

LIBERTY PLEDGE

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newsletter

Five Libertarians Win in Spring Elections

Two Libertarians were elected to office and three were re-elected in local elections in March and April around the USA.

Libertarians won victories in Wisconsin, Michigan, and New Hampshire, reported LP Political Director Ron Crickenberger.

"Most people are focused on the upcoming elections this November, but Libertarians have been taking advantage of local elections to run strong campaigns, and add to the growing number of Libertarians in office," he said. "Congratulations to all the new Libertarian winners — and double congratulations to those Libertarians who were re-elected."

Leading the list of election victories: A new Libertarian mayor in Wisconsin.

On April 4, LP member **Ed Thompson** defeated the



■ **Libertarian winners: Ed Thompson (left) in Wisconsin and John Babiarz in New Hampshire.**

incumbent mayor of Tomah — a city of 8,000 in the southwestern region of the state — by a margin of 58-42%.

Cut taxes

Thompson, 55, who is the brother of the state's four-term Republican Governor Tommy Thompson, won by promising to work to legalize video gambling in taverns, cut taxes, and reduce the city's debt.

"I ran because government here is out of control," said Thompson. And al-

though the contest was non-partisan, "everybody knows I'm a Libertarian."

In Michigan, **Martin Howrylak** won a landslide victory in his race for Troy City Council, finishing first of four candidates on April 3. He defeated all other candidates by a margin of nearly two-to-one in the non-partisan race.

Following his win, Howrylak, who is just 25, was dubbed the "kid councilman" by the local media.

Howrylak won by focusing on a controversial vote by the City Council to grant local politicians generous pensions — calling the decision, "Greed, Arrogance, and Contempt of Taxpayers."

Apparently spooked by his strong showing, the Council unanimously voted to rescind the pension on April 10, just minutes after Howrylak was sworn in.

"Libertarians were jubilant," said Oakland County LP Vice Chair Greg Dirasian, who worked on Howrylak's campaign. "We can and do make a difference."

In New Hampshire, three current officeholders won re-election on March 7.

■ **John Babiarz** won re-election to the School Budget Committee in Grafton.

■ **Rosalie Babiarz** was re-elected to a second term on the Recreation Committee in Grafton, where she also serves as Town Auditor.

■ **John Drabinowicz** won re-election to the town Budget Committee in Hudson, coming in second of four candidates.

"Congratulations and thanks [to all the candidates]," said State Chair Danielle Donovan. "These folks are actively working to implement Libertarian solutions to real-life problems."

2K candidates: 1K and counting

The number of Libertarians who have announced they will run for office in the 2000 election has passed the 1,000 mark, said LP Political Director Ron Crickenberger — meaning the party is halfway to its goal of "2K in 2K."

And as of April 15, more than 200 LP candidates have filed for U.S. House — so

the party is more than 90% of the way to contesting a majority of Congressional seats (218), he said.

"We're making great progress, and are already running more candidates than ever before," he said. "But we still need Libertarians to step forward, file for office, and turn these goals into *accomplishments*."

National Convention Update

Two more big libertarian stars have been scheduled to appear at the Libertarian National Convention (June 29 to July 3, in Anaheim, California).

■ Pop/folk icon **Melanie**, best known for the song "Brand New Key," who has toured the world over her 25-year musical career. In 1999, she advised her fans, "Vote Libertarian!"

■ **Barbara Branden**, a longtime member of Ayn Rand's inner circle, who wrote the definitive biography of the Objectivist philosopher, *The Passion of Ayn Rand*, which was made into an award-winning 1999 film.

For information, visit: www.LP.org/conv/2000/

Libertarians to fill in one census box

By **Maria Titze**

Deseret News staff writer

Gov. Mike Leavitt encouraged public school students Monday to remind their parents to fill out Census Bureau questionnaires when they arrive in the mail later this month.

"Your future depends on Census 2000. . . . Every Utahn counts," Leavitt said, reciting the motto for the multimillion-dollar Census 2000 awareness campaign that kicks off officially in Utah March 17.

But the Libertarian Party is suggesting Utahns all but ignore the once-a-decade count of the country's population.

"I'm checking only the box that says how many people are in my house," said John Dexter, chairman of the Libertarian Party of Utah. "The federal government has no use for the rest of the information other than to decide how to allocate more unconstitutional funding."

The Census Bureau's "long form" questionnaire has 53 questions. It asks about such things as marital status, transportation choices, employment and household plumbing.

Libertarians argue that only a count is constitutionally mandated, and the rest of the questions are "nosy."

