

# LIBERTY PLEDGE

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## newsletter

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## Crickenberger steps in as LP National Director

**A**fter almost four years as Libertarian Party National director, Perry Willis has stepped down from that position, LP chairman Steve Dasbach has announced.

Taking his place will be the party's current Political Director, Ron Crickenberger, who will serve as Interim National Director.

During Willis' tenure from 1993 to 1997, the Libertarian Party saw its paid membership double to 23,000, moved its headquarters from a shabby section of Washington, DC, to the prestigious Watergate Office Building, and tripled in strength financially, to an organization with a \$2 million annual budget.

Willis will continue to play an active role in the party, and will concentrate on prospecting and membership growth projects, said Dasbach.

"While we're sorry to see him leave [as National Director], this will let Perry focus even more on those areas where he's an expert," he said.

Willis said he decided to resign because he realized that more work needed to be done in membership recruitment.

"It has been clear to me that I could not execute the party's ambitious membership growth project and remain as National Director," he said. "That is why I have decided to step down, so I can concentrate on that area where I think I can do the most good for the party. For all of my 17 years in the Libertarian Party, I have championed one idea above all else — that the *only* way we will ever be able to compete with the older parties is to be as big as they are. [By resigning], I am merely changing my role, not my goal."

**DASBACH SAID** he looked forward to working with Crickenberger as new National Director.

"Ron has demonstrated — both during his years as an activist and during his time so far as Political Director — that he has the skills needed to become an outstanding National Director," he said.

Crickenberger has been active in the LP since the mid-1980s, and has a lengthy and varied resume of party activism. He was a member of the Libertarian National Committee (1989-1997); served on the LP of Georgia's Executive Committee (1986), as state vice chair (1987), and State Chair (1989); served as the volunteer head of the LP Campaign Committee (1991-1997); received the "50-Stater" award for ballot access work in 1992; and managed the winning campaign of Bruce Van Buren to the Avondale Estates City Commission (1995).

## LP joins coalition to fight for Ron Paul ballot access bills

**T**he Libertarian Party has joined a coalition of third parties to lobby for two new ballot access bills filed by Congressman Ron Paul (R-TX) — legislation that would prohibit states from erecting excessive ballot access barriers and would bar federal matching funds from candidates who refuse to debate qualified opponents.

The LP is working with representatives from the Reform Party, the Greens/Green Party USA, the Natural Law Party, and others to turn the bills into law.

"The LP is solidly behind both bills and will call on our members to contact their U.S. Representative to urge them to become co-sponsors," said LP National Chairman Dasbach.

Paul, the LP's 1988 presidential candidate before returning to Congress as a Republican, filed the bills in September.

The first, the Voter Freedom Act of 1997 (HR-2477), sets "fair and uniform" ballot access standards for federal elections, and prohibits states from setting excessive requirements that "deprive Americans of real choice," said Paul.

The second, the Debate Freedom Act of 1997 (HR-2478) requires candidates who receive federal matching funds to participate in debates with all qualified candidates.

"These bills are real campaign reform legislation," said Paul. "The two major parties have a monopoly on the elections. These bills will increase competition and public participation in the election process."

## LP's "Racial Category" campaign earns two more endorsements

**T**he Libertarian Party's campaign to abolish the government's "official" racial categories — and to encourage Americans to boycott those classifications on the 2000 census — has won two more endorsements.

David Horowitz, president of the Center for the Study of Popular Culture in LA said, "I applaud the Libertarian Party's 'Just Say No to Racial Classifications' campaign. I am against these racial categories; this is truly American Apartheid."

Also in August, the *Daily Oklahoman* (Oklahoma City, OK) wrote: "Our supposedly color blind society forces people, under penalty of law, to declare their race on census forms. The Libertarians' campaign aims at getting Americans to refuse declaration of race. . . The choice is yours."

The newspaper continued: "Libertarians are a party of ideas, many of them good . . . The party's 'Just Say No to Racial Classifications' idea is at least worthy of discussion."

