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Liberty Pledge

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Three more Libertarians win public office in Election '95

Libertarian Party candidates won at least three victories in Election '95, and numerous other Libertarians cracked double-digits or racked up impressive vote percentages in state and local races around the country.

Two of the Libertarian wins on November 7th occurred in Georgia, both in fiercely fought races — Bruce Van Buren, who was elected to the Avondale Estates City Commission, and Dewayne Methaney, who won a spot on the Auburn City Council. In Colorado, Doug Carlsten won a seat on the Brighton City Council in an uncontested race.

In all, more than 75 LP candidates in at least a dozen states ran for office in the 1995 election cycle.

In Avondale Estates, GA, Van Buren placed first of five candidates vying for two open seats. "This was a non-partisan race," said Campaign Manager Ron Crickenberger. "However, much was made of Bruce's party affiliation by the other candidates, including 11th hour hit pieces. [But] we out-walked, out-talked, out-mailed, out-issued, out-spent, and out-thunk the 'forces of evil.' "

In Auburn, GA, Methaney placed second in a field of six candidates for two spots — "in spite of seemingly insurmountable odds [and] in spite of an established Democratic machine that used every dirty trick in the book," said LP State Chair Montague Boyd.

Other Libertarians around the country didn't win, but earned notable vote totals.

Some highlights included Ed Kahn for Mayor of Tucson, AZ (10%) and Steve Dillon for Mayor of Indianapolis, IN (6.5%). Other candidates cracking double-digits included Glenn Barr for City Council, Walker, MI (37%); Art Rathjen for State Senate, District 43, WA (10%); and Jim Campton for City Council, Federal Way, WA (22%).

Two New Jersey candidates for the Chatham Township Committee racked up impressive numbers: Austin Lett (16%) and Ray Connors (9%). In Ohio, Jim Berns won 21% in his race for the Cincinnati School Board, and in Arizona, Tim Loomis won 10% of the vote in the race for Tucson City Council.

In Colorado, Carol Stuckey Hill for Leadville City Council won 32.1%, and Dan Cochran won 49.5% for the Loveland Home Rule Commission. In Pennsylvania, Mark Messics for Orefield Township Supervisor won 31%; Grace Matelyn for West Bradford Township Supervisor won 30%; Brian McHugh for Abington Commissioner won 23%; and Ken Krawchuk for Abington Commissioner won 25%.

Politicians talk, don't listen at "Reform" public hearings

Libertarians across the country were ready to share ideas about downsizing government — but Congressmen at the Reform & Oversight Committee's public hearings weren't all that interested in listening.

That was the opinion of LP members in New Jersey, Washington state, New Mexico, California, and North Carolina who attended the hearings, entitled "Creating a 21st Century Government," in September and October.

"It's just basically for show," said Rodger Rosie, California LP Region 65 Chair.

"It was politicians listening to politicians," agreed Mike Pierone, who represented the LP at the New Jersey public hearing.

The hearings were supposed to solicit testimony on downsizing "success stories" from local politicians, corporate leaders, and the general public. But most LP members said the politicians hogged the spotlight — instead of listening to the public.

"Only 15-20 minutes were devoted to the Open Mike forum for the general public," said Pierone, who attended the Upper Montclair event on September 9th. Pierone said he left the hearing with a cynical attitude about the GOP. "I am confident they will not reduce the size of government," he said flatly.

Pundits agree: LP is real 3rd party

Who is America's third party?

According to an increasing number of pundits, there is no question: It's the Libertarian Party. For example . . .

■ Talk radio king Rush Limbaugh said on October 26, "There is a third party out there. It's the Libertarians."

■ On September 28, the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* (Missouri) wrote: "Of all the third parties, only the Libertarians are willing to engage in full-fledged party building and field candidates at all levels."

■ On October 1, the *St. Joseph News Press* (Missouri) wrote: "The Libertarian Party . . . has the numbers to prove it is the third largest political party in the United States."

