



Published for members of the Libertarian Party's Monthly Pledge Program

Liberty Pledge

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 1993

Libertarian Party National Headquarters ♦ 1528 Pennsylvania Avenue SE ♦ Washington DC 20003 ♦ (202) 543-1988

Five more Libertarian victories reported from November elections

The tally of Libertarian election successes in November has jumped upward again — with five new victories added to the already impressive list.

In addition, another Libertarian was appointed mayor of a large California city in December, and an LP member was appointed to public office in South Dakota in November.

The five new election victories all occurred in Pennsylvania, bringing to 10 the total number of Libertarians elected in that state last month — and increasing to 14 the total number of LP victories around the USA in Campaign '93.

"The hits just keep on coming!" said Pennsylvania State Chair Ken Sturzenacker.

Elected to office were Robert A. Trump, Constable (Mechanicsburg); Todd Zollinger, Judge of Elections (Mechanicsburg); John T. Erb, Township Tax Collector (Lancaster County); William Vogt, Judge of Elections (North Hampton County); and Christopher Davis, Judge of Elections, (Lancaster County).

All the victories were won by write-in votes, said Sturzenacker, which is why the results trickled in so late.

"In most cases, the campaigns weren't organized in advance," he said. "In some cases, the people didn't know they had been elected until the vote counts were certified by the county Boards of Elections!"

"A lot of opportunities"

Sturzenacker admitted he was surprised by the number of victories, but said they illustrate an important point: "At the local level, there are a lot of opportunities. We just need to be aware of them to take advantage of them!" he said.

Sturzenacker also said the victories are crucial for building the credibility of the Pennsylvania LP.

"These will go a long way towards countering one of the last desperate raps the Republicans and Democrats try to put on us — 'they have some wonderful ideas but they don't have any practical experience.' To the degree we continue to win, we can dispel that myth," he said.

Meanwhile, in California, Bonnie Flickenger was unanimously selected by the City Council on December 14th to be the next mayor of the city of Monroe Valley.

Flickenger has served on the nonpartisan City Council of

Monroe Valley, a city of almost 140,000 citizens, since 1992.

Flickenger, 51, joins Alex Joseph of Big Water, Utah, as one of only two Libertarian mayors in the USA.

And last month, South Dakota Libertarian Art Lampert was appointed to the State Board of Vocational Rehabilitation. In his new, non-partisan office, Lampert will give Libertarian input into state vocational rehabilitation programs.

Shadow Cabinet members get exposure around USA

The Libertarian Party's Shadow Cabinet has remained active over the last several months, with members making personal appearances before two state LP groups, and another getting quoted on the front page of *USA Today*.

Shadow Cabinet Secretary of Health & Human Services Henry N. Butler spoke to a group of students and faculty at the University of Kansas in October, in a presentation sponsored by the college's Libertarian student group. "The audience was very impressed by Dr. Butler's presentation," reported *The Free Kansan*, the newsletter of the LP of Kansas.

Butler is a professor of Law and Economics at the University of Kansas School of Law, and the author of *The Political Economy of Global Budgeting to Control Health Care Spending*.

On November 13th, Shadow Cabinet Secretary of Education John Taylor Gatto was the keynote speaker at the Libertarian Party of New Hampshire's annual convention. Before an audience of more than 100 people, Gatto blasted the current educational system in America, calling it "the biggest, most profitable business in the country. It is a jobs program, plain and simple."

Gatto was the 1991 New York State Teacher of the Year, and the author of the book, *The Exhausted School*.

On December 2nd, Shadow Cabinet Secretary Thomas Moore was cited on the front page of America's largest newspaper, *USA Today*, after the LP National Headquarters arranged an interview. Although his Shadow Cabinet affiliation was not mentioned, the article was the broadest coverage any Cabinet member has yet received. Moore is a Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution. [See article on page 4].

Investor's Business Daily

"The Newspaper For Important Decision Makers"

Circulation 176,000

Published Nationally At Eight Plans
By Investor's Business Daily, Inc.

Thursday, December 2, 1993

Los Angeles, California
Volume 10 No. 100 1993

75¢

NATIONAL ISSUE

LIBERTARIANS' INCREASING CLOUT Localities Often Govern Best By Governing Least

By Claude R. Marx
In Washington

Long consigned to the political wilderness and dismissed as a fringe element, libertarians are seeing their ideas accepted by state and local governments, once the undisputed turf of Democrats.

