

LIBERTY PLEDGE

NEWSLETTER

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www.LP.org November 2008

Post Election: Where Do We Go From Here?

by Bill Redpath
National Chairman, Libertarian National Committee

As I recover from Election Day and my US Senate campaign that preceded it, it is time to take stock of where the Libertarian Party stands and what we accomplished in the election season just passed.

While I know that we are disappointed that more of our candidates did not win, and that the Barr/Root presidential ticket and our other candidates did not win as many votes as most of us thought they would get, there is much that we gained in 2008 and a lot to be proud of for the Libertarian Party.

First, I think Bob Barr and Wayne Allyn Root were outstanding candidates that represented the ideas of individual liberty in an exemplary manner. There was not a single time that I saw them on television or looked at their Web sites where my reaction wasn't, "Right on!" They represented our message of individual liberty and responsibility in an outstanding fashion, and I want to thank them for that. I also have personal knowledge of how diligently the campaign staff worked—Russ Verney, Shane Cory, Mike Ferguson, Andrew Davis (on loan from LPHQ) and others. Thank you for dedication to the effort in the face of many challenges that were outside the control of any of us.

Two of our candidates for office earned over 1,000,000 votes. They were John Monds, who ran for Public Service Commission, District 1, in Georgia. His was a two-way statewide race (even though he was going to represent a particular district). Also, William Bryan Strange polled a seven-digit number of votes for Judge of the Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 9, in Texas, in another two-way statewide election.

And, speaking of Georgia, our US Senate candidate in the Peach State, Allen Buckley, forced a nationally publicized runoff election between the two major party candidates. Also, Brandon Givens, Public Service Commission, District 4 in Georgia, forced a runoff election for the major party candidates for that office.

We came out of the 2008 election with ballot ac-



cess for the presidential ticket in 27 states—the same number as at the end of the 2004—and more than any other minor party. However, one of those states that we gained was North Carolina, where Duke University professor Michael Munger earned nearly 3 percent of the vote for Governor, qualifying the Libertarian Party of North Carolina for the ballot for the next four years. That alone will save the LP about \$200,000 in ballot access expenses—not to mention that it will allow more LP candidates to run for office over that period. We also achieved major party ballot status in Massachusetts, while we lost it in South Dakota.

Even though some people reregistered Republican to vote for Ron Paul in the presidential primaries, the number of voters registered LP nonetheless increased from 225,229 in February 2008 to 243,293 in October 2008. (Those numbers are from the 23 states that allow voters to register Libertarian and that report those numbers.)

The sustaining membership (those giving at least \$25 over the past year) of the LP also increased; it is up over 22 percent from this time last year.

There is indisputably much that was accomplished this year for which we can all be proud.

However, our victories in 2008 notwithstanding, the work of the Libertarian Party never ends. The battle for ballot access begins as soon as it ends, and we have no time to waste to keep the ball rolling. With

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Start Your 2009 Campaign Now!

by Austin Petersen
Volunteer Coordinator

I've been very excited to already hear talks of Libertarians running for office in the next election cycle. For those who want to run a serious campaign in 2009, now is the perfect time to start putting together a workable strategy to pursue a vigorous and successful campaign.

Early planning and understanding of the basics will give you the advantage you need. Let's say, for this example, you are running for a district wide race.

The four basic things you should be trying to accomplish are: obtaining a list of all eligible voters; ascertaining how they will vote; building local organizations capable of ultimately having all undecided voters contacted by someone they know; and, on Election Day, get everyone to the polls.

Find out how many precincts are in your district. Once you have them clearly labeled on a map, identify key activists in those precincts. If you have none readily available, try recruiting those in close proximity to the precinct as this will make campaigning easier and increase accountability. You will be assigning Precinct Captains—a liaison between the campaign and voters of a specific precinct—who will have specific tasks and duties along with an established timeline until Election Day.

Precinct Captains are essential tools for a serious campaign. These volunteers should know up front the level of responsibility that will be given to them. They should be good leaders, and know their precinct and the people in it reasonably well. Having them learn Election Law (see local Board of Elections) is important, especially when it comes time for them to canvas and organize their precinct.

Precinct Captains can be found by getting lists of registered local Libertarians, and performing evaluations on their previous performances. Also, you should check to see what political organizations they belong to (NRA, Right to Life, Sierra Club), so that you can have them focus on advocacy geared toward their specific interests and/or talents and skills.

The next step to take is assigning Operations Chairmen. The OC volunteers will serve alongside the Precinct Captains for the express purpose of assisting them with their work, building relationships within the community and introducing everyone to the party and the candidate.