■ On October 8, the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* (Ohio) wrote: "Several current political parties could stake claims to the title of America's third party, but the Libertarians make the best case."

■ On October 13, the *Miami Herald* (Florida) headlined a column "Libertarians: The Real Third Party."

Libertarians try to build base

By TOM BRAZAITIS
PLAIN DEALER BUREAU CHIEF

WASHINGTON — When Ross Perot announced plans to start a third political party to compete with Democrats and Republicans, Bill Winter was among the first to protest.

Winter has no objection to Perot starting another political party — the more the merrier, as far as he is concerned. But Perot had better not go around the country calling the Independence party the nation's third party, he said. Winter promptly issued a news release declaring that Perot's new "fourth party" probably will wind up as "a minor footnote in history."

Winter's touchiness is understandable. He is communications director for the Libertarian party, which considers itself America's third political party.

Actually, several political parties currently on the rise, such as the New Alliance party or the Patriot party, or on the decline, such as the Communist party, could stake claims to the title of America's third party, but the Libertarians make the best case.

Since its founding in a California living room in 1971, the Libertarian party has had a presiden-

tial candidate on the ballot in six straight elections. Next year, if all goes well, it will become the first alternative party in this century to have its candidate on the ballot in all 50 states for two straight elections.

Do the names John Hospers, Roger MacBride, Ed Clark, David Bergland, Ron Paul and Andre Marrou mean anything to you? They were the Libertarian presidential nominees in elections from 1972 through 1992.

If their names don't register, blame the fact that Libertarians have not had the multi-millions of dollars it takes to advertise their candidates. Much of the money they raise for each election goes to abide by ballot access laws written by members of the major parties.

In 1980, vice presidential candidate David Bergland put \$2 million of his own into the campaign. That was the year the Libertarian ticket got 921,299 votes, the highest total before or since. By comparison, the underfunded Marrou got only 291,000 votes last time.

Its history of no-name presidential candidates demonstrates that the Libertarian party is decidedly not a cult of personality.

Winter, the party's communica-

tions director, explained, "If someone came along — a high-profile person who believes in the things that we believe, like Clint Eastwood, for example, who describes himself in print as a libertarian — and said, 'I've decided to run as your presidential candidate,' Libertarians would welcome him with open arms. On the other hand, we don't want to spend our time desperately lurching after celebrities begging them to come to us."

Although the Libertarian candidate for next year's presidential election has not yet been picked officially, the clear front-runner is Harry Browne, who has achieved some fame as the author of bestselling books, such as, "How I Found Freedom in an Unfree World" and "You Can Profit From a Monetary Crisis." His campaign book, "Why Government Doesn't Work," is due out this fall.

Winter said Libertarians are concentrating their efforts on building a powerful grass-roots party. Perot's party will nominate a single candidate for president, whereas the Libertarian party put up 652 candidates for various offices in 1994 and hopes to field more than 1,000 next year, including a candidate in more than half the nation's congressional districts.

Running is one thing, winning quite another. So far, an elected state representative and an appointed state liquor commissioner in New Hampshire are the party's top officeholders. Roughly 140 other Libertarians serve on city councils, school boards and various commissions. The three Libertarian officeholders in Ohio are a city commissioner in Piqua, a trustee in Washington Township and a trustee in Bethlehem Township.

Some staunch Libertarians would say that the very act of holding office, and thus participating in a corrupt political system, violates the essence of Libertarian philosophy, which is to keep a healthy distance from any and all government bureaucracies.

"They are a distinct minority," said Winter. "Those Libertarians who are in the party have made the decision that political activity is the route we must go, that we cannot stand on the sidelines and

just argue over and insult what's going on. We must be part of the process."

Libertarians hope to broaden their appeal, which, Winter admits, is now mainly among white, middle-class, well-educated males, who comprise a disproportionate share of the more than 100,000 registered party members.

