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Liberty Pledge

▶ NEWSLETTER

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Election numbers: 662 LP candidates

*Largest off-presidential year
slate in over a decade, says LP HQ*

Taking advantage of the so-called "Year of the Third Party," The Libertarian Party will be running more than 600 candidates for public office in November — its largest number in an off-presidential year election in more than a decade.

According to the latest figures from the National LP headquarters, there are 662 Libertarian candidates for federal, state, and local office in 45 states across the USA. That compares to just 391 candidates in 1990, and a mere 206 candidates in 1986.

This means that slightly over 66% of American voters will be able to vote for at least one Libertarian candidate on November 8th, according to figures compiled by *Ballot Access News* editor Richard Winger. This puts the LP well ahead of the U.S. Taxpayer's Party (21.3%), the national Patriot/Independence parties (20.6%) and the Natural Law Party (16.6%).

The states with the most LP candidates include: New Hampshire (109), California (90), Texas (57), Missouri (51), and Michigan (51). Rounding out the top 10 are Utah (36), Pennsylvania (32), Wisconsin (24), Nevada (23), and Arizona (15).

"We're seeing what's probably our best slate of candidate ever," said Ron Crickenberger, Chair of the LP Campaigns Committee. "We're seeing better quality candidates running better campaigns" — which he attributed to the large number of candidates and campaign managers who attended professional campaign training seminars around the country.

Crickenberger said the National LP has budgeted upwards of \$20,000 to help "winnable" candidates in this election, and has already sent two campaign support packages — including a campaign manual, an issues "briefing" booklet, and information about Project Healthy Choice and Operation Safe Streets — to every LP candidate.

"We know that being a candidate is a grueling task; late hours, lost wages, and not nearly enough thank yous. We hope the [support package] makes that job just a little easier," said Crickenberger.

Nolan & Bock plan national radio show

The "libertarian answer to MacNeil-Lehrer" will start appearing on radio stations around the nation, featuring the founding father of the Libertarian Party and one of the nation's leading libertarian journalists.

The current events program, "The Fourth American Revolution," is broadcast by satellite every Sunday evening from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm, Pacific time. Hosts are LP founder Dave Nolan and nationally syndicated columnist Alan Bock. Available for broadcast by local affiliate stations nationwide, the show features commentary on "everything under the sun . . . and beyond," according to Nolan. "We like to think of it as a libertarian answer to MacNeil-Lehrer. More entertaining, more futurist, and definitely less establishment-oriented."

The name of the program is drawn from Nolan and Bock's theory that the United States is now in "the early stages of a sweeping change that will rival the original American Revolution, the Civil War and the New Deal. Our goal is to help steer that change in the direction of greater individual liberty," said Bock.

Two LP state parties win ballot access victories

Libertarian parties in two states have won important lawsuits, putting LP candidates back on the ballot.

New York: The state LP collected more than enough signatures to get their slate of candidates back on the ballot, after a federal judge gave them a second chance.

A judge ruled on September 28 that a NY law requiring district identification code numbers on ballot access petitions was unconstitutional, and granted the party 72 hours to collect new petitions. The party took advantage of the reprieve, collecting more than 9,000 signatures over one weekend, far more than the 3,500 valid petitions needed to boost them over the 15,000 legal requirement.

Colorado: LP State Senate candidate Judd Ptak was placed back on the ballot after a judge ruled that a state law requiring 1,000 petitions was unreasonable. "If Judd had not been put back on the ballot, the LP of Colorado would have been decertified," said State Chair David Aitken. "[The judge] found that this would violate our 1st and 14th Amendment rights. The good guys win one!"

FORUM

Libertarians offer a way out of the Republicrat mess

By Jeff Wright
 "There are many gentlemen in the United States who think it right that we should have one great, national, consolidated government, and that it was better to bring it about slowly and imperceptibly rather than all at once."

— George Mason, *Elliot's Debates on the Adoption of the Federal Constitution.*

The approach of the fall election season makes it important to distinguish, in the voter's mind, a few salient points on the current state of our political parties and system.

