



Published for friends and supporters of the Libertarian Party

Liberty Pledge

► NEWSLETTER

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LPers lead fight against San Diego stadium bonds

Two long-time Libertarian Party activists in San Diego are leading the fight to get taxpayers off the hook for \$66 million in bonds the city wants to issue to enlarge a football stadium where the San Diego Chargers play.

The bonds are "business welfare" charged Steve Green, Chairman of the San Diego County LP.

Green and Richard Rider, 1994 LP candidate for governor, have filed suit against the San Diego City Council, arguing that citizens — not the council — must approve the bonds for the professional football team.

The case will hinge on whether the bonds "involve taxpayer's money." If the bonds don't, the council has the authority to issue them, according to city law. If the bonds involve tax money, then voters must approve them first.

Rider and Green charge that since San Diego general tax funds guarantee the bonds against default, citizens must have a say in the decision.

The upcoming court battle has generated considerable publicity for the pair, including a profile in the *San Diego Union-Tribune* on December 24, 1995. The paper wrote: "History shows these guys are quite capable of coming out of nowhere to change public policy — in explosive ways."

For example, "It was Rider — dismissed as [a] Libertarian wacko — who challenged the 1988 half-cent sales-tax increase that would have paid for new jails in San Diego County. The California Supreme Court declared the tax illegal in 1991. The result: San Diego taxpayers will save an estimated \$1.6 billion, while California taxpayers may save more than \$8 billion on the precedent set by the case."

And, "It was Green who led the 1993 battle against [a previous] bond measure. The result: Voters overwhelmingly rejected the \$18 million plan."

The paper also allowed Rider and Green to expound on their Libertarian beliefs.

About Rider, the paper wrote: " 'The government that governs best governs least,' he says, borrowing a famous quote often misattributed to Thomas Jefferson. 'The ideas I suggest aren't radical, they're just ones we've forgotten.' "

About Green, the *Union-Tribune* wrote: " 'My view,' he explains, 'is that every time the government gets involved in anything — other than protecting us from criminals — what happens is you end up with bigger problems than when the government was not involved.' "

The case will go before a judge in February.

A double-dose of liberty for Hawaiian magazine

A Hawaiian business magazine featured an "all-Libertarian" page this month, with guest commentaries from two Libertarian Party activists.

The January 1996 issue of *Small Business News* showcased an essay by LP State Chair Richard Rowland entitled "Injustice in Minimum Comp" and a commentary from past State Chair Ken Schoolland entitled "The Blood Bank vs. the IRS."

Rowland's piece was a tongue-in-cheek attack on recent calls for a higher state minimum wage. And in his commentary, Schoolland wondered what would happen if the government took over the management of blood banks — currently a polite and efficient voluntary system. "Imagine how different it would be if everyone were compelled to give blood. It would give a whole new meaning to the 'Internal Revenue Service,' " he quipped.

Congressional Quarterly touts LP influence

The Libertarian Party is the most influential and successful third party in decades, says the new issue of *Congressional Quarterly's Researcher* magazine.

"The Libertarian Party today wields influence far beyond its . . . ranks," reports the December 22, 1995 issue of the magazine, which focuses on third party prospects.

"In Washington, libertarian positions — espoused by the party itself or the Cato Institute, an avowedly libertarian think tank — now form part of policy debates on issues ranging from health care and government regulation to welfare and tax policy. Meanwhile the party is also working to build its local base. [There are] more than 140 Libertarians as current officeholders — ranging from a state legislator in N.H. to a member of [a] downtown neighborhood board in Hawaii. The officeholders give the party a status no third party has enjoyed in decades."

LP gains ballot access in states #27 and #28

Ross Perot's ballot drive is sputtering, but the Libertarian Party is charging forward in its quest for 50-state ballot status in the 1996 presidential election.

The Libertarian Party added states #27 (Alaska) and #28 (North Dakota) to its "Finished List" in December.

"We're on track to become the first third party in American history to be on the ballot in all 50 states for two presidential elections in a row," said LP National Director Perry Willis.

Meanwhile, Ross Perot's new Reform Party has already failed in two states — Maine and Ohio.

