

LIBERTY PLEDGE

newsletter

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JULY 2000

Harry Browne wins presidential nomination

At the largest third-party political convention in more than 50 years, Harry Browne won the Libertarian Party's nomination for president — and then immediately embarked on a national media blitz.

Browne, a bestselling investment author and the LP's 1996 candidate, won a first-ballot victory at the Libertarian National Convention in Anaheim, California on July 2. He picked up 56% of the vote, besting challengers Don Gorman (19%), Jacob Hornberger (13%), and Barry Hess (6%).

Winning the contest for vice president in a nail-biting contest that took two ballots was former Bellflower, California mayor Art Olivier, who defeated Steve Kubby and Ken Krawchuk.

BROWNE TV ADS SET FOR JULY

Harry Browne for President TV ads are expected to hit the airwaves as soon as July 26, according to campaign manager Perry Willis.

The campaign has made an initial purchase of 67 spots on nine cable channels reaching 1.5 million households. The ads will air on such networks as CNN, The Travel Channel, The Weather Channel, Bravo, and the Turner Broadcasting System (TBS).

"In general, we are looking for a mix of shows where some of the audiences reached will have a high proportion of politically interested people, and some will not" to test what works best, said Willis.

For air times, visit www.HarryBrowne2000.org.

The Convention, held June 30-July 3, attracted more than 900 credentialed delegates and 1,200 total attendees — making it the largest third-party convention in America since the Progressive Party's conven-

tion in 1948, according to *Ballot Access News* publisher Richard Winger.

In the week following the convention, Browne launched a nationwide media tour, participating in six national TV shows, eight national



■ Browne: 1st ballot victory.

radio shows, eight local radio shows, four print interviews, and seven Internet interviews — including CNN *Today*, CNN's *Inside*

Politics, PBS *Evening News*, MSNBC's *Equal Time*, and C-SPAN's *Washington Journal*.

"I was proud, humbled, and excited [to win]," said Browne. "I am determined to do everything possible to get every last vote I can, to bring in every new member possible, to spend every dollar in the most cost-effective way."

In officer elections, Jim Lark won a decisive victory in his bid for National Chair.

LP candidates are running in majority of U.S. House races

It's official: The Libertarian Party will run candidates in more than half of all U.S. House races this November — making it the first third party in 80 years to accomplish that feat.

At least 236 LP candidates have declared their intention to run, or have already qualified to be on the ballot for the 2000 election, LP Political Director Ron Crickenberger announced at the recent National

Convention in California.

That's well over the 218 candidates needed to pass the half-way mark for the 435-seat U.S. House. Another 21 LP candidates are running for U.S. Senate this year.

"We're going to give the American public the opportunity to vote for a majority in Congress that will support the Constitution and the Bill of Rights — instead of trampling on them," said Crickenberger.

The last third party to have candidates in so many Congressional races was the Socialist Party in the 1920 election, according to the *Washington Times*.

Same impact

"The last party to achieve this was the Socialists, and I don't have to tell you what kind of effect they had on American public policy," said Crickenberger. "We want to have the same impact —

but in the opposite political direction."

The Libertarian Party is running more Congressional candidates than "all other third parties combined," Washington, DC's *The Hill* newspaper announced.

Leading the list of states with the most LP House candidates is California with 45, followed by Texas (24), Ohio (18), Michigan (16), North Carolina (12), and Indiana (10).

Practicing what he preaches

Libertarian Party hopeful refuses matching campaign funds

By **ALAN BERNSTEIN**
Houston Chronicle

As the Libertarian Party candidate for president, investment adviser Harry Browne doesn't want the taxpayers' money. He is refusing to accept matching campaign funds from the federal government.

Browne said he is eligible to receive up to \$750,000 for the primary season. He explained that taking the cash would betray his party's drive for a minimal government with no national tax, no gun control laws, no anti-drug law enforcement programs.

"It would be hypocritical of me to say that we have got to get people's noses out of the trough and then put my own nose in there," Browne said in a Houston interview Friday.

It's one of several ways Browne is setting himself apart from Vice President Al Gore and Gov. George W. Bush, the soon-to-be nominees of the Democratic and Republican parties.

Bush refused matching funds for the primaries, which allowed him to raise an unlimited amount from private contributions. But he and Gore will each accept \$67.5 million for the general election, funded by the \$1 check-off option on every American's income tax return.

Browne would be eligible for a much smaller amount from the program, which was intended to blunt some of the influence of special interest money on White House races.

