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Liberty Pledge

NEWSLETTER

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LP victories, East & West

Gorman bill ends random roadblocks

Random drunk-driving roadblocks vanished from New Hampshire as of midnight, June 11, thanks to the first Libertarian-sponsored legislation to become law at the state level in more than a decade.

House Bill 1285, introduced by Libertarian State Representative Don Gorman (L-Deerfield), required police to get permission from a judge before setting up drunk-driving roadblocks, and required the judge to affirm that "all constitutional guarantees are met."

"This effectively means that there won't be another sobriety roadblock in New Hampshire," said Gorman.

The bill passed the N.H. House by voice vote in March, and the State Senate in April. It became law on June 11th when Governor Steve Merrill (R) did not sign or veto the bill after five days.

Random drunk-driving roadblocks are "no question, unconstitutional," said Gorman, explaining why he filed the bill. "Roadblocks of this type infringe on the right of law-abiding citizens to be free from unreasonable searches and seizures.

"It's about time that law enforcement learned that the Constitution and the Bill of Rights are supreme in the land," said Gorman, the lone Libertarian legislator in New Hampshire's 400-member House.

National Libertarian Party Chair Steve Dasbach applauded Gorman's achievement. "Passage of the bill helps take the Libertarian Party to the next level, from electoral victory to successful Libertarian legislation. That's how we will change this country — town by town, state by state, issue by issue," he said.

The last Libertarian-sponsored state-level legislation was voted into law in Alaska in the early 1980s.

Media Quote: LP is 3rd party "case study"

"Even more than [Ross] Perot's Reform Party, which has no announced candidates for Congress, the Libertarian Party provides a case study in how a grassroots organization works to establish itself as a third voice for a frustrated electorate."

— *The Hill*, Washington, DC (May 1, 1996)

Flickinger saves taxpayers \$7.5 million

An elected Libertarian in California helped save taxpayers more than \$7 million this month — overcoming fierce opposition from Republican and Democratic city council members who didn't want residents to be allowed to vote on the fate of two city taxes.

Libertarian Mayor Pro Tem Bonnie Flickinger's victory saved residents of Moreno Valley, CA, \$7.5 million annually when town residents rejected both taxes by popular vote on June 4th by 52% to 48% margins.

And now Flickinger faces a possible censure from the city council and a potential recall election.

The drama began last year when Flickinger tried for five months to convince the City Council to allow the city's voters to decide the fate of a utility and business tax.

"I finally succeeded, but only after the City Attorney [ruled] that four of the five Council members [had] to approve putting the taxes on the ballot," explained Flickinger. "Two of the Council members steadfastly refused. Finally, one relented, but only under the condition that I endorse the taxes."

That left Flickinger in a quandary. "If I refused to vote for the resolution of support [for the taxes], I would have deprived voters of the right to repeal the taxes. Struggling with my conscience, I decided on behalf of my constituents, and agreed to the resolution of support.

"I subsequently announced that I was not going to campaign for or against the taxes, but would remain neutral and [just] correct misinformation disseminated by either side," she said. "This so angered the other Council members that two of them threatened to censure me."

But the public rallied around Flickinger. She was flooded with positive phone calls, and voters abolished the taxes at the polls. In the aftermath of the election, "I am now devising methods of balancing the city's budget without the repealed taxes," said Flickinger. "[And] rumor has it that someone is planning to try to recall me from [the] City Council after the November elections."

Moreno Valley is the largest American city (pop. 136,000) to have a Libertarian mayor. "Now, it is also the only American city where taxpayers had the opportunity to repeal their own taxes, thanks to the Libertarian they elected to their City Council," noted Flickinger proudly.

76 candidates run Libertarian

By MICHELE MORIN
NEWS STAFF REPORTER

The Libertarian Party of Michigan will front 76 candidates for congressional, state and local offices in the November general election, including nine from the Washtenaw County area.

Candidates were nominated at the party's convention Sunday in Roseville. Nominations for city seats will be taken in August.

Local candidates and the districts where they are running include:

- James F. Montgomery of Ann Arbor, 13th Congressional District. He last ran for Ann Arbor City Council for the 2nd Ward last November.

- Michael Wirick of Ypsilanti, 54th state House District.

- Edward D. Wallace of Brighton, 66th state House District.