1) Regardless of their stated preference of political party, whether Democrat or Republican, the majority of officeholders and candidates from the two major parties are essentially the same animal. The preponderance of these politicians ultimately vote for bigger government, more regulation, higher taxes and more power for themselves.

2) In following the voting pattern stated above these politicians violate our city and county Charters, state and federal Constitutions, at will and without consequence. Each of them have either sworn or affirmed an oath of office that says they will "preserve, protect and defend" those documents. They are doing none of those things.

3) The American public appears to currently acquiesce in this raping of the land and economy by continuing to elect these politicians to office.

4) Polls, though, show the American public currently feels the country is heading down the toilet at virtually all levels. While we seem to know that something is disastrously wrong, we continue down the same path.

Why is this happening? Because the Republicrat elite know that the American public is completely distracted by the struggle to make a living and pay our taxes. They know it is nearly impossible to take the time to see through the lies and deceit that have been perpetrated upon us. The elite in this country understands well, at all levels, how easy it is to keep us distracted and still claim to be "representative government."

From top to bottom our system is infested with corruption, double-dealing, scandal and distortion of our governmental structure. That has created a system where fully 50 percent of our economy goes to pay for government. Yet, we don't seem to know how to fix it.

The only thing President Clinton had right in his campaign was that we need change. We need it fast. However, we don't need the change that the current

political power is practicing on us. We should also know, at this point, that there is no way the current political power is going to invoke the changes necessary to give back the country to the people. It will have to come through other means.

Though only 20 years old the national Libertarian Party, and the LP of Colorado, has established itself as the most viable contender to attack the current power structure. The LP has state parties in all 50 states and affiliates in most counties. It has currently over 200 elected or appointed officials in government around the nation. It has mounted six presidential campaigns since 1974. It has demonstrated the staying power to grow into the political force necessary to accomplish a return to the founding principles of this Republic. Finally, it has the national platform and programs to guide that return.

Two major programs developed by the LP, Project Healthy Choice and Operation Safe Streets, counter the abysmal health and crime legislation either contemplated or passed by the federal government. The LP programs accomplish the same goals as the federal legislation with less regulation, government and taxes, more freedom and liberty for all Americans. The LP has the programs, platform and policies in

place to reform this country back into the one intended by its founders and ready for the 21st century.

There is only one major hurdle faced by the Libertarian Party or any other political movement capable of fixing the problems. That is, the willingness of the American people to change themselves. If Americans are indeed fed up, then we should begin to desert the parties who defy us. The LP cannot achieve its goals without the increasing support of the disaffected Republicrats and Independents. America will continue down the tubes until large numbers join the political alternatives.

George Bernard Shaw once said, "Liberty means responsibility. That is why most men dread it." Shaw was a socialist and knew of which he spoke. The socialists have always depended on our reluctance to take responsibility. Are we really willing to let that be true?

Wright, a resident of Colorado Springs, is membership coordinator for the Libertarian Party of Colorado. Forum is open to readers who have expertise or personal experience in an area of public policy. Articles should be limited to 800 words in length and can be sent to: GT Forum, Gazette Telegraph, P.O. Box 1779, Colorado Springs, CO 80901.

▲ *Colorado Springs Gazette Telegraph*
 Colorado Springs, Colorado
 September 7, 1994

► *Reading Times*
 Reading, Pennsylvania
 September 2, 1994

Libertarian is hoping to alter others' views

■ The candidate for U.S. Senate wants Democrats and Republicans to adopt some of his party's ideas, such as legalizing drugs.

By John D. Forester Jr.
Eagle/Times

His campaign literature carries the message, "This year there is *finally* a choice. But Don Ernsberger is candid enough to admit that the majority of the voters won't choose him in the Nov. 8 election for U.S. Senate.

Instead, the 46-year-old Libertarian Party standard-bearer in the race against Democratic incumbent Harris Wofford and U.S. Rep. Rick Santorum, the Republican challenger, said that, by having a voice in the campaign, he hopes other candidates will pay some heed to the Libertarian point of view.

For instance, his answer to the crime problem: Legalize drugs.

Or the party's solution to health-care reform: Leave the market alone.

Ernsberger, a high school history teacher from Warminster, Bucks County, outlined his party's strategy Thursday during a campaign swing through Reading.