Browne, who lives in a Nash-



Libertarian Party candidate **Harry Browne** says it would be hypocritical to take matching funds.

ville, Tenn., suburb down the highway from Gore's national campaign headquarters, said he hopes to raise \$5 million in donations and make his party a player in the November presidential election.

He said it will increase his party's profile if he and two other alternate candidates, Ralph Nader and Pat Buchanan, draw enough votes to swing the contest between Gore and Bush. Nader is expected to get the Green Party nomination and Buchanan is vying for the Reform Party nod.

"The three of us together comprise a large enough total so that we are in a position to affect the outcome," Browne said. He has drawn 1 percent of the vote in recent national polls, while Nader and Buchanan pulled more.

Browne stopped in Houston on his way to the Libertarian Party's state convention in Corpus Christi. The three-day gathering ends today.

The candidate said he is building a force of campaign volunteers that didn't exist in 1996, when he made his first run for president and notched about 460,000 votes.

"I do not expect to win the presidency, but we are so much bigger and better financed and stronger than we were in 1996 that I expect that we should have a much better result," Browne said.

The goal, Browne explained, is to make sure voters know that Libertarian candidates for any election are the ones who would reduce government the most.

He opposes federal government efforts to eradicate poverty and illegal drugs, saying they have not only failed, but made the problems worse.

"Because I have seen what the war on drugs has done in escalating drug use and crime in his country, the last thing I would want is the government on my side to stamp out abortion," the mild-mannered 66-year-old said. "I mean, if you enlisted the government to try to stop abortions, probably within 10 years men will be having abortions."

He said the two major political parties are hypocritical on abortion, because so-called pro-choice lawmakers would not let a woman choose to use marijuana to ease the pain from cancer or glaucoma, and so-called pro-life candidates didn't oppose the U.S. bombings that killed civilians in Kosovo.

As part of the Libertarian philosophy, Browne calls for a federal retreat from education, welfare and other programs that he says are not authorized by the Constitution. He would abolish the Social Security payroll tax and withdraw U.S. troops from foreign peacemaking missions.

MATT FRIEDEMAN

Steve Dasbach thought he was being funny with a recent column on the Libertarian Party Web site (www.lp.org). Problem is, he doesn't know our Legislature or our governor. Funny has limits.

Dasbach's idea — "Try It On Government First" or TIGF for short. Social Security taxes? Repeal 'em for everyone except government workers for a trial period of 20 years, allow the rest of us to use the stock market to get our retirements funded and at the end of two decades let's compare notes... then make a permanent decision. Or the Energy Department's toilet regulations to save money with 1.6 gallon flushes as opposed to the standard 3.5 gallon flush? Try it out in government buildings and the homes of politicians for a decade or so, then let's decide.

Good idea, nods the Legislature. Before giving government employees and teachers a raise let's try it out on ourselves first. In a legislative year where money is in short supply, a conference committee slides in an amendment doubling legislators' retirement benefits and *voila*, TIGF. Leadership, Mississippi Legislature style.

If teachers, state employees and their friends aren't contacting the governor's office over his failure to veto this hypocritical measure, what does it take?

Governments in action

The Libertarian Party, which turns up its nose at this sort of thing, is the source for a list of recently passed state laws and recommendations, cited on prorev.com.

It seems legislators have OK'd:

- The creation of a secretary of barbecue in Florida.
- The banning of clothing made out of dogs or cats in New Jersey.
- The scolding of **Craig Kilborn** for calling Kentucky "Kensucky" on late night television.
- Also in Kentucky, the prohibition of any mention of non-Christian religions when teaching Colonial history.
- The prohibition, in Utah, of auto dealers from selling cars or trucks on consecutive Saturdays and Sundays.

■ Steve Dasbach, spokesman for the Libertarian Party, reports: "This month, a school in New Jersey suspended two kindergarten students, after they played cops-and-robbers on the playground, for pointing fingers at each other and shouting 'bang-bang!' Which brave politician will be the first to propose a finger buy-back program?"

Please, Dasbach, don't give Jackson's City Council any ideas.

▲ *The Houston Chronicle*,
Houston, Texas, June 11, 2000

▲ (RIGHT) *The Clarion-Ledger*,
Jackson, Mississippi, May 31, 2000

▶ *The Akron Beacon Journal*,
Akron, Ohio, June 13, 2000

◀ *The Clarion-Ledger*,
Jackson, Mississippi, May 5, 2000

Libertarian Party Selects Presidential Candidate

■ **Politics:** Meeting in Anaheim, delegates choose Harry Browne, its 1996 nominee. Goal is to get 1 million votes.

