

LIBERTY PLEDGE

NEWSLETTER

Libertarian National Committee, Inc. ♦ 2600 Virginia Ave, NW, Suite 200 ♦ Washington, DC 20037 ♦ Phone: (202) 333-0008 ♦ Fax: (202) 333-0072

www.LP.org

July 2008

Munger Drops the Hammer in N.C. Politics

by Andrew Davis
Media Coordinator for the Libertarian Party

Michael Munger calls himself the “accountability hammer.” In taking his gubernatorial campaign across the state of North Carolina, he hopes to hold major party candidates accountable to the voters by raising issues he says will “otherwise will be ignored.”

Munger, who was well known for his golden locks of hair that he grew and donated to the charitable organization “Locks of Love,” is no political amateur. Munger has been the chairman of the Duke University political science department since 2000, and previously worked in the first Reagan administration on deregulation of industry and the high consumer costs of trade barriers.

Like many Republicans, Munger quickly grew disillusioned with the party under the Bush administration, and officially joined the Libertarian Party in 2004. “The war, the attacks on gay rights, the unbelievable hypocrisy of the Republican-controlled Congress in its voracious spending habits and the deficit all made me look elsewhere,” says Munger.

While the campaign has been going strong, the political establishment in North Carolina has dropped their own “hammer” in attempt to marginalize Munger’s message. Though having campaigned for more than two years already, and being a well-respected leader in the community, he has recently been shut out of five media-sponsored debates. “The candidates from the two state-sponsored parties are the culprit,” Munger explains. “The media sponsors of the debates would be happy to include me, if the Democrat and Republican candidates would allow it.”

In addition to Munger’s troubles with the establishment candidates, the Libertarian Party of North Carolina also faces a battle with the state over party recognition. When the state officially derecognized the party in 2005, the LPNC lost nearly 13,000 members. The Party recently regained its party status in May, but because the state dragged its feet on posting the new forms for party affiliate, the Party has had

trouble rebuilding its registered voter list. “How can we register people as Libertarian when they won’t change the forms?” Munger wrote in a recent e-mail. “The state is intentionally dragging its feet, in violation of the law.”

Despite these hurdles, Munger remains optimistic. “This is a great year to be a Libertarian,” he says. “We have a fantastic Presidential candidate, and number of exciting and dynamic candidates in the state races. There is a real ground swell against the ‘politics as usual’ approach of candidates from both of the state-sponsored parties. I am very excited, and proud to be a part of such an historic election.”

Radio ads purchased with the donations from his “money grenade”—which raised \$2,500 more than expected—will begin airing soon during the morning drive in the three largest media markets in North Carolina. Advertisements, as well as earned media, are key components of Munger’s statewide campaign. “The news media has been quite fair,” Munger says, adding that he has received “solid and consistent coverage” from the major state newspapers.

Overall, Munger hopes to make an impact in North Carolina politics by showing that the Libertarian Party is a viable alternative to establishment candidates (and many times in North Carolina it is the only other option in a seat that would have gone unopposed). “Any ‘third party’ candidate is hoping to raise issues that otherwise will be ignored,” says Munger. “I can make a difference by forcing the candidates of the state-sponsored parties to have to face those issues.”

Early last month, Munger was polling at 4 percent—a number that looks to increase as Libertarian Party presidential candidate Bob Barr gains momentum in the state. With a solid foundation already set, Munger could very well shake up the political establishment in North Carolina.

For more information on Munger and his campaign, please visit <http://munger4ncgov.com>. Also, please check out Munger’s keynote address at the 2008 Libertarian National Convention at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MivYdd8kVrw>.

Volunteer to Spread the Libertarian Message

by Austin Petersen
Volunteer Coordinator for the Libertarian Party

This past July 4 was the first year I didn't spend with my family shooting off fireworks. Instead, I celebrated America's independence from the forces of British tyranny by helping to man the Libertarian Party's booth at the Leadership Institute's 4th of July Conservative Soiree at Bull Run in Manassas, Virginia. Here, conservatives of all stripes gathered together at Bull Run in Manassas to celebrate our country's independence, and to debate the major issues of the day.

