

LIBERTY PLEDGE

newsletter

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OCTOBER 2000

Browne appears in 2 debates

Harry Browne will head into the November 7 election with at least two nationally broadcast presidential debates — and a last-minute appearance on *Meet The Press* — under his belt.

The Libertarian candidate participated in a three-way debate with other third-party presidential contenders in Minnesota on September 28 and another in Washington, DC on October 20. Both were broadcast on C-SPAN, and included the Natural Law Party's John Hagelin and the Constitution Party's Howard Phillips.

Ralph Nader and Pat Buchanan refused to participate in either debate.

Browne also appeared on NBC's *Meet The Press* with moderator Tim Russert

on October 22 — again with Hagelin and Phillips — in a discussion that was described as “a breath of fresh air,” by Cedric Mu-



■ Browne: In two debates.

hammad of BlackElectorate.com. “[*Meet the Press* showed] that the political process in this country is being undermined by the self-fulfilling prophecy that results from the ‘mainstream’ media’s obsession with the Republican and Democratic Party’s presidential candidates,” he wrote.

The September 28 debate at the RiverCentre in St. Paul, Minnesota was hosted by Governor Jesse Ventura

— who opened the event by “praising third parties and stressing the importance of having them included in debates,” said Browne.

The October 20 debate at the Ronald Reagan Building Amphitheater in Washington, DC was sponsored by Judicial Watch.

“The issues raised in the Judicial Watch match-up transcended the pervasive political pandering of the three earlier Presidential Debate Commission events, where the argument too often descended into a contest of who could promise to spend the projected budget surplus faster,” reported the online news service NewsMax.com.

“In contrast, [the] face-off between Browne, Hagelin, and Phillips dealt with the challenges facing America.”

LEGAL NEWS

Browne campaign files suit to revoke U.S. campaign law

The Harry Browne for President campaign will file a sweeping lawsuit before the November 7 election that will attempt to overturn most of the federal laws regulating elections, the campaign announced.

The suit will seek “to have the Federal Election Commission, the Commission for Presidential Debates, and the federal campaign funding system declared unconstitutional,” said campaign manager Perry Willis.

While the suit will have no impact on the current election, “we are trying to lay the groundwork for even more successful Libertarian campaigns in the future,” he said.

Originally scheduled to be filed on October 26, the suit will now be filed “prior to the election,” probably in U.S. District Court in Alexandria, Virginia.

Along with Harry Browne, plaintiffs in the suit will include the Libertarian Party, Gun Owners of America, the Constitution Party's Howard Phillips, and Citizens United. It will be funded through the U.S. Justice Foundation, a tax-exempt 501c3 group.

“If we win, it would completely free up the election process,” said Willis.

California LP “wins” six races (already)

The November 7 election hasn't happened yet, but the California LP already has six election victories guaranteed.

That's because at least six Libertarians are running in uncontested races, said LP State Chair Mark Hinkle — so they will be automatically appointed to the positions they are seeking.

“A win is a win and we will take it,” he said. “We now have six more Liber-

tarians in office who can put Libertarian solutions into practice at the local level and work to diminish the impact of government in their communities.”

Libertarians will win seats in the Placentia Library District, the Guadalupe-Coyote Resource Conservation District, the Alexander Valley Unified School District, the Descanso Community Planning District, the La Honda-Pescadero Unified School

District, and the Guadalupe-Coyote Resource Conservation District.

The six victors boosted the number of California Libertarians in office to 35 — a number Hinkle predicted will increase further after Election Day.

“With an additional [300-plus] Libertarians on the November ballot, we are assured more victories,” he said. “This was only the beginning.”

Libertarian says he's answer to dreams

By John Fryar
The Daily Times-Call

DENVER — If people want smaller government and lower taxes, they should vote for Libertarian candidates, according to Art Olivier, that party's vice presidential candidate.

During a Friday morning news conference, Olivier said that by casting ballots for his party's presidential ticket, "the voters can vote for huge spending cuts and small government. This year, the voters can vote for a government that's so small that it doesn't need an income tax."

Olivier, a former Bellflower, Calif., mayor and city council member, is an engineer with Boeing and a freelance Internet Web site developer. He's the Libertarian Party running mate of Harry Browne, a Tennessee financial adviser.