"The U.S. Constitution says the

purpose of the Census is to make an enumeration for apportioning Congressional districts," said Steve Dasbach, the party's national director.

The Census Bureau wouldn't need a big advertising campaign to increase participation if the questionnaire weren't so long and complicated, Dasbach added.

The Census Bureau actually has two forms being mailed to citizens on March 15. A shorter version of the questionnaire with only eight questions will be sent to more than 80 percent of Americans.

But Dasbach said, regardless of which form he receives, he'll only be telling the Census Bureau how many people live in his household.

▲ *The Deseret News*, Salt Lake City, Utah, March 7, 2000

▼ [TOP] *The Lubbock Avalanche-Journal*, Lubbock, Texas, March 19, 2000

▼ [BOTTOM] *The Delaware State News*, Dover, Delaware, March 5, 2000

Libertarians convene to prepare for record number of races

By **DAN MCKAY**
Avalanche-Journal

A sign outside the Libertarians' convention room on Saturday summed up the party's message: "Enough is Enough: Vote Libertarian."

"This country was founded on Libertarian principles," said local physician John Turnbow, who's challenging U.S. Rep. Larry Combest, R-Lubbock, in District 19. "Basically, we've gone away from that."

Turnbow - who was the party's keynote speaker - addressed about 25 people Saturday at the Lubbock County

Libertarian Party's convention. Party newcomers and delegates had a chance to listen to candidates' speeches and to discuss the party's platform.

The delegates also chose the party's candidates in local races. Each of the candidates was unopposed - though delegates could choose "none of the above" if they wanted.

Earning the Libertarian nominations on Saturday were candidates Michael Webb, for constable, Precinct 2; Russell King, for county commissioner, Precinct 1; David "Inky" Scott, for county commissioner, Precinct 3; Noah Davis, for county

weigher; David DeLamar, for chairman, Libertarian Party of Lubbock County; The Mad Hatter, for state representative, District 83; and Brian Winn, for state representative, District 84.

King said he's running for the Lubbock County Commissioners Court because the county's budget is "out of control."

"As a Libertarian, I believe the private sector can run most programs (not required by law) better than a government body," said King, who's challenging two-term Commissioner Kenny Maines, a Republican.

The Libertarian Party of Texas' plat-

form calls for the protection of individual rights and responsibilities.

"The world we seek is one where individuals are free to follow their own dreams in their own ways, without interference from government or any authoritarian power," the platform says.

The county Libertarian Party will have its district convention at 2 p.m. Saturday at the Godeke Branch Library to choose candidates for the state Board of Education and U.S. House districts 13 and 19.

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Libertarians campaign, share views at convention

By **Ken Grant**
Senior editor

WILMINGTON — From choosing delegates for July's national convention to presenting a forum for presidential candidates to electing new state officers, Libertarians from throughout the First State gathered at Wilmington's Wyndham Garden Hotel Saturday to take care of party business.

The annual state convention attracted three of the seven contenders for the party's presidential nomination — Harry Browne, Don Gorman and Barry Hess — to share their views and campaign for the state's five delegates.

Mr. Browne, an investment

advisor and author from Tennessee, ran for president on the Libertarian ticket in 1996. Like others in his party, Mr. Browne is a strong advocate of limited government.

"The question is not, 'Are you better off now than you were four years ago?' " Mr. Browne said. "The question is, 'How much better off could you be right now without the government's interference?'"

Mr. Gorman received the "Most Effective Elected Libertarian" award in 1996 while serving in the New Hampshire legislature.

"If I win the nomination, I plan to travel through the states, speaking to every civic group out there along with the local Libertarian candidates.

We need to build up the local party as much as possible," he said.

Mr. Hess, also of New Hampshire, was an active Republican until the early 1990s, when he said he felt the party no longer stood for the principles it once espoused.

"The Libertarian Party makes sense," he said. "When I explain the Libertarian platform of limited government, people say 'Me, too,' rather than 'So what.'"

Former state party chair Brad C. Thomas of Glasgow announced he is running against Rep. Michael N. Castle, R-Del., for his seat in the U.S. House of Representatives.

"We need to stop the continuing expansion of government

spending," Mr. Thomas said.

The party's membership elected Jay Lawrence as state chair and John Ellingsworth IV as vice chair. James G. Conk will take over as secretary, and Terri Lewis was elected to another term as treasurer.

Sussex County chairman Jack Dalton is mayor of Bridgeville and the only Libertarian holding office in Delaware. He says the ideas of the party work.

"We've seen that welfare reform will work, people self-governing will work. We don't need all of the entitlements; we don't need all of the subsidizing," he said.