- Calvin J. Matle of West Bloomfield and secretary of the Washtenaw County Libertarian Party, University of Michigan regent.

- David Raaflaub of Ann Arbor, Michigan Supreme Court Justice. An attorney, he has run for a variety of elected posts, including for the 4th Ward seat on the Ann Arbor City Council, for mayor of Ann Arbor and for several state posts.

- Brian Wisneski of Clinton, Clinton Township trustee.

- Brett Cashman of Ypsilanti, Superior Township park commissioner.

- James L. Hudler of Chelsea,

Sylvan Township trustee. Former chairman of the local Libertarian Party, he ran for the state House of Representatives in 1994.

- Geoffrey Foster of Ypsilanti, Ypsilanti Township trustee. Currently, he is chairman of the local Libertarian Party.

State party Chairwoman Emily Hopp Salvette of Ann Arbor, said she was happy to see so many local and state Libertarian candidates and confident of the party attracting more votes than in past elections.

"The national Libertarian Party is trying to encourage the states. We want to get 218 Libertarians running, so we can make a majority of Congress (and) we can make a Contract with America that's worth something," she said.

The township and city races will be the most realistic in which Libertarians can make strong showings, Salvette said. And 30 candidates running for township-level seats throughout the state bodes well for the party to win some local elections.

"There are going to be tighter races," Salvette said. "The people are down there with the neighbors going to the meetings and addressing the local needs."

Libertarians also chose their delegates to the party's national nominating convention to select a presidential and vice presidential candidate. The convention will be held from July 3-7 in Washington, D.C.



Legislature derided at Libertarian convention

By Mike Gordon
Advertiser Staff Writer

Libertarian Richard Rowland couldn't decide if the state legislature deserved an A-plus or an F.

Surrounded by 30 Hawaii Libertarians who gathered yesterday in Nuuanu for their annual state convention, Rowland thought about what he calls one of his party's core beliefs: government doesn't work.

"So, in one sense, you could say A-plus, because the legislators didn't do anything, didn't do any damage," said Rowland, chairman of the 115-member Hawaii party.

"But they could have passed some legislation to give people more freedom of choice. From that sense, it's an F."

Libertarians consider themselves the tolerance party — even though they may not approve of a person's choice, they say they'll defend that person's right to make that choice.

They do not believe in the force of government to solve problems.

"By having government, people become less motivated to do for themselves," said one party member, Ken Schoolland. "You turn the incentives in society upside down."

In government, failure is rewarded, he said.

Speaking of the no-fault insurance debate that occupied much of legislators' time this session, Schoolland said there is no such thing as an accident without blame.

"If you don't hold people accountable for accidents, they will behave more recklessly," Schoolland said. "People have to be responsible for their own actions."

Lowell Kalapa, president of The Tax Foundation of Hawaii, told party members that the Legislature has developed only one solution for problems: money.

"Well, ladies and gentleman, we ain't got that money anymore and that was the reason for the failure of the 1996 legislative session," he said. "There was no money to throw at problems."

Legislators passed a budget this year that's all smoke and mirrors, one that only postpones the problem, Kalapa said.

"We will again be faced with down-sizing government," he said.

◀ *Ann Arbor News*
Ann Arbor, Michigan
April 26, 1996

▼ *The State*
Columbia, South Carolina
May 5, 1996

► *Honolulu Advertiser*
Honolulu, Hawaii
May 5, 1996

S.C. Libertarians pick candidates

By LEE BANDY
Staff Writer

The South Carolina Libertarian Party held its biennial convention Saturday to nominate candidates for federal and state offices and to listen to speeches of those aspiring to national office.

Richard T. "Doc" Quillian was picked to run for the seat held by Sen. Strom Thurmond, R-S.C.

Five people were nominated for state House seats: Marion Hopkins for District 70, Walter Rolandi for District 72, Julian Griffith Jr. for District 74, Sarah Flemming for District 81 and Timothy Moultrie

for District 89.

Except for District 81, which is in Aiken County, all the seats are in Richland and Lexington counties.

Two Libertarian candidates running for president addressed the convention.

Rick Tompkins spoke against the use of force or fraud "to attack the life, liberty or property of any peaceful person." And he branded taxation as a form of slavery.

"Any politician who condones or endorses slavery in any form, including taxation, can make no valid claim to moral conviction or ethical behavior," Tompkins said.

