

LIBERTY PLEDGE

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newsletter

Stephen Gordon Named New Director of Communications for the Libertarian Party

Political consultant and activist Stephen Gordon recently joined the Libertarian Party Headquarters, replacing Sam New as the Director of Communications. Before joining the Libertarian Party Headquarters, Gordon

Stephen Gordon



worked as Communications Director on Michael Badnarik's 2004 campaign for President and was manager of Aaron Russo's 2004 presidential nomination bid.

Starting out his political career with the Republican Party, Steve became disillusioned in the mid-1990s and discovered his ideological home with the Libertarian Party while working on Harry Browne's 2000 campaign for President. As a local-organizer for Browne's campaign in Georgia, Gordon solidified his affiliation to the party and became firmly committed to Libertarian ideals.

From 2000 onward, Gordon became increasingly involved in state-level Libertarian activities. Based in Alabama, Steve battled Amendment One, a proposed Republican tax increase, launching an internet campaign against its acceptance. Under Gordon's and the ALLP's management, in 2003, the tax increase was rejected by a significant margin.

Buoyed by the many positive accolades for his work against Amendment One, Gordon became the Vice-Chairman of the Libertarian Party of Alabama, holding the position from 2004-2006. During his tenure, Steve worked for electoral reform and medical marijuana legislation as well as other critical state-level political issues.

In addition to his position as the new Director of Communications, Gordon will teach Campaign Management in the Libertarian Leadership School

(www.lp.org/lis).

Steve took some time out of his busy schedule to answer a few of Pledge News' questions:

What excites you most about working for the LP?

Working on the national level and helping shape our message to the media that will aid us during election time.

What is your primary goal for this year?

My primary goal for year one is to develop and implement a comprehensive media strategy which complements the LP's political strategy.

How did you become interested in working for the LP?

Because of my work on two Libertarian Party presidential campaigns, I've had an increasing amount of contact with key national party officials and the national office staff. After working as Communications Director for the Badnarik campaign, accepting this position at the national office seems like a natural transition for me.

LPHQ is excited to have such a highly-qualified and passionate Communications Director onboard to help us reach new levels of success in the coming years. Steve Gordon can be contacted via e-mail at media@lp.org or by calling (202) 333-0008.

Are you attending the Libertarian Party National Convention on July 1st and 2nd and have questions or concerns? Check out www.lpconvention.org or call (202) 333-0008 for assistance.

Libertarian Rock Howard Running a Strong Campaign for Texas State Senate

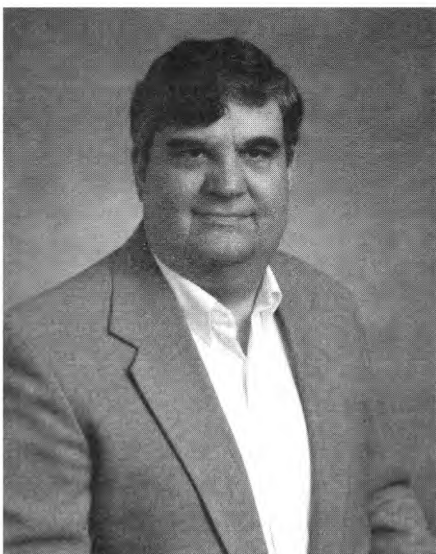
Entrepreneur and engineer, Rock Howard, is currently running a highly organized bid for the Texas State Senate in District 14. He was chosen to represent the Libertarian Party by a unanimous vote of the Travis County Libertarian Associate in March of this year. Howard is firmly committed to defeating his allegedly corrupt opponent and former Mayor of Austin, Democrat Kirk Watson.

Howard's campaign platform has ten major issues, of which ending corporate welfare is the most prominent. The Libertarian candidate is devoted to preventing another Enron-style scandal and ending corporate control of the Texas State House. He also hopes to curb the misuse of taxpayer money and remove the obstacle for small business owners.

Another of Howard's platform goals is to work towards the reform of the Texas public school system. According to Howard, public school spending has been wasteful and inefficient and more of Texas state spending on education should be directed towards use "in the classroom." He is an advocate of freedom of choice for parents within the public school system.

As a proud Libertarian candidate, Howard is also firmly committed to ending eminent domain for private purposes and protecting civil liberties.

If elected, Rock will work with both Republicans and Democrats to achieve his goals. He is committed to proving that Libertarians in office can be effective leaders and encourage multi-party support of the most important issues in Texas.



Libertarian Party Offers "Politician Removal Service"

Libertarian Party National Chairman Michael Dixon announced an exciting new program on Monday. This program, entitled the "Politician Removal Service," promises to remove career politicians from office, and replace them with true Libertarian statesmen.

As Chairman Dixon points out, our founding fathers had a vision for America that was solidified by the notions of smaller government, fewer taxes and more freedom for all Americans. Unfortunately, as political insiders have risen to and retained power, we have strayed from our core ideals as a nation.

The Libertarian Party offers voters an alternative. Americans have the opportunity to remove fat cat politicians from office by giving the Libertarian Party power, through their votes. This opportunity is humorously expressed in a new, animated campaign released by the Libertarian Party.

"Although somewhat tongue-in-cheek, the Politician Removal Service expresses a very basic truth," Dixon stated. "Elected officials in the United States have fallen out of touch both with their constituents' needs, and also with the core values that Americans have long held dear. The Libertarian Party will remove these politicians from office, with the help, and the votes of Americans. All citizens are invited to take us up on our offer to remove these politicians from office and replace them with true leaders."

To view the animated clip for the Politician Removal Service, visit the Libertarian Party's newly redesigned website at LP.org or go directly to the clip at www.lp.org/flash/removal.html.