Ken Grant can be reached at 741-8226 or kgrant@newszap.com.

Ted should worry about Howell's run

Forget about Jack E. Robinson. It's Carla Howell, the surprising Libertarian candidate, who is likely to make beads of perspiration pop on Sen. Ted Kennedy's brow, if not a full sweat.

Howell, 44, a management consultant, already has raised \$150,000, gathered more than half the 10,000 signatures she needs to

get on the ballot, spoken at *Republican* town committees. Robinson has never even heard of — and gotten a big jump among sure anti-Kennedy voters, the gun owners of Massachusetts.

Yep, she was there to greet National Rifle Association President Charlton Heston (aka Moses) at Brandeis University on Tuesday, as aides handed out 864 color leaflets proclaiming that government should butt out of gun owners' rifle racks.

Phil Lawler, Senate candidate of the new Constitution Party, admitted yesterday: "The Libertarian candidate beat me to the punch. I hear her folks were distributing some good-looking leaflets." But he said his stumping among anti-abortion advocates, home schoolers and other conservatives would pull him through in the end.

But Howell is political light-years ahead of Lawler and the handful of other third-party or independent candidates trying to get on the ballot against Kennedy. And the Republicans apparently are ready to throw in the towel.

"We're not searching very aggressively" for a new candidate, said state GOP Executive Director John Brockelman, after Gov. Paul Cellucci pulled the plug on the hapless Robinson. And that means Howell has a chance to reap a lot of Republican votes, plus many of the one-third of Massachusetts voters who always vote against Kennedy no matter who his opponent may be.

Howell has spunk. Reminded that even if she should miraculously beat a Massachusetts icon she'd still be a lonely voice of libertarianism among 100 senators, she snapped back with this rejoinder:

"It would be like putting a designated driver in a room full of drunks."

Now that's a quote sure to go up on the walls of both Senate cloakrooms if Howell ever actually came within striking distance of Kennedy. And it's not too far off the mark, by Libertarian lights.

The party portrays the Democrats and Republicans as intoxicated with power and with freely spending our tax money. So they're tougher on taxes than Steve Forbes. "Eliminate the federal income tax and replace it with nothing. No flat tax, no sales tax," said Howell.

She'd want just a small reservoir of revenue left for the feds to operate a few defense bastions (only in America, not abroad) and leave the rest of it — high-

ways, welfare, Social Security, you name it — to cities, states, private enterprise and charities. "Small government is beautiful" is her slogan.

Sure, it's Utopian and rather dreamy. But it's a debatable philosophy. And the contrast with Kennedy, who has seldom seen a government program he doesn't like, would be grand in debate.

What debate, you ask? Kennedy may well seek to avoid one, especially since the Republicans are about to give him a pass.

But no politician is too big to have his or her views go unchallenged, especially running for senator. If Howell makes the ballot, she should be entitled to debate against Kennedy — especially since the Libertarians are now an official "major party" in Massachusetts, with a line right next to the Democrats and Republicans on the ballot.

They got that status because Howell, as the Libertarians' candidate for state auditor in 1998, exceeded — in fact, doubled —

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the 3 percent of the total vote that a candidate must receive to give her or his party "major party" rank.

Howell has an eclectic following. She was joined on stage at her announcement by tax-cut maven Barbara Anderson of Citizens for Limited Taxation and leaders of the state Gun Owners Action League and of the movement to legalize marijuana.

The reasons she has a solid chance to do a lot better this year include the Republicans' abdication, her party's hard work and the desire of a substantial minority of Massachusetts voters for an anti-Kennedy magnet.

If Howell tops 15 percent in the opinion polls later this summer, pressures will grow for her to be cut in on a debate. That's the threshold which a national presidential debate commission set for third-party candidates for the White House. Lawler said he'll insist on a debate if he hits 15 percent. You can bet Howell will demand it, too. And they should get it.

Howell is too smart to claim she actually will beat Kennedy. Just the thought of reaching 30 percent made her beam. Her aim is to get out the message of the movement: "If a few years from now, government is smaller, and when you go down to Congress or the State House and the debate is over how to privatize the roads (not whether to), then I'll be happy as a clam."

Talk back to Wayne Woodlief, on line at bostonherald.com.



Wayne WOODLIEF

Libertarian Party plans new chapter in Monroe

BY STAFF WRITER
MICHAEL CAPUTO

The Libertarian Party will soon have an organized presence in Monroe County.

Tomorrow, a founding convention for the Monroe County chapter of the party will be held at the Rochester Engineering Society Conference Room, 1806 Lyell Ave.

