

LIBERTY PLEDGE

newsletter

Libertarian National Committee, Inc. ♦ 2600 Virginia Ave, NW, Suite 100
Washington DC 20037 ♦ Phone: (202) 333-0008 ♦ Fax: (202) 333-0072

April 2006

Libertarian Businesswoman in Minnesota Gubernatorial Race Sue Jeffers is in it to win

Libertarian candidate for Governor of Minnesota, Sue Jeffers, a Minneapolis small businesswoman, is running her campaign for one purpose - to win. With her slogan, "People Before Politics," Jeffers is likely to be a major force in a state known for electing third-party candidates. Unlike career politicians from the two major parties, Jeffers is connected to the Minnesota community which she has come to know and love in her 23 years as a business owner.

The Jeffers campaign has five major issues in its platform, which are all vital to the interests of Minnesota's voters. If elected, Jeffers vows to put people before politics which would empower citizens, slow government growth, improve Minnesota's roads and transit systems, reduce the cost of health care, and improve education.

Putting people before politics is by far the focal point of Jeffers' campaign and she plans to accomplish this by introducing a "Taxpayer's Bill of Rights." This will allow voters to approve any spending that exceeds constitutional limits, freeze the spending base when revenues fall and remove the burdens of unfounded mandates on local government. Plans like this are in effect in other states and have been successful in limiting government spending and growth.

Jeffers also has a comprehensive plan to improve Minnesota's economy by creating jobs. Minnesota is the 4th highest-taxed state in the nation and Jeffers would work to reduce this tax burden, encouraging more businesses to come to Minnesota. Economic progress cannot come from regulation, but must come from the accumulation of capital, according to Jeffers.

In order to improve education in Minnesota, if elected, Jeffers will encourage the use of vouchers and tax credits. Money on education should not be squandered by bureaucrats but rather reinvested in Minnesota's classrooms. A Jeffers administration would hold teachers accountable for academic performance and the success or failure of the school system.

Eminent Domain is another of Jeffers' key issues, and as Governor of Minnesota, she would fight for the property rights of all Minnesotans. On her website Jeffers comments, "The judges failed to defend our freedoms, and we can no longer believe they will protect them. We are safe from the government in our homes, but now our homes are not safe from the government. If government can make its decisions about private property based on what is best for government revenues, liberty is lost."

The Jeffers campaign appears poised to make a real difference in the Minnesota gubernatorial race. Libertarians everywhere should take notice of Jeffers' professionalism and drive in her endeavor to become the Libertarian Governor of Minnesota.

New Production Coordinator for Liberty Pledge News

Lorena Seitz, Development Associate at LP Headquarters, recently took over the production of Liberty Pledge News. Over the next couple of months, you will notice a new look and feel to Pledge News as the publication focuses more on active Libertarians, especially those running for office. She stated, "My goal is to profile as many Libertarian candidates as possible in the months preceding the election. It is important for our most active Libertarians, monthly pledgers like you, to be able to identify key races and candidates so you can go out and make a difference. If we can encourage more pledgers to get involved in campaigns, volunteer, and support Libertarian organizations than this party can make some serious gains this election year." If you have an organization that you would like to be profiled in Liberty Pledge News, don't hesitate to contact her at (202) 333-0008 or email her at Lorena.Seitz@lp.org.

Kansas State Chair Running for Secretary of State

Kansas LP State Chair, Rob Hodgkinson, is running for Secretary of State. As Kansas State Chair, he has been extremely active in fighting for eminent domain reform as well as working to make the Libertarian Party more visible in his state. According to Hodgkinson, "This 'center' approach is keeping us viable and visible to the legislature. . . the voters are starting to see the LP as a good choice on Election Day."

Prior to his campaign for Secretary of State, Rob ran for the Kansas House in 1990, 2002, and 2004. Considering himself a mediator, as Secretary of State, Rob would be serious about change and encourage Kansans to get back into politics after years of disillusionment with the two major parties.

Kansas is currently in the process of upgrading its voting system to computers and Mr. Hodgkinson's seven years of experience with business networks, servers, and desktops as a systems analyst will certainly ease this transition. Furthermore, his experience as a small business owner has provided Rob with the necessary tools to deal with corporate issues handled by the Secretary of State. Prior to his work with computers, he attended Kansas State University and carried an insurance and securities license.