Olivier said he and Browne propose privatizing the federal Social Security system; selling trillions of dollars' worth of federal lands and buildings to buy private annuities for people who are currently dependent on Social Security income; ending drug prohibitions and what he called the government's "destructive, no-win war on drugs," and repealing federal gun

control laws that violate people's constitutional right to keep and bear arms.

On the federal level, Olivier said, "any gun-control law is a violation of the Second Amendment." Moreover, "the federal government should be protecting the people's rights from the states that are trying to violate the Second Amendment."

As for the Republican standard-bearer, Olivier said that "if you vote for George Bush, you're saying that he should decide which charitable organizations you should contribute to."

"If you vote for Pat Buchanan," a Reform Party presidential candidate, "you're saying that he should decide which country you should be able to buy a car from."

"And if you vote for Ralph Nader," the consumer activist who's the Green Party's presidential nominee, "you're saying that he should determine whether or not you can even drive that car."

"A vote for any one of these guys is a vote for big government and the high taxes that go with it," Olivier said. "A vote for Harry Browne and Art Olivier is a vote for small government and the freedom that goes with it."

Even if Libertarian Browne doesn't win the White House, a vote for him won't have been wasted, Olivier asserted, because it "will send a message to the politi-

cians that they'll never forget."

Nationally, there are more than 200,000 registered Libertarian voters, and the party has fielded more than 1,500 candidates for local, state and national office this year, Olivier said. He said the party plans to spend about \$7 million this year campaigning in all 50 states.

Browne is to visit Denver on Oct. 2, with rallies scheduled on the state Capitol steps and at the Denver Tech Center.

In 1971, Colorado was the birthplace of the Libertarian Party, and the state's voter registration lists currently include "just under 4,000" Libertarians, according to state chairwoman Bette Rose Smith, and the party has 88 candidates running for local, state and congressional offices.

Several of those candidates also spoke at Friday's news conference, including David Baker, a Boulder resident who's running for Congress from the 2nd District.

Baker, a hospital administrator, attacked government involvement in regulating of the health-care system and health-care providers, charging that Medicare, for example, is organized "like a Soviet factory."

Baker charged that that agency's over-regulation, delays, testing requirements "and bungling" have "contributed to hundreds of thousands of premature deaths."

Also seeking the 2nd Congress-

sional District seat are incumbent Democrat Mark Udall, Republican Carolyn Cox and the Green Party's Ronald Forthofer.

Meanwhile, computer systems engineer W. Earl Allen, an unincorporated eastern Boulder County resident running for the Legislature's House District 31 seat, said in another of the Friday morning news-conference speeches that there's a "Libertarian solution" to traffic congestion on Colorado's highways.

The problem, Allen contended, is that motorists' use of the government-built highway is "free," and that people who are given something for free "are going to over-use it."

Allen said the state should "put a price on driving I-25 ... or Interstate 70 up into the mountains," with higher tolls for rush-hour use, and possible toll-free periods during late-night hours.

A system of tolls tied to traffic conditions, Allen said, would even out "the amount of road space available in Colorado" and "will keep people from having to drive 25 on I-25."

Allen and Thornton Republican Pam Rhodes are challenging incumbent Thornton Democratic Rep. Paul Zimmerman's bid for re-election to the House District 31 seat, which represents portions of eastern Boulder, southwest Weld and northern Adams counties.

Election
2000

▲ The Daily Times-Call, Longmont, Colorado, September 11, 2000

▼ The Arlington Heights Daily Herald, Arlington Heights, IL, October 1, 2000

Libertarian candidate makes his stop in suburbs

By JAMES D. WOLF JR.
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The first step to cut big government and restore freedoms is to get rid of the federal income tax, Libertarian Party presidential candidate Harry Browne told supporters at an Arlington Heights rally Saturday night.

People giving up some government programs that benefit them is "the great Libertarian offer," he told about 100 supporters at the Sheraton Arlington Park.

"Their income tax is the reward people will get to get rid of government programs," he said.

Before the income tax started in 1913, the government supported itself on tariffs and excise taxes, Browne said. That limited the amount of money the government took in, because when the government raised tariffs, people bought less.

But income tax is unlimited, so government can raise it and keep growing. And the Internal Revenue Service is going to find the money that government wants.

With no income tax, people could send their children to schools they want. Government schools would eventually be phased out, he said.

Browne also said if he was president, he would end Social Security and the war on drugs.