Rochester resident Steve Healey will likely be voted chairman of the new party. Healey, 31, said the first goal is to build up the party ranks.

"We'll do outreach with high school students and reach out to those at festivals," Healey said.

Running candidates is a possibility if there are people interested in carrying the Libertarian Party banner locally, and if there is enough support from volunteers to help promote the candidacies.

The party's philosophy generally calls for the least amount of intrusion by government in people's lives. Typically the party opposes most forms of taxation. For example, Libertarians call for the decriminalization of drugs and oppose the use of military force except in strict defense of the country's borders.

But Healey said there is dis-

agreement even among party members as to what degree government should be involved in the lives of the governed.

"Libertarians like to debate, love to debate," he said.

The New York state Libertarian Party lists the following as some of its guiding principles:

■ That each individual possesses the inalienable right to life and liberty and to justly acquired property.

■ That all individuals are entitled to choose their own lifestyles, as long as they do not forcibly impose their values on others.

■ That the only moral basis of politics is the preservation and protection of individual rights.

Bruce Voris, 47, a longtime Libertarian who will be involved in the party, said it has been nearly 10 years since there was an active Libertarian Party in Monroe County.

He said Healey is from a new generation that believes it can be a force of great change.

"The younger crowd isn't aware of what it can't do," he said.

Current active third parties in the county include the Conservative, Independence and Green parties. □

Quote of the Week

Libertarianism, the pure Jeffersonian ideal, to me is appealing. I'm not an active member of the Libertarian Party, but I do think there is room for their concepts in our experiment in democracy. We are responsible for our actions. We should consider taking the road less traveled with less government.

— Dwight Yoakam



- ▲ *The Rochester Democrat & Chronicle*, Rochester, New York, February 14, 2000
- ◀ *The Boston Herald*, Boston, Massachusetts, March 30, 2000
- ▶ *Country Weekly*, Lantana, Florida, February 22, 2000

Libertarian Party builds steam at local, state levels

BY JULIE HANSON
STAFF WRITER

When Libertarian Patrick El-Azem of Chelmsford announced his candidacy for state representative last month he already had plenty of company.

Carla Howell, also a Libertarian, is making a run for Democrat Ted Kennedy's United States Senate seat and Weston resident John Sullivan has entered the race as a Libertarian candidate for the Fifth Middlesex District seat now held by state Sen. Susan Fargo. Just last week James D. Mollison of Billerica announced he would run against state Rep. Bill Greene, D-Billerica.

In all, the Libertarian party nationwide has 25 candidates running for state representative seats and five for state senate in the 2000 elections.

"We've managed to double our size in each of the last two election cycles," said Elias Israel, chair of the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts.

There are 11,138 registered Libertarians in Massachusetts. Israel receives 300 to 500 new registrations a month. He attributes the growth to the recent popular appeal of the Libertarian "hands-off" philosophy — 30 percent of Americans said they'd prefer less government involvement in their lives.

Such views are especially popular with younger voters, Israel said. The average age of a regis-

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ELIAS ISRAEL, CHAIR OF THE
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tered Libertarian is 35. Republicans report an average age of 51 and Democrats are 55.

"We expect to be a growing influence this year, next year and the year after that," Israel said.

Libertarian Marketing Director Elaine Berchin attributes the growth to several factors.

"A number of people are disgusted by the status quo," Berchin said.

The number of unenrolled and independent voters in Massachusetts is larger than the number of Democrats and Republicans combined. Berchin said many voters are now looking to the Libertarian party as an alternative. She believes the success of third-party candidates such as Gov. Jesse Ventura of Minnesota have paved the way for others and people are ready to listen to the fresh ideas of small parties.

"In brief, the Libertarian Party stands for individual liberty, personal responsibility and a small constitutionally-limited govern-

ment," said Laura El-Azem, press relations secretary for the Chelmsford Libertarian Committee.

The Libertarians held their first national convention in 1972, nominating philosophy professor John Hospers for president. His back-to-basics platform revolved around a free-market economy, a dedication to civil liberties and personal freedom and a foreign policy of non-intervention, peace and free trade. Also that year, Libertarian vice-presidential candidate Tonie Nathan became the first woman in U.S. history to receive an electoral vote. The Libertarians have fielded a presidential candidate in every election since that time.

The Libertarians have historically been strong in New Hampshire, according to George Getz of the National Libertarian Party. The party's greatest victory to date occurred in Dixville Notch, N.H. — the first town in the nation to vote during the 1992 presidential primary. Presidential incumbent George Bush was defeated 11 votes to 9 by Libertarian candidate Andre Marrou. That same year Libertarian legislators Cal Warburton and Flindlay Rothhaus were re-elected and newcomers Don Gorman and Andy Borsa were elected to the legislature for their first terms.