Regional governments increasingly are adopting free-market policies originally developed by libertarian thinkers, making what were once considered extreme views part of the mainstream.

The idea behind libertarianism is simple: give individuals maximum control over their own destiny with a minimum involvement of government at any level.

The works of English political philosopher John Locke and Austrian economists F.A. Hayek and Ludwig von Mises serve as the intellectual underpinning for modern libertarian thought.

Libertarian scholars attribute the recent growth in influence to increasing skepticism about the effectiveness of growing government authority.

"People are turning away from big government and centralized solutions because they don't work and toward more reliance on free markets and individual choice," said David Boaz,

“
People are turning away from big government and centralized solutions because they don't work and toward more reliance on free markets and individual choice.”

David Boaz
Executive director,
The Cato Institute

executive vice president of the Cato Institute, a libertarian think tank in Washington.

As an indication of the growing influence, the Cato Institute recently moved its offices from a two-story Capitol Hill townhouse to a multilevel downtown office building.

But it is in the trend toward privatization — the idea that government shouldn't do what the private sector can do better — that libertarianism has made its mark.

Robert Poole, president of the Reason Foundation, a libertarian think tank in Los Angeles, said there is a "very significant trend" toward privati-

zation, "the efforts of the Clinton administration notwithstanding."

Largely because of tight budgets, governments see privatization as a way to save money on overhead and administrative costs while maintaining services. This solution has often been implemented after considerable political wrangling and over the objections of government employee unions.

In New York, Mayor-elect Rudolph Giuliani made privatization a centerpiece of his campaign.

Giuliani, the first Republican elected mayor of New York in 28 years, promised to privatize city hospitals, waste collection and the operation of city buses. He also plans to eliminate 30,000 jobs from the city's 440,000-person work force over four years.

"It's no longer an issue of contention that privatization is a solution," said E.S. Savas, a management professor at Baruch College in New York who advised Giuliani during the campaign. "You can always rely on government to make the right decision, but only after it has exhausted every other conceivable alternative."

In Los Angeles, GOP Mayor Richard Riordan has proposed leasing Los Angeles International Airport to private operators to help finance the hiring of additional police.

Poole, a longtime supporter of airport privatization, estimates such a

Continued on Next Page ➤

Libertarian Warburton Is Merrill's First Challenger

By GARRY RAYNO
Special to The Citizen

CONCORD — With a year to go before the next general election, New Hampshire has its first official gubernatorial candidate today.

Libertarian Calvin Warburton of Raymond announced this morning that he intends to seek his party's nomination.

This will be Warburton's second try for the nomination.

In the 1992 primary, Warburton lost to party nominee Miriam

Luce of Windham. Luce has since become a state Liquor Commissioner and has said she won't be running for governor again.

In the 1990 election, Luce received 5 percent of the gubernatorial vote which gave the Libertarian Party ballot access for the first time during the 1992 general election. A political party needs 3 percent of the gubernatorial vote in the preceding general election to have ballot access.

The Libertarians also will be an official ballot party in the 1994

elections as well.

Warburton, a former Republican, is serving his eighth term in the House where he serves on the Constitution and Statutory Revision Committee.

The Raymond lawmaker is not likely to be the only gubernatorial candidate for the Libertarians.

Newbury airline pilot Steven Winter has said he is considering running for the nomination as well.

If he does run, it would be

Winter's first attempt at public office.

Last month, former director of the Office of Securities Al Rubega said he has been approached by a number of people asking him to consider running for governor as a Libertarian.

Rubega, a Republican, is an attorney.

So far no Democrats or Republicans have said they are running for the corner office although Gov. Steve Merrill is considered to be a sure bet to seek a second term.

LIBERTARIANS' INCREASING CLOUT

From page 1
move could raise \$200 million per year.

However, others warn that privatization should not be seen as a cure-all and is sometimes more expensive in the long run.

"It is often inherently advantageous for government to run things. Governments start with a 22% advantage because they don't have the burdens of profits and taxes," said Ted Gaebler, a management consultant to governments and co-author of the best-selling book, "Reinventing Government."