"There are some people who assume that all Libertarians are rich, and that because we're fabulously well-to-do, in a free market society we'd all be the rich folks who trample on the poor folks," Winter said. "But my experience is that Libertarians aren't rich and that rich folks aren't Libertarians."

Winter said even if Libertarians do not win many elections, the party is influencing the debate on major issues through its campaigns and the stream of policy papers issued by the libertarian Cato Institute, a Washington think tank that has gained some prominence with Republicans in charge of Congress.

Libertarians are not aligned with either of the major parties, he said. Although some observers say they tend to be Republican in approach, Winter noted that Californian David Nolan founded the party in response to President Nixon's wage-and-price controls, an affront to economic freedom.

In his campaign literature, presidential candidate Harry Browne offers views that might simultaneously delight and annoy Republicans and Democrats. He suggests reducing government to a third its present size, cutting much deeper than Republicans in Congress have proposed. At the same time, he would release all nonviolent prisoners, including thousands convicted on drug charges, and end the "war on drugs."

Libertarianism combines the economic discipline espoused, if not always practiced, by Republicans and the social tolerance advocated by Democrats — raised to the 10th power.

Browne and others in the party say that the public's growing demand for an alternative to the traditional parties combined with people's increasing acceptance of Thomas Jefferson's philosophy that "government governs best which governs least," means the time is ripe for Libertarians.

Top Libertarian candidate wants to cut government

By Tino Ramirez
Advertiser Staff Writer

Harry Browne says he's running for U.S. president because he can win.

Browne, described as the leading candidate for the Libertarian Party's nomination, said yesterday that Republicans have failed to deliver on promises to reduce government.

"Most people want to see government cut, but the Republicans have just passed a budget resolution which guarantees the government will grow for seven more years," he said.

"I want to reduce the federal government by at least two-thirds, get it out of every function not authorized by the Constitution, and use the savings to repeal the income tax so that people can spend their own money as they see fit."

One of four Libertarians campaigning for president, Browne, 61, was in Honolulu over the weekend to attend the Hawaii Libertarian Party convention. More than 100 party members elected new officers and met Browne, said Ken Schoolland, former Hawaii party chairman.

Schoolland believes Browne will win the party's nomina-

tion. Unlike Browne, candidates Irwin Schiff, Rick Tompkins and Douglas Ohman are not campaigning full-time, he said.

"Browne is also the best-known presidential candidate the party's ever had," said Schoolland. "A lot of us learned about a free market by reading his books in the '70s."

Browne, a public speaker and investment advisor from Tennessee, has written nine books. Among them are the bestsellers "How I Found Freedom in an Unfree World" and "You Can Profit from a Monetary Crisis."

Browne is also recognized as front-runner by City Vote, a national program that will run mock presidential primaries in over 20 cities this November.

The Hawaii Libertarian Party elected these officials on Saturday: chairman, Richard Rowland; vice chair, Dale Pratt; secretary, Rodger Taylor; treasurer, Keith Rose; at-large board members, Steven Davidson, Li Schoolland, Karen Scott.



Browne

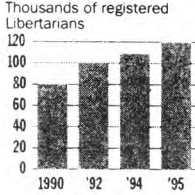
▲ *The Plain Dealer*
Cleveland, Ohio, October 8, 1995

◀ *The Honolulu Advertiser*
Honolulu, Hawaii, September 11, 1995

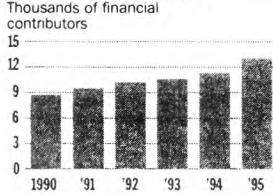
Libertarian Party keeps looking for converts

The Libertarian Party is the nation's third largest political party, with some 112,000 registered voters, yet few people know much about the organization. The party, which advocates limited powers for government and reliance on personal responsibility, claims it has had difficulty getting candidates on ballots because many states have election laws that discourage third parties.