Just like us, Libertarians across the country are setting up booths at their street fairs and events, and working diligently to promote the Libertarian Party in 2008.

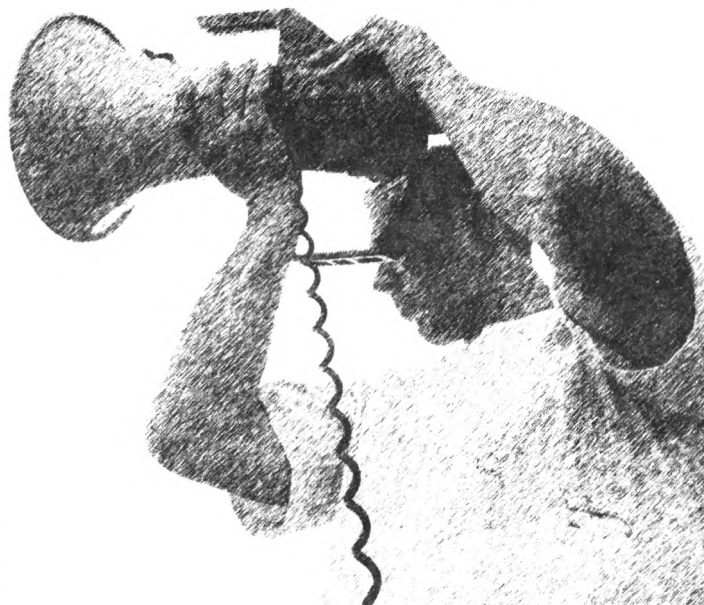
As you are all interacting with the public, don't be afraid to give people the real answers to the questions they have. Tell them honestly why gas and food prices are so high. Explain to the public why more government regulation is bad, and how we can work together to present real solutions to problems. If people say that Libertarians are anti-military, remind them that libertarian-leaning Ron Paul received more donations from active duty military than all the other candidates combined.

With Bob Barr polling at six percent nationally, this year is our year to shine. If we get into the debates, then the jig is up. Americans who have never heard the Libertarian message will be exposed to our ideas about freedom, and personal responsibility. As the economy continues its plunge and gas prices soar, you can see people's ears perking up when you voice our views in public. Volunteers are replying to my ads desperately seeking solutions to the problems they are faced with. More and more people are listening. These are ideas whose time has come.

During the Paul campaign last year, the grassroots spent thousands of man-hours calling talk radio shows, sending emails and flooding message boards of the main stream media requesting Paul's appearance on their shows. It took endless badgering, and the volunteers endured lots of insults, just so that Paul's message could be heard. It was an easy task to do--calling the talk radio and TV shows--but it was necessary to get the word out.

This is still the case today with the Libertarian Party.

Over the past several weeks, I have spoken to many people in states where they aren't working on



ballot access about activities of which they can have their volunteers complete. It can be sometimes difficult to get volunteers active in doing something that is beneficial to the Party.

Out of several dozen volunteers who are given instructions, often only a few will actually execute.

One of the things that you can do as a volunteer is to call talk radio. This is something that can be done at almost no cost (other than phone charges), and it's something that the LP has set up as a very easy system for you to utilize. On the front page of the LP Web site, the "Call Talk Radio" button has a listing of all the radio shows schedules and phone numbers. Also, there is an issues button so that you can talk about something Libertarian that is related to whatever topic about which the show's host is speaking.

Not only is this helpful in spreading the message, but it can inspire confidence in someone who is nervous about getting involved directly in the campaign process. If we are going to reach out to the public, this is a valuable and essential tool that must be utilized immediately. Don't be afraid to spend a day or two listening and calling into these radio shows.

Call me at (202) 333-0008 for ideas if you are having trouble with recruitment, or need things for volunteers to do, I have resources available to help you and have had successes in Ohio, Missouri, New York, and Pennsylvania with volunteer coordinators. I have good information and tips offer to people who are trying to get organized.