Timing, of course, is everything. January through March will be when you should have our initial meet-

ings to discuss strategy. Analyze every precinct with every captain, and glean the important information to be stored away in documents and spreadsheets. Ask yourself, "What are all the positions being run for in this district?" Also, "What is the voter history in a previously specified number of elections?" Basically, you should be analyzing previous voter trends in your district, and then applying a workable strategy off those results.

Find out what local organizations have political power or are active. Are there lots of Rotary Clubs? What about Chambers of Commerce or Unions? Find these groups and invite them to your events. Don't be afraid to directly engage your fellow citizens in the community.

April through August will be canvassing time again. By this time of the year, you will be able to identify and have registered to vote ALL party members. Phone bank operations, no matter how small or simple, should be prepared. Fellow party members should be encouraged strongly to donate to local campaign operations. In the summer, you have pristine opportunities for going door-to-door with literature. Bring some information about local candidates with you wherever you go. Sometimes you can bring some literature to leave on tables.

The fall months of September through November mean more canvassing, and heavier pressure on undecided, persuadable and independent voters. Door-to-door canvassing is a regular occurrence, even if just on weekends. Absentee ballot drives are useful. Helping people get registered to vote is useful as well. Now is also the time for special projects you may want to try. Don't be afraid to take some risks. Being in touch with the community is so important, so be an active participant at "Back to School" nights, neighborhood and homecoming parties. If you want to win, or be a good contender, you want people in your communities to like and trust you and your precinct captains and managers.

For those wanting to run a serious campaign, you can increase your chances by taking classes at the Leadership Institute. They offer vigorous courses on grassroots campaigning, and they are very friendly to Libertarians. If a local party would be interested, LI staff can have people travel to states to help train staff and volunteers on organization techniques on a broad variety of topics.

For more information, please feel free to call me at (202) 333-0008, or by emailing me at Austin.petersen@lp.org. As always I am here to help you.

New for 2009: Operation ELECT-US

by Sean Haugh
Political Director

When one election is over, the next one has already begun. Operation ELECT-US is a program by the Libertarian Party to recruit as many candidates as possible for winnable local offices in 2009.

In odd numbered years, most elections are local, and quite a few of them take place in the spring. For example, filing deadlines for local elections have already begun in Maryland, and take place in December in Illinois. Three states—Louisiana, New Jersey and Virginia—hold statewide elections in odd years. Operation ELECT-US will also work to help fill the ballots for state legislature in those states as well.

Our 21 election victories in Nov. 2008 bring the total number of Libertarian Party members serving in office across the country to 207. Operation ELECT-US aims to increase that number significantly. One positive aspect of our electoral success is that we have several Libertarian incumbents we will need to reelect this year and next.


There are a number of reasons to run candidates for local office. The first, of course, is that we can win them and be effective in changing local public policy in a Libertarian direction from the inside. Libertarian officeholders almost always distinguish themselves by being more diligent in their duties, more informed on the issues facing them, and easy to work with. Quite often we find that government employees who are most skeptical about working for Libertarian council members end up becoming their greatest supporters once they have had an opportunity to work with them directly.


And that's the second main benefit of electing as many Libertarians as possible locally. Our elected officials put a human face on our ideas. Most people only warm up to our ideas when they know and like a person they know to be a Libertarian. Through their success, more voters start supporting other Libertarian candidates further up the ballot because they have come to trust the person who serves them at the local level.

For example, T.J. Rohr serves on the Lenoir (NC) City Council and ran for NC State House in 2008. Not only did Rohr get about twice as many votes as the average Libertarian candidate, but he also won major endorsements and gained news coverage that are generally withheld from our candidates.

Please consider running for local office yourself!

Recent Donor:
George Nelson
Moreno Valley, CA



HELP ELECT THE 
to state, local, and community offices in 2009

Contribute Today

\$6,069.00 **GOAL: \$200,900 ONLINE**

If your community already knows you, then you have a good chance at winning your election. You can build up a positive reputation in your community in any number of ways. There are the traditional service organizations, such as your church, Rotary, or the Chamber of Commerce. You can get involved in your local theater, school or Scout troop. Show up to local government meetings and speak out, so that your potential supporters can rally around your campaign, and those who are already in government can get to know you and your ideas. If you are a small business owner or have a high profile customer service job, then you are already in a good position to run and win.

Win or lose, your campaign will put Libertarian ideas on the local public policy agenda. You will have a prominent role in the local political debate for as long as you want it, just by running for office.

Whether you can run or not, please make a contribution to Operation ELECT-US at LP.org. Our goal is to raise \$200,900 on the Internet for the 2009 campaign season. We will use that money to provide as much support as we can to our hundreds of Libertarians running for winnable local offices throughout the course of the year.

