

LIBERTY PLEDGE

newsletter

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DECEMBER 2002

APPOINTMENT NEWS...

Libertarian in Wisconsin gains seat on state board

Libertarian Adam Dick will soon be confirmed to serve on the state board of elections in Wisconsin – making him the only third-party nominee on the body.

Dick, 29, was nominated to serve as the ninth member of the board on November 21 by LP State Chair Bob Collison. Republican Governor Scott McCallum is expected to confirm Dick's appointment in mid-December [after *Liberty Pledge News* went to press].

The state elections board is responsible for enforcing state election law and adjudicating election law disputes. It is currently comprised of four Democrat appointees and four Republican appointees, setting Dick up as a possible swing vote in narrow decisions.

Dick, who served as the co-manager of Thompson's campaign, said he "felt great" about having been selected.

"I'm glad that a Libertarian will finally have a seat at the table," he said. "I think with all that is going on in Wisconsin politics right now, this couldn't have happened at a more important time."

Dick said he has set two main goals for his two-year tenure on the board.

First, he said he wants to be an advocate for the Libertarian Party and other third parties to make sure that they are represented fairly in the political arena.

Second, Dick said he wants to make sure that several Republican and Democratic politicians who have recently been indicted for election law violations are held accountable.

"A Libertarian on the board will ensure that allegations made against incumbent politicians are not swept under the rug," he vowed.

In a letter sent to Governor McCallum, LP State Chair Bob Collison urged immediate action on Dick's nomination.

"I am proud to play a part in this historic expansion of representation on the Elections Board to a third party," he wrote. "Adam Dick, a resident of Tomah, Wisconsin, is well qualified to serve as a member of the Elections Board."

An LP member since 1988, Dick practiced law in New York before heading up the Thompson campaign.

The Libertarian Party was able to select a board member after LP gubernatorial candidate Ed Thompson garnered more than 10% of the vote in the 2002 election. The party will have an opportunity to nominate a board member again in 2004, two years before the next gubernatorial election.

Libertarian releases CD

A Libertarian in Tucson, Arizona has released a new CD that puts the Bill of Rights to music.

Titled "I Will Live Free," the eleven-track disc features songs in a variety of pop styles that celebrate the Bill of Rights.

"To survive and prosper as Americans we must do all we can to create a Bill of Rights Culture – a culture in which every single citizen knows and insists on his rights and responsibilities," said Dan Starr, CD creator.

The CD costs \$17.91, honoring the year the Bill of Rights was ratified. For more information, visit: www.jpfo.org/livefree.htm.

ELECTION 2002...

California is biggest winner in November 2002 elections

The state of California has recorded the most Libertarian election wins in November 2002, boasting 26 victories.

According to late returns trickling in, 10 new California Libertarians won victories in November, adding to the 16 Libertarian wins in the state previously reported in *LP News*.

In non-partisan contested races, Parke Boneysteele was elected to the Central Contra Costa Sanitary District; Mark Graff won a seat on the La Honda Pescadero School District; Stephen Kerrigan won a seat on the Santiago County Water District (Orange County); and Teri Kahn won a seat on the Kern Tehachapi Valley Healthcare District (Kern County).

In addition, six other Libertarians were elected in non-partisan races where they faced no opposition: Robert Dickson (Timber Cove Fire Protection Division); John Ferguson (Spring Valley Community Planning Area); Tom Hohmann (San Dieguito Planning Group); William Stevens (Majestic Pines Community Services District); Dan Thornton (Valley Center Fire Protection District); and Gavin Wilkinson (Inyo Mon Resource Conservation District).

The large number of LP victories in California was the result of Operation Breakthrough 2.0, an effort to recruit an army of registered Libertarians to run for non-partisan local offices across the state.

California's victories accounted for nearly half of the 44 local races that Libertarians won in November 2002. North Carolina had the second most Libertarian victories with six.

Libertarian to sit on Elections Board

Ed Thompson's showing wins seat for his party

By Scott Milfred
State government reporter

Ed Thompson's consolation prize in the race for governor could shake up the state Elections Board.

Thompson, the former mayor of Tomah, lost his long-shot bid for governor in Tuesday's election. But he received slightly more than the required 10 percent of votes to earn his Libertarian Party of Wisconsin a seat on the Elections Board.

