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# Liberty Pledge

NEWSLETTER

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## **New Hampshire: Privatizing schools**

Libertarian activists in Manchester are circulating a petition to privatize that city's school system by 1997. The group, led by Libertarian Erich Zimmerman, needs 4,600 signatures to put to city-wide referendum an initiative to require the Manchester School Committee to fully privatize the staffing of the school system within three years. Their bid has already won the endorsement of the Concerned Taxpayers of Manchester.

## **Pennsylvania: Gun rights rally**

A Libertarian was one of the speakers at a huge Flag Day rally in Harrisburg on June 14th, and hammered home the LP's pro-gun rights position to an audience of about 8,000. Andy Barniskis, Chairman of the Bucks County Libertarian Committee, told the crowd, "You can only hit what you aim at — so join the Libertarians in aiming at nothing less than achieving complete freedom!" Libertarian activists handed out more than 2,500 pieces of literature, and Don Ernsberger said they got a "real good" response from the crowd: "They'd say, 'Yeah! I'm with you guys!' I got virtually no negatives."

## **Washington, DC: More LP'ers in office**

The number of Libertarians in public office has reached another all-time high: 123. Names added to the list over the past two months include Jack Matheney on the Riverside Charter Commission (Ohio); Mark Seiler on the Gaston County Planning Commission (North Carolina); Art Oliver on the Bellflower City Council (California); Rob Babione on the New Prague Zoning Board (Minnesota); James Boyd on the Board of Education, Proviso Township High schools (Illinois); Mitchell Moore on the Columbia Substance Abuse Advisory Committee (Missouri); Mark Mayer on the Menasha School Board (Wisconsin); and Gregory Gerber on the Stoughton School Board (Wisconsin).

## **Georgia: Ballot access lawsuit**

The state LP is going to court to try to ease ballot access restrictions for non-statewide races — among the toughest in the nation. A lawsuit filed June 14th would force the state to qualify Libertarian candidates for congressional, legislative and local races the same way it does Republican and Democratic candidates. (The LP already qualifies to be on statewide ballots.) A Democrat State Representative who had previously filed unsuccessful legislation to ease ballot access said fellow politicians weren't interested in changing the laws: "Nobody wants to make it easier for someone to run against them," he explained.

## **Washington, DC: Gun march in August**

A gun rights group is planning a march in Washington DC to bring national attention to Second Amendment issues, and is inviting Libertarians to participate. The Committee of 1776 has scheduled the rally for August 14, at the Lincoln Memorial. "We want the rally to be grassroots and massive, to send a message," said Ron Long, one of the organizers. The rally is being planned with support from Gun Owners of America, the JPFO, and 37 other groups in 25 states, said Long. (The Libertarian Party is not officially sponsoring or authorizing the event.) To receive more information or to volunteer to be a state or local coordinator, call (803) 269-6704.

## **Ohio: Which is the party of liberty?**

Former Congressman and HUD Secretary Jack Kemp is getting annoyed that the Libertarian Party is increasingly seen as the pro-free enterprise party — instead of the Republican Party. In a speech in Cleveland on May 20th, Kemp read from a newspaper article reporting that Leroy Jones, a black entrepreneur who fought city regulations to start a cab company in Denver, had been invited to speak at the LP of Ohio convention. "He should be speaking at our party convention," grumbled Kemp.

## **Washington, DC: Help requested on bill**

The Libertarian Party has been asked by an organization to help lobby for a pro-taxpayers' bill — yet another sign of the LP's increasing clout as a grassroots political force. Citizens for a Constitutional Republic have asked Libertarians to urge their representatives in Congress to sign a discharge petition for HR-3261, sponsored by Rep. James Traficant (R-Ohio). The bill would shift the burden of proof from taxpayers to the IRS in tax fraud cases, and increase to \$1 million civil action damages when taxpayers sue IRS agents for "recklessly or intentionally disregarding" their rights. The central telephone switchboard for Congress is (202) 224-3121.

## **New Hampshire: Dual nominations saved**

Republican Governor Steve Merrill vetoed a bill that would outlaw dual-party nominations — the time-honored Granite State political tradition that helped four Libertarians win election to the NH House of Representatives in 1992. (It allows candidates to win the co-nomination of one of the other major parties, and appear on the ballot twice.) "It is encouraging to have a governor who places the principles of open debate above the protection of those in a position of authority," said LPNH Chairman Jeff Emery.