"I don't see myself as a

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spoiler," he said of his third-party candidacy. "I am more than a spoiler. I believe we (Libertarians) will be seen in this campaign as a part of the electorate that wants to be taken into account."

Ernsberger said that there are no real differences between the Democratic and Republican parties.

"They both say the same things, but they use different terminology," he said.

For instance, he said, the majority of Republicans in Congress would have voted for the Crime Bill if the social programs aimed at prevention had been taken out of it.

"I wouldn't have voted for that bill because it is the same old reactionary approach to crime — build more prisons and hire more cops," he said. "It doesn't get to the real reason why we have so much soaring crime."

Ernsberger paged through a copy of the *Reading Times*.

"If you read all these crime stories, every single case is tied into the drug war," he said. "But there was only one line in the Crime Bill that tied into the drug-war situation."

He said the crime rate would go down drastically if the government would take the profitability out of the illegal drug trade by decriminalizing drugs.

"By doing that, you would be breaking the back of organized crime," he said.

"If you could turn back time to 1928 in Chicago and ask, why are there drive-by shootings, why are the police corrupt, and why are the courts and the jails clogged, people would tell you that it was because of the prohibition of alcohol," he said. "People back then made the linkage."

But, he said, people today don't see that most crime is tied directly or indirectly to the drug trade and, therefore, won't act to lift the prohibition on street drugs.

As for health care, Ernsberger said the crisis has been caused by government over-regulating the insurance industry, forcing deductibles so low that people over-use and abuse the health-care system.

He said that, if individuals



Don Ernsberger doesn't expect victory

were allowed to negotiate health insurance policies with higher deductibles, their premiums would go down.

Ernsberger also suggested legislation similar to Santorum's proposed health-care "IRAs," which would be tax-free savings accounts used to pay medical bills when needed. He said Santorum stole that idea from the Libertarian Party, which first proposed it in 1984.

The Libertarian Party, he said, is trying to be a wedge, forcing more differences between the two major parties, which he said both represent government expansion.

"We are able to give the American people different ideas from those they have been hearing," he said.

L. Neil Smith speaks and writes his mind

Fort Collins writer has earned national fame

By Lee Tomjack
For the Triangle Review

If you log onto the net with your computer, you might catch L. Neil Smith of Fort Collins talking about his latest literary success, *Pallas*. Of course he's entitled to crow about it. *Pallas* just won Smith his second Prometheus Award, the highest award a Libertarian writer can get.

Smith has published more than 18 novels, including *The Probability Broach*, which won his first Prometheus Award, *The Venus Belt*, and the *Lando Calrissian* trilogy, a series of Star Wars novels for Lucasfilm Ltd. Since the deaths of writers like Robert Heinlein and Ayn Rand, Smith says he's also the most widely published and prolific Libertarian writer in the world.

There are really only about a dozen true Libertarian science fiction writers. They include writers such as Robert Heinlein, Brian Daley, F. Paul Wilson, Robert Shea and Robert Anton Wilson, the writers of *The Illuminatus!*

Some of the earlier writers in the style

Smith likes to write science fiction. "Where else can you combine sex, violence and political expressions?"



Photo by A.A. Blake

Even after winning his second Prometheus award, Smith still takes time to curl up with a good book.

after breaking his foot in a martial arts class. Smith said he had been planning to write a novel, and since he was basically trapped at home, he needed something to do.

Upon publication, he received a letter from Robert Heinlein, who has written such novels as *Stranger In A Strange Land*, *Tunnel In The Sky*, and *Time Enough For Love*. Heinlein welcomed him into the club of Libertarian writers. Since then, Smith says he has made it a point to write to new Libertarian writers to do the same.

Many of Heinlein's original novels were abridged, because of some of his radical ideas, those parts are only now being returned to some of his earlier novels. Smith says the biggest compliment he ever received was when someone once said that the restored portions resembled his works.

Heinlein had to deal with censorship in his day, but Smith says he doesn't put up with it. "Note, that I am not as wealthy as Robert Heinlein," says Smith.

Smith says he likes to write science fiction because it's the only remaining literature of ideas "Besides," he says, "where else can you combine sex, violence, and political expressions?"