Don't be afraid to get in there and take some swings! The hardest part is getting people motivated. Email me at volunteer@lp.org for questions or advice anytime!

Five Questions With VP Candidate Wayne Root

Why is the Barr/Root ticket one of the strongest in the LP's history?

Wayne Root: Because political success at the national level is not based just on message, but also on messenger. Bob and I certainly have a great Libertarian message of smaller government, reduced spending and entitlements, reduced taxes and increased freedom and individual rights. But what is so different in 2008 is our national name recognition and ability to attract mainstream media. Since winning the nomination, Bob has appeared on Glenn Beck, CNN, Fox News, Fox Business, "The Colbert Report," Sunday morning political shows on ABC and Fox News and even the cover of the *New York Times*. No past LP Presidential candidate has ever received this kind of national media exposure.

How will the successes of a Barr/Root ticket impact the Party?

WR: First, if Barr/Root achieves 5 percent or more of the vote in various states across America, which gets the LP automatic ballot access for the next election. That would, of course, free up LP volunteers to work on other projects instead of spending their time gathering signatures. It also frees up LP funds for other crucial needs like advertising or getting out the vote.

But I think the most valuable benefit of the success of Barr/Root is that we can help elect Libertarians at the local level. Success isn't necessarily defined by what the Presidential ticket does. True success for the LP is electing Libertarians at all levels- from water commissioner and school board, to city council, mayor and state assembly. We can achieve great things at the state and local level, but all that success emanates from the top down.

Why is this year so important for the Libertarian Party?

WR: First, this election presents a great opportunity because American voters are so dissatisfied with the choices of the two-party system. Secondly, polls show that the electorate is ready more than ever for a viable, credible third-party choice. Thirdly, we are at the "tipping point." Soon Americans who either work for government, or who receive government checks of some kind, will outnumber those who do not.

Once those who need and want bigger government are in the majority, it will become all but impossible for Libertarians to make a difference. I believe 2008 is a watershed moment for Libertarians.

What are a few issues you'd like to focus on during the campaign?

WR: I am the first Nevadan ever on a presidential ticket, so I will focus on issues important to citizens living in the Mountain West. States like Nevada, Colorado, New Mexico, Wyoming, Montana and Idaho lean Libertarian and will help decide this 2008 election. Having one of their own in the race should be exciting to Mountain West voters from a region that was built upon principles such as freedom, self-reliance, rugged individualism, individual rights, property owner rights and personal responsibility.

How can Libertarians help the Barr/Root ticket?

WR: Spread the word. Pass this interview around the Internet. Send a link to www.BobBarr2008.com and www.ROOTforAmerica.com to your friends and business associates. Contribute to Barr/Root. Without money we cannot get our message out. Host a fundraiser at your home for Barr/Root. Call into your local talk radio shows to tell them about the Barr/Root Presidential ticket. Help us gain ballot access in your state. And, of course, register and vote Libertarian in 2008.

Welcome to the Liberty Pledge Club!

Thank you for your generous contributions

Claude Atkins
Marshall Beerwinkle
Peter Bothwell
Gary Dewyn
Jon Drolshagen
John Emerich
Richard Granson
Christina Groth
James Hardison
Keithen Hayenga
Christopher Lakumb

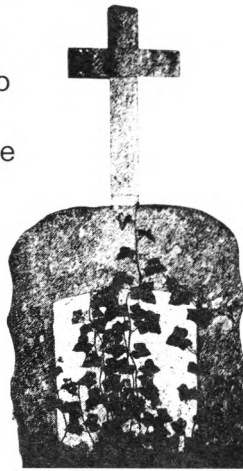
Leonard Martina
Casey Pippin
Michael Rice
David Robertson
Lee Rose
Jherrie Rubeyiat
Robert Schaffer
Christopher Sessions
Cisse Spragins
Adam Thomas
Robert Wenck

This Month in the Media

by Andrew Davis
Media Coordinator for the Libertarian Party

'A Dire Prognosis'

