

LIBERTY PLEDGE

NEWSLETTER

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Responses to “Why Are You a Libertarian?”

By Wes Benedict
Executive Director
Libertarian National Committee

We recently sent an email to our membership asking them to write back with responses to the question "Why Are You a Libertarian?"

I was pleasantly surprised to get nearly 400 responses. I would have expected maybe 50 or 60 people to respond, but it was encouraging to see how many people were willing to take the time to write their stories.

Many of those responses are printed in our April issue of *LP News*.

Responses varied, of course, but the overriding theme seemed to be that people supported the party because we support both free markets and civil liberties.

We run a lot of candidates, and win some elections, but most people’s responses didn’t point to specific numbers or elections results. Instead, they pointed out they are Libertarians because we stand up for the principles they believe in.

As I’m writing this I just received word that Andrew Gray, our Libertarian Party of Kansas State Chair and 2010 gubernatorial nominee, has won a position on the Topeka City Council.

Even if we never won elections, I think our party makes a big difference as an advocacy group for libertarianism. With annual revenue under \$1.5 million, we deliver a big bang for the buck.

On the other hand, it’s always nice to win an election. We now have 158 elected Libertarians in the U.S. able to directly affect public policy.

Andrew Gray received 2.7% for governor last November. In a letter posted on the LP Kansas website, Mr. Gray wrote:

"On November 2nd, 2010 over 22,000 Kansans made a definite statement. The statement was they were tired of the two-party system controlling the destiny of their lives whether it is on

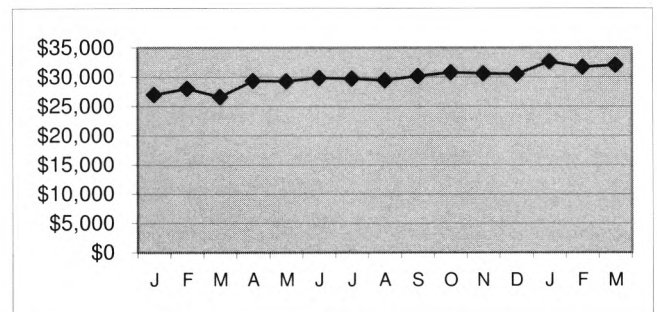
a social or financial level. We are proud of each and every person who cast a vote for the Gray/Davis campaign. We are humbled, we are heartfelt and we are now even more energized than before. We will never be able to thank you enough."

Apparently he meant it when he wrote

"we are now even more energized than before"!

Congratulations to Mr. Gray.

Our monthly pledge total was \$32,022 in March.



Support from our monthly pledgers is vital to the Libertarian Party.

Libertarian Party: On the Trail

New York Gov. Candidate and State Chair file lawsuit against NY BOE

from the New York LP, March 9, 2011

Warren Redlich, the Libertarian Party's candidate for Governor of New York in the 2010 election, today filed a lawsuit in Albany County Supreme Court against the New York State Board of Elections, directing the state agency to cease ignoring votes cast for the Libertarian Party.

This legal action affects all third party candidates running for office in New York, as it charges the Board of Elections with discrimination against independent candidates and voters in the manipulation of third party vote count returns.

Redlich asserts that the Board of Elections' method of counting votes in New York ignores votes made for third party candidates by forcing multiple third party candidates onto the same ballot line, confusing the voters' choice of candidate and illegally invalidating votes cast for the Libertarian Party.

Additionally Redlich asserts the Board of Elections violate the law by its practice of ignoring proxy votes cast by absentee voters, thus illegally rejecting votes made for the Libertarian Party by absentee voters.

Although not claiming enough votes to have won the gubernatorial election, Redlich's lawsuit asserts that the Libertarian Party of New York obtained 50,000 votes, qualifying it for Party status under New York State law. Without justification, the Board of Election violated federal and state law by rejecting votes made for the Libertarian Party by the voters of New York once a major party candidate had been certified as winning the election.

New York Libertarian Party Chair **Mark Axinn** stated, "Only by requiring the Board of Elections to count every vote cast for every candidate can independent voters have their voice heard on Election Day."

The case is scheduled to be heard on April 8.

Libertarians prevail, defeat "poll tax"

from the Texas LP, March 15, 2011

In a victory for The Libertarian Party of Texas, State Representative Leo Berman (R - District 6) withdrew HB 418 on Monday. The bill would have imposed filing fees on third-party and independent candidates, resulting in an intimidating burden for these candidates on future ballots.

The party testified in opposition to the bill at the March 7 elections committee hearing and sent out a call to action on March 14 asking its members to contact representatives on the elections committee to state their opposition. Later that day, Rep. Berman's office informed the party that HB 418 had been withdrawn.

"I am pleased with the support our membership gave us on this effort, and I appreciate Rep. Berman's decision to withdraw this bill," said **Pat Dixon**, Libertarian Party State Chair. "I welcome any future opportunities to meet with legislators to address problems in the election code or other policies."

The Libertarian Party of Texas, always ready to work with those that share common principles, formed an impressive coalition effort to defeat this bill with the Green and Constitution Parties. Additionally, Andy Wilson of Public Citizen, Linda Curtis of Independent Texans and activist Rob Morrow joined in support.

Dixon added "Our effort to form a coalition with groups and individuals outside of our party on common ground issues such as voter choice is something we would like to do more of."

The Libertarian Party of Texas thanks its members for its continued support. The successful conclusion to the debate surrounding HB 418 serves as a reminder that informed citizens willing to take action can defend liberty.