# Taking a Libertarian view

By Thomas Lee

TAB & PRESS CORRESPONDENT

As a longtime resident of Irish Dorchester, Jim Sullivan comes from a long line of Democrats. His grandfather and granduncle served as state representative and commissioner of public buildings respectively, while his father ran unsuccessfully for Congress during the 1950s.

But being a Democrat is one proud family tradition that Sullivan does not wish to uphold.

Sullivan is a member of the state's Libertarian Party (LP) and, as candidate recruitment coordinator, he actively seeks candidates that will challenge the Democratic Party's almost vice-like hold on politics in Massachusetts.

"I was never a registered Democrat," recalled Sullivan, who moved to Dartmouth Street in Watertown with his wife after spending 37 years in Dorchester. "I grew up in a Democratic family and Democratic neighborhood. There were no Republicans where I grew up. None. It was just totally Democrat."

While there was scarcely a Republican to be found in Dorchester, there are less than 100 registered Libertarians in Watertown. Yet, the Libertarian Party is the third largest political party in the United States, with more than 300,000 Americans registered as Libertarians and LP candidates appearing on ballots in 32 states.

Founded in 1971 as a fresh alternative to the traditional two-party system, the LP espouses a political philosophy that stresses individual liberties and limited government in the tradition of John Stuart Mill, the great English philosopher of the 19th century. The LP combines the social progressiveness of Democrats with the Republicans' dislike of big government intruding on the lives of private citizens.

As for Sullivan, it seems almost odd that the man who seeks to muscle in a third party in Massachusetts would even get into politics at all, despite his family's upbringing.

"I was never really that interested in politics until I could find a party that I could believe in," Sullivan said. "When I was 18, I saw this ad for Roger McBride, the LP's presidential candidate in 1976, and it just struck a chord with me. What he said was that Libertarians should be allowed to do whatever they want to do just as long as it does not hurt anyone or any person's party. I said 'That's pretty cool. That's what I believe in.' I don't really consider myself a politician but I



STAFF PHOTO BY KEITH E. JACOBSON

As Massachusetts candidate recruitment coordinator for the Libertarian Party, Jim Sullivan is constantly looking to spread the message of the third largest political party in the United States.

guess I am."

Sullivan eventually became an active member with the LP and even ran for state representative for Dorchester in 1992, finishing a resounding second to the Democratic candidate. The name of the man who edged out Sullivan? Thomas Finneran, now speaker of the House in the Massachusetts Legislature.

After a lackluster showing by the Libertarians in the 1996 presidential election (their candidate, Harry Brown, finished fifth behind Ross Perot of the Reform Party and Ralph Nader of the Green Party), Sullivan, now a member of the Libertarian Party's state executive board, began an active campaign to recruit more candidates to run for office. He said it is an almost thankless task, considering the money-making machines of both the Democrat and Republican parties.

"So far, I only recruit people within the LP but I definitely want to go outside of the party," Sullivan said. "But within the party, it's a lot easier. The easiest pitch is that 'Well, you obviously care a lot about politics because you joined the party. You pay your dues. You read the newsletters. You

attend the meetings. Obviously, you care. All you have to do is to take it one more step forward and the best thing you can do for the party is to put your name on the ballot!'"

Sullivan admits that his job is not an easy one. Neither is gaining a foothold in a state that many consider one of the last liberal Democratic strongholds in the country. But Sullivan attributes the dominance of the Democrats not to ideology or even influence but, rather, to voter apathy.

"It's not the easiest thing in the world," Sullivan said laughing. "The problem I find trying to convey the platform and our ideas to the state isn't so much that the people are Democrats but they are immune to politics in general. They just don't give a damn. They take so much crap from both [Democrats and Republicans] that a lot of people just shut themselves out."

As for his powers of persuasion, Sullivan already has one convert he can point to. Before his death in 1994, Sullivan's father, a lifelong Democrat, re-registered as a Libertarian.

Sullivan hopes to recruit 100 LP candidates for the 1998 election. So far, he has 22. One of the main goals for the Libertarians, he said, is to

regain major party status and eventually overtake the Republicans as the second-largest party in Massachusetts. There are currently 8,000 registered Libertarians in the state.