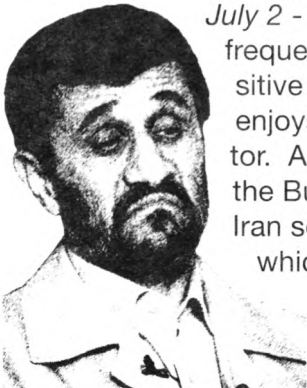
July 7 - For those that knew the two-party system was in trouble with American voters coming into the 2008 election, a recent Rasmussen poll all but picked out the funeral arrangement. Congressional approval ratings have fallen to single digits--just 9 percent--in what Rasmussen says is the lowest levels since they began tracking approval numbers. "Single digit approval ratings for Congress are a dire prognosis for the future of the political establishment," says Libertarian Party National Chairman William Redpath.



What may be bad news for the political establishment is good news for the Libertarian Party. "Americans are deeply dissatisfied with the direction their country is going and desperately want real change," says Bob Barr, the Libertarian Party presidential nominee. "But real change will not come from the two major parties, with their well-established commitment to the status quo. It will only come from outside the current system—and through the Barr presidential campaign and the Libertarian Party."

If Libertarian candidates at all levels can maximize the voters' discontent with the two-party system by emphasizing that Libertarianism is the answer to the problems Republicans and Democrats have failed to solve, the Party can expect to expand on an already record-breaking year. The Party's presidential ticket, Barr/Root, is already polling at 6 percent nationwide according to a recent Zogby poll.

Is Iran the new Iraq?



July 2 - With the Bush administration frequently acting like an over-sensitive bully, it doesn't help that Iran enjoys the role of being an instigator. As such, heated rhetoric from the Bush administration towards Iran sounds vaguely familiar to that which was common in the lead up to the war with Iraq--something that Libertarian Party National Chairman

William Redpath notes is "a path we do not need to travel down again."

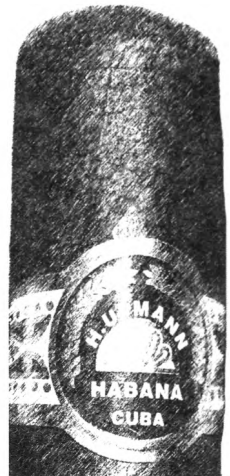
"Iran should not be the new Iraq," says Libertarian Party spokesperson Andrew Davis. "An attack on Iran would be like opening the Pandora's box of foreign policy. All the evils we've spent the last five years in Iraq trying to put back in the box would be unleashed all over again, and I fear this time the lid will never be able to be closed. Attacking Iran would be game over for our economy, our military readiness and the entire stability of the Middle East."

Apparently, the Pentagon agrees.

In a recent press conference, Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Adm. Mike Mullen stated that his preference is "to handle all of this diplomatically with the other powers of governments," adding that "opening up a third front right now would be extremely stressful" on the Armed Forces.

EU schools US on Cuban Policy

June 20 - While mostly symbolic, the European Union prepared to lift its remaining limited sanctions on Cuba late last month. In a lesson from which the United States could desperately learn, the Libertarian Party encouraged the Bush administration to follow suit. "Current US policy towards Cuba creates an acrimonious relationship with that country and has done nothing but hurt American businesses and the Cuban people," says Libertarian Party spokesperson Andrew Davis.



The Libertarian Party encourages a practical foreign policy with Cuba that replaces hostile sanctions with free trade and tourism, and calls for the immediate suspension of all sanctions on Cuba.

Cuban sanctions date back to the Kennedy administration, and have been maintained and strengthened by presidents from both parties ever since. Months ago, the Bush administration looked to bolster sanctions against Cuba, despite decades where no evidence has shown that the sanctions have had any positive impact.

"US sanctions on Cuba have been a costly mistake since the 1960s, and it is time to correct that error," says Davis.

The Libertarian Party believes that tourism and trade with Cuba will be more effective than sanctions at encouraging reform.