Gary McCracken/News Journal

Led by Bob Wilson, right, several people took part in a candlelight vigil in downtown Pensacola marking one year since a showdown that killed 86 people at the Branch Davidian compound near Waco, Texas.

*Pensacola  
News Journal  
Pensacola, Florida  
April 20, 1994*

# Libertarians recall Waco showdown

## Government 'made war on people,' march organizer claims

By Angie Basiouny  
News Journal

Libertarian Party members vowed Tuesday never to forget the fiery showdown that killed 86 members at the Branch Davidian compound near Waco, Texas, one year ago.

"If there was to be a watchword from this, I would choose 'Never Again,'" said Bob Wilson, who organized the event with his wife, Sylvia. "Never again should the government make war on people. We want to keep the people in this town and in this building from forgetting what happened."

About 20 party members from Escambia, Santa Rosa and Okaloosa counties marched symbolically around the local office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms on Tuesday night.

They gathered for a candlelight vigil at One Pensacola Plaza, the downtown building that houses the ATF office.

After a short prayer — asking God to not let the sins of the government agents who stormed the compound go unpunished — and a moment of silence, members commented about the incident and the federal government.

Federal agents stormed the compound after a 51-day standoff with religious leader David Koresh, who had reportedly

amassed an arsenal of weapons. Most attending the vigil said they didn't agree with Koresh's beliefs but thought that Koresh and his followers had a right to do as they pleased.

"It's not a religious issue either. It's a constitutional issue," said Pensacola resident Daniel Webking. "They have a right to be wacky."

Those responsible in the siege were not held accountable, Wilson said.

"I feel and (Sylvia) feels the incident one year ago is being overlooked, forgotten, whitewashed by the federal government," he said. "These were peaceful citizens and they were

attacked by firing guns."

The Libertarian Party, the third largest political party in America, believes in less government and reduced taxation, he said.

"I am encouraged I didn't think there would be this many people here," Andre Bernier of Pensacola said. "For a while, I thought I was the only Libertarian."

Destin resident Bill Cimbalo, who attend the vigil with his wife, Faye, said the group was a small sampling of the number of Libertarians in the area.

"There are a lot of people that think just like us," he said.

# 'Cheap political stunt?' Not on our part

By Steven Becker

The *Democrat and Chronicle's* April 28 editorial describes the nomination of Howard Stern as the Libertarian candidate for governor as stooping to a cheap political stunt. That criticism rings hollow.

I was at the convention in Albany and I, like most long-time Libertarians, voted against Howard's nomination. As the newspaper should know, but decided to overlook, Howard had encouraged his many fans to pay their dues and join the Libertarian Party. Hundreds of his

fans did attend the convention and so Howard easily won the election. But since when does losing an election equate to stooping to a cheap stunt?

Two years ago, Norma Segal received more than 108,000 votes in the U.S. Senate race in New York. Gannett apparently found this completely unnewsworthy as no mention of this was ever published.

In the last governor's race, the Editorial Board interviewed all the major candidates for governor, but refused to see Gary Johnson, the Libertarian Party candidate, because "We already know the Libertarian positions on issues."

In '92, Dr. Nancy Lord, our vice presidential candidate, came to Rochester. Gannett covered her appearance by writing a sarcastic story on her difficulty finding a place to get her dry cleaning done in the

*'It is the major parties' conventions that are jokes'*

— Steven Becker

half-day she was here.

Four years before this, our presidential candidate was former Congressman Ron Paul. Gannett Rochester Newspapers' coverage of his visit to Rochester was equally underwhelming.

But let Howard Stern announce for our party's nomination and Gannett Rochester Newspapers does at least a half-dozen stories, a cartoon, and an editorial accusing us of turning the party into a joke.

It is Gannett Rochester Newspapers who will not cover our serious

candidates, presumably because serious candidates are boring. It is Gannett Rochester Newspapers that decided to cover Howard Stern as a major story because "shock jocks" are news, or perhaps because sex sells newspapers.

It is the major parties' conventions that are jokes — delegates are told how to vote and no one has a chance unless anointed by the party chairs. Remember how Pat Buchanan was kept off New York's Republican primary ballot in '92?