When asked about a possible alliance with the Reform Party or any other third party, Sullivan remains open to the idea.

"I would be glad to see all of the minor parties join together to help reform some things," Sullivan said, noting that Phil Bator, head of the state Reform Party, subscribes to the LP newsletter. "I think all of the parties can find some sort of common ground to work on to help all of them."

Sullivan himself said he is interested in having another crack at state representative in 1998. With Congressman Joe Kennedy all but set to run for governor, state Sen. Warren Tolman strongly interested in replacing Kennedy, and Rachel Kaprielian eyeing Tolman's seat, Sullivan feels the time might be ripe to make a run at the State House.

"The way I look at it is that I am asking all of these people to run and if I'm not willing to do something myself... I'm not asking anyone to do something I wouldn't do," he finished.

# Put curfew on ballot, 11,000 say

## Petition seeks vote to kill city's restriction on teens

By TOM BELL  
Daily News reporter

A 38-year-old college student and Libertarian Party official has almost single-handedly gathered more than 11,000 signatures — nearly twice the number needed — to put a referendum on next April's ballot to repeal the city's teenage curfew law.

Scott Kohlhaas, who has no children and has never married, admits the curfew ordinance is so popular in Anchorage that an election held today on the issue would hand him defeat. But he and his party want to kill the law for ideological reasons — namely that it infringes on citizens' right to assemble. Families, not the government, should issue curfews, he said.

Kohlhaas said he plans to hand the signatures to the city clerk's office Wednesday. The city would have 10 days to certify or reject the petition.

Kohlhaas has worked on dozens of petition drives during his work for the Libertarian Party around the nation. He said this drive has been his most difficult. Based on the 400 hours he has spent standing on street corners and in storefronts gathering signatures, about 70 percent of adults back the ordinance, he said, and emotions on both sides of the issue are intense.

"This is a civil war," he said. "It's father against son, mother against daughter. It divides families and organizations, and you just don't know how people are going to react."

The only pattern he has found, he said, is that most teenagers don't like the law. While teenagers can't sign his petition, he said, the Libertarian Party hopes teens will remember the party's efforts on their behalf when they reach voting age and are looking to join a political party.

Kohlhaas serves on the executive committee of the party, which has 112 Alaska members.

When the city enacted the curfew a year

# Libertarian may prove match for Whitman and McGreevey

By Ron Marsico  
STAR-LEDGER STAFF

Gov. Christie Whitman and Democratic challenger James McGreevey may have to make some room in their gubernatorial race.

Murray Sabrin, the Libertarian candidate for governor, yesterday filed a letter of intent with the state that says he is close to reaching the \$210,000 fund-raising threshold to qualify for both public matching funds and participation in the fall debates.

Sabrin, however, must provide proof by Tuesday that he has raised and spent at least \$210,000 to be certified by the state Election Law Enforcement Commission.

If so, he would be the first third-party candidate ever to qualify for matching public money in the 20 years that the state's gubernatorial campaigns have been publicly financed, said Jeffrey Brindle, the

ELEC's deputy director.

Sabrin, a 50-year-old professor of finance at Ramapo College, said he is just \$20,000 away from qualifying for \$282,000 in public matching funds. The Leonia resident said that some 1,500 party contributors nationwide answered his call for donations. Additionally, Sabrin said listeners to WOR's Bob Grant and New Jersey 101.5 FM have made contributions.

"Our strategy is simple," said Sabrin. "Both Whitman and McGreevey — McWhitman — stand for the same thing. More and more spending. More and more programs. More and more regulations. More and more government. And in the debates, I'll make that point."

He added, "The issues are personal responsibility, limited government and home rule. Whitman and McGreevey won't rule out tax increases and both want more spending and new programs."