Thompson said Thursday he's probably not interested in the post himself. He said his campaign's attorney, Adam Dick, or town of Middleton administrator Jim Mueller



Thompson

would be good candidates. Bob Collison of Brookfield, the state chairman of the Libertarian Party of Wisconsin, mentioned Thompson's running-mate, Rep. Marty Reynolds of Ladysmith, as a possibility. Collison said he or party vice chairman Tim Peterson of Oconomowoc might be interested.

The Elections Board oversees elections, tracks campaign contributions, settles disputes between candidates and can investigate violations.

"When interpreting election laws, we'll be a different voice there," Collison said. Third-party candidates also should get more respect, he added.

Kevin Kennedy, the board's executive director, said the Libertarian member could end up splitting tie votes. The Libertarian will expand the board from eight to nine members.

The party will nominate a person for the post, and the governor must appoint the nominee, Kennedy said. That should happen by May, although Collison said his

The Elections Board oversees elections, tracks campaign contributions, settles disputes between candidates and can investigate violations.

party might press for an earlier appointment.

As for his own future, Thompson isn't sure.

"I'm not even sure if I'll eat supper tonight," he said. "I don't know. I'm weighing all my options and see what comes out."

"I think I have a voice now," he continued, noting that 185,000 people voted for him. "I feel like I have somewhat of an obligation to people who supported me so strongly, who wanted a change so bad."

If he ran for governor again in four years, he'd need more money to win, he said. He ruled out challenging Rep. Terry Musser, R-Melrose, for the Tomah area's Assembly seat in two years.

"Maybe I'll just serve beer at the Tee Pee," Thompson said, referring to his Tomah bar.

Newsman doesn't hold back at Denison

By DREW BRACKEN
Advocate Correspondent

GRANVILLE — ABC News correspondent John Stossel brought his own brand of libertarianism to Denison University on Monday night.

"I take some politically incorrect positions," he said before a standing room only crowd in Slayter Auditorium.

He'd like to see, for instance, individual freedom in the form of capitalism and a free marketplace, both of which, he said, keep people safer and more prosperous than government and lawyers ever can.

"I'd like to see freedom from too many rules imposed by our own government," he said.

Stossel, 56, is a news correspondent for the ABC news-magazine "20/20" and is an anchor/correspondent for "The John Stossel Specials."

He has received 19 Emmy awards and been honored five times for excellence in consumer reporting by the National Press Club. He earned his bachelor's degree in psychology from Princeton University in 1969.

He's not an official member of the Libertarian Party but he acknowledges, "I'm closer to their ideas than to the Republicans and the Democrats."



STOSSEL

(Top) *Wisconsin State Journal* – Madison, Wisconsin – November 8, 2002

(Right) *The Advocate* – Newark, Ohio – November 5, 2002

(Bottom) *The Capital* – Annapolis, Maryland – November 3, 2002

Libertarian says race is just a start

By TIM HYLAND
Staff Writer

Spear Lancaster often asks people if they want to live free, totally free. They say yes.

Then he asks them if they know somebody who maybe couldn't handle that much freedom.

"Then they start talking about their brother-in-law, maybe," said Mr. Lancaster, laughing. "The truth is, yes, people make foolish decisions. But that's part of being free."

As Maryland's voice for the Libertarian Party and the party's candidate for governor in Tuesday's election, the Crownsville resident spends much of his time explaining freedom to people. In modern politics, he said, it's a forgotten concept.

His campaign for governor isn't so much about winning as it is about helping people remember the way

government used to be — and the way he says it should be.

A lifelong Democrat once convinced by a college professor that communism was superior to capitalism, Mr. Lancaster discovered Libertarianism at age 62. Before long, he found himself studying two documents he had neglected his entire life — the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.

"If Jefferson and Jackson and Paine were alive today, they would be Libertarians," he said.

To Mr. Lancaster, the documents represent the way government should operate. It's not there to be served by



LANCASTER

the citizens, he said. It's there to serve the citizens.

That means if people want to use drugs, it's their right. The government has no right to tell women what they can do with their bodies. Government should stop treating tax dollars like "monopoly money." And government shouldn't be expected to handle social problems it's not equipped to handle.