■ BUCKS COUNTY/SOCIAL ISSUES

Libertarians: Tax breaks a charity key

By Jo Ciavaglia
Courier Times

Tax incentives — that's what could save charities faltering under welfare reform cuts, said the head of the Bucks County Libertarian party.

"Absolutely, (charities could do more) if the government were to free them in ways that are currently not permitted," Don Ernsberger said.

Ernsberger said part of the Libertarian plan to fight poverty is to make donating to private charities more attractive.

The federal government could offer a dollar-for-dollar tax credit for contributions to charities. If someone gives a dollar to charity, that person should be able to reduce his or her tax liability by a dollar.

Under the present system, most charity contributions are tax deductible. But the person typically gets 28 cents for a dollar donation and an IRS long-form must be filed.

"This (tax credit) would encourage people to have more di-

“
This (tax credit) would encourage people to have more direct control over what happens with their incomes ... people would have the incentive to contribute directly and to check on the efficiency of the (organization) they are supporting.”
— Don Ernsberger
”

rect control over what happens with their incomes ... people would have the incentive to contribute directly and to check on the efficiency of the (organization) they are supporting," Ernsberger said.

The Libertarian political philosophy thinks government should not interfere in people's everyday lives. They oppose subsidies saying they are social and corporate welfare.

Libertarian eyes lawsuit

BALLOT from A1

"If [Creager] files the suit we'll address it then," said Deputy Attorney General Ralph S. Tyler. "The law is what it is. ... We believe that the state law is constitutional and in the event there is a challenge, the matter will be decided by the courts."

The Libertarian Party has gained — and lost — official party status for each of the past four presidential elections. A party candidate must receive 3 percent of the vote to retain its party status in the state.

The Libertarian Party gained official

party status for a fifth time in June by submitting to the state elections board a petition with the signatures of 10,000 registered voters.

Voters, for now, can register as Libertarians, and the party will have a slot on the November 1996 presidential ballot. But until at least 10 percent of the state electorate registers as Libertarian, the official status applies only to the presidential ballot.

To run as a Libertarian for any other statewide or congressional office, the candidate would have to collect signatures from 3 percent of the electorate, or about 65,000 voters.

About 100,000 signatures are needed, because many are rejected as invalid, said Jesse Markowitz, chairman of the Libertarian Party in Maryland. The additional work to collect those signatures, which can run into thousands of hours, "is an outrageously unreasonable requirement," he said.

Creager must collect about 13,000 valid signatures by August to qualify for the November ballot as a congressional candidate.

If the Libertarian presidential candidate doesn't receive at least 3 percent of the vote, the party will lose its official status and will have to submit a new petition before the next statewide election.

Creager's candidacy is his second for public office. The 46-year-old computer systems engineer lost in a 1988 bid for the county school board.

◀ *The Montgomery Journal*
Rockville, Maryland
December 12, 1995

▶ *Bucks County Courier Times*
Levittown,
Pennsylvania
December 3, 1995

▼ *Cape Coral Daily Breeze*
Cape Coral, Florida
December 20, 1995

Ballot access spurs lawsuit

Libertarian takes on state

By TOM BERSON
Journal staff writer

A Burtonsville candidate for Congress got the response he expected yesterday when the state elections board denied his application for a spot on the March primary ballot.

Robert E. Creager II, a Libertarian candidate for the 8th District, said he filed papers and paid \$100 to the State Administrative Board of Election Laws on Friday to set up a lawsuit against the state.

The 8th District includes most of Montgomery County. The seat has been held for five terms by Republican Rep. Constance Morella.

As he expected, officials told him he could not appear on the ballot because fewer than 10 percent of registered voters in the state are registered as Libertarians.

"If a party does not meet the 10 percent threshold, its candidates ... would be nominated by petition," wrote Jack Schwartz, chief counsel for the Attorney General's Office, in a letter directing the state elections board to reject Creager's filing for candidacy.

Of the 2,181,761 registered state voters as of September, only 751 were registered as Libertarians.

American Civil Liberties Union and Libertarian Party officials said they would join Creager if he files suit, arguing that a recent decision by the U.S. Supreme Court renders the state law requiring petitions unconstitutional.