The Libertarians held an open and honest election in Albany and Howard Stern won, according to the rules. It may well have been a mistake, but the accusation that it was a cheap political stunt was both unfair and disingenuous. □

Becker, of Irondequoit an optometrist, is a member and former officer of the Genesee Region Chapter of the Libertarian Party.

*Rochester  
Democrat  
& Chronicle  
Rochester,  
New York  
May 10, 1994*

# Libertarians push Freedom!

By BRAD JENNINGS  
Staff Writer

To some, the federal government may resemble a puppet whose strings are being worked by the Democrats and Republicans.

Well, Libertarians are ready to assume the role of scissors in this political play.

With voter registration on the rise and candidates in most major races, Arizona's Libertarian Party officials are feeling pretty good these days.

"The American electorate is absolutely fed up with Republican and Democrat machine politics," said Tim Urell, party chairman in Yuma County.

"They feel that neither party represents them."

So Urell said many are looking to alternative political parties, including the Libertarians.

While the numbers are still small, registration is up nationwide.

In Yuma County, there are 73 registered Libertarians, according to County Recorder Susan Marler's office.

Rick Tompkins, state party chairman, said more than 6,000 Libertarians are registered in the state.

He said it's hard to get a good handle on how many are registered nationwide because only about 25 states allow people to register Libertarian.

"I think the momentum is really showing an accelerated pace," Tompkins said.

But why now? The party has been around since the early 1970s and has been making noise for a number of years.

But as people get more disillusioned with the two-party system, Libertarians say they are gaining in popularity.

"We knew that when people wanted their freedom, they would come to us," said Ernest Hancock, secretary of state candidate and party chairman for Maricopa County.

And freedom is what Libertarians say they are all about.

"Basically, government gets out of your face, period," Hancock said of the party's beliefs.

"The only role of government is to settle disputes and prosecute fraud and violence. That's it."

Many services now provided by the government would be privatized or made nonexistent by Libertarians, Hancock said.

And taxes would be a thing of the past under Libertarians.

"It is immoral for you, in the name of government, to go to someone and force them to give up some of their property to give to someone else that didn't earn it, doesn't deserve it," Hancock said.

Party officials agree that the debate over gun control is what may help Libertarians — who believe the government should

not butt in on gun owners at all — the most in recruiting new members.

"The Democratic Party has never been a friend of gun advocates," Tompkins said. "The Republican Party has abandoned them on that issue."

Hancock stressed personal freedom in all areas of life.

He said as long as people don't mess with you, you shouldn't mess with them.

Urell said people still don't understand Libertarians. He said some people think he's an anarchist when he tells them what political party he belongs to.

"It's really very mixed," he said of the reactions he gets. "The common reaction I get is a blank stare."

*The Valley  
Foothills News  
Yuma, Arizona  
May 12, 1994*

*Rockford  
Register Star  
Rockville, Illinois  
May 17, 1994*



CHUCK SWEENEY

## Don't like Edgar or Netsch? Try a Kelley

Forget about who's the lesser of two evils in the race for governor this November.

There is, however, a third choice: David Kelley, the Libertarian candidate. Kelley, 41, is a Rockfordian who is a construction manager for a Minneapolis-based firm.

Kelley is no anarchist. He believes Americans do require a government, but that governments at all levels have taken too much control from the people.

Mandates or prohibitions are the only tools government has at its disposal," Kelley says.

"When the only tool you've got is a hammer, every problem starts to look like a nail."

Kelley says Americans should follow George Washington's warning about the inherent nature of any government to continually expand its power until it becomes a tyranny.

Said the first president: "Government is not eloquence, it is not reason. It is force, and like fire, it is a dangerous servant and fearful master."

Libertarians, says Kelley, "strive for things to be as contractually voluntary as possible."

"People should be free to live their lives as they see fit, so long as they are not infringing on the equal right of their neighbor to do that."

# Libertarians picking up steam in Arizona

By BRAD JENNINGS  
Staff Writer

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Hancock stressed personal freedom in all areas of life. He said as long as people don't mess with you, you shouldn't mess with them.

As an example, he related something he told a group of "right-wingers" at a pro-life event recently.

"Let me tell you something," Hancock said he told the group. "Next door I have two flaming queers doing heroin, watching porno movies, and I couldn't possibly care less. As long as they do not violate my life, my liberty or my property, I have no standing."