"I have a lot of faith in the so-called average citizen," Mr. Lancaster said. "If you have a job and earn a paycheck, you certainly know more than me what you want out of life."

Mr. Lancaster's political stances are all based on freedom and choice. He would like to eliminate the bureaucracy in public schools, cut taxes and reduce waste. He would focus crime-prevention efforts on crimes of violence and fraud, and would also appoint a commission to review the sentences

of inmates who have never engaged in those crimes. Their sentences could be reduced.

He's against the death penalty, unless overwhelming evidence such as DNA exists, or if a crime is particularly brutal. As governor, he would review every death penalty sentence.

Getting the word out hasn't been easy. Mr. Lancaster spent April, May, June and July drumming up support for his campaign, and collected just over 27,000 signatures — barely enough to get him on the ballot. But he said this election is just the start.

"What I'm trying to do is just bring these things to the table," Mr. Lancaster said. "Because those issues were taken off the table."

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How I cost Mannix the election

In last week's general election, Republicans had the upper hand nationwide. Yet, despite serious errors by his Democratic opponent, Republican candidate Kevin Mannix lost the Oregon gubernatorial race.

Ultimately, the deciding factor was the Libertarian candidate — me.

That's surprising. My campaign was tough but small. I made nine statewide tours — but on a shoestring. Where a large campaign can create its own waves, mine could only surf the waves created by others. My running as a fiscal conservative actually was forced upon me by Mannix.

Mannix didn't want me in the race. He sent two operatives to talk my party out of nominating me and constantly tried to marginalize me. When Kevin tried to exclude me from the debates, calling me an anarchist, the result was dozens of newspaper stories statewide.

Kevin's ham-handed bullying set the stage for a running Cox-Mannix tension in

the media that lasted throughout the race. While my attacks on Democrat Ted Kulongoski were largely ignored, my attacks on Mannix were picked up without fail.

Worse, Mannix never backed up his rhetoric about being a fiscal conservative with actions, such as releasing a detailed budget. That made him vulnerable.

Given this, my path was clear: Release a detailed budget and refer to it frequently. Provide detailed plans for PERS reform, stable funding for education and building roads. Only bold plans would provide a strong enough contrast with Mannix to give me the coverage I needed to bring my ideas to voters.

Mannix utterly failed to grasp the tactical opportunity that a three-man race of-

fered him. Had Kevin run a more intelligent campaign, reaching out to Libertarians without bullying, he could have inspired a Libertarian assault on Kulongos-



IN MY OPINION

Tom Cox

ki's left flank. If I had run on a platform stressing social issues like medicinal marijuana, Ted may have been forced to veer left — away from the vital middle that decides elections. Kevin's attacks on me made that impossible. Instead, it was Kevin who had to keep part of his base from voting for me, costing him time, resources and eventually the battle.

Did I cost Mannix the election? Yes. Pollster Tim Hibbits is right when he points out that my votes came from Republicans and Democrats equally. But my presence — and Mannix's inability to adjust to it — made a Mannix defeat all but

inevitable in a close race.

The GOP nominated the most anti-liberty candidate they had. Kevin is a tax-and-spend Democrat who switched parties and a social conservative who wants more government in people's private lives. This makes Kevin a "populist," the ideological opposite of Libertarians. Ironically, Kevin won his primary only because of the presence of a spoiler candidate, Ron Saxton, who pulled votes from Jack Roberts. Live by the sword, die by the sword.

Voters tired of choosing between their wallets and their civil liberties are learning there is a home for them in a growing Libertarian Party. If Republicans and Democrats don't adjust to serve this constituency, this race won't be the last to include a Libertarian surprise.

Tom Cox, the Libertarian candidate for governor in Oregon's Nov. 5 general election, can be reached at tcx@lporegon.org.

Libertarian Hickey sure to be odd man out on board

By Dana Yates
DAILY JOURNAL STAFF

After 20 years and 13 failed attempts to be elected to county, state and federal positions, Libertarian Jack Hickey finally found a place as a board member for the Sequoia Health Care District, a position he'd like to see dissolved.

