

LIBERTY PLEDGE

newsletter

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Browne on only 49 state ballots

In an unexpected twist, Libertarian presidential candidate Harry Browne will not appear on the ballot in all 50 states, the party has announced.

On September 22, a U.S. District Court in Phoenix, Arizona dismissed a lawsuit filed by the Libertarian Party that would have placed Browne and VP candidate Art Olivier on the state ballot as independents.

"The ruling is a disappointment," said LP National Director Steve Dasbach. "Not only does it break the Libertarian Party's streak of 50-state presidential campaigns, it also snatches away from Arizona residents the opportunity to cast a principled vote for Harry Browne and Art Olivier."

Browne and Olivier

have qualified to be on 49 other state ballots and in DC.

In the decision, the judge dismissed the party's lawsuit — which sought to have the state's mid-June petitioning deadline ruled unconstitutional — on procedural grounds.

The LP was forced to launch a last-minute independent petition drive to get Browne on the Arizona ballot after one faction of the state LP refused to place the party's presidential candidate on the ballot.

Instead, in early September, that faction — recognized by the government as



■ Browne:
On 49 ballots.

the state's "official" Libertarian Party — instructed the Arizona Secretary of State to place Colorado science fiction author L. Neil Smith on the ballot as the LP candidate for president.

Browne's campaign manager, Perry Willis, said it was a "disturbing" decision.

"That group has decided to ignore the Arizona presidential primary that gave Harry Browne 77% of the Libertarian vote, and to ignore the LP's choice at the national convention," he said. "It's up to the people involved to explain why they want to defeat the efforts of Libertarians all over the country — who worked so hard to get the Libertarian nominee on every state ballot for the third presidential election in a row."

CAMPAIGN 2000

Washington state LP trounces other alternative parties

In one of the first head-to-head match-ups with other alternative parties in the 2000 elections, the Libertarian Party received more than seven times as many votes as the Green, Reform, and Natural Law parties combined in the Washington state primary election on September 19.

LP candidates for U.S. House, U.S. Senate, state-wide office, state legislature, and county-level offices won a combined total of 373,820 votes, reported state Executive Director Carol Miller — compared to about 50,000 for all other third parties.

"We're making history," she said.

61 candidates

The LP ran 61 candidates in the primary, and all of them scored over the 1% required by state law to move on to the general election.

And for the first time since the primary system was set up in 1977, LP candidates for both governor and U.S. Senate will appear on the November 7 ballot.

"In the history of the 1% rule, no third party has qualified a candidate for governor or U.S. Senate," said state LP activist Kelly Houghton. "In 2000, the Libertarian Party will qualify [for] both! Wow!"

Browne ties Buchanan in two new polls

In good news for the Harry Browne for president campaign, the Libertarian candidate has tied Pat Buchanan in two new national polls.

In both a Reuters/Zogby poll and a Rasmussen poll released on September 21, Browne was running neck-and-neck with Buchanan — "despite receiving much less media attention, having much smaller name identification, and having

less money to spend than [Buchanan] does," said Browne campaign manager Perry Willis.

According to Reuters/Zogby, Browne and Buchanan were tied at 1%, while Rasmussen Research had them tied at 1.2%.

In other news, the Browne campaign has announced that it will offer an Internet alternative to the presidential debates.

Browne will provide

videotaped responses to the questions asked of Democrat Al Gore and Republican George W. Bush in the debates — which will exclude all third-party candidates — sponsored by the Commission on Presidential Debates.

The responses will then be posted to the website, FreedomChannel.com, within 24 to 48 hours of the debates, alongside the answers from Bush and Gore.

Libertarian pullout saves state money

By Mick Hinton
and Paul English
Staff Writers

One of the two Libertarian Party candidates Friday pulled out of the statewide Corporation Commission race scheduled for the Sept. 19 runoff, a move that will save the state more than \$200,000.

State Election Board Secretary Lance Ward said that candidate Whitney L. Boutin Jr. of Norman filed a paper with the election board stating that he was withdrawing.

Boutin's withdrawal means that in 36 of the state's 77 counties, there will no longer have to be a runoff race, Ward said, because the runoff for corporation commission was the only statewide race slated.