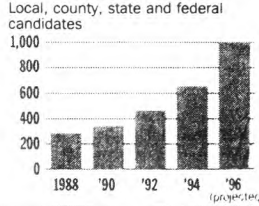
Registered voters



Contributing members



Libertarian candidates



Presidential vote totals for Libertarian Party candidates

Year	Candidate	Votes received	On ballot in
1972	John Hospers	3,671	2 states
1976	Roger MacBride	173,011	32 states
1980	Ed Clark	921,299	50 states
1984	David Bergland	228,314	39 states
1988	Ron Paul	431,616	46 states
1992	Andre Marrou	291,000	50 states

Libertarian strongholds

States where Libertarian Party has most support



Source: Libertarian Party

Chicago Tribune/Ken Marshall and Scott Hologue

Libertarians eye '96 gains

'We are the mainstream now,' party's unpolitician says

By Rogers Worthington

ATLANTA—Harry Browne, the unpolitician, is angry about all this talk of a centrist presidential candidate who wins in 1996 by running between the "extremes" of Republican and Democrat.

"The difference between Republican and Democrat is so narrow, that anyone who tries to squeeze in the center between them risks getting squeezed to death," the Tennessee resident told a gathering of Libertarians this month.

Browne, considered the front-runner among three candidates seeking his party's presidential nomination, shares with most other Libertarians the conviction that times never have been more propitious for their solutions to the nation's problems.

"After all those years of being in the wilderness, standing on the outside looking in, things have changed to the point where we are the mainstream now," he told his cheering audience in Atlanta.

Libertarians, the nation's third-largest political party, don't so much see themselves as being to the left, right or the middle of the two major parties, as floating above them on a vertical scale that runs, top down, from freedom to authoritarianism.

In a nutshell, they are the party of minimum government and maximum personal freedom, and they expect to be on all 51 ballots next fall, fielding more than 200 congressional candidates as well as a presidential candidate.

They can cite evidence that things are going their way. Membership has grown by about 40 percent since 1990, from 9,000 to 13,000. Voters who registered as Libertarians have grown by an almost equal percentage, from 80,000 in 1990 to 112,000 this year, according to Bill Winter, the party's spokesman. Most of that growth has come in the past two years.

A Times-Mirror poll last year identified about 4 percent of the electorate as essentially Libertarian in their political beliefs.

Among the United We Stand America members who attended Ross Perot's August gathering in

Dallas, about 18 percent identified themselves as having Libertarian leanings. Within the GOP, that number may be as high as 29 percent.

A Gallup poll last January, which asked just two questions of the general population, came up with 22 percent libertarian sentiments, compared to 30 percent conservative, 20 percent populist, and 16 percent liberal. The questions: Should government do more or less to promote the economic growth? And, should it do more or less to promote values and morals?

Libertarians seize upon several other polls to show a widespread disillusionment with government performance: concern over its size and mistrust of its actions.

"With this distrust of government's role in the economy, people who one time may have been called liberals are moving either to the libertarians or conservatives," said Stuart Lilie, a political scientist and co-author of the 1984 book, "Beyond Liberal and Conservative: Reassessing the American Political Spectrum."

Libertarians are finding a following among so-called Generation Xers, those born since the mid-1960s.

They also see historic trends playing into their ascendancy. The demise of the Soviet threat has created a more receptive audience for smaller, more efficient government. Combined with that is the fading away of the New Deal generation, perhaps the last that saw big government work.

The congressional sweep by budget-taming Republicans last November is seen as another indication.

"When people elected the Republicans in 1994, I think they really wanted us, people who would truly make a difference in their lives," said Jo Jorgensen, vice presidential candidate and part-owner of Digitech, a South Carolina software company. "We all hate politics. That's why we're in this thing."

The Libertarian Party was launched in 1971, by renegade

Young Republicans fuming over President Richard Nixon's decision to institute wage and price controls.

They have run a candidate in every election since 1972, reaching a peak in 1980, when Ed Clark, an oil company lawyer from Southern California, drew nearly a million votes in a four-way race.