Welcome to the Liberty Pledge Club!

Thank you for your generous contributions

Milton R. Aultman
Chris Bubash
Mark G. Bushman
David S. Cassarino
Eric Deister
William R. DiScipio
Michelle Kruczynski
Shawn Mahaney

Jens Randolff
Melanie Saulnier
Joseph Specht
Noel Tavano
Mike Vechery
Wendell Webber
Rick Weinstein
Todd Welch

This Month in the Media

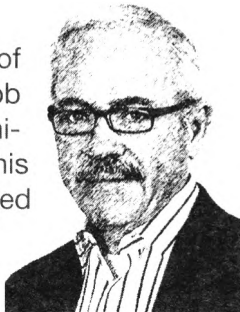
by Andrew Davis
Director of Communications

'This is Just the Beginning'

Nov. 4 - "This is just the beginning of the new Libertarian Party," says Bob Barr, the 2008 Libertarian Party nominee for president, reflecting on his campaign for President of the United States.

"In these next four years, there will be an even greater need for a political party fully dedicated to lower taxes, smaller government and more individual freedom—a voice for liberty," says Barr. "This year, we set a solid foundation for freedom, on which we will build a strong and united political organization that advances freedom and liberty in the United States. I, and all Americans who support true liberty, owe a great debt of gratitude to our staff, donors, volunteers and voters who helped support this campaign."

Barr, who garnered the second-highest vote totals for a Libertarian Party presidential candidate in the history of the Party, hopes the Party can build on the momentum gained during the election, where the Libertarian Party saw record growth in membership and donors.



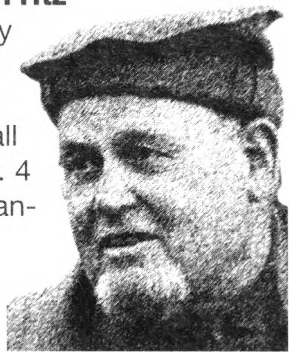
LP Mourns Loss of Marshall Fritz

Nov. 5 - The Libertarian Party wishes to express its condolences to the friends and family of Libertarian activist Marshall Fritz, who passed away on Nov. 4 after a battle with pancreatic cancer.

"When I think of Marshall Fritz, I immediately think of other people, because I met so many other Libertarians through Marshall, including Karl Hess and Dr. Jim Lark, at the Advocates Summit '86 in Bethesda, Maryland," says Libertarian Party National Chairman William Redpath. "That summit helped charge me up in the genesis of my becoming involved in the Libertarian Party."

"Marshall was a wonderfully spirited Libertarian, who was dedicated to individual liberty, particularly in education. His grace while facing a terminal illness was truly inspiring. A lot of people will greatly miss Marshall, and I will be among them," says Redpath.

Fritz was the founder of the libertarian advocacy group Advocates for Self-Government. Fritz also cre-



ated the "World's Smallest Political Quiz"—a political tool used by the Libertarian Party for outreach.

Businessmen are Bad for Capitalism

Nov. 14 - "CEOs and government 'altruism' are standing in the way of effective economic turnaround," says Libertarian Party spokesperson Andrew Davis.

"Businessmen are bad for capitalism when they use the government as life support for failing ventures," explains Davis. "Instead of letting other companies absorb these failing businesses, CEOs and government bailouts have distorted the natural forces of capitalism and prevented the necessary—and effective—economic turnaround that only comes through an unfettered free market."

"We must not mistake this type of pro-government regulation as true capitalism," says Davis. "President Bush and members of Congress from both sides of the aisle have created a new economic vision of loss-free capitalism, which simply does not exist in reality."

Libertarian Party Chairman Reflects on the 2008 Election

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ballot access, we need to do as much as we can, as soon as we can—to get it done and to get it done as efficiently as possible. Last minute fire drills greatly increase petitioning costs and risk not making the ballot at all.

How can you help with ballot access? First, donate to the Libertarian Party. You can do this at <https://www.lp.org/contribute>, or mail your donation to the Libertarian Party at the address noted on the front page of this newspaper. Your contribution of \$25, \$50, \$100 or \$1,000 will be used to begin the next cycle of ballot drives as absolutely and as soon as possible.

Also, please sign up for email announcements at LP.org to stay up to date on our ballot access projects. Even if you cannot help fund our drives with a donation, we could use your volunteer help collecting signatures where these drives will occur. Every volunteer signature means one less paid signature, and the savings add up.

Thank you for all your support of our candidates in 2008. Because of your efforts, the candidates of the Libertarian Party received more than 13 million votes! This is a record for the Party, and it is all due to our wonderful donors, volunteers and candidates across the country. I emphatically thank you all.