvay	Ronald B. Rollins	Adam S. Shahid	William Trainor
Truman C. Kiltz	Chelsea Meacham	Charlyne Rothman	Daniel H. Sheard	Alex Vukmer
Frank Kline	Roger C. Monteen	Dan L. Rycroft	Patrick-Andrew F. Shuey	Reino I. Wantin
Edward Korolenko	Eduard E. Morf	Anthony Sanders	Raymond Siemer	Almon W. Wear
Brian Kuzma	Sameer Nath	Phillip A. Sandford	Thomas Skodras	Dennis Weber
Elisabeth S. Larsen	Don Northam	Patrick J. Santiamo	Christopher M. Smith	R. J. Welz
Patrick Lavelle	Aubrey D. O'Connor	Jeffrey M. Schachter	Margaret C. Smith	Curtis White
Paul Y. Le Poulouin	Kathleen A. Overhauser	Steven Schennum	Paul M. Solomon	Gerard R. Williams
Thomas M. Lemberg	Peter Papagianakis	Jason M. Scheurer	Justin W. Sterling	James A. Wilson
Robert Lempke	Erin M. Partridge	Dennis L. Schlumpf	Emily Stoll	Jim Zerilli
Joshua A. Lospinosa	Harold B. Peterson	Travis Schneider	Fred C. Storm	Thomas J. Zuber
Mark A. Lund	Jeremy Peterson	August L. Schulle	James T. Stringfield	Alan Zuberbuehler

Libertarian Party in the News

City elections bring winds of change

Topeka Capital-Journal, April 5, 2011

It was out with the old and in with the new Tuesday as the result of Topeka City Council elections.

Voters elected new members **Andrew Gray**, Chad Manspeaker and Denise Everhart to the council, while voting out incumbents Jeff Preisner and Deborah Swank....

Gray beat Preisner despite Preisner's receiving campaign contributions totaling more than 11 times as much as Gray....

"I am extremely humbled that the people of the 8th District have chosen me by a landslide to represent them, despite the fact that we were outspent and didn't receive any endorsements," Gray said.

The run for public office was the second for Gray, 42, who unsuccessfully sought the Kansas governor's office as a Libertarian in November.

Gray said he ran something of a "stealth campaign" that focused on one-on-one communication with the district's residents.

He said he and four or five campaign volunteers went door-to-door every night for three and a half weeks, adding that he was "pretty confident" they talked to at least one resident or left information about Gray's campaign at every door in the district.

Libertarian Party not afraid, wants permanent shutdown

Daily Caller, April 8, 2011

The leaders of the two largest political parties in the U.S. say they don't want a government shutdown. As that outcome becomes more and more imminent, the Libertarian Party, America's third-

largest political party, has thrown its support behind making the shutdown a permanent fixture of the federal government.

"Just think how a permanent government shutdown would allow so many Americans to regain the blessings of liberty," Libertarian Party Executive Director **Wes Benedict** said in a statement....

Benedict made several suggestions for curbing the enormous amount of money the federal government spends — this year \$3.8 trillion. He proposed dismantling the Department of Education and its "one-size-fits-all centralized mandates." U.S. forces would be withdrawn from Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya, he said, and the War on Drugs would cease.

Americans would no longer be chased down every April by the Internal Revenue Service, which he called "byzantine and oppressive."

Md. board to re-examine signatures by Libertarians, Greens

Greenfield Daily Reporter (AP), April 15, 2011

The Maryland State Board of Elections will take another look at signatures that were deemed invalid in a drive by the Libertarian Party and Green Party to have their candidates recognized on state ballots, an attorney for the board said Friday....

The signature count has been complicated by a ruling issued by the state's highest court about two weeks after the board began its signature count. The Court of Appeals ruled March 22 that illegible handwriting could not be a reason to disqualify a signature.

Both parties filed a lawsuit this week in Anne Arundel County Circuit Court seeking to validate thousands of signatures they submitted. Attorneys for the parties contend rules used by the board to validate signatures are overly restrictive.