While his career as a writer officially began in 1977, he's been writing since he was a kid. He was first published in fifth grade, in the newspaper at his father's air force base. His first book was actually written in the 3rd grade, it was a book of pictures about a spaceship taking off.

Smith is still writing science fiction and he still hopes we'll someday reach the stars.

"I believe a thousand years from now," says Smith, "when we're out in the galaxy, aliens will think the official language of mankind is English, and the official food is Chinese."

Smith says he likes both because they have such a variety to them.

"There's just more to it," says Smith. English has been developing for over a thousand years. Smith says it has such a large vocabulary that it's easier to get your ideas across in it.

Smith is 48-years-old, and he was born at 10 p.m. in Mercy Hospital in Denver, Colorado. He has a wife and a four-and-a-half year-old daughter. He's been a resident of Fort Collins since 1964, and he attended Colorado State University from 1964 to 1969. He no longer smokes, but he still holds onto his father's pipe.

Smith has been very active in politics. In 1978, he ran for a seat on the Colorado State House of Representatives. "Every now and then," says Smith, "a person with deep political views wants to run for public office." Smith says he also did it to help his party. He's been active with the Libertarian Party for over 30 years, and he has even held a seat twice on the Libertarian Party's National Platform Committee.

He also wanted to try out some of his economic ideas, ideas he later channeled into his first book. Smith says he believes everyone would be more prosperous in an unregulated economy. Things would be cheaper without taxes on them and people could then work less for what they have to buy.

Smith says he also doesn't believe we need a police force. He believes people can generally take care of themselves, but he did serve as a volunteer with the now defunct Fort Collins Police Reserves. "I did it to see what it was about," says Smith.

Police really don't protect people, according to Smith. Instead, they spend most of their time collecting money for the city in the form of fines or tickets. "Really, it's too bad," says Smith, "I know a lot of cops that really want to help."

Smith believes in the Libertarian viewpoint on the right to bear arms. He believes that crime would go down if everybody was armed.

Smith says someone who is carrying a gun is saying that they are willing to take responsibility for their own lives. If you carry a gun into someone else's home, then, he says you are also willing to protect the family inside that home as well.



"Science fiction is the only remaining literature of ideas."

Back in the 19th century, in the Old West, Smith says everybody was armed and took responsibility for their own lives. In that society, criminals were so rare we still know them by name. "It used to cost something, Smith says, "to hurt someone."

Smith also writes political letters and essays, and has been a paid speaker for the Libertarian Party. He has written for a wide variety of publications, from *Marvel Comics* to the *Orange County Register*.

Currently, he has just finished his 19th book, *Lever Action*. His first non-fiction work, it is a collection of speeches and essays about individual liberties.

Smith's other works will also soon be returning to print. *The Probability Broach*, which has been out of print for over a decade, will be coming out again soon. His *Lando Calrissian* novels will also be returning in a new form, *West End games* is adapting them as supplements for their *Star Wars* Role Playing Game.

Term limits not ploy to benefit Libertarians, official says

By BARRY GANTENBEIN
Daily News Staff Writer

Although the Libertarian Party of Wisconsin supports term limits, the drive to limit terms served by local elected officials is being organized by Wisconsin Term Limits and not the Libertarian Party.

Ron Emery, chairman of the Libertarian Party of Wisconsin, objected to comments made by two city aldermen in Wednesday's *Daily News* that the push for term limits is a ploy by the Libertarian Party to get candidates elected by eliminating the competition.

Representatives of the Libertarian Party were unavailable for comment at press time Wednesday.

"The Libertarian Party and Wisconsin Term Limits are two separate entities, although many Libertarian Party members are working hard to give voters a chance to vote on term limits," Emery said today.

In West Bend, the petition to limit terms served by city aldermen and the mayor was handed in by Kevin Scheunemann, who is the Libertarian Party candidate for secretary of state.

Although the Libertarian Party isn't organizing efforts for term limits, the party platform advocates term limits, Emery said.

"We return about 98 percent of all incumbents to office. An advantage for incumbents is inherent in our system," said Emery.