Otherwise, all of the precincts in those counties would have had to open up, even though there are few Libertarians registered to vote in the state. Ward said that would have entailed three workers per precinct who would have had to man the voting places.

Boutin and Roger Bloxham of Tulsa had emerged from Tuesday's primary as the leaders in the three-way Libertarian race for cor-

poration commission. They were vying for the seat held by Republican Bob Anthony, whose name will appear on the November general election ballot.

Bloxham said first he planned to withdraw, but that he talked with Boutin, who said he was going to withdraw.

"Boutin deserves a gold star on his Libertarian report card," Bloxham said.

Boutin said it would have cost the state a lot of money, which is why he withdrew.

Ward said, "Clearly, this does save the state a substantial amount of money, and I compliment these guys for what they're doing."

There are fewer than 400 registered as Libertarians in the state, but the estimated 185,000 independents also would be eligible to vote in the statewide runoff.

But Ward said that in every state precinct except two, there is at least one Libertarian or independent registered to vote.

Boutin, 39, led the primary with 859 votes, or 41.9 percent of all votes cast. Bloxham, 72, was second with 652 votes, or 31.8 percent, and Richard Prawdzienski, 52, of Edmond received 538 votes, or 26.3 percent.

◀ *The Daily Oklahoman*
Oklahoma City,
Oklahoma
August 26, 2000

▼ (LEFT) *Insight*
Washington, DC
August 28, 2000

▼ *The Washington Times*
Washington, DC
August 9, 2000

What's Really in Those Pretty Little Heads?

For the people always is pleased to receive a fax from the Libertarian Party, which happens almost daily, but a recent dispatch was particularly disturbing. The fax described a fresh poll of more than 1,000 Americans by the New York-based First Amendment Center, a think tank that looks at how Americans view rights such as freedom of speech, press, assembly and religion.

The study found that "significant numbers of Americans say they are willing to allow the government to control, restrict or ban material that some find offensive." A little more than half of those interviewed, 51 percent, said, for example, that the press in the United States has "too much freedom to do what it wants."

One in five said that the government should be allowed to approve beforehand what newspapers publish, while 36 percent said they would approve of laws that banned "public remarks offensive to racial groups" (a percentage that might seem a bit low, given current politically correct attitudes).

Fifty-four percent of those polled said they would like the government to rate entertainment programs shown on TV and 58 percent said the government should be in the business of restricting sexually explicit Internet content.

Sizable minorities of those interviewed favored stringent measures against small groups outside of the mainstream. Twenty percent said freedom of religion "was never meant to apply to religious groups that the majority consider extreme or fringe," for example, and 31 percent said a group should not be able to hold a rally if its cause is "offensive" to some in the community.

But the most disturbing survey finding was that 37 percent of those interviewed could not name even one of the five freedoms guaranteed by the First Amendment. They couldn't cite freedom of religion, speech, press, assembly and the right to petition the government for redress of grievance, which left the Libertarians wondering: "Will the First Amendment die of neglect?"

Browne ties Buchanan

The Libertarian Party is hailing a national survey by Rasmussen Research showing that their presidential candidate, Harry Browne, is now tied with Reform Party candidate Pat Buchanan.

The men each had 1.6 percent in the Rasmussen three-day rolling average of 2,250 voters. Green Party candidate Ralph Nader garnered 4 percent.

"Harry Browne has caught up with Pat Buchanan, whose campaign is leaking air like a punctured Zeppelin," said Steve Dabasch, the Libertarians' national director. "And Ralph Nader better start looking into the rear-view mirror of his puttering Corvair — because Harry Browne is aiming to pass him next."

Mr. Buchanan hopes to wrap up the Reform Party presidential nomination this week, but he is being fought by followers of party founder Ross Perot.

Candidate would abolish the job

By **SUZANNE BESSETTE**
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Phil Horras of Springfield is rolling 200 miles across Missouri, pushing toward what seems to many an impossible goal.

The 44-year-old small-business owner has been in a wheelchair for over 10 years, the result of a spinal tumor aggravated by a military parachuting injury. But instead of holding him back, Horras' wheelchair has now become his vehicle for a political campaign tour along the Katy Trail.