Against the wishes of Hickey, the board will most likely stay intact because the other members elected, incumbents Gerald Shefren and Arthur Faro, believe the district plays an important role in the county.

"I expect there will be a lot of 4 to 1 votes, I'm hoping [Hickey] is a reasonable person," said Faro, who has never spoken to Hickey.

Although Hickey seems to be the odd man out, he does share some common goals with Faro. Both agree that the board needs to do more to inform the public about meeting times and issues facing the board.

Hickey and his running mates decided to run for the board in order to get rid of it, arguing that the district is unnecessary. In 1996, the building and land was sold to the hospital in exchange for five seats on the hospital board of directors, which are held by the members of the district board. Currently, property taxes collected by the district are used to fund charitable organizations such as Samaritan House and Catholic Char-



Jack Hickey

ities. The Libertarians want to do away with the tax and ideally give the money back to voters, but because the money can't be given back to the taxpayer,

they would most likely have used it to pay down county debt, Hickey said.

Hickey spent the day yesterday waiting for calls from boardmembers but had yet to hear from them. He is hoping to get to work as soon as possible.

"They have not approached me on it yet. [Appointing me] as soon as possible is a reasonable thing to do and they should schedule a public meeting to announce my appointment and discuss issues. I don't think they need to waste any time," Hickey said.

Hickey was hoping he would have some more support on the board by running on a slate with fellow Libertarians, Harland Harrison and Warren Gibson. The three had a plan to dissolve the district and stop collecting tax money.

"I think it's wrong for someone to run for a board that they know nothing about. Apparently the Libertarian party asked them to do it, so they did

it. There should be no party affiliation, the board is non-partisan," said Faro.

Although Hickey has a reputation for running for various open position for the sake of the Libertarian Party, Faro admits that Hickey has brought some public attention to the board and the issues facing it, although he has only attended one meeting.

"Libertarian is a philosophy, we're still too small to be partisan," Hickey said.

Hickey decided to run for the board with three other Libertarians at the same time state leaders for the Libertarian Party asked three other party members to run. The overabundance of Libertarian candidates weakened the chances of gaining the majority of the board, Hickey said.

"We had six Libertarian candidates, I think you'll find out that if there were only three candidates, the outcome would have been different. State chairman did us a dirty deed, and I'll let him know," Hickey said.

In August, two of the six Libertarians dropped out of the race, lending their support to Hickey, Harrison and Gibson. But, it wasn't enough to elect all three to the board.

Dana Yates can be reached by e-mail: dana@smdailyjournal.com or by phone: (650) 344-5200 ext. 106. What do you think of this story? Send a letter to the editor: letters@smdailyjournal.com.

(Top) *The Oregonian* – Portland, Oregon – November 13, 2002

(Left) *San Mateo Daily Journal* – San Mateo, California – November 7, 2002

(Bottom) *Chronicle Tribune* – Marion, Indiana – November 6, 2002

Record number of Libertarians on ballot

The state Libertarian Party fielded just five candidates in 1994. There were 160 on Tuesday's ballot.

Libertarians are running in each of nine congressional districts and for all four statewide offices. Dozens of others are competing for city, county or township positions.

Organizers say the 2002 campaign has helped secure Indiana's status among the Libertarian Party's top states with chapters in 36 counties.

For Libertarians, the election is less about winning key offices than about winning percentages of the overall vote.

Winning 2 percent of the vote in an election gives the party four more years of automatic ballot access in Indiana.

Reaching 10 percent, the party would become part of the primary system.

Be free; be responsible

I voted last Friday, and it was the first time in my life that I voted Libertarian. Neither Musgrave nor Matsunaka did anything for me, and so I wound up going with John Volz for Congress. If there's only one vote for Volz in the returns tomorrow, you'll know who cast it.

Part of the Libertarians' problem is the name. The party has many conservative traits, but those first three letters, L-I-B, must frighten conservatives. It sounds too much like liberal.

Democrats have earned the liberal rap, and being a liberal requires one to believe that the right thing to do in almost any situation is to force hard working people to pay for people who don't work hard or even work at all. The liberal answer is not get a job, but get in the welfare line.

Liberals have some sort of parent complex. Instead of getting people to take care of themselves, liberals think we should just give lazy and inept people money to buy food and pay rent.