Irwin Schiff picked up on the

same theme. He said individual income taxes are voluntary but almost everyone pays because politicians have enacted complicated laws to trick people into thinking they must pay.

Schiff's works are now widely cited in the literature of tax protesters and organizations challenging the legitimacy of the federal government.

He preached that a "compulsory income tax would violate" the Constitution despite the 16th Amendment, and so the Internal Revenue Code "was written to make paying income taxes appear mandatory."

Speaker tells Libertarians to be realistic

By RUDI KELLER
of the Tribune's staff

The Libertarian Party needs to focus on realistic goals each election year to avoid discouragement over repeated losses at the polls, the party's national chairman said yesterday.

In an address to the sparsely attended Libertarian State Convention, party chairman Steve Dasbach said Libertarians must work to become the nation's third major party instead of the largest minor party.

That means enrolling new members, concentrating resources in races that can be won and dodging overly optimistic expectations, Dasbach said.

"We have to do the day-to-day, difficult work of building a party from the grass roots up," said Dasbach, of Fort Wayne, Ind.

Dasbach spoke to about 40 Libertarians from around the state who gathered at the Ramada Inn on Vandiver Drive. They were in

town to elect delegates to their party's national convention, which will be held in July in Washington, D.C. Kevin Goodwin of Columbia was elected as an alternate.

The Libertarian Party has three potential presidential nominees, Harold Browne of Franklin, Tenn., an investment adviser; Irwin Schiff of Las Vegas, a lecturer; and Rick Tompkins of Phoenix, a retired Air Force technician.

The Libertarian Party was founded in 1971 as an alternative to liberal Democrats who pushed regulation of business and socially conservative Republicans who favor interference with personal decisions. The party advocates freedom from government rules in the home and workplace.

Though they remain dwarfed by Republicans and Democrats, Dasbach said, Libertarians have made strides in recent years and measure victory differently than the major parties. In Missouri, Libertarian statewide candidates scored 2 percent in 1992, and this year party candidates were able to file directly for statewide offices and

other posts. In past presidential and gubernatorial elections, the party went through a difficult process of collecting signatures to get on the ballot.

Nationally, Libertarians would be happy to win a single seat in Congress. That's not likely this year, Dasbach said, but neither is it as far-fetched as it once was.

A U.S. Senate candidate in Michigan spent \$200,000 in 1994, a huge sum for a Libertarian, Dasbach said. "Take that same amount, and focus it on a smaller race, and we begin to get into the range to do it."

In Missouri, once again, the realistic outlook is that Libertarians will win no state legislative posts, party chairman Jim Givens of Columbia said. The party instead will use this election to find districts where its candidates are competitive. Both of Columbia's Missouri House seats have Libertarian candidates, Gordon Rogers in the 23rd District in western Columbia and Ed Ricciotti in the 25th District in eastern Columbia.

Libertarians have pulled as

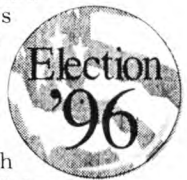
much as 11 percent of the vote in those districts in other races. Givens said the party is interested in increasing that share, to nearly 20 percent in three-way races and to upwards of 40 percent in any race where a Libertarian faces only a single major-party candidate.

"Our largest opportunities are at the county levels," Givens said. "We have quite a few candidates, and we are much more competitive in those races."

In Boone County, James Mackoy is seeking the Northern District county commission seat held by Linda Vogt, a Democrat.

The Libertarian Party also is growing by attracting more members and more candidates. It will be the first third party since the 1930s to field candidates in a majority of the U.S. House districts. In Missouri's Ninth District, which includes Columbia, attorney Mitch Moore is challenging U.S. Rep. Harold Volkmer, D-Hannibal.

"The emphasis of the next two years is building a members base and building a contributor base," Dasbach said.



POLITICAL NOTEBOOK

Beckley physician Wallace Johnson, a Libertarian Party candidate for governor, plans to deliver petitions Thursday to the secretary of state's office asking that his name be placed on the November general election ballot, Libertarian Party officials said Tuesday.

The petitions, with more than 18,000 signatures, also will ask that the Libertarian Party's presidential and vice presidential nominees be placed on the fall ballot in West Virginia.

