

LIBERTY PLEDGE

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AUGUST 2002

newsletter

DRUG WAR STRATEGY...

LP candidate runs medical pot ad against opponent

An LP candidate for U.S. House in Georgia has begun running medical marijuana television ads against her opponent: Republican Drug Warrior Bob Barr.

On August 7, Carole Ann Rand, the chair of the board of directors for the Advocates for Self-Government, started running the ad in Georgia's seventh U.S. House district.

The 30-second ad, which was developed by the national Libertarian Party, features a moving testimonial from an elderly medical marijuana patient who suffers from multiple sclerosis.

"[This ad] does a good job of putting a human face on the cruel and destructive war on medical marijuana," said LP Political Director Ron Crickenberger.

By focusing on the issue of medical marijuana, Rand will try to cause Barr – widely considered the most fanatical Drug Warrior in Congress – to lose in the Republican primary election on August 20, said Crickenberger.

By August 12, about \$20,000 worth of advertising had been purchased to broadcast the ad in Barr's district, said Crickenberger. More ad time will be purchased with donations raised via Rand's website.

Rand was recruited in late July to run against Barr as part of the Libertarian Party's "Incumbent Killer Strategy," which targets the worst Drug Warriors in Congress for defeat. The strategy is one component of the party's plan to end federal Drug Prohibition by 2010.

For more information about the Rand for Congress campaign, or to view the ad, visit: www.randforcongress.com.

Libertarian gets elected

A Libertarian Party member has been elected to a county commission seat in Wilson County, Tennessee.

Heather Scott, 34, won the District 22 County Commission seat on August 1. She received 99% of the vote – or 424 votes – to win a four-year term on the board. The current vice chair of the Tennessee LP, Scott defeated five write-in candidates to win the non-partisan election.

"I'm really excited about this," she said. "I think Libertarians need to start getting some name recognition so they can win higher offices."

Wilson County has a total population of 88,000.

CAMPAIGN 2002...

Ed Thompson campaign passes two big milestones

Wisconsin's Ed Thompson has garnered 25% in a new straw poll and passed the quarter-million dollar mark in fundraising, two significant achievements for the upstart gubernatorial candidate.

The poll, which was taken by the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation on July 9/11, surveyed 546 farmers across the state.

Included in the survey was Thompson, incumbent Republican Governor Scott McCallum, and each of the four contenders for the Democratic nomination.

Although McCallum received just over 50% in each of the four versions of the survey, Thompson came in second place each time with 25%.

"This poll shows how popular my common-man message is with the hard-working farmers of Wisconsin," said Thompson. "I'm grateful to have such strong support."

Other statewide polls showed the Libertarian candidate at about 11%.

Thompson also announced some favorable fundraising news in July, when a report filed with the State Elections Board showed the campaign had raised more than \$145,000 during the first six months of 2002.

Although that amount was smaller than four of his five Republican and Democratic challengers, it pushed the total amount raised by the Thompson campaign to more than \$270,000.

"We may not have raised as much money as the Republicans, but the reaction of the people around the state reassures me every day that I will win this race," said Thompson.

Now, the campaign is aiming to win 6% of the vote in the primary election on September 10, which would qualify Thompson for up to \$485,000 in matching campaign funds from the state.

Reaching that 6% threshold will not be easy, said Thompson, given the state's straight-ticket voting system.

In Wisconsin primary elections, voters can only cast votes for one party's candidates. Since the Democratic and Republican candidates have primary challengers, Thompson said it will be difficult to convince people to vote in an uncontested Libertarian primary.

If he qualifies for the money, Thompson said he will use it to run television commercials prior to the general election.

For more information, visit: www.edthompson.com.

Libertarian candidates to join November ballot

A Libertarian Party slate of candidates will appear on the Nov. 5 general election ballot after the Illinois Republican Party withdrew its objections Monday to the Libertarians' candidacy petitions.

The Republican Party, which blocked a Libertarian slate four years ago, is the political organization most likely to be affected by having the third party on the ballot. The Libertarian candidate for governor, former eight-term Republican state Rep. Cal Skinner of Lakewood, has launched his initial appeal for votes among conservative groups.

Republicans have feared the siphoning of even a few percent-

age points in votes to Skinner could be costly to GOP candidate Jim Ryan in what is expected to be a close election with Democrat Rod Blagojevich.

Unlike the Republican and Democratic Parties, which need 5,000 signatures from registered voters to run statewide, third parties must submit petitions with 25,000 valid names. The Libertarian Party said its petitions contained more than 52,000 signatures.

"While a substantial number of invalid signatures have been found on the petitions, there are not enough to warrant our moving forward in this matter," new state Republican Chairman Gary MacDougall said.

Libertarians seek to abolish state income tax

BOSTON – In November, voters will have the chance to eliminate the state income tax.

State election officials certified 12,579 signatures submitted by Libertarian candidate for governor Carla Howell's group, the Committee for Small Government – more than 3,000 over what was needed to earn a spot on November's ballot.