Social Security gets more insol-

"We want to get government out of your life. No matter what the issue, we're not going to say 'we'll start a government program to help it.'"

— Harry Browne,
Libertarian
presidential candidate

vent, and the portion of the budget it takes has increased 17 times since 1935 — from 1 percent to 15 percent, he said.

His plan is to sell government assets, including the parks and other land it owns to set up private accounts for those who have already paid into the system, then end Social Security.

The war on drugs has also done more to promote drugs than prevent them, he said.

People are locked up for nonviolent crimes while rapists, murderers and violent criminals get out on plea bargains because of crowded prisons.

"They have used the war on drugs to tear up the Bill of Rights," he said. Federal agents can seize property, check private e-mails and



Mary Ann Thurow of Arlington Heights gets Libertarian presidential candidate Harry Browne to autograph a copy of his book at a Libertarian Party rally in Arlington Heights Saturday.

Daily Herald Photo/M. Scott Mahaskey

search your home without due process if even someone mad at you anonymously tips off police that you may have guns and drugs, he said.

Browne said heroin was once sold without prescription, but kids didn't abuse it.

The war on drugs has made it tempting forbidden fruit, and drug dealers push it on kids, but private industry wouldn't.

That interference with drug companies' roles has also increased costs, he said. Better medical technology should be like better computer technology: The price goes down and quality goes up.

Now seniors are paying more out of their pockets for medical expenses than before Medicare, he said.

There will always be people who do not take care of themselves, but "that is no reason to punish those

that do," he said. Those who don't will live as well on charity as by the government.

"We want to get government out of your life. No matter what the issue, we're not going to say 'we'll start a government program to help it,'" Browne said. "We're going to look at how government caused this problem and get it out of it."

In keeping with Libertarian philosophy of less government and personal responsibility, Browne has declined about \$1 million in matching campaign funds from the federal government, fund-raiser Michael Cloud said.

Browne said he would get rid of all campaign finance laws, including disclosure.

The Libertarian's message has found an audience, and Browne is on the ballot in 49 states. Although he was on Arizona's ballot in the 1996 election, a split in the state party cost him that ballot this year.

According to Browne's campaign, his pull is similar to Green Party candidate Ralph Nader's in Illinois and more than that of Pat Buchanan of the Reform Party — about 3 percent of the voters.

He told the audience that the party could have a Libertarian president and Congress within the decade if it keeps growing at its current rate. It is now 2½ times the size it was in 1996.

Browne preaches the gospel of less

Libertarian Party candidate speaks in Jacksonville

By Matthew I. Pinzur
Times-Union staff writer

Libertarian presidential candidate Harry Browne was in Jacksonville yesterday, spreading the party message of less government and shoring up support for his race against major party candidates Al Gore and George W. Bush.

"I want to be free to live my life the way I want to live it, not the way Al Gore or George W. Bush thinks is best for me," Browne said. "We are not going to find freedom through Republicans or Democrats."

The Libertarian Party supports eliminating all but the most basic of federal government, including repealing the federal income tax, ending Social Security and Medicare and shredding laws regarding guns and drugs.

"The politicians cannot be trusted with your money," said Browne, now on his second campaign as the Libertarian nominee. "I want to be free from that system forever and I want to be free from it completely."

More than 200 people packed a meeting room at the Marriott Hotel on the city's Southside, more than twice what organizers said they expected. Most of the people said they were attending their first Libertarian event.

National polls show Browne with approximately 1 percent of the vote, less than shadow candidates like Green Party nominee Ralph Nader. But Browne said even if Libertarians fail to win this year, he believes there is enough support within the party to elect a Libertarian president and majority-Libertarian Congress by 2010.

"If you want smaller government, all the rest are details," he said. "The first step to take is to stop supporting people who make government larger."



Browne

Third Parties Tap the Net

BY JOSH SCHONWALD

As Election Day approaches, the Internet is playing an increasingly crucial role in the campaigns of lesser-known presidential candidates.

Lacking the financial resources to compete with the massive television ad blitzes and direct mail efforts of the Democratic and Republican campaigns, third-party candidates have turned to cost-effective Internet marketing strategies to recruit volunteers, raise money and court undecided voters.

To date, Green Party candidate

Ralph Nader has recruited more than 35,000 volunteers online and has compiled an e-mail list of nearly 100,000 subscribers. The Libertarian Party has raised nearly \$200,000 through e-mail solicitations and plans to test a \$20,000 banner-advertising campaign this week.