Urell said people still don't understand Libertarians. He said some people think he's an anarchist when he tells them what political party he belongs to.

"It's really very mixed," he said of the

reactions he gets. "The common reaction I get is a blank stare."

But Urell said that is slowly changing. And with the slate of candidates running on the Libertarian ticket this year, the blank stare may soon be gone altogether.

Besides Hancock, John Buttrick is running for governor and Scott Grainger is running for the U.S. Senate. There also are a number of Libertarians running for the Arizona Legislature.

Urell said his main goal is to "raise consciousness" about the party.

"(I want to) convince people that elections are not horse races," he said. "You do not get awarded by voting for the winner."

Of course, party officials admit that winning may still be a few years down the road. But Tompkins said nothing can be ruled out. "The year before the Berlin Wall came down, nobody would have predicted it was going to happen," Tompkins said.

Urell, who first registered Libertarian in 1988, said the rise of the Libertarian Party is "inevitable."

"A huge number of Americans are, in their heart, Libertarian."

# Libertarians win OK for booth

• The city reverses a ban on the political party's voter registration booth at 'Downtown Saturday Night' events.

By DAVID PITTMAN  
Citizen Political Writer

Tucson officials, in a reversal, indicated yesterday that they will grant a permit to the Libertarian Party to operate a booth at "Downtown Saturday Night" events.

Libertarians had applied to operate a voter registration booth at two Downtown Saturday Night events in April, but their requests were denied, prompting the party to file suit in Pima County Superior Court, seeking injunctive relief and \$65,000 in actual and punitive

damages.

A hearing on the lawsuit that had been scheduled today was canceled after the city decided to change its position and grant the permit.

Officials of the Tucson Arts District Partnership had maintained that city codes forbade political and religious organizations from participating in Downtown Saturday Night events.

Peter C. Schmerl, a Tucson lawyer who filed the suit on behalf of the Libertarian Party, said excluding the political group from participating violated free speech and equal protection rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution.

Schmerl said the party will still seek damages against the city.

Libertarians first sought to operate a booth at Downtown Saturday Night events last fall. That re-

quest, however, was denied, said Schmerl, who is county chairman of the Libertarian Party.

Schmerl said other groups have been allowed to sell bumper stickers, T-shirts and buttons with political messages at Downtown Saturday Night events.

"The lawsuit was kind of a last resort," said Schmerl. "It's not like we were asking for anything special."

Tucson Citizen, Tucson, Arizona, June 1, 1994

## Third parties offer voters influence on the big two

Outsiders can and do have effect on political process

By TONIE NATHAN

It is certainly true that a third party has no political power in today's context. The two major parties, Republicans and Democrats, determine the laws, pass out the patronage, grants and subsidies, and control who gets appointed to what. To that extent, growth in the number of registered independent and third-party supporters in Oregon may seem ineffectual and meaningless. It is not.

During the '60s and '70s when public unhappiness with the Vietnam War was high, Eugene McCarthy won the support of the anti-war crowd. By 1976, without party structure or a running mate, McCarthy garnered about 750,000 votes nationwide as a presidential candidate. His candidacy helped to solidify public sentiment for a noninterventionist foreign policy.

In 1980, Ed Clark, the Libertarian Party presidential candidate, won almost 1 million votes and was on the ballot in every state. His candidacy spawned four bills in Congress demanding "burden sharing" by our allies because, as Clark said, "American taxpayers should not be paying for the defense of rich countries such as Japan and Germany."

In 1992, H. Ross Perot won 19 percent of the national vote for president as an independent whose main plank was bringing our national debt under control. His candidacy forced President Clinton and the spendthrift Congress to address reducing the annual national deficit.

Today, some 20 percent of registered voters in Oregon do not align with either the Republicans or Democrats, and polls show voter dissatisfaction at an all-time high. What does this growing disaffection with our political system mean, and what can voters do to address it?

For one thing, voters can demand some changes in Oregon's ballot-access laws. If only Democrats and Republicans are allowed on Oregon primary ballots, why are the independents and minor-party members paying for these discriminatory two-party elections? They ought to be privately funded, just as the minor parties pay for their own nominating conventions.