The money, of course comes from people who have jobs, pay their own rent and who can take care of themselves. Ever since Lyndon Johnson, liberals have taken money from the people who earn it and given the money to people who can't or won't earn it.

Conservatives, or the Republicans, expect everyone to earn their way in this world, but only if we all submit to their vision of life. Conservatives have a nasty desire to tell people how to live.

Conservatives have a superiority complex. They think they know it all, and they can't resist telling us how misguided we are if we don't subscribe whole heartedly to their prescriptions for living life the way God intended.

Both conservatives and liberals restrict our freedom. The conservatives pass laws telling us how to behave, and the liberals take our money and give to someone else who gains freedom because he doesn't have to have a job while those who work have to work even harder.

The Libertarians believe in liberty. New Hampshire's license plates may sum up the Libertarian values. "Live free or die," is the motto in New Hampshire, and can you think of anything more American than that?

Closely linked to liberty is personal responsibility. Just because we have liberty does not mean that we can run around doing as we please and not face any consequences. For example, if I make the choice to quit my job and not find another, then I must face the reality that not only will I not have a job, I will not have a place to live, a car to drive or

food to eat. Libertarians expect us to make our bed and then to lie in it whether it's comfortable or not, and that makes sense to me.

One area where the Libertarian philosophy would make a huge difference is the war on drugs. That's the war a conservative know-it-all started back in the 70s as a way to restrict our freedom and which liberals have used to absolve us of personal responsibility.



Michael Holzmeister

The Libertarians believe drugs should be re-legalized. They point out that cocaine, marijuana, opium and heroine were legal before 1914, and that the laws banning the drugs were racist in origin. Libertarians make the obvious comparison between illegal drugs and the recreational drug that we allow to be advertised on television.

"Today's war on drugs is a re-run of Prohibition," the Libertarians say on their web site. "The laws don't and can't stop drug use."

Finally, the United States has a political party that has the fortitude to tell the truth. We have drugs in this country because Americans love drugs. We might as well face it, and the Libertarians are the only political party that takes a realistic view of the issue.

According to the Libertarians, Prohibition spawned organized crime which led to corruption and the trampling of Americans' civil rights "in the hopeless attempt to keep people from drinking."

The Libertarians argue that a black market always develops for products in demand which government has made illegal. The product's price rises and profits are huge. Criminals get rich and kill each other to gain or maintain market share, and when that happens innocent people get killed in the crossfire. During Prohibition, people were blinded and poisoned by adulterated booze. Illegal alcohol is worse than the legal variety, and one would assume that the same would hold true with other drugs.

We should have the liberty to decide what we put into our bodies, the Libertarians say, and we should also take personal responsibility for our actions.

"Some Americans will always use alcohol, tobacco, marijuana or other drugs," the web site states. "Most are not addicts. They are social drinkers or occasional users." We should not make criminals of peaceful drug users.

Though the Libertarians may not have the perfect solution to drugs, at least they have a reasonable approach, and one thing is for certain. The Libertarians offer a solution when all the major parties do is follow failure with more failure.

Alabama back to 2 parties

Libertarians fail to get 20% of vote in any state race

Associated Press

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Alabama is back to two major parties instead of three.

The Libertarian Party lost its status as a major party because it failed to get 20 percent of the votes in any statewide race on Tuesday's ballot. Party Chairman Mark Bodenhausen said the results mean the party must go back to gathering signatures from voters to get its candidates on the ballot.

"We've got the mechanism in place to gather the signatures," he said.

State law says a third party can have its candidates placed on the ballot by getting voters' signatures equal to 3 percent of the people who voted in the last governor's race, usually around 40,000. The third party can keep the ballot access in the next election if it gets 20 percent of the vote statewide.

The Libertarian Party used voters' signatures to get its candidates on the 2000 ballot, and then obtained major party status by getting 20.16 percent of the vote in a state Supreme Court race.

That automatically put the Libertarian Party's candidates on the ballot for 2002, but Libertarian candidates in most races received only about 2 percent of the total vote.

(Top Left) *Lamar Daily News* – Lamar, Colorado – November 5, 2002

(Top Right) *Columbus Ledger-Enquirer* – Columbus, Georgia – November 8, 2002