Gaebler's book, which advocates running government programs in a way that is more responsive to their tax-paying "customers," was a major source for the Clinton administration's National Performance Review.

Privatizing Government

The review recommended opening some government functions, such as air traffic control and printing, to private competition.

Privatization's appeal has increased as many governments try to reduce bloated personnel costs, the single largest component of most budgets.

And often these efforts cross ideological lines.

Take, for example, Philadelphia, which had developed a reputation as a city of confiscatory taxes and large deficits. When Democrat Edward Rendell became mayor last year, he set out to change that.

He forced the unions to agree to wage and benefit cuts totaling \$353 million over four years. He also began privatizing services such as maintenance services in municipal buildings and guards at the city museums. At the same time, he ruled out new taxes as a means of raising revenues.

Rendell's chief of staff, David Cohen, estimates that these efforts will save \$14.5 million next year. Cohen says Rendell is "for injection of competition into the providing of city services," but doesn't advocate wholesale privatization of government.

These efforts have met with mixed reaction.

Jeff Brown, president of an American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees local, said the contracts will cost the city more in the long run.

"They don't include the costs of contract monitoring and administration when they estimate savings," Brown said. "Rather than listen to suggestions from workers, they prefer to pay contractors."

Union Anger

Polls indicate that the public supports Rendell, but the unions have been able to arouse some sympathy for their position.

During a recent City Council hearing to discuss selling off Philadelphia's nursing homes, union members brought in patients on gurneys to testify that the quality of care would decline if the city got out of the business.

However, the Pennsylvania Economy League, a government finance monitoring and consulting organization, cites Rendell's efforts as a major reason the city's finances are improving.

Privatization isn't only happening in cities.

When Republican William Weld became Massachusetts' governor in 1991, he inherited a government universally regarded as too generous and burdened with a \$1.8 billion deficit. To turn things around, he turned to privatization.

For example, the state is in the process of closing nine health facilities and transferring their patients to private organizations. The transfers were recommended by a commission appointed by Weld shortly after he took office.

Administration officials are projecting a savings of \$60 million in annual operating costs and \$140 million in capital expenditures over the next four years.

Democratic Influence

"Privatization is the fastest path to changing the culture of government," said Department of Administration and Finance spokesman Steve Wilson. "The governor thinks government can do fewer things better."

Democrats, who controlled the governorship for the previous 16 years before

Weld won and still have an overwhelming majority in the Legislature, are critical.

"Weld has used a lot of the 'reinventing government' rhetoric," said state Sen. Marc Pacheco. "But the implementation has been more ideological than entrepreneurial. He has used this approach to eliminate government services, which is the opposite of entrepreneurial government."

Pacheco is sponsoring legislation that would restrict executive agencies' ability to contract out for services. It would require the state to receive a minimum of three bids before issuing a contract and require more thorough documentation of the projected cost savings.

But Weld's libertarianism extends further than his belief in privatization.

In addition to his fiscal conservatism, Weld also strongly supports abortion rights and homosexual rights — ideas often embraced by libertarians but opposed by conservatives. But Weld never describes himself as a libertarian.

In a speech at last year's Republican National Convention, he said the government should keep "out of your pocketbook and out of your bedroom."

Another city where libertarian ideas are being tried out is Indianapolis, which is also exploring privatization.

Indianapolis Cost-Cutting

When Republican Stephen Goldsmith became mayor last year, he made some key changes in how the city is run, even though its budget was balanced, its bond rating was AAA and its taxes were lower than cities of comparable size.

Nevertheless, he found that several departments paid too much for products and services and did not know what their real costs were. Goldsmith implemented a system that forced city departments to compete with private companies to provide services for city.

"It drives change within government more quickly than anything else we've done. The quality of service delivery has gone up, while prices have gone down," Goldsmith said in an interview. "The goal is not necessarily to privatize, but to take as many services as possible into

the marketplace."

The city's Transportation Department, which Goldsmith said is the "most entrepreneurial," has won 60% of the contracts it has bid on. In contrast, the Public Works Department has only won 33% of the contracts it has bid on.

"They are moving into their core area of competence and away from areas that they cannot effectively compete in," added Goldsmith.

The city also created a committee of business leaders to examine the government's operations and make specific recommendations about what services could be eliminated or placed out for competitive bidding.