By KATE FOLMAR
TIMES STAFF WRITER

Amid raucous claps and chants, Libertarian Party delegates Sunday selected an author and former investment advisor as their presidential candidate—although Harry Browne readily admits that he'll be lucky to get more than a million votes.

Meeting at the Marriott Hotel in Anaheim, the party delegates cast

493 of 878 votes in favor of Browne, who represented the party in a 1996 presidential bid and received nearly 500,000 votes.

The more hotly contested four-person race for the party's vice presidential nominee remained a cliffhanger, though. Running late all day, delegates were unable to reach a majority decision before their convention room was scheduled to be set up for an evening banquet. Unlike the two major political parties, the Libertarians

'We have the most powerful message in the world: We want you to be free.'

HARRY BROWNE
Libertarian Party presidential candidate

cast separate ballots for their presidential and vice presidential candidates.

Dressed in everything from severe business suits to tie-dyed T-shirts and kilts, delegates cast their votes late Sunday in the vice presidential runoff between former Bellflower Mayor Art Olivier

and Laguna Beach resident Steve Kubby, a cancer patient and medical marijuana advocate who is awaiting trial on pot possession charges. Results of that balloting will not be announced until this morning.

As the presidential results were tallied, several delegates touted

what they saw as public policy moves in the right direction—the passage of medical marijuana and assisted suicide laws—and denounced taxes and corrupt government officials.

Once Browne's selection was locked up, the 1,200 or so attendees began to clap, stomp their feet and chant, "Har-ry, Har-ry."

Later, an elated Browne acknowledged that he'll have a tougher time selling his anti-income tax, anti-Social Security, anti-drug war message to the general voting public. And he knows he doesn't possess the celebrity of Green Party nominee Ralph Na-

der or anticipated Reform Party contender Pat Buchanan.

Nonetheless, Brown, 67, expects "to scare the bejesus out of Republicans and Democrats" by getting a million votes. The Tennessee resident said he's raised \$1.3 million for a national advertising campaign, and he asserts that a Libertarian could occupy the Oval Office within the decade.

"We have the most powerful message in the world: We want you to be free," Browne said. "We want you to live your life as you want to live it—not as Al Gore or George Bush want you to live it."

Libertarians field full candidate slate

By RALPH WAKLEY

Standard-Examiner Capitol Bureau

SALT LAKE CITY – For the first time in its history, the Utah Libertarian Party will have a candidate on the ballot for each congressional and statewide office.

The 38 Utah candidates for federal, state and local offices is more than the party has ever signed up since it first qualified for ballot access in 1972, said Libertarian state chairman Jim Dexter, who is the party's candidate for the U.S. Senate.

Those candidates were formally certified this week at the State Elections Office, Dexter said.

"The Libertarian candidates have a kind of contract with Utah. Prior to certification, all Libertarian candidates must sign a pledge for less government, lower taxes and more freedom," he said.

"Because Utah does not have a recall procedure, this is the best way a political party can assure voters that what they hear is actually what they'll get. Republi-

cans often run like Libertarians then vote like Democrats," he said. "If any elected official votes for bigger government, higher taxes or more gun control, we will be the first to denounce them."

Party delegates denied the Libertarian gubernatorial nomination to Dub Richards, who had filed as a candidate for all registered parties. Richards, who ran for governor as an independent in 1996, was turned down because he was not a party member in good standing, Dexter said.

Instead, the delegates nominated former state chairman Douglas Wade Jones of Salem as their gubernatorial candidate and Barry W. Briggs of Tooele for lieutenant governor.

In addition to Dexter of Taylorsville, the other federal candidates are: Dave Starr Seeley of St. George for the 1st District congressional seat; Peter Pixton of Taylorsville for the 2nd District seat, and Kitty Burton of Herriman for the 3rd District seat.

Libertarian candidates

The party's Northern Utah legislative candidates:
House of Representatives
District 1, Dave Nelson,
Garland
District 2, Richard Partridge,
Brigham City
District 10, Wallis C. Burnside,
South Ogden
District 13, Donald A.
Kingsley, Syracuse
District 15, Susan Green
Parker, Layton
District 16, Laren C.
Livingston, Kaysville
District 17, Joe Judd,
Farmington
District 18, Daniel Roy Nelson,
Centerville

The other statewide candidates are: Andrew McCullough of Salt Lake City for attorney general; Jim Elwell of Salt Lake for state auditor, and Hugh Butler of Salt Lake for state treasurer.