Libertarian Party: On the Trail

The Libertarian Party of Wisconsin - Representing All Voters Across the Board

from the Wisconsin LP, March 24, 2010

The Libertarian Party of Wisconsin has scheduled their annual convention for Friday, April 1st and Saturday April 2nd at the Olympia Resort & Spa in Oconomowoc, WI.

A major topic that will be discussed at the annual convention is how the principles of the Libertarian Party do appeal to many races, ethnicities, women & independents as well as the middle class. "We have to develop a broader base of membership in order to succeed," said party spokesman **Tim Krenz**. "The Libertarian Party stands for liberty and justice for all—regardless of race, gender, nationality or income. To our advantage, the times in Wisconsin and the nation gives us the opportunity to make our principles known and broadcast. With more members in our party as well as more leaders, candidates and voters, having true representation of liberty and justice for all people on the local, state and federal levels of government are possible."

New and renewing Liberty Pledgers

William Bamler	Kirby W. Jones
Tim Bein	John R. Kuhn
Brian K. Bergman	Gregory J. Lindmark
James Boyd	Southard Lippincott
Lori A. Boze	Jason C. Luke
Mark G. Brown	Shawn Mahaney
Harry Bryan	Sandra J. McLaughlin
Darrin Buxman	Argyle Nelson
Paul Carlson	Timothy Nerenz
Nicholas Celli	Matthew A. Nicklin
Jeff Christen-mitchell	Christopher Padilla
Teresa Clements	Patricia Perlmutter
John Conrad	John B. Phillips
Vedran Delic	Scott Pinkowski
William Deware	Dean Pomper
John J. Drew	Dennis Schank
Andrew Ehret	Guy Schwartz
William Ely	Kirk Singh
Ted J. Ferring	Curtis R. Sisco
Lorenzo Gaztanaga	Cory D. Spickes
Zackariah Gonzales	Nicole N. Stern
Stephen K. Gray	Mark Stockfisch
Gary Greenberg	Pamela Tish
Mark Hackman	Larimore O. Trippet
David A. Haire	James J. Van Dress
Mitchell R. Hoel	Charles T. Van Dusen
Samuel Jackson	Alfred Walters
Herbert C. Johnson	Bernhard Wolf
Joseph C. Johnson	Gary Zander

I would like to make a one-time donation to the LP:

- \$5,000 \$100
 \$1,000 \$50
 \$500 \$25
 \$250

_____ Other

I would like to increase my monthly pledge to this level:

- \$2,500** **\$100**
 \$1,000 **\$50**
 \$500 **\$30**
 \$250

_____ Other
(minimum \$10)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

(Please make checks payable to **Libertarian Party**.)

Please bill my Visa MasterCard AmEx Discover

Card number: _____ Exp: _____

Name on card: _____

Signature: _____

Occupation*: _____

Employer*: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work: _____ Cell: _____

E-mail: _____

* Federal law requires us to use our best efforts to collect and report the name, mailing address, occupation and name of employer of individuals whose contributions exceed \$200 in a calendar year. Political contributions are not tax deductible.

Libertarian Party in the News

State Supreme Court upholds rules for minority political parties

NBC 17 (North Carolina), March 12, 2011

North Carolina's highest court on Friday upheld a state law that forces minority political parties to collect thousands of signatures before their candidates are listed on ballots.

The state Supreme Court ruled that the law does not unfairly burden third-party candidates who want to join Republicans and Democrats on ballots. The law requires a minority party to collect thousands of signatures to show it has some public support before its candidates are listed. The petition process repeats in later elections if neither a party's candidate for governor or president receives 2 percent of the vote.

The Libertarian Party of North Carolina sued in 2005, saying the threshold to become officially recognized by the state as a political party is one of the highest in the country and puts a restriction on its members' rights to freedom of speech, association and due process....

Justice Paul Newby wrote in a dissenting opinion that courts should have questioned whether the signature rules were reasonable. He said he would have sent the case back to a lower court with orders "to strictly scrutinize North Carolina's signature requirement statute."

Burlison, Donegan vie for General Seat C

News-Leader (Missouri), March 16, 2011

Though City Council races aren't typically partisan, voters in Springfield will chose between two men active in their parties for General Seat C.

Christopher Donegan, who lost the race for mayor in 2009, is challenging incumbent **Doug**

Burlison, who was elected in 2007. Donegan, who is active in the Metropolitan Republican Club, said he's running in hopes that his election would allow him to join Councilman Nick Ibarra in building a more conservative Republican coalition on the Council....

Burlison, who is active in the Libertarian Party, was one of the leaders in the campaign to get the city audited by the state in 2007. He said while there's still a need to remain vigilant about the city's finances, he is generally pleased with the way staff have implemented audit suggestions.

"I'm not seeing red flags that perhaps we saw in the past," he said.

During his time in office, Burlison said he was glad to stick up for the right to carry concealed weapons in local parks. Some parks officials had hoped to get Springfield to lobby the state for a law allowing local governments to ban concealed weapons from parks, but Burlison had that language removed from the city's "legislative priorities" list.

Ken Moellman set to enter race for state treasurer

Fox 19 (Kentucky), March 25, 2011

(AP) - The former head of the Kentucky Libertarian Party is looking at a run for state treasurer.

Ken Moellman announced his intention to run on Friday.

Moellman, a longtime Libertarian activist who previously served as state chairman, said he will center his campaign on a promise to hold down costs in the treasurer's office until lawmakers and voters decide to eliminate the needless position altogether.

Moellman was nominated to run at a Libertarian convention in Maysville earlier this month, but he said he hasn't yet collected the signatures necessary to have his name placed on the ballot.