In U.S. Term Limits vs. Thornton, the court ruled that a state can require candidates to follow certain procedures but may not impose qualifications. The language of that decision can be construed to mean petition requirements are unconstitutional, Creager said.

"There's a good possibility of success because of the wording of the decision," he said. "Ballot access is talked about [in the decision]."

The existing state laws set a double standard for candidates, Creager said.

"Some candidates have to go through a massive petitioning requirement that Republicans and Democrats do not have to go through," Creager said. "It's two sets of rules for two different sets of candidates."

Stuart Comstock-Gay, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union in Maryland, which has challenged the state laws about ballot access several times in the past, agreed the Supreme Court decision opens a window for challenges to the state law.

"The Supreme Court has given us an opening to go after this," he said.

The state Attorney General's Office is standing by the law.

Libertarians say 'Thanks!' for second government shutdown

By BILL WINTER
Libertarian Party

WASHINGTON — The Libertarian Party did something unusual today: It issued a heart-felt "thank you" to Republican and Democrat politicians for shutting down the federal government again.

"We love you guys," we say with a big smile. "Newt Gingrich and Bill Clinton, keep up the good work!"

"You're helping millions of Americans realize how unnecessary most government actually is."

Our comments come as the second government shutdown in a month idles 280,000 "non-essential" federal employees.

But seriously, this shutdown will keep the government bureaucrats out of mischief for a few days.

We Libertarians like that. But it isn't the *real, fundamental* reduction of government that Libertarians — and most Americans want.

For example:
•The shutdown won't save Americans a single penny. Those non-essential federal employees will continue to be paid *not to work*.

•It won't make the government smaller. When Clinton and Gingrich reach their inevitable compromise, those non-essential employees will flock back to Washington, D.C., and start doing the same non-essential jobs again.

We know who deserves blame for

the shutdown: Republicans say Democrats are to blame.

Democrats say Republicans are to blame.

They're *both* correct. *Both* parties conspired to create our \$5 trillion national debt.

Unfortunately, it will take more than a few shutdowns to stop their campaign to bankrupt America.

It will take, for example, a totally different approach to government, and to politics — different from what the Republicans and the Democrats continually and continuously offer.

It will take a participation, a very active participation, by the American people, voting against the "same old stuff" we always get from the Democrats and Republicans.

It will take the American people realizing their future, and their freedom, can be retrieved and secured only by the Libertarian Party.

The Libertarian Party is already America's third largest political party.

It will be on the ballot in all 50 states in 1996, as it was in 1992.

Libertarians will run more than 1,000 candidates for public office — far more than any other third party.

The typical American, who agrees we need far less government, who wants to keep far more of his own money, will work with the Libertarian Party to those ends.

Bill Winter is the director of communications for the Libertarian Party, Watergate Office Building, 2600 Virginia Ave., N.W., Suite 100, Washington, DC 20037.

Time for industry to reject politics as usual

by Tom Kelley

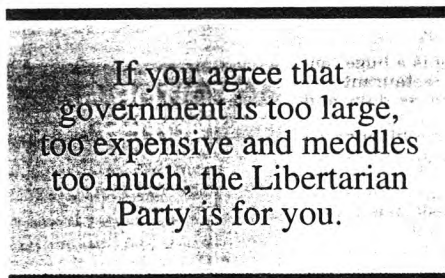
It has become commonplace to hear of restaurateurs labeling themselves Republicans or, on rare occasions, Democrats. I wonder, though, on careful introspection, if they might better find a home in the Libertarian Party — working singularly to reduce the role of government in society. In endorsing the House Republican "Contract with America," the National Restaurant Association's Board of Directors was careful, rightfully, to only endorse the economic principles espoused by the House leadership rather than the full plate of very controversial social agenda items. It is ironic that Republicans say they want less government control when they look to government to implement their social agenda.

The NRA deserves credit where credit is due on such a position, yet they may want to really think hard about what their action truly says about embracing the Republican agenda for America, on one hand limiting government — economic policies — on the other hand, increasing government control: school prayer, abortion, policing the Internet, more amendments to the Constitution, etc.

Democrats, too, are to blame for being just as pro-government. They want to climb into your pocketbook and want big government to carry out their social programs, riddled with a huge bureaucracy.