▲ *The Star-Ledger*  
Newark, New Jersey, August 29, 1997

◀ *The Anchorage Daily News*  
Anchorage, Alaska, August 18, 1997

# CURFEW: Man gathers signatures to put issue on ballot

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and a half ago, politicians argued it was necessary to curb burgeoning juvenile crime. More than 150 U.S. cities have enacted or revived measures against teen night owls in the past six years, including San Francisco; Cleveland; Washington, D.C.; San Diego; and Miami.

The Anchorage law is modeled after one adopted by the Dallas City Council in 1991. Challenged by several teenagers and their parents, the Dallas measure was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court.

The curfew requires anyone younger than 18 to be home by 11 p.m. weeknights and 1 a.m. weekends. The penalty, a civil infraction, can cost \$75 to \$300. The Assembly is scheduled to vote today on whether to allow offenders to do community service instead of paying a fine.



ANNE RAUP / Anchorage Daily News

Scott Kohlhaas has gathered 11,000 signatures to put the curfew question on the ballot.

Police have issued 2,500 citations since the program started. Since then, neighbor-

hood community patrols say, vandalism has gone down, traffic and noise have decreased and teenagers have stopped walking the streets.

"Unfortunately, the Libertarian Party feels the Assembly is infringing on their (teens') rights," said Assembly member Joe Murdy, who helped write the ordinance. "But we have the right to protect everybody in the city."

Sgt. Garry Gilliam, head of the juvenile crime unit, said he doesn't have any recent statistics that show the law is working, but anecdotal evidence shows the law is keeping teenagers from becoming victims of older youths on the prowl.

Late at night, when there are few people or cars on the road, gang members are looking for victims, he said. As an example of the kind of trouble a teenager can get into, Gilliam points to an early morning gun battle in Moun-

tain View nearly three weeks ago that left a 17-year-old boy dead.

"You tell me what teenagers can do in Anchorage at 2, 3, 4 o'clock in the morning," he said, adding that a "17-year-old at a stop light is going to get harassed."

Assembly member Bob Bell, a critic of the law, said all teenagers are losing their freedom because of the misdeeds of a few.

"We're kind of making it a crime to be young," Bell said. He said Kohlhaas is waging an uphill battle.

Kohlhaas said he's not worried about the odds against him. He said he and his colleagues plan to educate people on the issue, even if that means talking to every person one on one. He said he already has a good start.

"It's our passion," he said. "We can't stand it when the government does this kind of thing."

# Hoosier heads Libertarian Party

## ■ Fort Wayne man proud of growth of Libertarians

By JOHN KETZENBERGER  
Palladium-Item

FORT WAYNE — Hoosier Steve Dasbach, in his second term as national chairman of the Libertarian Party, has traveled across the country preaching a philosophy of Constitutional fundamentalism.

Yet he still has an identity crisis at home.

"Who?" asks Mike Harmless, executive director of the Indiana Democratic Party.

"I don't know anything about him," adds Mike McDaniel, chair of the Indiana Republican Party.

It's Labor Day weekend, the tra-

ditional kick-off for political campaigns, and Indiana doesn't have any elections this year. Dasbach knows his party's labors have just begun.

"People are scared about the unknown," said Dasbach, sitting in the sterile office he shares with another professor at Lutheran College. Libertarians, the math and chemistry professor explains, believe individuals should be responsible for themselves; they shouldn't depend upon the government.

"People ask, 'Who will take care of things,'" Dasbach adds. "I answer, 'You will,' and that is scary to people.

"Choice is sometimes scary, but again, when you look at just how badly government tends to much up everything it gets involved with, Libertarians believe it should be in-

involved in as few things as possible," he says.

Trends seem to back Dasbach's notion that fewer people trust government or the traditional parties to run the show. The party has fielded a presidential candidate in all 50 states for two consecutive elections and boasts more than 200 office holders across the country.

It's solidly staked a claim as the largest third-party with an annual budget more than \$2 million and a professional staff of nine working out of offices in the Watergate complex in Washington D.C. More than 23,000 people are dues-paying members and another 13,000 have contributed to the party.

The party champions a free market, civil liberties even for flag burners, "ending the Prohibition on drugs," and limiting foreign affairs

to a strong domestic military.