These candidates, as well as the Reform Party's Patrick J. Buchanan and Natural Law Party candidate John Hagelin, are accepting credit card contributions online.

Phil Noble, president of PoliticsOnline, Charleston, SC, an ana-

lyst of Internet political strategies, views the adoption of Net politicking techniques by third-party candidates as an obvious move.

"The Internet is custom-made for third parties," Noble said. "It gives everyone the same set of tools."

Indeed, minor parties, which lack the vast, labor-intensive precinct operations of the Democrats and Republicans, are now able to quickly mobilize supporters from across the country — just like the major parties.

After the Commission on Presidential Debates limited the debates to Al Gore vs. George W. Bush, four of the excluded candidates conducted Internet-based petition campaigns. Nader's "Get

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Third Parties Tap the Net

Ralph in the Debates" campaign led the pack, collecting 65,000 signatures.

Even more significantly, Nader campaign spokesman Tom Adkins credited the campaign's Web site and e-mail list with driving a petition-signing campaign, which has helped Nader get on the ballot in more than 40 states, a Green Party record.

Each of the minor parties uses the Internet to mobilize volunteers for campaign activities, such as calling radio shows, writing letters to newspapers and participating in protests.

When Libertarian candidate Harry Browne was excluded from an interview with Nader and Buchanan on NBC's "Meet the Press," the party immediately tapped its Internet audience for a show of protest. Libertarian callers tied up the show's phone lines for more than a week.

The growth of the Internet also has been a boon to the member acquisition efforts of third-party candidates. By nature, third-party campaigns have a smaller, more diffuse base of support than the major parties, making targeting prospective supporters more challenging. Moreover, third parties receive much less media coverage than the major candidates. As a result, Noble said, one traditional barrier for third parties has been that they could not find supporters, and supporters could not find them.

But with new sites, search engines and the emergence of nonpartisan voter-information sites — such as Vote.com, Web-whiteblue.org and FreedomChannel.com — information and access to third-party candidates are more readily available.

Steve Dasbach, national director of

the Libertarian Party, estimated that roughly 80 percent of the party's new inquiries come from the Internet. In 1996, the party's toll-free number was still the leading source of inquiries. Dasbach expects that the more costly and labor-intensive 1-800 number will eventually be phased out.

The Libertarian Web sites, which cost the party about \$10,000 per month, are a much more effective and efficient way of acquiring new members, Dasbach said. Voters shopping for candidates or ideologies can now dig through extensive information on Libertarian positions, make a decision and join on the spot.

Third-party campaigns also say they are increasingly soliciting their e-mail lists.

Supporters who join the Libertarian e-mail list, which now numbers more than 20,000, receive "soft" solicitations through daily e-mail updates and special appeals. The Libertarians have earned nearly \$200,000 through e-mail solicitation, and they expect this figure to grow.

Nader's campaign has raised more than \$75,000 via e-mail and is using e-mail to help sell \$20 tickets to the candidate's seven-city Super Rally fundraising tour.

Both the Libertarian Party and the Nader campaign say the Internet is still a much smaller revenue source than direct mail.

But Perry Willis, Browne's campaign manager, expects this to change rapidly as Internet marketing becomes a bigger part of the Libertarian strategy.

"I wouldn't be surprised if more than half of our fundraising revenue comes over the Internet in the 2004 campaign," he said. ☐

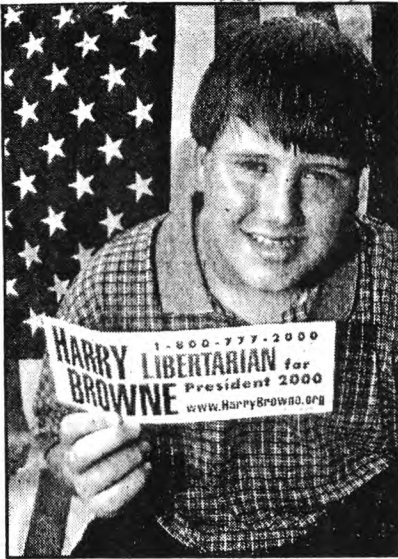
◀ *The Florida Times-Union*
Jacksonville, Florida
September 9, 2000

▲ *iMarketing News*
[national magazine],
October 16, 2000

Editorials

No Tax Money

Politics Aside, Libertarian Candidate Is Taking Principled Stand



Staff Photo by Kathleen Cole

Teen support

Juggling four different high school activities, Trevor Southerland added one more in July when he became one of five founding members of the Catoosa County Libertarian Party. He is a sophomore at Lakeview-Fort Oglethorpe High School and was first introduced to Libertarian views by his grandfather.