The restaurateurs that I know are, almost without exception, as true to their economic, pro-business principles as any other professional group

Tom Kelley is a senior partner in Concept: Hospitality Group, based in San Diego.



in America. All hospitality associations, one would argue, have a singular obligation to most effectively represent their members' economic interests — that's why we join. To fully embrace their free-enterprise agendas, they should begin the move toward aligning with the Libertarian Party or, if nothing else, shun Democratic and Republican Party direct attachments by standing on principle only on issues of the day, not trying to win favor with the party apparatus.

Having worked both on a congressional staff and in public affairs for most of my life, I know that the traditional way of lobbying is to, on a daily basis, ally the organization with the party that is more in favor of your position or the party controlling the process. Wouldn't it be refreshing to see organizations stand on their principles and reject both Democratic as well as Republican Party

pro-government efforts to control our lives? Forget the party labels and forget about all the excess baggage that support for the Democratic Party or Republican Party carries with it for an organization or association.

It seems that restaurateurs gravitate toward the ideas of the Libertarian Party. Ask yourself: Is government too big or too small? Are taxes too high or too low? Does the government regulate my business too much or too little? Does it control my life too much or not enough? If you agree that government is too large, too expensive and meddles too much, the Libertarian Party is for you.

Professional associations, organizations and companies they represent have a responsibility to do the best job they can to represent their economic rights. Is it too radical an idea to stay focused only on those pro-business ideals and positions without having to take sides — even though not always intentional — on religious or generally controlling agendas of the Democrats or Republicans; both think they know better than anyone else what's best for you.

The principles of this industry and its right to operate freely can best be represented by a sincere commitment to opposing any further government intrusion and to reducing government's current control over our own destinies: liberty for all, freedom to live our own lives, a high degree of personal responsibility. Nothing else should intrude.

Take another look. You'll be as surprised as I was to find so much to believe in in the Libertarian Party. If it helps, Newt Gingrich was a former Libertarian.

▲ *Nation's Restaurant News*, New York, NY, November 27, 1995

Ballot access laws create perversion of legal system

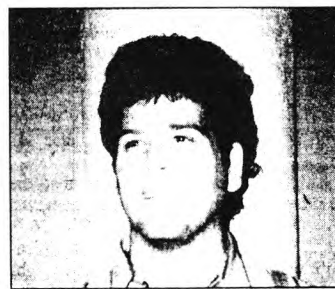
Another Viewpoint is a column *The News-Herald* makes available so all sides of issues may be aired. Freedom of expression, we believe, is essential to the future of the country. Thomas A. Martin is a resident of Mentor-on-the-Lake.

The recent *News-Herald* article, "Funding, Logistics Against Third Party Candidacy," struck a familiar chord. As an activist for the Libertarian Party, America's third-largest party, I and many others are currently involved in a repetitive ritual of jumping over hoops imposed by the parties in power to satisfy a "law" that requires any third party to gather over 35,000 registered voters' signatures in order to give the voting citizens of the state of Ohio the privilege (as opposed to a right!) to vote for candidates of a party other than the Republicrats (Republican and Democrat.)

In reality, it is more like 60,000 signatures needed, due to the high rejection rates applied to petitions of this kind by the election boards.

As an American I understand the concept of the rule of law as the means to provide equal justice for all before the law — that laws are to protect persons and property — that laws are to neither favor nor hinder any individual nor groups. This is why the symbolic deity of justice is blindfolded while holding in equal balance the scales of justice.

The ballot access "laws" are a perversion



Another Viewpoint
Thomas A. Martin

of the legal system, designed solely for the benefit of the Republicrat officials and to the disadvantage of the many citizens. Only the current political monopoly is protected by such legislation and all of the citizens are perniciously robbed of the fundamental freedom of choice at the ballot box: a freedom many Americans have died to preserve.

The Republicrats, like any monopoly, find it easier to legislate away competition than to earn their customers' business. In this case, the customers are the voters of this "free" country. They are in a unique position to legislate their monopoly; apparently it presents no conflict of interest for parties

in power. They are, after all, their own best lobbyist.