It's the only major party with a discernible philosophy, Dasbach notes. Republicans and Democrats are more interested in self-preservation through re-election, he says.

"We're confident people are out there who share our philosophy," Dasbach says. "It's a matter of identifying them."

A poll by USA Today/CNN in 1995 showed younger Americans tend to be apolitical, but identify with a libertarian point of view when pushed. Dasbach is confident the new generation of voters eventually will help abolish "the horse-race mentality" of current politics.

Once that happens, he says, the party will shed "the handle of irrelevancy" that frightens voters who may share libertarian philosophy "but don't want to waste their

vote."

McDaniel notes Republicans tend to attract Libertarian votes when a race is tight. But the upstart party, he concedes, siphons more votes from the GOP than from the Democrats at this point.

At some point, he predicts, the political pendulum will swing and more true liberals will again freely espouse their positions. At that point, McDaniel says, more moderate Democrats will find themselves considering Libertarian alternatives.

Despite its pure philosophical bloodline, Dasbach agrees Libertarians are of mixed political backgrounds. Dasbach proves a prime example.

As a volunteer for George McGovern's 1972 presidential campaign, Dasbach first ran across the

term libertarian. The party started in 1971 when a group of friends in Colorado rejected the major parties.

Dasbach served two terms as state chairman, and joined the national board in 1985. By 1993 he was the chairman. He began a second three-year term in the unpaid position after last year's convention.

Instilling professionalism is the key to future success, Dasbach says, and he's made it the hallmark of his tenure. The staff of three has tripled and the budget is up from \$750,000 a year. Donations have increased this year despite the lack of elections, Dasbach says.

"Indiana was one of the states with a better showing for president," Dasbach proudly notes. "Only three other states east of the Mississippi (River) did better."

▲ *The Palladium-Item*, Richmond, Indiana, September 1, 1997

▼ *The Herald*, New Britain, Connecticut, July 30, 1997

## Libertarian just wants to offer a little 'common sense'

By Eric Cotton  
HERALD REPORTER

SOUTHINGTON — Thomas Jefferson said, that government which is best is that which governs least. For town council candidate Dr. Howard Grayson and his fellow Libertarians, that philosophy has become a guide to solving many of the problems facing government on all levels. Grayson believes government, and in particular, taxes, simply place too heavy a burden on citizens.

"One can talk about, in a theoretical sense, any kind of freedom," Grayson said. "But if you can't benefit from your own labor, what kind of freedom do you have?"

As Grayson begins his third bid for a council seat, he insists that, despite averaging just 4 to 5 percent of the vote in past elections, his is not simply a protest against the status quo.

"This is not negative," he said. "It is a serious attempt to offer the people a better choice."

Grayson currently serves as

an intern for a West Hartford health maintenance organization and has lived in Southington for the past 15 years. He previously worked for Bradley Memorial Hospital for four years, serving as chief of staff for one.

Grayson discovered libertarianism about 20 years ago, after reading "Common Sense," a book in which author John Pugsley espouses the benefits of a free market economy. For Grayson, that kind of "laissez-faire" philosophy is the key to

solving the fiscal difficulties facing Southington.

"The town council is just too quick to take the people's money," he said.

But while he would like to see government's authority rolled back, Grayson said that, at the same time, democracy must be increased. An increase in citizens' involvement in the local political system will make government more accountable and fiscally responsible, Grayson said.

"I think we the people have to

take the reins," he said. "The issues need to be discussed more and more."

According to Grayson, the current town council has a bad habit of ignoring the advice of its own boards and committees. He believes that kind of behavior does not bode well for the future of Southington or the larger systems it is contained by.

"Local government is supposed to be the most financially stable," Grayson said. "That shows you how far we've gotten from fiscal prudence on every

level."

And the philosophy that Grayson believes will work economically, for him has just as profound implications socially.

"We are firmly committed to reducing government involvement in every aspect of our lives," he said.

Grayson has a wife and three children. He holds a Ph.D. in medicine from Baylor College and served as a Lt. Commander in the U.S. Navy.