In 1996 more than 20,000 Massachusetts voters backed Libertarian presidential candidate Harry Browne. The Libertar-

Party to elect state delegates

The Westford Libertarian Town Committee will hold its annual caucus on March 9 at the J. V. Fletcher Library. The caucus begins at 7 p.m. Invitations have been mailed to all Westford Libertarians.

"We're really excited about this caucus," said Brian DeRosa, chair of the Westford Libertarian Town Committee. "This is a great opportunity for local Libertarians to meet and vote on the future of our party and our town committee."

At the caucus, Libertarians will vote for delegates to the state convention. Westford will send three official delegates to the state convention as well as many alternate delegates. While all Libertarians are encouraged to attend the state convention April 15,

at the Newton Marriott, the Westford delegates will help choose the next Libertarian presidential candidate by selecting delegates for the national convention.

"Since our caucus is just after the Libertarian Presidential primary on March 7, we're expecting lots of excitement and activity," said Joe Fischetti member of the town committee and candidate for State Representative.

After the caucus business is completed, the regular Libertarian town committee meeting will commence. On the agenda are a discussion of support for local candidates and a scholarship fund for local high school seniors.

ian party retains ballot status in 34 states including Massachusetts.

Membership is growing in New England.

"The trend is up," said David Roscoe, the local membership secretary.

Roscoe said rising taxes and an overall dissatisfaction with the government is bringing more people to the Libertarian Party. He has 854 people on his mailing list. Massachusetts has 750 party members who have signed the Libertarian Pledge of Non-aggression. The pledge is a cornerstone of the party's beliefs. It states that no person, group or form of government has the right to initiate force against any other person, group or form of government. Aggres-

sion is simply defined as forcing anyone to take an action against his or her will. In this context taxes are an act of aggression.

The party's focus on personal responsibility requires that criminals pay the price for violating other's rights. The Libertarian crime program seeks to protect victim's rights by requiring that criminals fully compensate their victims for property and medical costs as well as pain and suffering. Convicted criminals would serve all of their time without parole.

Libertarians tend to favor less government involvement in just about everything. In order to make American companies competitive, Libertarians believe the government must put an end to foreign subsidies, domestic

trade barriers and tariffs. The party has also spoken against minimum wage laws.

Libertarians have taken controversial stands in their fight for personal freedom, among them the weakening of gun control and the legalization of drugs.

The party supports the push to privatize many government departments, such as the Department of Education. If the DOE were eliminated, the Libertarians would push for such measures as tax credits to give parents the financial ability to choose among schools. Financial incentives would be considered for businesses and individuals to help fund the educational system.

Privatization also plays a part in the party's health care platform.

▲ *The Westford Eagle*, Westford, Massachusetts, March 2, 2000

▼ *The Union*, Grass Valley, California, March 4, 2000

Libertarian Senate hopeful focuses on education

By DOUG MATTON
The Union

Well before he voted for Richard Nixon in the 1960 presidential election, Jon Petersen was a Republican. Just like his dad.

However, upset with what he called the party's inability to shrink government, Petersen abandoned the GOP to become a Libertarian in 1988.

"I kept seeing (President Ronald) Reagan was making promises, and they never came to fruition," he said.

With his new party, the 61-year-old went on to run for state treasurer twice, the state Assembly twice and the state Senate once, all while living in the Bay Area.

Now, two years after moving to Grass Valley, Petersen is seeking the state Senate seat from District 1. He's one of 114 state



Petersen

he said.

Petersen's No. 1 goal is diminishing government, and he points to education as a top reason that should be done.

Home-schooled students perform better than students at public schools, which are bogged down by state mandates, he claims.

Home-schooled students "know who

party members vying for either a state or federal office.

Petersen is aware he isn't likely to become a state senator anytime soon.

"The odds are pretty small, but what I do expect is that more people will learn about that Libertarian Party,"

they are. They don't have to worry about their self-esteem and don't have to be propped up with words like 'self-esteem' because they know who they are.

"They don't try to run in packs or form gangs and cliques. It's sort of amazing to see," he said.

Petersen would also like to see state government operate unfettered by the federal government.

An example, he said, is federal prosecution of medical-marijuana cases in California, where voters approved the Compassionate Use Act, which he supports.

Petersen is a semi-retired computer programmer. He works as a consultant to IBM through New York-based Computer Task Group. He and wife, Marianne, also a Libertarian, have seven children and seven grandchildren.