Party officials said petitions from Raleigh and Wyoming counties will ask that Joseph Whelan, a Beckley psychiatrist, be included on the ballot as a candidate for the 9th Senatorial District seat.

About 6,200 valid signatures are needed for the gubernatorial race, 6,800 for the presidential race and 300 for the state Senate, a party spokesman said.

▲ *The Columbia Daily Tribune*
Columbia, Missouri, May 26, 1996

◀ *The Register Herald*
Beckley, West Virginia, May 8, 1996

▼ *The Union Leader*
Manchester, New Hampshire, May 2, 1996

Lone Libertarian Announces for Speaker

CONCORD — The race for House speaker broadened a bit yesterday when Libertarian state Rep. Donald Gorman, of Deerfield, declared "my hat is in the ring for speaker."

"It has been clear to me for some time that the makeup of the House membership comprises people of a strong Libertarian bent. They came here to solve problems felt by their constituents. They want to stop federal mandates. They want to balance the budget. They want to create real wealth, real jobs and real prosperity for our state," said Gorman, the sole official Libertarian in the 400-member House.

As speaker, Gorman asserted he would carry out those common goals. "Democrats and freshmen would have more to say," said Gorman, "and all members would have more involvement and participation in the process."

House Speaker Harold Burns might be appointed insurance commissioner after announcing he is ending his 28-year career as a state lawmaker. Gorman joins the race that includes veteran 10-term state Rep. Donna Sytek, R-Salem, House Finance Chairman Channing Brown, R-Lebanon, and House Majority Whip David Scanlan, R-Canaan.



Libertarians File 79,500-Name Petition for Spot on Ballot

By Paul English
Capitol Bureau

The Libertarian Party concluded a year-long petition drive Friday by filing about 79,500 signatures with the state Election Board to be recognized as a political party in Oklahoma.

Election Board Secretary Lance Ward said the board has 30 days to verify the signatures, which will be sent to county election boards for verification.

Ward said the party needed 49,751 signatures to gain recognition.

Libertarian spokesman Robert M. Waldrop said, "For a new party to get on the ballot in Russia, it takes one-seventh of 1 percent of the voters. Here in Oklahoma it's about 5 percent."

"So we can say the ballot access laws of the former Communist Russia are more liberal than those here in the state of Oklahoma."

Waldrop, a church choir director, said Oklahoma is "one of the six worst states for ballot access for minor parties."

"This is based on the number of signatures required to get on the

ballot and then the percentage of the vote that is required to stay on the ballot once you get on the ballot, which is 10 percent — which is very high compared to other states."

Waldrop said he thinks "the reason for this is largely because the state Legislature here doesn't want a competitive political system."

"In the 1994 elections, the partisan races averaged only 1.3 candidates per race, and we think that this contributes to corruption and many other problems in Oklahoma government."

He said people often are glad to sign a petition for the Libertarian Party "because they are interested in more competition in the political system."

"They may not know a lot about the Libertarian Party but they like the idea of having more choices on their ballots."

Waldrop said computer operator Steve Galpin, 34, will run for the Legislature as a Libertarian this year.

Galpin said he will officially announce within a few weeks that he will seek the House District 82 seat

held by Republican Rep. Leonard Sullivan in northwest Oklahoma City.

"The Democrats want to regulate your economic life. The Republicans want to regulate your social life. The Libertarians want to do neither," Galpin said.

Libertarians are against "making up laws to say we don't like what you're doing even though you're minding your own business but we're going to change it for you because we think it's best for you," he said.

Galpin said, "Libertarians offer a

real choice, a coherent choice, because you really know where a Libertarian stands if you just follow a couple of rules: noninitiation of force, against government intrusions on one's life whether it be economic or social, freedom, liberty and the right to use your own property as you see fit."

Asked how Sullivan's voting record reflected that he was not carrying out the tenets of the Libertarian Party, Galpin said, "If nothing else, it's in favor of taxes."

Galpin said he was researching if Sullivan voted tax increases.

Libertarian Party's popularity grows Members promote it as a legitimate third-party choice

By Adrienne Flynn
ARIZONA REPUBLIC

Membership is up nearly 40 percent in three years. Fund-raising income has doubled. Their numbers in the ranks of state and local governments swelled by 130 percent. Their platform is plagiarized regularly.

The Libertarian Party is on a roll.