David Koch, the billionaire scion of Koch Industries, an oil services company, was the party's vice presidential candidate.

But things haven't been the same since 1983, after a party squabble and the exit of Koch and his brother Charles.

Browne, 61, is the author of a newsletter and several best-selling books on investing. His latest book, "Why Government Doesn't Work," is essentially his platform. Browne already has raised \$500,000 for his campaign.

He presents himself as "the unpolitician," the radical alternative to the two major parties.

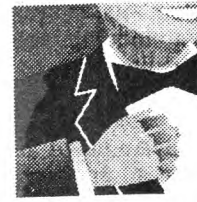
How radical? He would whack the federal budget in half the first year by getting government out of every function not spelled out in the Constitution, such as housing, transportation, education, welfare, and crime control—especially the war on drugs, which Browne considers the cause of most urban crime.

At the same time, he would end the federal income tax, reasoning that if he cuts spending and ends taxes simultaneously, taxpayers would have a vested interest in seeing government shrink rapidly.

"What the American people want is someone bold enough to stand up and say, 'Look, government doesn't work and we're not going to fix it.'"

With citizens having more money to spend, he reasons that more jobs would be created. To aid that process at the low end, he would repeal the minimum wage law. The expansion and charities would end the need for welfare, he argues.

Then he would sell government assets to pay off the national debt and release prisoners jailed for nonviolent offenses.



POLITICAL FILE

By Star-Bulletin staff



Rowland hopes to quadruple Libertarians

The new state chairman of the Libertarian Party says his primary goals are to quadruple party membership and to increase public awareness of party positions.

Financial consultant Richard Rowland, who defeated incumbent party Chairman Blase Harris at the state party's recent convention, says he's aiming to increase the current membership of 75 to 300 by the end of 1996.

"In my own mind, if we can influence the political process so that we have more attention on individual liberty and individual choices instead of choices dictated by government, we are getting our job done," adds Rowland, 65, who ran unsuccessfully for the U.S. Senate in 1992 and 1994.

Also elected were: Dale Pratt, an advertising executive, as vice chairwoman; Roger Taylor, a public-school math teacher, as secretary; and Keith Rose, a bank computer specialist, as treasurer.

▲ The Honolulu Star-Bulletin
Honolulu, Hawaii
September 18, 1995

◀ The Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois
October 24, 1995

Three presidential candidates at Libertarian Party parley



LIBERTARIAN TRIO: Harry Browne, standing, is one of three Libertarian Party presidential candidates who visited Connecticut last Saturday. Irwin Schiff, near, and Rick Tompkins, also spoke at the party's state convention.
—Photo by Fred Danowski

By DON CASCIATO

Encouraged by voter disenchantment with the Democrats and Republicans, three Libertarian Party presidential candidates brought their campaign to the party's state convention Saturday in Stamford.

"This is a great time to be a Libertarian," said Harry Browne, of California, who was viewed by many at the convention as the candidate with the best chance to win the party's nomination next year for the 1996 presidential election.

"The anti-government revolution is building up. We have already won the education battle, but we still have to win the political battle. This is our time."

Mr. Browne, who said he has visited 27 states, was joined at the state convention's "Presidential Preview" by Rick Tompkins, from Arizona, and Irwin Schiff, a former New Haven resident who now resides in Nevada.

About 70 people attended the preview session.

Mr. Schiff, who has twice been imprisoned for not paying his income taxes, has focused his campaign on the tax issue and questioned Libertarians who complained about the law

he believes doesn't exist.

"Federal income taxes are in violation of the law," he said. "How can we fight against a law that isn't there. If government can lie on this issue [income taxes], what else are they lying about?"

He also complained that Social Security trust funds are a myth. "They don't exist. There are no trust funds. I'm here to expose the criminal nature of government."