The ballot question is the first to qualify for the 2002 state election. If approved, it would remove \$9 billion, or 37 percent, from the state's revenue base.

Howell said abolition would allow the state's 3 million taxpayers to keep an extra \$3,000 a year, send \$9 billion into the local economy and create more than 300,000 jobs. Opponents say loss of the income tax would decimate many state programs.

Howell wouldn't say where the budget cuts should come from, and instead chided the press for not focusing on the taxpayers.

"We need to first answer how do taxpayers suffer? Where do taxpayers have to cut to come up with the \$3,000?" she said.

The question has virtually no support on Beacon Hill among either Democrats and Republicans. Citizens for Limited Taxation president Barbara Anderson has said her group will vote for the ballot question to protest the Legislature's freeze of the voter-approved income tax rollback.

POLITICAL BEAT

▶ Libertarians running in 86 races

Who says Florida's only a two-party state?

In 2000, many blamed **Ralph Nader's** 60,000-plus votes for taking the presidential election from **Al Gore**, who lost by just hundreds to **George W. Bush**.

Well, what about the 14,000 votes won by **Harry Browne**, the **Libertarian Party's** candidate?

In 2002, the Libertarians are trying again to cause a stir in state elections.

The party's "Full Slate" campaign set out to tap candidates for all 120 state House seats. They got pretty darn close — fielding candidates in 86 races.

That's just seven shy of the 93 Republicans who have signed up to run so far, and 19 better than the 67 Democrats who are running.

The Libertarians took advantage of a little-known rule that takes effect in a redistricting year: A candidate needs only 445 signatures to run (one-third the normal number), and the signatures can come from anywhere in the state, not just a candidate's district.

"It made it very easy for a small third-party like ours to do something very big," said **Mark Eckert**, chairman of the campaign, who is running for District 119 in Miami-Dade County, although he lives in Orlando.

— PETER WALLSTEN

(Top Left) *Chicago Tribune* – Chicago, Illinois – July 30, 2002

(Top Right) *The Patriot Ledger* – Quincy, Massachusetts – July 1, 2002

(Bottom Left) *Miami Herald* – Miami, Florida – July 1, 2002

Libertarians fill ballot

Party wields full slate of candidates for state, local seats

By Ed Sealover
The Gazette

For the second general election in a row, the Libertarian Party is fielding a candidate in every race for local and state representatives in El Paso County.

Libertarians, through a combination of conventions and resolutions, nominated eight people for the state House, two for state Senate and two for the El Paso County Commission. Those are in addition to previously nominated candidates for governor, U.S. senator and Congressional District 5.

The small party caught notice in 2000 when it put up candidates for five more offices

in El Paso County than the Democrats. So far this year, it has filled six more local races than the Democrats.

Libertarians have yet to win office here, with their best showing coming from County Commission candidate Steve D'Ippolito, who got 24 percent of the vote in 2000.

County party chairman Ross Glidewell thinks with increased name recognition, that losing streak could snap somewhere this year.

"Everything is a step process," Glidewell said Wednesday. "It's like a river. As the river flows, it gains more momentum and becomes stronger."

Three local Libertarian

candidates announced campaigns before this week: Biff Baker for Congressional District 5; Keith Hamburger for state House District 18; and Steve Gresh for state House District 20.

The rest are:

■ State party chairman John Berntson, 45, for state House District 14.

■ Glidewell, 41, for state House District 15.

■ County party vice chairman Scott Graves, 32, for state House District 16.

■ D'Ippolito, 38, for state House District 17.

■ Medical trainer Randy Grant, 42, for state House District 19.

■ Travis Brundige, 24, for state House District 21.

■ County party treasurer Jessica Wheeler, 26, for state Senate District 9.

■ Former legislative candidate Jeffrey McQueen, 32, for state Senate District 11.

■ County party advertising director Arthur "Rob" Roberts, 35, for County Commission District 1.

■ Party activist Steven Dick, 31, for County Commission District 5.

Glidewell said although the party will do some get-out-the-vote advertising, candidates will conduct their own campaigns without much central guidance.

Ed Sealover covers city government and politics and may be reached at 636-0184 and sealover@gazette.com

(Top) *The Gazette* – Colorado Springs, Colorado – July 11, 2002
(Bottom Left) – *News & Record* – Greensboro, North Carolina – July 9, 2002
(Bottom Right) – *Wisconsin State Journal* – Madison, Wisconsin – July 21, 2002

More Libertarians running for office

The Associated Press

North Carolina's Libertarian Party is fielding more candidates in the 2002 election than any time before, including candidates in more than half the state legislative races.

Libertarians have 150 candidates this year, almost three times more than in previous elections. The party has candidates for U.S. Senate, all 13 congressional seats, 27 of the 50 state House seats and 61 of 120 state Senate seats.

Candidates include Tara Grubb and Eric and Jennifer Medlock of High Point, all first-time candidates. The Medlocks each are seeking seats in the General Assembly and Grubb is challenging U.S. Rep. Howard Coble, a veteran Republican in the 6th District.