Horras, the Libertarian candidate for lieutenant governor, makes only one promise: if elected, he will abolish the post of lieutenant governor. "I have one plank in my platform. It's a thin platform, but it's as solid as any two-by-eight," Horras said.

Horras believes that the post of lieutenant governor is redundant, used only as a stepping stone in the careers of politicians who aspire to higher offices.

He contends that the duty of lieutenant governor to act as an advocate for the elderly and children is already taken care of by a number of government boards and departments. "They'll tell you they want to protect the elderly and early childhood development, but you know if the lieutenant governor wasn't there, somebody else would be doing that."

The lieutenant governor has the power to break tie votes in the Senate, except on the final vote. Horras believes that if a bill is not strong enough to pass by a clear majority, then it ought not be made law.

Even the lieutenant governor's position as successor to the governor is

redundant, according to Horras, because the constitution stipulates a lengthy chain of succession. "The constitution says a number of times, 'if there be no lieutenant governor,' which kind of indicates that they anticipated I was going to come along," Horras said with a mischievous smile.

While Horras looks toward a future without the lieutenant governorship, his fellow candidates are ready to defend the position they are fighting for. "It's a matter of tradition," said Reform Party candidate George Weber.

Wendell Bailey, the Republican candidate, agrees with Horras to a certain extent. "It certainly doesn't work every day for good government for the people," Bailey said. "We intend to reinvent the lieutenant governorship and make it a meaningful office in the state."

The Democratic candidate, Sen. Joe Maxwell, argues that in 1992 Missourians voted to expand the role of the lieutenant governor, proving that the position is worthwhile and mandated by the people.

"Clearly, Missourians have given direct responsibility to the lieutenant governor's office to be the advocate of the most vulnerable in our society," Maxwell said.

Horras is no novice to political campaigns. He has run for senator or representative from his home district in every election since 1990. Though unsuccessful in each attempt, Horras remains optimistic and has even scored a small victory in this campaign. Stopping to talk with supporters along the Katy trail, he joked about his recent success. "There was a turtle on the way, and I smoked him."



PAMELA WENGER/Missourian

Libertarian candidate Phil Horras, campaigning Saturday on the Katy Trail, has a sense of humor about his run for lieutenant governor. Horras features a flying pig on his campaign Web site: www.itcouldhappen.molp.org

◀ *The Columbia Missourian*
Columbia, Missouri
August 27, 2000

▼ *The Indianapolis Star*
Indianapolis, Indiana,
August 27, 2000

Libertarians gain seats, respect of Democrats, GOP

By **Bill McCleery**
STAFF WRITER

The shopper at Washington Square mall paused to ponder the question: What about those Libertarians?

"You don't really hear anything about them," said Janie Demoor, 49. "The last time I remember hearing about them was when that guy in the helicopter crashed."

That would be Andrew Horning, who was inside a helicopter filming a campaign commercial last year when he was running for mayor of Indianapolis.

The pilot was forced to make a crash landing. No one was injured, and as they say in politics, there's no such thing as bad publicity.

Horning's crash was in the newspaper and on TV. But he wishes his ideas would get as much attention.

This year, he's the Libertarian candidate for governor.

"If I were to get the same ink and the same air time as the other guys — inch per inch and second per second — I could win this election," he said.

And the Libertarians are winning more these days.

Before 1998, the number of elected Libertarians in Indiana was zero.

Since then, six Libertarians have won elections — though one of those victories came in a Delaware County School Board race, a traditionally nonpartisan venue.

Last year, a Libertarian defeated a popular Republican incumbent to win a seat on the Greenfield City Council. The same day, the party picked up seats on the town councils of Silver Lake in Kosciusko County and Universal in Vermillion.

Several weeks ago, Newton County Surveyor Charles W. Lone switched his politi-



Andrew Horning, the Libertarian candidate for governor, drew media attention last year when the helicopter in which he was riding crash-landed during the filming of a commercial for his run for mayor of Indianapolis. "If I were to get the same ink and the same air time as the other guys — inch per inch and second per second — I could win this election," he says.

cal affiliation from Democrat to Libertarian, giving the party a total of seven elected officials in Indiana. (The last two are Jefferson Township officials in Washington County, who won in 1998.)