Goldsmith said that while he is pleased that the changes have saved approximately \$20 million, he is equally enthusiastic about making government smaller so the city can compete for businesses and residences by keeping taxes low.

Running For Office

Even if their ideas are gaining credence in government, some libertarians aren't content with the silent influence of intellectual argument. Some are running for office.

In fact, right now an estimated 100 members of the Libertarian Party throughout the country hold elected or appointed positions.

For example, in New Hampshire, there are four Libertarians in the 400-member House of Representatives and they have forged successful coalitions with both parties.

"We are working to streamline government and reinforce the power of people over the government," said state Rep. Don Gorman, who chairs the Libertarian Caucus. "We find alliances with those who are fiscal conservatives and those who are social liberals."

Boaz and his Cato colleague Edward H. Crane argue that Libertarian ideas will gain in popularity because they represent the best way to ensure prosperity. And, they say, they are in keeping with the country's true political roots.

"We need to restore in this country the founders' understanding of government: a necessary evil, created for the sole purpose of securing our rights, with a few clearly specified powers," they wrote in their recent book, "Market Liberalism."

Unfair campaigning

HOW BADLY NEEDED ARE fair campaign practice committees? Ask Del. Kenneth Plum, D-Reston, who found "Dump Plum" posters stapled over his posters yesterday morning. Ask Del. Jim Scott, D-Fairfax, who was accused of "leading the charge" for a state lottery building in Richmond when he tried to get the building taken out of a construction plan or at least have the question put to voters.

But especially ask John Buckley, the Independent-Libertarian candidate in the 35th House District. He awoke Sunday to find signs reading "Vote John Buckley — Legalize Drugs" in front of churches in Vienna and Fairfax City. These signs were printed in red, just like his signs. The new

signs used the same typeface, and featured white stars just like his signs. Only Buckley didn't post them; the Fairfax County Republican Committee did.

Now, Buckley agrees with the Libertarian Party platform that says illegal drugs should be legalized. The Libertarians consider this a privacy issue and contend that this country's expensive war on drugs has produced few results. So what is wrong with the Republicans highlighting this controversial portion of the Libertarian platform?

This is what is wrong: By printing up signs with the same color, the same typeface and the same emblems, the Republicans are betting voters will confuse the signs with Buckley's own signs and not see them as a political trick. They are betting voters don't understand the context (the expense, the success of the drug war or lack of it) of the Libertarian stand. They are betting voters believe Buckley is highlighting the drug stand in his campaign, when in fact he

highlighting the drug stand in his campaign, when in fact he is running on the slogan "Spend less, tax less."

If the Republicans had posted signs — not copycat signs, of course — saying something like "Buckley would legalize drugs, re-elect Dick Fisher," that would be fair in a '90s sort of way. The way the Republicans did this was patently unfair to Buckley and voters.

Which brings us to the fair campaign practices committees. The committees, as permitted by the General Assembly this year for Fairfax, Arlington and Alexandria, would hear complaints of unfair campaigning and be able to say whether the complaint is justified. The committees would be central clearinghouses where voters can learn about the complaints and decide for themselves if they are justified. And the committees would be vehicles to establish standards for candidates to uphold, to stop the continual spiral in standards represented in the anti-Buckley signs.

COVER STORY

Fliers may want savings over service

Attendants fight frilly image, low pay while standing ready for crises

By Del Jones and Julia Lawlor
USA TODAY

Flight attendants, who start as low as \$12,000 per year, are paid meagerly. No question.

But for all the rhetoric stirred by last month's strike against American Airlines, few have dared to breathe perhaps the key question — a 60-year-old question. Are

flight attendants indispensable guardians of passengers' safety and well-being? Or, are they flying waitresses (85% are women) and waiters who are becoming less important to passengers willing to sacrifice frills for cheap fares?

Flight attendants find the second suggestion repugnant. "We're very highly trained in first aid and CPR," says Wendy Palmer, an American Airlines flight attendant based in Nashville. "Our goal is to evacuate an airplane in a minute or less. That's what we're there for. In the meantime, we do serve drinks and food."

But maybe the time has come to let the free market determine if passengers value flight attendants enough to pay for them, says Thomas Moore, senior fellow at the Hoover Institution. Customers willing, there's no reason airlines can't hand out sandwiches and soft drinks as passengers

board. Then they could be on their way with, perhaps, one safety expert on board.