▲ *The Los Angeles Times*
Los Angeles, California
July 3, 2000

◀ *The Standard-Examiner*
Ogden, Utah,
May 28, 2000

▼ *The St. Louis Post-Dispatch*
St. Louis, Missouri
June 3, 2000

Libertarian candidate assails Bush, Gore over policies on drugs

■ Harry Browne, the party's presidential front-runner, recommends getting rid of all drug laws. The Missouri Libertarian Party holds its convention today in St. Peters.

By ERIC STERN
Of the Post-Dispatch

The get-tough drug policies of Texas Gov. George W. Bush and Vice President Al Gore are hypocritical and further alienate estranged voters, the Libertarian Party's leading presidential candidate said Friday.

"There probably is no issue today

on which there is greater divide between the politicians and the people," said presidential hopeful Harry Browne, 66, whose name appeared on the 1996 ballot alongside Bill Clinton, Bob Dole and Ross Perot.

Browne's solution: "Get rid of all the drug laws."

That's part of a platform that will be presented at the Missouri Libertarian Party's annual convention today at St. Peters Holiday Inn. The daylong menu of speeches and party-building activities — featuring the Libertarians' hands-off-government approach — kicks off at 9 a.m.

A presidential candidate forum will begin at 11:15 a.m. with Browne, a retired investor from the Nashville, Tenn., area; Don Gorman, a former

New Hampshire state representative; and Barry Hess, a Phoenix manufacturer. Delegates to the party's national convention later this month in California will select the candidate.

In an interview Friday, Browne said the flap over Bush's refusal to answer questions about past drug use, or Gore's admission to smoking marijuana in his youth, skirts a bigger issue about the harsh penalties politicians demand for illegal-drug users.

"The question of whether he did this or didn't do it is not nearly as important as the disparity between his actions and what he wants to do to other people," said Browne, who said he smoked marijuana four times about 30 years ago.

Legalizing drugs, privatizing Social Security, repealing gun laws and eliminating income taxes will be discussed today as the Libertarians continue to inch out of their fringe party status. They're trading protest candidates, philosophers and economists with better and more candidates on the ballot, stronger state parties and a bigger budget for TV campaign ads, Browne said.

"People have come to understand that government doesn't work," he said.

Browne lost his 1996 presidential bid with about 500,000 votes, 10,000 of which came from Missouri.

postnet.com/links Visit the Web sites for the Missouri Libertarian Party and the national party online.

Libertarians field 218 for the House

Party has entries in majority of races

By Sean Scully
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

It is just possible that the next speaker of the House will be neither a Republican nor a Democrat.

The 30-year-old Libertarian Party is fielding candidates in at least 218 House districts this year, the first time in 80 years a third party has put up candidates in half or more of the contests. That means that if the Libertarians win all their races, they could take the majority away from Republicans and Democrats alike.

Other more famous third parties, such as the Green and Reform parties, are not even close to fielding so many congressional candidates.

"We see it as our job to give [the public] someone to vote for," said George Getz, press secretary for the Libertarians.

The party admits, however, that they would be lucky to win one seat, let alone the majority.

"The other candidates in the race are moved a little bit closer to the Libertarian position, at least in their rhetoric," said Ron Crickenberger, the party's political director and a candidate for the 8th Congressional District of Virginia.

Libertarians argue for sharply limited government and broad personal freedom. On a federal level, that translates to a strict adherence to and narrow interpretation of the Constitution.

Candidates typically campaign on economic issues, such as free trade and limited government regulation, and progressive social issues, such as an end to the "War on Drugs" in favor of a crackdown on violent crime.

The last time a third party fielded so many candidates was 1920, when the Socialist Party was a presence in more than half the races. While Libertarians oppose almost all the positions of the Socialists, Mr. Crickenberger and other party organizers are looking to the Socialist model for inspiration.

Although the Socialists never gained national power, they managed to inject some important ideas — welfare programs and union rights, for example — into the debate, Mr. Crickenberger said. Those ideas have since become mainstream.

Both major parties expect a close race this year, with control of the House clearly in the balance and even control of the Senate possibly in question. Yet neither party seems worried by the third party challenge, noting that the Libertarian candidates rarely reach even 5 percent of the vote in congressional races.

"When the Libertarians start to break into double digits, we'll start paying attention," said Frank Luntz, a Republican pollster and a political analyst for YRock.com.