Nationally, Libertarians occupy about 166 elected offices. Their highest-ranking office-holder is a Vermont state legislator, U.S. Rep. Ron Paul, R-Texas, is an ally of the party despite his current affiliation: in 1988, he was the Libertarian presidential nominee.

But it all hardly puts them on a par with the two major parties.

"Libertarian Party? I don't even know what the heck it is," said Cordell Lofton, who also was shopping at Washington Square. "They're supposed to be, like, neutral, right?"

Lofton, 40, said he doesn't pay much attention to politics. Horning said those are the voters Libertarians want to reach.

"Everybody who's gotten involved with my campaign is someone who's found excitement (in politics) for the first time in a long time," Horning said.

People are drawn to the clarity of Libertarian principles, he added. They proclaim

that government at all levels needs to be smaller and less intrusive.

Conservatives are drawn to Libertarians' vows to cut taxes and spending, eliminate regulations, privatize schools and defend gun ownership, Horning said.

Liberals, meanwhile, also applaud some Libertarian stands — such as ending the war on drugs, protecting the privacy of individuals' personal lives and opposing discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

Sean Collins, 27, a sales clerk at Waldenbooks, said he votes Libertarian most of the time. Collins, who has a college degree in criminology, supports the Libertarian position on ending "drug prohibition."

"I don't smoke marijuana myself," he said, but he thinks tax dollars can be allocated in better ways than pursuing people who use drugs.

But shopper Curt Anderson called Libertarians unrealistic.

"They have a lot of good ideas," said Anderson, 38, "but I think they go too far on the side of freedom. With freedom comes responsibility, and if you leave people too

much on their own, you have chaos."

Though Libertarians have not seriously threatened the major parties' dominance, Lisa Kobe, a spokeswoman for the state Republican Party, said the GOP takes Libertarians seriously.

"In races where Libertarians or any third-party candidates are running, if they are well-known and have the financial wherewithal to get a message across, they have the potential to be viable."

People who vote Libertarian often support Republicans if there are no third-party candidates, Kobe added.

Libertarian Phil Miller, who won a seat on the Greenfield City Council last year, benefited from having no Democrat in that contest. Miller defeated GOP incumbent Briane House.

But even before the election, Miller, 45, had been trying to limit the power of government.

Under old regulations, for example, Girl Scouts in Greenfield needed permission from the local Board of Zoning Appeals to hold a fund-raising car wash. Miller began a crusade to end such "repression," as he calls it, three years before running for office.

"Now, if a Girl Scout wakes up on a Saturday morning and wants to have a car wash," Miller said, "she can do it — without getting in trouble with the law."

Mark Rutherford, Libertarian state chairman, said it takes time to get the same attention as the two largest political parties.

"We have to earn the respect," he said. "Our elected officials have a responsibility to show to the public what Libertarian officials are about."

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□ THE MONITOR VIEW

PRINCIPLED ALTERNATIVE

Libertarian candidate
stumps for libertarian ideals

Looking for a refreshing and challenging change of pace from the Republicans and Democrats? Check out Harry Browne, the Libertarian Party's nominee for president.

An investment adviser and author, he ran for president on the same ticket in 1996, getting just 0.5 percent of the vote. Admitting that his chances of winning the presidential election were "a very long shot," he's running a campaign of ideas and hoping to at least double his vote total.

He sees a public increasingly willing to examine Libertarian ideas and embrace broad themes of less government intrusion in Americans' lives and less military adventurism overseas. "It is possible we could elect a Libertarian president in this decade," he said.

Mr. Browne favors ending entirely the federal role in schooling. He asked, "Is there anyone who believes that, whether Al Gore or George Bush becomes president, there would be any improvement in public schools?"

On other issues, he said of Libertarians, "We have the strongest message possible. We're going to repeal the income tax, make sure your children don't fight or die in foreign wars, and make the streets safe by ending the war on drugs."

Is a vote for Browne wasted? Should citizens who want smaller government settle for what some consider the "lesser" of two evils in the two major parties? Brown believes otherwise. "Quit supporting people who are supporting larger government," he maintained.

He also said he's bringing people to the polling booths who formerly weren't interested in politics. "At least every day I get a couple of people who e-mail me saying, 'I didn't vote, but now I'm going to register Libertarian.' Whether a Democrat or Republican wins, it's all going to move in the same direction," of bigger government.