Rob became a Libertarian in 1999 following Harry Browne's presidential campaign. The Browne campaign opened his eyes to libertarian philosophy and he has been active in the Kansas party ever since.

As a 5th generation Kansan from Hutchinson, Rob has a particular understanding of the people in his state and has been an active member of his community, participating in many organizations including the Mainstream Coalition, the Castle Coalition, Kansas Taxpayer's Network and even his local bowling association. His hobbies include gardening, hunting, fishing and reading.

Libertarian Fighting New York Congressional Race

Libertarian Eric Sundwall from Columbia County has entered the race for New York's 20th Congressional District. Sundwall is looking at the race as an opportunity to spread his "Back to the Constitution" message. Eric will be running against the incumbent, Rep. John Sweeney (R-Clifton). Additionally, there are four Democrats in the race: Kirsten Gillibrand, Morris Guller, Edwin Pell and Doug Walters.

Eric decided to invest time away from running his own business as a result of incumbent Rep. Sweeney's support for the Iraq War and the USA Patriot Act. The Columbia County Libertarian says his candidacy can lend a voice to those who oppose the Iraq War and the policies of the Bush administration in the district.

Sundwall believes that he can appeal to many voters in the district who are fed up with Democrats and Republicans. He explains, "I have seven months to promote myself for a one-day sale. Most people are happy with a choice between Coke and Pepsi. We like to think of ourselves as root beer." Eric adds, "It's more natural and better for you."

Before joining the LP in 2001, Eric was a member of the Conservative Party. The Libertarian's campaign platform include opposition to the Iraq War, ending corporate welfare, reforming Social Security, and protecting property rights.

Sundwall is planning get-out-the-vote efforts and several public appearances. He has begun preparations for a locally televised debate that would feature all of the announced candidates. Two of the Democrats in the race have already confirmed that they will attend the debate.

Having already received an endorsement from the Hudson Valley chapter and the Capital District chapter of the Libertarian Party of New York, Eric will be seeking the endorsement of the Libertarian Party of New York at their April 29th convention. Sundwall is the only declared Libertarian candidate in the race.

Need to update the credit card information for your monthly pledge? Contact Sara at Sara.Neugroschel@lp.org or call her at (202) 333-0008 for assistance

Indiana Libertarian in Secretary of State Race

Mike Kole, Chair of the Libertarian Party of Hamilton County, Indiana, is running a well-organized and active campaign for Secretary for State.

The 36 year-old wilderness enthusiast and father of two has a comprehensive stance on the issues important to Indiana voters. He is opposed to forced annexation and the use of eminent domain by commercial organizations. Additionally, if elected, Kole will attempt to end gerrymandering in Indiana and will fight for a conservative fiscal policy.

The most important issue on Kole's agenda, however, is what he refers to as "ballot status." In a phone interview, Kole remarked, "This is our ballot status race, we've stopped saying ballot access which only requires us to get 2% of the vote for automatic ballot access. We're going for 10% this year, putting us on par with Republicans and Democrats and we are confident we can do it."

Another of Kole's goals for the office of Secretary of State will be to improve the office's efficiency and cost effectiveness. He will reduce the office's budget 5-10% while maintaining the level of service to which Indiana constituents have grown accustomed.

Kole's campaign is on track to become one of the best Libertarian campaigns in the country. He recently hired a campaign manager, Rob Place, who in his own bid for office received 43% of the vote against an incumbent Republican. The campaign has had significant media attention in Indiana for both the campaign's efficiency and early start as well as for the hiring of Place.

Another important issue for the Kole campaign are Indiana primaries. The primary election process marginalizes Libertarian voters even though it is funded by taxpayers' money. Kole argues that the major parties should not have publicly funded primaries, but should instead follow the Libertarian example and fund their own primaries. This would remove some of the major parties' advantage and put the Libertarians on a level playing field with Republicans and Democrats, all while saving the taxpayers thousands of dollars.

Will We Let Bush Invade Iran?