▲ *West Bend Daily News*
West Bend, Wisconsin
September 8, 1994

◀ *Fort Collins Review*
Fort Collins, Colorado
September 14, 1994

▼ *Lansing State Journal*
Lansing, Michigan
September 26, 1994

10,000 rally against gun control

Nugent, Libertarian lead call for repeal of weapons limits

By ANTHONY SPANGLER
Lansing State Journal

More than 10,000 people, many clad in hunter orange and camouflage gear, gathered at the Capitol steps Sunday to rally for the Second Amendment right to bear arms.

The rally featured rock star and hunting advocate Ted Nugent, U.S. Senate Libertarian candidate Jon Coon of Henderson and representatives from several Michigan

gun-advocate organizations.

Coon told the crowd, estimated by Capitol officials at 10,000, that he wants to see the government reverse gun-control laws such as the Brady bill and President Clinton's crime bill.

The Brady bill, passed by Congress in November 1993, mandates a five-day waiting period to purchase a handgun so police can check buyers' criminal records or mental problems.

Clinton signed a bill on Sept. 13 that bans 19 specific semi-automatic assault weapons and similar models. It also limits the magazine capacity of weapons to 10 rounds.

"If a law attempts to take control away from people, they are wrong," Coon said. "We don't need

to take guns away from people to control crime."

Coon suggested locking up criminals who are multiple offenders as a way to reduce violent crimes.

He said most crimes are not committed by people with guns.

"A small percentage of violent crimes are connected with guns," he said. "If we start locking up these criminals, most of whom are multiple felony offenders, we can eliminate violent crimes. It has nothing to do with controlling guns."

Diane Dore, who brought her two children to the rally, said she has never fired a gun, but is worried that the government is taking away citizens rights to own guns.

"It disturbs me when any of our rights are taken away," said Dore of Garden City. "It was good to hear the speakers today who understand what the Second Amendment is all about."

Even though Dore said Second Amendment rights are important to her, she said she isn't ready to vote for Coon, yet.

Pat Dougher, a Northville resident, also said he likes what Coon had to say about Second Amendment rights, but isn't sure if he will vote for Coon.

"I'm not ready to jump on the Libertarian wagon, but I do feel it's a person's right to own a gun," he said.

Calling the event a Brass Roots rally, organizers collected hundreds of brass casings from spent bullet cartridges. The casings will be melted down and made into a plaque inscribed with the United States and state constitutional amendments that allow citizens the right to bear arms.

The plaque will be sent to the state Legislature, organizers said.

Ten-year-old Matt Dore said the best part of the rally for him was walking on the hundreds of brass casings collected in the back of a pick-up truck.

"I threw a few in and took one as a souvenir," he said, proudly holding a spent large-caliber casing.

A party in search of a leader

Libertarians seek respect and viable candidates

By Kevin McKeever
Staff Writer

In a state that four years ago embraced the idea of an independent governor, running on a minor-party ticket in Connecticut might guarantee some respect among the population.

Not so, even if that party happens to be the Libertarian Party — the third largest in the United States.

"Nobody calls you a wacko to your face, but they're thinking some of your views are extreme without even hearing them," said Gordon Haave of Greenwich, Libertarian candidate for state representative in the 151st District.

But according to party officials, recognition for the Libertarians — which collected a party-high 3.7 million votes in state and federal elections in 1992 — has been inching forward as voters continually grow disillusioned and distrustful of government and the two-party system.

Founded in 1971, the Libertarian philosophy is rooted in the principles of individuality revered by the nation's founders.

The members' philosophy is that government intrusion should be minimal, save the protection of citizens' lives, constitutional rights and property. Libertarians believe people should truly govern themselves and assist one another.

"It's the concept of natural law that was the basis of the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution," said Carl Vassar, chairman of the Libertarian Party of Connecticut. "As long as it does not hurt anyone or infringe on another's freedom, it is generally acceptable."

Eliminating income taxes and gun-control laws and legalizing drugs to reduce their allure to the criminal element are steadfast platforms.

The message has caught on somewhat, at least in terms of the number of candidates and votes the party's collected since its inception. About 125 Libertarians hold elective office nationwide, although none ever has in Connecticut.