He's especially optimistic about ending the costly war on drugs, which has given America the world's highest incarceration rate and has sharply curbed civil liberties through wiretaps, raids on private homes and seizures of property, to an alarming degree of innocent people. "From my vantage point of being on talk shows, I can see clearly how the war on drugs is on its last legs," Browne observed. "Public support for it is just drifting away."

He's also hopeful that the Internet, a minor factor in 1996, will boost his campaign this time; his Web site: HarryBrowne.org.

Recent polls show him catching up to another third-party member of the "right," expected Reform Party nominee Pat Buchanan. Indeed, it seems as if Libertarian Party press releases spend more time sniping at the former TV commentator than attacking Bush and Gore. However, whereas the Reform Party will get \$12 million in tax money for their campaign, the Libertarians spurn all money that has been forcibly taken from taxpayers.

We hope that Browne is included in this fall's presidential debates. Like Buchanan, Constitution Party candidate Howard Phillips and Green Party candidate Ralph Nader, he offers a principled alternative that should be heard.

First-time Libertarian candidate stirs crowd

● Congressional candidate
J. Fred Staples makes an
Everyman persona work.

By JOSHUA L. WEINSTEIN
Staff Writer

When he was working the room, "Joe Sixpack" was masterful. He looked people in the eye and seemed to actually listen to their answers about where they were from. He even tossed back an anecdote about their town.

But waiting for his turn to speak Sunday, he was fidgety. He had never given a political speech in his life, and suddenly, he was a candidate for Congress about to address 120 people. Of course he was nervous.

Just before his speech, he acknowledged the jitters. "I've converted all the squirrels and birds on my block," he said. But he hadn't polished it in front of people.

It showed at first. But quickly, the Libertarian Party's candidate for Maine's 1st Congressional District hit his stride.

"My friends," he said, "I am not a genius. I am no great visionary. I'm just a hard-working, blue-collar American."

He is, he told the audience, what Bill Clinton and other "elitists" call "Joe Sixpack."

J. Fred Staples, a former telephone lineman from Biddeford, embraces the label — and he made it work for him.

"Joe Sixpack built this country," he told a crowd at the Holiday Inn on Riverside Street in Portland. "Joe Sixpack knows he's being ripped off."

The audience was his. "Joe Sixpack has had enough! It's time for a change. We elect Democrats and government gets bigger. We elect Republicans and government gets bigger."

He ended with a poem that could be mistaken for hokey — it's called "Let Freedom Ring," and he wrote it himself. He delivered it with gusto, and the audience rewarded it with applause.

It was a seemingly disparate audience — old men in ties and young men in ponytails. Conservatives and liberals.

Staples' message, and the Libertarian Party's message, is for small government. Really small.

"We want a government so small, it fits in your kitchen," an earlier speaker, Michael Cloud, explained to the audience, about two-thirds of whom had never attended a Libertarian event before.

The big draw of the day was Harry Browne, the party's presidential candidate.

Browne, who also was his party's nominee in 1996, greeted people at the door when they walked in. While Staples spoke, Browne stood by himself in the back of the room, listening.

Then he spoke — a solid, well-rehearsed oration about small government and personal accountability. He urged an end to the war on drugs. He spoke of abolishing the income tax. He condemned gun laws.

He said that if he receives 5 million votes, it will mean the party has arrived, and will be in a position to win congressional seats and, eventually, the White House.

Yet Staples, 45, a Biddeford native who sings in his church choir, took the day. It left him feeling great.

He acknowledged he doesn't have much of a chance of beating U.S. Rep. Tom Allen, the Democrat who has represented southern Maine in Congress since 1996, or Republican candidate Jane Amero. He was happy nonetheless. "The expectations for me are going to be so low, I'm going to beat all of them."

And he said it felt good to stir an audience with a Libertarian message. "I've been a gospel singer for many years," he said afterward. "I've heard applause before. But never for something I said."

On Sunday, he did.

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"Joe Sixpack has had enough!" J. Fred Staples, a Libertarian running for Congress, told his audience Sunday.

◀ (LEFT) *The Monitor*
McAllen, Texas
August 13, 2000

▲ *The Portland Press Herald*
Portland, Maine
August 14, 2000