Mr. Schiff claimed that hundreds of thousands of Americans are filing protest tax returns and others don't file at all. "Lots of fundamentalist Christians don't pay taxes," he asserted.

Mr. Schiff said that one of his goals is to get the anti-tax movement behind the Libertarian Party.

Mr. Tompkins urged Libertarians to be consistent.

"Look, if the state owns your property, it owns your body, too," he said. "It is necessary to defend the rights of others even if you don't agree with them."

At the core of his campaign, he said, was emphasis on liberty.

"If we allow government an

Libertarians build on anti-government theme

Continued from page 10

inch, it takes a light year," he said. "We are no longer defending liberty because we have none left. We have been lied to and manipulated by government for years."

Mr. Tompkins explained that he felt Libertarians should imitate the doctor's oath: "Do no harm. Government hurts people every day," he said, "and it must stop."

Many Libertarian Party members believe that much of the anger among voters detected in

recent polling reflects the Libertarian point of view and not Republican or conservative thought.

Libertarians challenge the need for a government role in many areas of their lives — economic as well as personal.

One piece of campaign literature at the Saturday meeting, held at Stamford's Tara hotel, said that Libertarians work from the bottom up, challenging everything the government does and finding little that should be managed by government.

In contrast, Libertarians

claim the traditional conservative might want to comb through the government from top down to weed out certain programs and beef up others, like those designed to enhance "family values."

Because of their growing disdain for government, more and more Americans appear to be drifting toward a libertarian philosophy, according to the literature.

A Gallup poll last year was cited. It asked questions about government's role that were designed to distill Americans' political philosophies, and it

categorized 22 percent of the public as libertarian.

Despite the perceived trend, the Wall Street Journal reported earlier this year that "the actual Libertarian Party remains a tiny political organization."

Many people, Republicans particularly, who are drawn to libertarian economics may have a hard time swallowing the same kind of hands-off government approach to abortion and school prayer, according to the Journal article that was released at the convention.

Before the presidential panel

appeared, Jo Jorgensen, a vice presidential hopeful, spoke about how the Republican Party allegedly sells out freedom.

She compared the GOP to a "political equivalent of 1-900-phone sex."

Ms. Jorgensen continued: "The Republicans tease and tempt us. They tell us how good it will be. ... But the real thing is much less satisfying."

After reading a list of things Republicans fail to do, she urged Republicans "to stop being all things to all people."

Libertarians form branch at NMSU

By Deborah Bordonaro
Las Cruces Sun-News

New Mexico State University students fed up with government and the two major political parties have formed a campus branch of the Libertarian Party.

"The Republicans are appealing economically but socially their views are not," said Rohan Loveland, a co-president of the campus group. "The Libertarians do, to some extent, combine the best of both worlds."

Co-president Jediah Seidman said the Libertarian Party is a place for people to be open-minded.

"It's fitting for anybody who is inter-

ested in politics but doesn't want to be defined," Seidman said.

The Libertarian Party supports personal freedoms and individual responsibility. Its national platform endorses smaller government, legalization of drugs and a woman's right to choose abortion. The party opposes gun control and other government restrictions.

"We see a lot of government wanting to be your parents," Loveland said. "We think the civil liberties of citizens are being infringed on."

For example, Loveland said, many Libertarians might not condone drug use, but do not like the idea of their cars being searched at U.S. Border Pa-

trol checkpoints.

The campus group plans to spend the coming months educating students and community members about the Libertarian Party. Seidman said he wants to organize a voter registration effort as a community service.

Eric Vasquez, a member of the Young Democrats at NMSU, and Bobby Bull, president of the College Republicans at NMSU, said their groups would be interested in debates with the campus Libertarians.

Vasquez said he thinks the two-party system still works in the United States while Bull said he welcomes a third party for students to get involved in.

▲ The Westport News
Westport, Connecticut
September 27, 1995

◀ The Las Cruces Sun-News
Las Cruces, New Mexico
October 11, 1995