In addition to Haave and Stamford resident Irving Sussman, who is challenging U.S. Rep. Christopher Shays, R-Stamford, for the 4th

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Libertarians

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Congressional District seat, 15 other candidates have petitioned to run on the party line in the state this November.

This "great freedom, less government" creed has an appeal to many people, noted political analyst Bill Schneider.

"Most people are operational libertarians in their views — they don't trust government," said Schneider, a member of the American Enterprise Institute, a nonprofit, nonpartisan think tank in Washington, D.C. "The biggest single trend in public opinion is a collapse in faith in government — it's corrupt and it can't help you."

Although far from being a Libertarian, Ross Perot captured this sentiment in the last presidential election by appealing to this love of the outsider vowing to correct the system, Schneider said.

But the problem many find in the Libertarian Party is that it carries the anti-government argument to the conclusion that large chunks of government should be eliminated. And despite people's misgivings, Schneider said, they generally believe the government *should* do something for them.

"And there's a big difference between 'should' and 'can,'" he said.

But Libertarians argue the government has provided only a drain for taxpayers' money time and time again.

"Look at all the money the government's thrown into the war on poverty since the 1960s," said Bill Winter, director of communications at national party headquarters in Washington, D.C. "I don't think there's been a tenth of a percent of a change in the poverty rates."

Charities, churches and fraternal organizations are better suited than bureaucrats to take care of society's needy, Vassar argued.

"These are the organizations that served the people for 175 years before welfare," he said.

The party's ideas are not being ignored completely, though.

Privatization in government has set many people abuzz in the last few years, but that concept has always been the key to Libertarian economic theory. The idea that private industry can profit itself and taxpayers by taking over inefficient municipal operations is being explored in Greenwich, for example, by the Board of Estimate and Taxation, which is studying how to best run Bruce Memorial Golf Course.

Political and election reform is another issue Libertarians wave in front of voters.

Millions of tax dollars should no longer go to finance campaigns and conventions; special privileges for politicians should be eliminated and; among their favorite planks, election laws should be revised to enable all candidates and parties to get on the ballot.

"All the election laws are stacked

against us," said Vassar, complaining about the requirements of petition signatures and minimum vote counts needed for ballot access. "They have been put into effect to try to insulate the two major parties."

Edward Marcus, chairman of the Democratic State Central Committee of Connecticut, said running for office is a privilege that reasonably requires potential candidates to have some type of basic support.

"Otherwise, you're going to have the European method with 20 or 25 candidates and parties causing chaos," he said. "The Libertarians should stop complaining and start collecting signatures."

Libertarians do not even know how many registered voters they have nationally because not all states or towns are required to record party affiliation, especially of minor parties.

Greenwich and Stamford, which do record party affiliation, have five and three registered Libertarians, respectively, out of their tens of thousands of registered voters.

Despite the known numbers, the party has had some success, most notably in local and state offices in California, New Hampshire and Pennsylvania. It's biggest coup — or flop — occurred this year with New York radio personality Howard Stern making a run for governor on its ticket.

Stern, known for exposing his sexual interests and those of his guests on the air, dropped out last month because he refused to comply with an election law requiring him to reveal his income.

For a while it gave the party much publicity and a boost in membership, but Stern's personality and on-air antics did nothing to enhance the Libertarian image despite his claims of a serious candidacy, according to James Hock, vice chairman of the Connecticut Libertarians.

"Was he a good representative of our party? No way!" Hock said. "But he could have given us ballot access for four years in New York with the votes he would have gotten. That would have been something."

Schneider's assessment of the Stern candidacy was similar — it may not have given them a victory in the governor's race, but it would have given them name recognition and a strong persona to rally around even if it was not one they all admired.

"All parties are creations of personality today," he said, citing what Ronald Reagan did for the Republicans in the 1980s and Perot did for disaffected voters in 1992. "What the Libertarians need is a person — a horse to ride in on. They need a guy to get votes."

But unlike A Connecticut Party with Gov. Lowell Weicker Jr., the Libertarian stable has candidates with little, if any, track record or public acclaim.