"I'd suspect some people would be willing to pay dirt-cheap fares," and fly with fewer attendants, says Bill Winter, spokesman for the Libertarian party, an opponent of government regulation. "Other (airlines) would go in the opposite direction and there would be three attendants for each flier."

Already millions of passengers have shown an eagerness to sacrifice service for lower fares. Southwest Airlines, which doesn't offer meals or assigned seating, has been the fastest-growing and most profitable airline in the industry. Southwest never staffs a jet with more attendants than the Federal Aviation Administration requires. And because they aren't serving meals, they have enough time to sing safety instructions, play practical jokes on passengers and pick up trash between flights.

No one knows how many flight attendants airlines would use if FAA minimums were eliminated, says Winter of the Libertarian party. But he trusts a market free of government interference.

Union president Maki says an end to FAA minimums probably would mean fewer flight attendants on short flights. But customers would demand service on long trips. However, for safety reasons, getting rid of FAA minimums is "crazy," she says.

And, it's not going to happen. No airline has lobbied for the FAA minimum to be lowered. Probably none will as long as all carriers have to follow the same rules.

Flight attendants "absolutely can be of aid, and there are examples where they literally saved the day," says airline consultant James O'Donnell.

He may be a critic of flight attendant demands for higher pay, but O'Donnell says he wouldn't fly without them.

Contributing: Rhonda Richards

Please see COVER STORY next page ►

USA Today
Page 1
National Edition
December 2, 1993

Libertarian waging aggressive Senate campaign

Jon E. Coon going all out for Riegle's seat

By Jerry Ernst
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

Henderson — Not long ago, Jon E. Coon was concerned largely with felling trees. Now he wants to topple politicians.

Coon, a candidate for U.S. Sen. Donald W. Riegle's seat, is waging one of the more aggressive campaigns by a national third-party candidate in Michigan.

Having dispensed with his job and all other interests but his family, the Shiawassee County resident has been running all out for a half-year as a Libertarian and said he doesn't plan to let up until the 1994 general election.

He said he hopes to amass a \$1-million campaign war chest, which would probably dwarf all past third-party efforts in Michigan.

Coon, 34, was an unlikely candidate for such an effort. The father of three children aged 10 through 14, was not politically active until last year.

He has lived in northwest Shiawassee and

southwest Saginaw counties since early childhood, had been a timber buyer and seller for a decade until his venture into politics.

His campaign was born of disaffection with the political and economic landscape, said Coon, a Democrat-turned-Republican who began voting for Libertarian Party candidates eight years ago.

Years of travel in search of timber and timber buyers, he said, revealed a nation whose future was increasingly bleak, he said. By 1992, his despair deepened into a sense of emergency, he said.

"The support (H. Ross) Perot got convinced me the people in this state and country would be willing to consider another alternative," said Coon, who is constantly on the lookout for an audience to hear his case for rolling back government.

Coon said he has two goals: to win election and build a "support network" to elect Libertarians to other offices.

His party seeks strict limits on govern-

ment. Coon agrees with such Libertarian tenets as ending government subsidies, rescinding most governmental regulations, limiting the armed forces to defensive actions and repealing laws that forbid such so-called victimless crimes as drug use, pornography, prostitution and homosexuality.

Coon, an Owosso native, wants government restricted to maintaining courts, police and national defense. He would phase out most other functions "in a slow, calculated manner."

He said he spends most of his time asking prospective volunteers for donations of money and time to his campaign. He seeks out Libertarians, people who have contacted his campaign committee and others potentially sympathetic to his goals.

Coon has a toll-free telephone number, 1-800-JONCOON, he said, and a supporter has provided a phone bank in Southfield to field inquiries and offers of help.

So far, Coon said, he has received \$15,000 in contributions and pledges for another \$25,000, but revenue has tailed off in the past month.

'The base of the two major parties keeps getting smaller and smaller. ... More people who consider themselves independent each year.'

— Jon E. Coon

Coon said part of his mission is educating people about the governmental actions and institutions that he says have undercut the country. They might not agree with his philosophy, he said, but many will vote for him anyway.

"The base of the two major parties keeps getting smaller and smaller. There are more people who consider themselves independent each year," Coon said.