

LIBERTY PLEDGE

NEWSLETTER

Libertarian National Committee, Inc. ♦ 2600 Virginia Ave, NW, Suite 200 ♦ Washington, DC 20037 ♦ Phone: (202) 333-0008 ♦ Fax: (202) 333-0072
www.LP.org January 2010

Transition Successful— Texas LP Leading Pack in 2010 With 193 Candidates

*By Wes Benedict
Executive Director
Libertarian National Committee*

Back in December 2007 I gave a full year's notice that I'd probably be resigning as Executive Director of the Libertarian Party of Texas (LPT) at the end of 2008. I gave the advanced notice because after several years of hard work, coupled with significant growth in candidate recruitment and fundraising, I did not want the LPT to slide downward or even fall apart after I left. I wanted them to have plenty of time to find someone new to replace me.

Shortly before leaving, in a report to the LPT state committee, I issued this warning: "Serving as the Executive Director of the Libertarian Party of Texas has been a very tough job for me. I have my doubts that if the LPT hires another person for this position that they will succeed or even survive beyond three or four months."

Pat Dixon, the LPT Chair, headed up an Executive Director search committee. After much work, they finally decided to hire Robert Butler, a Libertarian who had experience serving as an Executive Director and State Chair in Ohio.

I helped Robert transition into his new role, and after one year in the position, he is continuing the delivery of strong results.

193 is an outstanding number of candidates for one state. And with all of those candidates comes lots of free coverage from news outlets.

While I am proud of the results that I achieved in Texas, and am proud to have been part of a successful transition in leadership there, I've

got lots of work to do before I can say I am proud of how I am doing here at the national headquarters in Washington, DC.

During the first six months of 2009, the LP was running \$75,000 behind budget on revenue. I was hired after that in July.

The official figures haven't been released, yet, but for the second half of 2009, it's looking like we fell another \$50,000 behind budget on my watch.

On a brighter note, I cut expenses deeply, so it looks like our balance sheet will be a lot healthier than when I started.

We are down from six to four full-time employees, plus a few part-time staff. I am hopeful that our fundraising will be successful enough shortly so we can hire another full-time person to assist with campaigns.

In the meantime, monthly pledgers like you have been vital to keeping our party operating during these tough economic times.

Although we surpassed my \$25,000 goal in November, in December we fell slightly short with \$24,907 in monthly pledge revenue.

The table below shows our recent results.

		Pledgers	Amount
December	2008	1,045	\$24,468
August	2009	902	\$20,504
September	2009	940	\$24,301
October	2009	933	\$23,353
November	2009	1,035	\$25,623
<i>December</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>1,012</i>	<i>\$24,907</i>
Goal for December 2009		1,000	\$25,000

One final note. 2004 Libertarian Party Presidential candidate, Michael Badnarik, recently had a heart attack and is recovering. Please keep him in your thoughts.

Thanks again to all you do for the Libertarian Party.

Libertarian Party: On the Trail

193 Libertarians File for Office Including 5 for Governor

from the Libertarian Party of Texas, January 5

AUSTIN, TEXAS - The Libertarian Party of Texas has accepted over 193 applications for their party's nomination in this year's conventions, including 5 candidates for Governor. The deadline for filing was yesterday, January 4th.

"We are pleased to have so many candidates for office," said Libertarian Party of Texas Chair Patrick Dixon. "We have a record number of contested races this year, so it should be a very exciting convention season. Of course we wanted a Libertarian candidate for every single spot on the ballot, especially certain target races, but we are pleased that we continue to attract more candidates every election."

Unlike Republicans and Democrats, the Libertarian Party of Texas holds county, district, and state conventions to nominate their candidates for public office. County conventions will be held on March 13th. District conventions will be held on March 20th. Libertarians will nominate their candidate for Governor and other statewide officials at the June 12th State Convention in Austin at the Radisson North Hotel. Libertarians accept no tax dollars for their conventions, also unlike Republicans and Democrats. According to state law, no one may vote in the Libertarian conventions if they have already voted in the March 2010 primaries.

"It especially bothers me that there will still be many races in 2010 without a Libertarian candidate in Texas. **Some of the candidates that sent in forms at the last minute will not make it on the ballot, as our fax machine was getting clobbered with all the last minute filings. We will continue in the future to encourage our candidates to get their applications in earlier and not wait until the last minute.**" said Dixon. [Emphasis added.]

"This is a proud day to be a Libertarian," said state Executive Director Robert Butler. "We continue to expand our numbers, and we are

planning a very active election season for 2010. Texas voters will see and hear our message of smaller government as never before."

"Voters are frustrated about the weak economy and the ever-expanding government. They know that these two conditions are linked," agreed Dixon. "The Libertarian Party has the right answers. We need a dramatically smaller government, with less taxes and more freedom."

LSLA Conference coming in February

The 2010 Libertarian State Leadership Alliance Conference will be held in Austin, Texas from February 26 to February 28. Party officers, prospective officers, IT volunteers, candidates, campaign managers, and other active Libertarian volunteers are encouraged to attend.

For more information, and to register, visit the website: StateChairsConference.org.

Why I Am Running As a Libertarian Party Candidate

by Chuck Donovan, Georgia candidate for U.S. Senator

The question I am most often asked is why I am running for office as a Libertarian instead of focusing my energy on reforming one of the "established" parties. Here is an excerpt from an email I received:

"... Please reconsider your decision to run on the Libertarian ticket. The Republicrats have essentially locked out a third party candidate. If a Democrat runs many independents will vote for him just to be rid of Isakson and your third party vote could pull enough votes to assure his election. Please consider the GOP as a means to the end for a greater good. Our original Constitution was written on a great compromise but gave us a strong government for nearly 75 years. You can compromise also, for the good of our country and the state of Georgia..."