Worse, the law forbids minor-party candidates from officially registering for the November ballot until 15 days after the May

*Tonie Nathan of Eugene was the first vice presidential candidate of the Libertarian Party and the first woman in U.S. history to win an Electoral College vote. She is the former national director of media relations for the Libertarian Party.*

primary.

This means that when media and forums throughout the state ask for the official candidate lists immediately after the primary elections, they get lists that exclude independent or third-party candidates. Such "other" candidates are then ignored because they are unknown.

This is not accidental. The Republicans and Democrats do not want competition. The laws they pass are intended to make it difficult for independent candidates and minor parties.

There is a valid reason for this, illustrated by the 14 percent vote siphoned off by an independent gubernatorial candidate in 1992. That vote would have otherwise gone to the losing Republican candidate, thereby allowing him to win.

But even without changes, I would suggest that voting for the lesser of two evils is still evil. It is better to vote for the candidate who best represents one's views, even if one's choice doesn't win, because this is the most important message the voting public can send about its beliefs.

Today, discriminating voters ought to ask themselves whether candidates of the two major parties really merit our support. The millions who supported Perot and the Libertarian Party, the nation's third largest political party, have shown that many voters think not.

This growing dissident minority is influential and affects new legislation. For example:

The idea of privatization of public services in order to cut the costs of local governments is a Libertarian idea, now widely accepted. Privatizing fire departments, prisons and transportation is working successfully in many areas throughout the nation. Privatization is one of the ways our state government could reduce its projected budget shortfall.

A public policy allowing taxpayers to direct some of the educational funds the state collects to schools most valued by parents is a Libertarian idea now being implemented in other states. This idea is to create competition among all schools, public and private, thus increasing the quality and varieties of education while lowering bureaucratic costs and relieving crowded classrooms.

Such ideas lend support to minor parties whence such political innovation springs. Oregon voters fed up with the stale solutions to state problems offered by major party candidates should look at fresh alternatives.

Voting for "other" candidates is one way to send a message to politicians who consider party allegiance to special interests more important than solving pressing governmental problems that affect us all.

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The Oregonian, Portland, Oregon, May 17, 1994

# Libertarians feel Hazel Park is the place to be

■ Leaders believe party's stands are aligned with residents' opposition to government interference.

By Robert Carr  
Special Writer

Look out, anti-gun advocates. Look out, tax-hungry bureaucrats. The Libertarian Party is moving in next door.

The party that opposes gun control and favors legalizing marijuana has opened new campaign headquarters on John R Road in Hazel Park.

Party leaders selected Jon Coon unanimously April 24 during a convention at the Metro Airport Ramada Inn to head the party's ticket in succeeding Democratic U.S. Sen. Donald Riegle, who is not seeking re-election. Coon, 34 and from Henderson, is running against, among others, Republicans Spencer Abraham and Ronna Romney and U.S. Rep. Bob Carr and state Sen. Lana Pollack, both Democrats.

Coon is the former owner of a lumber company; Abraham, the former chief of the state Republican Party; and Romney, a former radio talk-show host.

"I think there's a lot of blue-collar support for the Libertarian Party in

Hazel Park," said Susan Tabar, media chairperson for the Coon campaign.

She said the new spot in the suburban city was just the right place, for the right amount of money, and is an equal distance from everything in the metropolitan area.

"In a private survey we did in Michigan, 7 out of 10 people tell us they are going to vote for Jon Coon, specifically in the Oakland and Macomb area," said Tabar.

Local backers include rock star Ted Nugent. He recently called people who favor gun control "cowards," saying, "If you let anybody in this government tell you what to do, you are a weenie."

"Ted has officially endorsed Jon Coon," said Tabar.

"The Libertarian Party is basically the common ground between the Democrats and the Republicans. However, it is set apart by not playing the game of the political scene, and, unlike most politicians, we are for getting things accomplished," she said.

Tabar said the party, which holds three legislative seats in Alaska and four in New Hampshire, is not pro-substance abuse, but does support any legislation legalizing marijuana. She added that the party is not absolutely anti-tax, but wants to "try to cut all wasteful spending, such as paying government employees astronomical numbers, etc."

"We think people are going to vote for Jon," said Tabar. "People are frustrated, and they're not going to take it any more."

The Daily Tribune, Royal Oak, Michigan, May 15, 1994