When the Bush administration decided to invade Iraq, it did so preemptively and unilaterally. Nonetheless, the members of the administration, including Dick Cheney, Condoleeza Rice, Paul Wolfowitz, and President George W. Bush himself, employed tactics of fear and coercion to gain the support of the American people.

Time and again, Americans were told that Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein had close ties with al-Qaeda, and played some role in the September 11th terrorist attacks. Additionally, the Bush administration repeatedly supported intelligence that indicated that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction. Now, after more than three years of fighting, and at the expense of thousands of American lives, we know the truth; Saddam's Iraq posed no threat to our nation.

Today, it appears that a similar pattern is forming. Instead of Iraq, however, the administration has chosen Iran as its new target. In the media, and in White House press conferences, similar rhetoric is appearing.

"The American people should be wary of the Bush Administration's mounting rhetoric against Iran," stated Michael Dixon, chairman of the Libertarian Party. "If you treat someone as your enemy, they will be your enemy. It's time for the Bush administration to take a grown-up approach to foreign policy and stop playing the schoolyard bully."

The Libertarian Party understands the importance of a strong national defense, however it is rational enough to oppose preemptive warfare. This stance is clearly written within the party's platform: "The United States should not inject itself into the internal matters of other nations, unless they have declared war upon or attacked the United States, or the U.S. is already in a constitutionally declared war with them."

Chairman Dixon continued by saying, "I stand by the Libertarian Party's platform and encourage the rest of America to do the same. We need reason within our nation, not rhetoric."

Portland Oregon to Host LP Convention in July Come to the Convention, Stay to Enjoy Beautiful Portland

July 1st-2nd, the Libertarian Party will hold its National Convention in Portland, Oregon. The Convention will feature a fun-filled weekend of events including a breakfast with guest speakers, a private VIP reception for Torch Club members, and an exclusive reception for Liberty Pledge Club members along with a meet-and-greet session with guest speakers and prominent party members.

As a Liberty Pledge Club member, you are entitled to attend the casual reception to discuss the LP Convention and the future of the party with current political candidates, members of the National Committee and our notable guest speakers. The Saturday evening reception will include snacks and a bar and will be the perfect way to wind down after the closing of the session.

This year's national convention will be held at the spacious Hilton Portland & Executive Tower located in downtown Portland, Oregon. The Hilton Portland is a two-building complex that offers an array of amenities including a 12,000 sq ft. health club and three separate restaurants. The Hilton Portland is within a short walking distance to some of Portland's best hot-spots and restaurants.

Portland is a great western city with a wealth of things to do for people of all interests. It is a clean, safe, city with an excellent (and often free) transportation system. Come to Portland for the LP Convention, but stay for the fun!

Perhaps one of Portland's most beautiful attractions are the Rose Gardens. Fortunately for attendees of the LP Convention, July is the perfect time to see them. Portland is known as the "City of Roses" and its most

famous garden is certainly the International Rose Test Garden in Washington Park. Portland's roses are a must-see for any visitor.

Another fabulous, unique attraction in Portland are the city's incredible wineries. Tours of Portland's illustrious wineries are available through several companies or alternatively, you can take a self-guided tour.

Vista Balloon Adventures even offers a tour of the wine country in air balloons.

For outdoor enthusiasts, Portland's attractions are unparalleled. The city offers kayaking, hiking, and fishing with short drives and of course there is always a day trip to the picturesque Mt. Hood. Portland is also host to the West Coast Game Park, a walk-through Safari where visitors can get up close and personal to a variety of animals. The park is home to lions, panthers, zebras, chimps, lemurs and an assortment of other wild creatures. Golfers will enjoy Portland as it is home to 2 of *Golf Digest's* 75 best courses, Eastmoreland Golf Course and Heron Lakes Golf Course.

River cruises are an enjoyable activity along the Columbia River. The Portland Spirit offers

daily lunch and dinner cruises at reasonable prices with unmatched views of the Portland skyline. On your July visit you can enjoy jet boat cruises to memorable destinations like Columbia Gorge, Bonneville Dam, and Kelly Point.

Finally, the Pearl District is Portland's premier shopping district with restaurants, galleries, and stores is only a short walk or streetcar ride from downtown. Featuring one-of-a-kind boutiques, sidewalk cafes, and fountains, it certainly is a must-see.