They conceded their candidates



THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY

The Libertarian Party believes individuals have the right to deal with their own problems without government interference, as long as it is done in a peaceful and honest way. Their goal is a world in which voluntary cooperation replaces force or threat of force in human relationships.

Facts:	Platforms:
1. Formed in 1971 in Denver by business executive David Nolan and group of disaffected Republicans and Democrats.	1. Phase out all direct and indirect subsidies to foreign nations, companies and citizens; unilaterally end all domestic subsidy programs, trade barriers and tariffs.
2. More than 100,000 registered Libertarians in 24 states that track the party.	2. Legalize all drugs to eliminate the profitability of drug dealing and, subsequently, the violent crime related to drugs.
3. About 125 Libertarian officeholders nationwide, notably four members of the New Hampshire House of Representatives and three mayors in California.	3. Eliminate special rights and privileges for elected or appointed officials; end government funding of any party or candidate; revise laws to allow all candidates for elective office on ballots.
4. About 600 candidates seeking office nationwide in 1994.	4. Allow school choice, using incentives such as tax credits for parents, so all private and public schools are available to all children.
5. 1992 presidential candidate Andre Marrou received 291,612 votes, or 0.28 percent of the 104,552,736 ballots cast. It was the fourth highest total behind Democrat Bill Clinton, Republican George Bush, and independent Ross Perot.	5. Reduce government involvement in the health care industry.
6. Best national showing: presidential candidate Ed Clark received 921,279 votes.	6. Lift gun-control legislation.
7. No Libertarian has ever won elected office in Connecticut.	7. Eliminate excessive taxes, such as the federal income tax.

Sources: 1994 Libertarian Party National Program and party literature. The World Almanac and Book of Facts, Libertarian Party

Staff graphic

tend to be professionals from technical fields without much experience running for, let alone holding, elective offices. Hock, who is running for state comptroller, is a 31-year-old customer consultant for a national dating service in Wethersfield. Vassar, party candidate for lieutenant governor, is a 47-year-old manufacturer engineer from Trumbull.

It's a predicament the national party acknowledges and accepts as a step toward success.

"We consider these people our farm team," Winter said. "Five, 10 years from now they could be contenders."

Haave, a 21-year-old college student and financial analyst, said he knew running Libertarian, especially in the GOP stronghold of Greenwich, would not get him an immediate base of support.

"But when could I have ever gotten a chance to run if I stayed with the Republican Party," said Haave, who is still registered with the GOP. "Maybe after 40 years of volunteering in the community, I might have been able to get some position on a town board."

That is why the Libertarian Party is looking for help from special-interest groups in addition to the regular disaffected voters.

The party's staunch belief in the Bill of Rights, including the Second Amendment right to bear arms, has led it to begin lobbying the National Rifle Association for more support of its candidates.

"Gun owners are a natural constituency for us," Winter said. "They may not be popular with everybody, but the Libertarian Party doesn't pick and choose the rights we're going to defend."

NRA officials in Washington, D.C., did not return telephone calls for comment.

In the meantime, the party goes on passing out its literature at rock concerts and agricultural fairs, trying to recruit people who are fed up and ready for substantial change in government.

"We have engineers, computer programmers, scientific types, entrepreneurs, doctors, burnt-out ex-hippies from the Sixties... everyone who has an interest in ruling their lives," Vassar said.

Libertarians Can Get Back on N.Y. Ballot

ALBANY, N.Y. — A federal district judge has declared unconstitutional a provision in New York's election law that earlier had knocked Robert L. Schulz and other Libertarian candidates off the November ballot.

Unless overturned on appeal, U.S. District Judge Con. G. Cholakis' ruling means Schulz — if he can obtain 3,437 voters' signatures over the week-end — will be back on the ballot as a

candidate for governor challenging incumbent Democrat Mario M. Cuomo and Republican George Pataki.

Schulz is viewed by both major parties as a spoiler who can't possibly win the election but can take enough conservative votes away from Pataki to make a difference in his battle with Cuomo, which recent polls indicate is a very close race.

▲ *Greenwich Times*
Greenwich, Connecticut
September 4, 1994

► *The Los Angeles Daily Journal*
Los Angeles, California
September 30, 1994