In setting up the 1992 presidential debates, a "non-partisan" commission of 10 Republicrats decided who the American citizens could see and who they could not see in the debates. The Libertarian party's candidate, Andrea Marrou, had already passed ballot access requirements to be on every single ballot that Bush, Clinton, and Perot were on.

Perot, with his billions (earned in government contracts), was impossible to ignore. The Libertarians, with our central belief that the Constitution is founded on principles of individual rights centered on personal freedom and personal responsibility, and with our fiscal resources exhausted just getting on the ballot nationwide, we were expedient to ignore.

In September at the Geauga County Fair, I took some petitions to form a political party (Libertarian) in the state of Ohio to both the Republican and Democratic Parties' booths and asked if anyone would sign a petition to enable the voters to have more choices at the ballot box. No one did.

A graying young Republican, refused. I pressed him a bit, asking if the voters deserved more choices at the ballot box and what was more important, the people or the party. "The Americans have a choice of Republicans and Democrats, they don't need any other choices."

A Democrat was more honest, "I don't want the voters to have a choice; we already have Republican and Democrat." She would not offer her name. In the former Communist state, the Soviet citizens were free to vote for the comrade of the party's choice. Americans deserve better.

There is great confusion between the official parties and government institutions, even to the point where they are subsidizing themselves with taxpayers dollars and at the same time, passing "laws" which effectively exclude their competition. Their actions show that they have no desire to be accountable to the American people.

The Republicrats undoubtedly may call my grievances just sour grapes. But I challenge them to justify the unique morality they use with their politically motivated, tax-supported and court-protected monopoly. I am sure that every single legislator — state and federal — who ever voted on ballot access "law" was either in violation of conflict of interest principles or supporting their own unique interest.

It is my hope that *The News-Herald's* staff will further investigate and expose this monopolistic behavior. As Adam Smith pointed out in *The Wealth of Nations*, "Monopoly is the greatest enemy of good management."

▲ *The News-Herald*, Willoughby, Ohio, November 11, 1995

Libertarians getting ballot spot

■ More parties likely to get own columns

DALE WETZEL
Associated Press Writer

The Libertarian Party will have its own North Dakota ballot column in the 1996 elections, Secretary of State Al Jaeger said Tuesday. He expects at least five parties to qualify for their own slots.

Jaeger said Libertarian supporters have turned in more than 7,000 petition signatures, which is the threshold set by North Dakota law to qualify for a ballot listing as a separate political party. Confirmation letters to party officials were mailed Tuesday.

He said he also expects the Reform Party, which is being pro-

moted by Texas businessman Ross Perot, and the Iowa-based Natural Law Party to submit enough petition names to get their own columns on next year's ballot.

Libertarians espouse a free-market philosophy, including vouchers to promote school choice and turning most government services over to private companies to handle.

Harry Browne, the party's most prominent presidential candidate, advocates cutting the size of the federal government by two-thirds; abolishing federal income taxes; and converting Social Security into

a private pension plan. Browne is a Tennessee financial newsletter publisher.

The Libertarians' North Dakota state chairman, Fargo businessman Martin Riske, said Tuesday he intends to put Browne's name on next year's North Dakota presidential ballot.

Browne would be eligible to be a candidate in North Dakota's Feb. 27 presidential preference primary, Jaeger said.

Riske, as state Libertarian chairman, has the authority to put candidates on the ballot himself. He said Tuesday he was unsure whether any besides Browne would be listed.

Gary Porter, North Dakota's Republican chairman, is using the same authority to put nine GOP presidential candidates on the Feb. 27 primary ballot.

The Libertarian Party has not

had a North Dakota ballot column since 1988, when the party fielded candidates for the U.S. Senate and House. Its 1992 presidential candidate, Andre Marrou, appeared on the North Dakota ballot as an independent; he got 416 votes out of 308,133 cast.

Jaeger said the Natural Law and Reform parties have also submitted petitions, which are being checked. They have until 4 p.m. on Dec. 29 to turn in at least 7,000 names.

The Natural Law Party promotes chemical-free farming; less dependence on oil and coal as fuel sources; and transcendental meditation as a way of reducing "accumulated social stress."

Its candidate is John Hagelin, who is identified in party literature as a physicist. He got 240 North Dakota votes when he ran as the Natural Law Party's candidate in 1992; he, too, was listed then as an independent.