The party that used to rejoice at getting a mere 5 percent of the vote in an election is setting its sights higher these days. It's looking to tap into widespread voter discontent and become the viable third party that polls show citizens want.

Party leaders are hoping this year's high-profile national convention, on the Fourth of July in Washington, D.C., and the selection of a quality presidential candidate will give them just the shove they need into the limelight.

"I think it's finally that we've really focused on the nuts and bolts of building a political party," said Stephen Dasbach, the Libertarians' national chairman.

That focus has meant that dues-paying members grew from

10,600 in 1993 to 14,500 today. The party's budget has grown from \$750,000 to \$1.5 million. And the party claims 174 elected or appointed officials nationwide, up from 75.

Libertarian ideas also are more popular now than a few years ago. The Cato Institute, a Washington-based nonpartisan think tank founded by Libertarians, was one of the most widely quoted sources in the budget battle between Congress and the administration last year. Republicans adopted long-time Libertarian calls for "devolving" federal responsibilities to state and local governments, reducing the size of the Cabinet and selling off federal assets.

Success is a relatively new thing for Libertarians. Since its founding in 1971, the party has been plagued by its own principles. Its members have been preoccupied with circular arguments in attempts to smooth out the inconsistencies in their philosophy. And principle has kept them from running credible campaigns.

"They get swallowed up talking about philosophy," said Harry Browne, the party's leading presidential candidate and best-selling

author of investment books.

"But the past few years, a tremendous change has taken place. The party has become far more professional without compromising any of its principles."

Mr. Browne represents what could be called the "new" Libertarian, one who is more pragmatic and focused on the goal that political parties exist to elect people to office to implement a political program.

Rick Tompkins, a top Libertarian presidential candidate and former Arizona Libertarian Party chairman, could be called a more traditional party member.

Mr. Tompkins says he has to run because Mr. Browne isn't principled enough.

Mr. Browne says that he is principled — that it's Mr. Tompkins who's misguided.

Mr. Browne, certain he's going to be the nominee, says this is the Libertarian year: "The mainstream has finally found us. . . . It's not beyond the realm of possibility that we could get 15 to 20 percent of the vote this year, and that will open the door for us to elect members to Congress and the Senate in '98."

▲ *The Daily Oklahoman*
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
May 18, 1996

◀ *The Washington Times*
Washington, DC
June 10, 1996

▼ *The Herald*
Jasper, Indiana
May 14, 1996

Libertarians have plenty of candidates for fall elections

By MIKE SMITH

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The odds may be stacked against them, but Libertarians at least have plenty of candidates on this November's ballot in Indiana.

"They have really earned their seat at the table," Leslie Hiner, elections deputy with the secretary of state's office, said Monday.

While only a handful of Libertarian hopefuls were on Indiana's 1994 general election ballot for state, local and federal offices, there will be approximately 100

this year.

"This is the very first day of our official campaign to unseat two political parties who are not chiefly, but solely responsible for big government in our lives," said Kurt St. Angelo, who formally announced his bid for 10th District Congress on Monday.

Libertarians, whose platform promotes less government spending, taxation and regulations and more individual freedoms, have never been major players in Indiana politics. But they took an im-

portant step two years ago.

In past years, they had not had a candidate for secretary of state who garnered enough votes for the party to bypass a cumbersome petition process needed to get on election ballots.

But in 1994, Indianapolis attorney Steve Dillon got slightly over 2 percent in the secretary of state's race, which by law allows a party to nominate candidates by convention and place them on the ballot.

If a Libertarian gets more than 10 percent of the vote in the 1998

secretary of state's race, the party's candidates will be eligible to participate in primary elections.

"The idea behind this is that once a political party shows they can gather enough support, either 2 percent or 10 percent, they are considered to be proving themselves, essentially," said Hiner.

Rob Shuford, vice chairman of the Indiana Libertarian Party, said the party nominated about 100 candidates — including one for each of the state's 10 congressional seats — at a convention last

month.

Dillon, who got 6 percent of the vote in the Indianapolis mayoral race that Republican Stephen Goldsmith won last November, will face Goldsmith and Lt. Gov. Frank O'Bannon in this year's gubernatorial election.

St. Angelo, whose father, Gordon St. Angelo, was state Democratic chairman from 1965 to 1974, will face Republican Virginia Blankenbaker and Democrat Julia Carson in the 10th District race.