Eric Medlock, a candidate for the 28th state Senate seat,

said Libertarians will try to reach voters by emphasizing fiscal responsibility at a time the state is confronting a more-than \$1 billion budget deficit.

"It's the idea of running government on a revenue growth plan. We spent \$1 billion we didn't have because we were expecting inflation to make up for the rest," said Medlock, 25, a computer systems analyst.

Grubb, a 26-year-old real estate agent, said she hopes to register voters in her age group who don't like traditional political parties.

Libertarians have a platform based on limited government and strict interpretations of the U.S. and state constitutions and represent less than 1 percent of registered North Carolina voters.

Despite the small numbers, Libertarian candidate Alex MacDonald said the party

wants to evolve into a viable third-party alternative for voters who are disenchanting with Democrats or Republicans.

"Other third parties have always been viewed as fringe groups," said MacDonald, a former Republican who's running in the new 13th Congressional District.

State Senate candidate Jim Capo, 42, of Greensboro, said many voters have "checked out of the political system. They're tired of voting (for Republicans or Democrats) and not seeing anything change."

Changes on the Libertarian platform include legalizing drugs to eliminate the profit motive from crime, eliminating the income tax and removing federal limits on the right to own and bear arms. The party would limit the federal government to powers enumerated in the U.S. Constitution.

Cheese whiz

Don't accuse Ed Thompson of biting off more than he can chew.

The long-shot Libertarian candidate for governor campaigned at a Little Chute festival recently where he entered and won the village's annual cheese curd eating contest.

Thompson devoured a half pound of curds faster than several large football players and a full minute faster than the three-time defending champion.

"I sure gobbled them up fast," Thompson said. "They couldn't believe it. I was in it to win, just like in this governor's race."

And how did he feel after the feat?

"Bloated," Thompson said. "I thought I was going to need dynamite to go to the bathroom."

Libertarian Party message: Re-declare your independence

By Rich Aucoin
GUEST COLUMNIST

Independence Day brings Americans tremendous pride. For good reason: July Fourth commemorates the day in 1776 when our Founding Fathers told their King that every individual is bestowed by his Creator with certain unalienable Rights, which no government may take away.

So Independence Day symbolizes more than just our government's independence from Britain; it symbolizes our individual independence from excessive government.

Unfortunately, over the past century, our independence has suffered.

In the past decade alone, the politicians have doubled their spending of the People's money. And as any working family can tell you, paycheck size equals independence.

So increases in government spending equal decreases in your freedom.

From one empty promise to another, the two old parties have sweet-talked your independence away, claiming they know what's best for you and your family.

For example, the politicians have taken your education independence, forcing your family's education dollars into their lobbyist-infested public schools. The result? Staggering national illiteracy. Obscenely expensive and useless MCAS. Rampant coercion and bullying. Even school killing sprees.

The politicians have also grabbed your retirement-planning independence, forcing you into Social Security, which is really just a liquid slush fund for big-government boondoggles. The politicians have spent your savings on their reelections. So now your children and grandchildren must be forced to choose between paying higher taxes or working more years. And both will probably happen.

The politicians have grabbed your health care independence, forcing your healthcare dollars into failed social schemes like Medicare and Medicaid, which cause health care costs to skyrocket, while giving your health care choices away to faceless bureaucrats and special interests.

They've hijacked your charity independence, funneling your family's charity dollars into their War on Poverty, which actually increases dependence upon government through its endless incentives for us to qualify as poor.

Other big-government "solutions" increase violent crime, drug abuse, racism, homelessness, unemployment, and even the risk of terrorism.

But no matter how much damage big-government does, both old parties keep insisting their next layer of bureaucracy, their next crackdown on our independence, their next billion-dollar foreign aid package – to prop up some oil-rich dictatorship – will improve our lives.

Their occasional good intentions notwithstanding, the two old parties have turned our small, beautiful government into a huge, tangled web of regulations, protections, prohibitions, bailouts, entitlements, mind-boggling tax codes and risky foreign entanglements. And while this flagrant misuse of our government satisfies Big Oil and the other special interests, it destroys our independence and increases our risk of terrorism.

So how did We the People get so fooled by the two old parties? Actually, we didn't. We've always known we were choosing between two evils, who were drooling over an unimaginable tax loot. That's why half of us saw no sense in voting. But thanks to the Libertarian Party, we can re-declare our independence here in Massachusetts. Libertarians Carla Howell and Rich Aucoin are fighting to bring independence back to the Cradle of Liberty.

Our ballot initiative to end the state income tax will give back an average of \$3,000 to every worker in Massachusetts. Every year. A vote heard 'round the world. This huge boon to the state's economy will create between 300,000 to 500,000 new jobs.

Voting "YES" on November 5th to end the state income tax and choosing Carla Howell for Governor will be a brand-new Declaration of Independence; for yourself, your family, your friends, and for the future.

Happy Independence Day.

Rich Aucoin of Waltham is the Libertarian candidate for Lt. Governor

(Top) *The Daily News Tribune* –
Waltham, Massachusetts – July 2,
2002