▲ *The Chattanooga Times-Free Press*
Chattanooga, Tennessee
August 21, 2000

At this time when all the attention is focused on the Republican and Democratic parties - with a degree of publicity about Ralph Nader and the Green Party - we should take a moment to acknowledge another Third Party candidate, Libertarian Harry Browne.

Whether or not you agree with Libertarian views, it is refreshing to see a candidate stand by his principles.

If Libertarians actually won power, they would abolish most Cabinet posts, scale down the bureaucracy and generally make government so thin you could slip it under the White House door.

Mr. Browne was on C-SPAN

this weekend and noted that while he qualified for about \$1 million in federal matching funds, he refused the money.

You can't say you don't believe in government and then stick your hand in taxpayers' pockets, he noted.

This is a more honest approach than candidates saying that while they don't believe in soft money contributions, they "have" to take them unless the other side stops too.

Whether one agrees with Mr. Browne and the Libertarians, if Diogenes were alive today and still looking for an honest man, his search might end at the Libertarian campaign headquarters.

▲ *The Daily News-Record*, Harrisonburg, Virginia, October 24, 2000

▼ *The Boston Herald*, Boston, Massachusetts, September 17, 2000

Senate hopeful big-time big government foe

By KAREN E. CRUMMY

Libertarian U.S. Senate candidate Carla Howell wants to abolish the income tax, eliminate most of the government, repeal gun laws and stop declaring war on drugs.

Yes, she's serious. And while she may lag behind her opponents, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy and GOP hopeful Jack E. Robinson in the polls, it would be a mistake to count her — and her message — out of the race.

"Government is too big and taxes are too high," Howell said in a recent interview. "People haven't had a choice to vote for someone who proposes small government — now they do."

The 44-year-old management consultant stands for everything that Kennedy does not. Howell

vows to delete government, not add to it. The role of the federal government is to protect American soil — and that's about it, Howell said.

Therefore, almost every other government program or policy, including immigration laws, education, the war on drugs, the minimum wage and health care spending should be eliminated, she believes. The idea is that without all the extras, running the federal government becomes so cheap that income taxes aren't needed.

And as for social issues like abortion, Howell believes the government shouldn't regulate it, but it shouldn't subsidize the procedure either.

"If elected, I'll go to Washington with an eraser," Howell declared, promising to repeal and

remove departments, laws and taxes.

Howell's chances of turning this election into a Libertarian Cinderella story are slim. In mid-August, a Rasmussen Research poll reported Howell with 16 percent of the vote and Kennedy with 63 percent, but that was before Robinson was put back on the ballot.

A few days after that, Howell's numbers slipped to 6 percent. Part of the problem appears to be the public's lack of exposure to her. The latter poll found that 79



HOWELL: Libertarian candidate would abolish income tax.

percent weren't sure how to vote on her approval rating, implying they didn't know enough about her or her platform.

But her effect on the race should not be overlooked. With Robinson's campaign in a constant state of controversy and lacking Republican endorsement, most voters don't believe he passes the threshold of credibility.

Which leaves only Howell as serious opposition to Kennedy — regardless of what polls say — because she treats the issues and her candidacy seriously.

Her campaign has raised more than \$500,000, allowing her to launch radio ads blaming Kennedy for Big Dig traffic jams, cost overruns and political corruption often associated with the \$14 billion project. While recently chal-

lenging Kennedy — who has appeared to be avoiding the issue — to a debate, Howell pointed out that his slain brothers "never ducked a debate."

Kennedy spokesman Will Keyser said that after the senator finishes the three remaining weeks of the session, he will focus on "those matters."

Even if Howell loses the Senate race, her party's platform may turn out to be the winner.

"Third parties are very effective vehicles for forcing issues that neither party wants to address because of their controversy," said Jeffrey Sedgwick, a University of Massachusetts-Amherst professor of political science. "They are very influential as incubators of ideas."

In 1992, for instance, Ross Perot injected the balanced budget issue into the presidential election.