So unconcerned are the Democrats that a party official privately admitted he wasn't aware of any Libertarian candidates in key races. A party spokesman didn't return a call for official comment.

Yet there are cases in which Libertarians have clearly made a dif-

ference. Perhaps most famously, Libertarian Michael Cloud denied Republican John Ensign a seat in the U.S. Senate, guaranteeing reelection of Sen. Harry Reid, Nevada Democrat, in one of the most closely watched races of 1998.

Mr. Cloud managed to get a dismal 8,044 votes, or about 1.8 percent. But the race between Mr. Reid and Mr. Ensign was decided by an astounding 428 votes, or less than a tenth of 1 percent.

Mr. Ensign, who is favored to win the Nevada Senate seat open this year, appears to be paying attention, saying at one point that "most of what the United States government does is unconstitutional" — a most Libertarian sentiment.

Mr. Ensign's campaign manager, Mike Slanker, denied that remark was an explicit outreach to Libertarians. The comment was widely taken out of context to indicate that Mr. Ensign opposes federal programs, he said. Instead, Mr. Ensign was referring specifically to Washington's highhanded dealing with Nevada, where 80 percent of the land is federally-controlled.

But Mr. Ensign is quick to proclaim his affinity with Libertarians and other minor party voters. He makes a point of his independence and his willingness to buck party leaders when necessary.

"He's got a little bit of that independent spirit that some of the lesser party voters are looking for," Mr. Slanker said.

Common wisdom says Libertarians tend to draw votes away from Republicans more than Democrats.

But Libertarian officials say they tend to draw more Democrats when the talk about social issues such as tolerance of drug use takes place. Mr. Crickenberger said the party is making drug policy a major theme this year and will back up candidates with at least \$1 million in advertising money.

Libertarian candidates say they are undaunted by their weak electoral showing so far.

"In every way this party is growing," said Carla Howell, the Libertarian candidate opposing Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, Massachusetts Democrat.

Ms. Howell admits that her quest is a long shot, but she said she is the only alternative to Mr. Kennedy since the sole Republican challenger failed to meet the ballot requirements.

There are already more than 400 Libertarians in office in local appointive and elected offices, including a sheriff in Colorado and a district attorney in California. Ms. Howell and party officials predict they will elect at least one member to Congress by 2004 as third parties gain more public attention.

"In the past, you had big government Democrats and big government Republicans whose performance in office was distinguishable only under a microscope — both voted for more taxes and bigger government," she said. The option of voting for smaller government "is something most voters have never even heard of."

Libertarians hold state convention

Harlingen south teacher to seek public weigher post

By MARIA HUGHES

Valley Morning Star

HARLINGEN — Approximately 150 state delegates attended a two-day Libertarian Party of Texas convention, which ended Sunday in Corpus Christi.

Mark Pretz, a Harlingen High School South computer programming teacher, was selected as a candidate to run for the position of Public Weigher of Cameron County.

It is an unopposed position.

Pretz, who ran for the 27th Congressional District of Texas for a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives in 1998, said he wants to abolish the Public Weigher position.

This would help reduce the size of governments and help taxpayers, PERTs said.

"We strongly believe that the money belongs back into the pockets of the people," PERTs said.

"There's too many governmental agencies that overlap the scales and the accuracy of scales.

"Government agencies have grown to ridiculous proportions, large bureaucracy and a huge waste of taxpayer money."

Additionally, Wendell Dye, who

ran for Congress in the 2nd Congressional District of Texas in 1998, is a candidate for a seat as Cameron County Commissioner, Precinct 3.

Candidates for state offices to run against Democrats and Republicans in the November elections were addressed, including William Bunch, of Dallas, who is running for the 27th Congressional District of Texas for a seat on the U.S. House of Representatives.

The convention featured a forum with presidential candidates Harry Browne of Tennessee and Don German of New Hampshire.

The state party rules and bylaws were amended to allow the party to challenge state election laws, officials said.

"The two major parties hold a virtual monopoly on legislation pertaining to elections and they have crafted laws which put minor parties at a definite disadvantage," said Jack McNally, chairman of the Libertarian Party of Cameron County and representative to the executive committee from District 27.

"Not only have they prohibited minor parties from participating in national debates, but they have also created legislation which tilts the political playing field in their favor."

McNally was among seven delegates from the Valley who attended the convention in Corpus Christi.

◀ *The Washington Times*
Washington, DC · July 9, 2000

▲ *Valley Morning Star*
Harlingen, Texas · June 12, 2000