Libertarian Party in the News

Libertarian John Jay Myers announces run for U.S. Rep. Pete Sessions' seat

Dallas Morning News (blog), January 4, 2010

Onetime city council candidate and longtime Libertarian **John Jay Myers** has announced his plans to run for U.S. Rep. Pete Sessions' seat. The campaign will officially kick off Jan. 28.

Myers ran a spirited but doomed campaign for City Council member Carolyn Davis' 7th district seat. Virtually unknown to the district's political and religious establishment, he nevertheless won quite a few votes through tireless campaigning and a message that seemed to resonate with voters from Buckner Terrace to East Oak Cliff.

Myers was among the most articulate speakers against the Convention Center Hotel, arguing that City Hall should have no role in building businesses to compete against private enterprises.

Some Tea Party, 912 Project groups look like same old political factions

Fort Worth Star-Telegram, December 30, 2009

The political "Newcomer of the Year" must be the Tea Party protester.

But when you peek behind the new "Don't Tread on Me" flags, some of the local Tea Party and 912 Project groups are looking more like the same old political factions....

Turns out I'm not the only person who's leery of these fake grassroots activist groups sprouting on every block.

Robert Butler is the new state Libertarian Party executive director. He sounded frustrated Tuesday.

"The Libertarians started this thing, and now Republicans want to get ahead of the parade and take it over," Butler said by phone from Austin.

"Their brand name is held in such disregard that they've started marketing under the Tea Party banner. Then, behind the scenes, their organizers are getting in there and co-opting the Tea Parties."

In debate, Senate candidates seek to define differences

Boston Globe, January 6, 2010

The three candidates for US Senate clashed yesterday over health care, abortion, and terrorism in one of their final three debates before the Jan. 19 special election to succeed Edward M. Kennedy....

[Joseph] Kennedy, a libertarian, lumped his opponents together, accusing them of supporting bigger government and greater intrusion into people's lives. He said that he would file bills to dismantle agencies that aren't effective, reverse tax increases, and bring home the troops from Iraq and Afghanistan.

And They're Off!

Austin Chronicle, January 8, 2010

6pm Monday marked the first major landmark of the 2010 elections: Filing closed for the March 2 primaries....

The Republicans' effort pales next to the Travis County Libertarian Party, which managed a candidate in every single local House race. For instance, while no Republican filed against Rep. Elliott Naishtat, the incumbent has drawn a pair of Libertarian challengers, **Nathan Kleffman** and **Norman Horn**. That's one of three contested Libertarian races in the county, but don't expect to see them on the March 2 ballot: They'll be sorting out their nominations at their county convention on March 13.

Libertarian Party: On the Trail

Here was my reply to him and to all of you who ask why I have accepted a request from the Libertarians to run for office:

"...I am well aware of the established structures the mainstream parties have. I know as a third party candidate I am essentially blazing my own trail... That said, when talking about political parties I am focused only on their results. Democrats and Republicans have been promising us for decades a smaller government, less regulations, and fiscal responsibility. These are the things I want from government, but what I have seen delivered decade after decade is much bigger government, more regulations, and fiscal insanity. I cannot put my name in line with the list of abject failures the Democrats and Republicans have sent into office. How many times do these people have to demonstrate to us who they are before we will believe them?

"Our country, particularly our dollar, is in crisis. The poor leadership and misdirection delivered by the mainstream parties is the cause. A true change is what we need. I think the Libertarian Party is the only party in the world actually offering a valid way out. We are the only ones actually focused on individual liberty with a confidence in our fellow citizens. I share their belief and choice of direction. I furthermore am confident that the

weight of history, economics, and morality is on our side...."

My mission is freedom, and my vision is now.

New Liberty Pledgers

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Kenneth A. Bisson | Timothy Millar |
| Gerry Boudreaux | Matthew Miller |
| Zacharie Boutoille | David Molen |
| David A. Braatz | Dawn R. Moore |
| John Caveny | George W. Mowbray |
| Jason Compton | Cynthia L. Myers |
| Andrew R. Cooper | Travis Nicks |
| Charles Earl | John Nygren |
| Mark Edgar | Eric Odem |
| Lewis Ford | Gregory Parham |
| John Gartland | Austin Petersen |
| Mark D. Gibb | John L. Reece |
| Eugene P. Hawkridge | Keane E. Richardson |
| Paul Herbert | Hector Rodriguez |
| Donald P. Hester | John Sanders |
| Lonnie D. Holcomb | Jane Scheeley |
| Patricia Hone | Jon M. Scheeley |
| Janet Hopf | Christopher Spoo |
| Samuel A. Iannarino | Adam Stefanik |
| Georgeann Jacobs | Nicole N. Stern |
| James B. Kates | Doug R. Stocks |
| Johnny Klonaris | Nate P. Terry |
| Jeffrey Lawrence | Edward Tidwell |
| Joseph M. Lewis | Charles Totten |
| Bryan Masche | Mark W. Zacharias |
| Kasandra Mertens | |

I would like to make a one-time donation to the LP:

- \$5,000
- \$1,000
- \$500
- \$250
- \$100
- \$50
- \$25
- _____ Other

I would like to increase my monthly pledge to this level:

- \$2,500
- \$1,000
- \$500
- \$250
- \$100
- \$50
- \$30
- _____ Other
(minimum \$10)

(Please make checks payable to **Libertarian Party**.)

Please bill my Visa MasterCard AmEx Discover

Card number: _____ Exp: _____

Name on card: _____

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Occupation*: _____

Employer*: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work: _____ Cell: _____

E-mail: _____

*Federal law requires political committees to report the name, address, occupation and the name of the employer for each individual whose contributions aggregate in excess of \$200 in a calendar year. Political contributions are not tax deductible.