Jaeger: Explains.

▲ *The Bismark Tribune*, Bismark, North Dakota, December 20, 1995

▼ *The Daily Hampshire Gazette*, Northampton, Massachusetts, December 4, 1995

Fledgling Libertarian Party organizes

By JIM DANKO
Staff Writer

NORTHAMPTON — Recognized in 1992 as one of the state's three official political forces, the Libertarian Party is beginning to emerge in Northampton — although an organizer concedes he has a long way to go.

James Robinson of 55 Laurel Park has submitted nomination papers to the Board of Registrar of Voters to form the city's first Libertarian Ward Committee.

There are now 28 registered Libertarian voters in Northampton, which includes 7,992 registered Democrats, 7,584 unenrolled voters and 1,176 registered Republicans, according to the Registrar of Voters office.

Robinson said he urged fellow Libertarian Peter Moore, 28, who also lives in Ward 1 on Prospect Street, to join him as a nominee to the committee. They submitted their names, along with five signatures needed to nominate them, and will appear on the March Libertarian presidential primary ballot for Ward 1 voters.

The Libertarians officially became a recognized party in Massachusetts — joining the Democrats and Republicans — after party candidates in the November 1992 election received the required minimum of 3 percent of the state vote.

Robinson, a 51-year-old part-time truck driver, said his goal is to "increase awareness of what the party stands for" and to get more voters registered under the party name. He is affiliated with the Western Massachusetts Libertarian Committee, which he said has about a dozen members, according to its chairman, John Brickner of Wales.

Brickner last week said the majority of the state's 300 to 500 Libertarians live in the Boston area. The party is even more popular in California, where Brickner formerly resided.

Robinson said Libertarians by nature generally don't like to get involved — since their philosophy calls for less governmental involvement in people's lives. "We're all kind of stepping out of our personal comfort zones," he said.

Raised a Republican, Robinson said he embraced the Libertarian philosophy three years ago. He objected to what he came to see as "moralizing" by Republicans and the governmental controls that he said were being pushed by the GOP.

"Libertarians believe in social diversity," Robinson said. "The conservatives want a little more governmental control over moral standards."

Robinson said Libertarians believe in individual responsibility

With reservations, member voted for DPO

NORTHAMPTON — Libertarian James Robinson voted in favor of the Domestic Partnership Ordinance, but not without some reservations about getting the government involved in people's lives.

As a libertarian, Robinson believes in recognizing gay relationships, as the failed ordinance would have done. However, his party wants to see fewer laws and ordinances on the books. The ordinance, which was considered as a referendum on Nov.

7, would have allowed unmarried couples to register with the city and receive certain rights.

"We're adding yet another ordinance," Robinson noted. But in the end, passage of the ordinance would have afforded "more freedom" for residents, Robinson said, and that's why he cast a "yes" vote.

Echoing one of the party's lines, Robinson explained, "People should be free to do as they choose, as long as they don't forcibly interfere with the rights of others to do as they choose."

With that in mind, Robinson said he opposes the city's ban on smoking in city restaurants. For example, Robinson said his party would stand behind Robert McGovern, the owner of Packard's bar and restaurant. McGovern has defied the ban in his restaurant by illegally allowing smoking in his bar as an act of civil disobedience.

"This is definitely a matter where the government should butt out," he said.

— JIM DANKO

plays well with conservatives and liberals in certain areas."

The clerk to the Board of Registrar of Voters, Patricia Shaughnessy, said registered Libertarians and unenrolled voters who make a specific request can vote in the March primary election and pick a Libertarian presidential candidate if any emerge.

Shaughnessy said the number of registered Libertarians, while comprising only one-tenth of 1 percent of the vote, is significant nonetheless. "Northampton tends to be a very Democratic commu-

nity," she said. "I think 28 is very commendable for something that's new."

Northampton had 16,802 registered voters as of Oct. 31. Twenty-two voters are registered under other political affiliations, including the Green Party, Socialist Party, Conservative Party and New Alliance Party.

Robinson said he would like to endorse candidates for City Council and other political positions in two years. "It's definitely a goal," he said. "It depends on how successful we are in increasing voter registration."