Have questions or concerns about your monthly pledge? Interested in increasing your monthly commitment? Need to update your address or credit card information for your monthly pledge? Contact April at pledge@lp.org or call her at (202) 333-0008 for assistance

Stolen Veteran Identity Information Highlights Deeper Privacy Issue

On May 3, 2006, a government laptop was stolen from the home of a Department of Veteran's Affairs data analyst. Stored on the stolen computer was the personal information of around 26 million veterans. Whether this information has been misused for criminal purposes is still undetermined.

Senate Democrats are politicizing the issue by accusing Republicans of incompetence. Most of the media coverage about these compromised personal data has concentrated on criticism of the VA for poor security procedures and downplaying the seriousness of the issue.

Libertarian Party Executive Director Shane Cory is one of those veterans whose personal information was made vulnerable. "I received a letter around June 6 vaguely dated 'May 2006' informing me that my personal information was stolen and advising me that I might become the future victim of identity theft," said Cory. "What's truly scary is that this isn't an isolated event. It seems that each week we become aware of a governmental abuse or 'mishap' that releases the personal information of Americans into the hands people who should not have it."

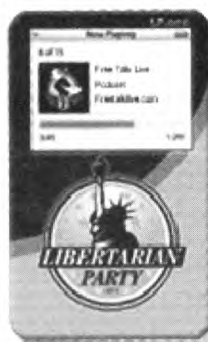
At a time when personal privacy is being debated daily and the National Security Agency is under fire for collecting information without a warrant about personal telephone calls, Americans should become more concerned about what specific information the government collects about them.

All citizens must be aware that once information has been collected by any data miner, whether private or governmental, it is vulnerable to theft and misuse. "We've got a new breed of criminals out there now," said Barry Hess, Arizona's Libertarian gubernatorial candidate. "Identity thieves are being supplied with the tools required for their crimes by the federal government. Agencies like the Census Bureau and the IRS collect much more data than required to do their jobs. At some point, we've got to stand up and tell the government our private information is none of their

business."

The Libertarian Party has a long record of advocating privacy issues and opposing widespread government use of personal information.

LP Will Raffle Off Two Limited-Edition iPods



On Saturday July 1st in Portland, OR, at the Libertarian Party's National Convention, the LP will conduct a raffle to give away two limited-edition video iPods, which are decorated with a special Libertarian Party "skin".

The iPods will be raffled off at the Saturday night Liberty Pledge reception, a special event during convention time to honor those members who donate monthly to the party. All Liberty Pledgers who recently started a new pledge or increased their monthly pledge by at least \$10 will be entered into the raffle (and you don't need to be present to win).

If you receive this edition of Pledge News before convention time and would like to be included in the raffle, please e-mail pledge@lp.org immediately and we will do our best to include you in the raffle.

A stable and consistent pool of funds will be essential to election time activities, media appearances and Get-Out-the-Vote efforts come November.

We would love to get your feedback on this type of promotion for the Liberty Pledge Club, as well as any other thoughts you may have on where we could be doing better.

Have a libertarian organization that you'd like to see profiled in Liberty Pledge News? Interested in being profiled in Liberty Pledge News yourself? Contact Lorena Seitz at Lorena.Seitz@lp.org for details.

Monthly Pledger Running for County Commissioner in Tennessee Joe Dumas Prepared to Win in Hamilton County

Joe Dumas, candidate for County in Commissioner in Hamilton County, Tennessee District 2, is a Professor of Computer Science and Electrical Engineering at the University of Tennessee in Chattanooga and a member of the Liberty Pledge Program. Dumas is a husband and stepfather to two sons and an avid volunteer in his community and across the United States. His highly organized campaign is an excellent model to Libertarians everywhere. Professor Dumas was recently interviewed by Pledge News and sent us this thrilling insight into his campaign and political philosophy.

What made you want to seek elected office as a Libertarian candidate?

Like most Libertarians, I am not the sort of person to seek out the limelight, let alone political power. But, I have been aware for many years that there are serious problems with the way our country is run; many of these problems are also pervasive at the state and local levels.

Over the past several years, issues like taxation, municipal services, and schools came to the forefront in my home town of Signal Mountain (a suburb of Chattanooga, Tennessee); when I saw no one else defending the interests of the hard-working and retired citizens who pay for local government, I ran for the Town Council in 2000, 2002, and 2004. Though I was not elected (municipal races here are unusually competitive for a small town), I improved my results each time, ultimately finishing fourth in 2004's race for three seats.

As my involvement with the community grew, I became convinced that most of the problems in local government were not rooted in my town itself, but rather at the county level. I watched as my own county commissioner voted for tax hike after tax hike, and then helped put in place a vehicle emissions inspection program that is more effective at cleaning out the citizens' wallets than it is at cleaning the air. He had run unopposed for re-election four years ago. I decided I could not allow that to happen again.

When did you first join the party and what motivated you to become a Libertarian?

I was a libertarian long before I knew what one was, and long before I joined the LP. When I was younger, people used to ask me "are you a liberal or a conservative?" I never was able to answer the question phrased that way because while I was fiscally conservative and favored smaller government, I didn't want government to enforce conservative social policies. I believed, and still believe, that consenting adults have the right to do whatever they want as long as it doesn't infringe on someone else's rights. It wasn't until much later in life that I found there was a movement, with the name "libertarian," that believed in less government involvement in all areas.

My first presidential election was 1980, when I enthusiastically voted for Ronald Reagan because he said he was going to

eliminate the unconstitutional federal Department of Education and drastically downsize government in general. I believed him and was very disappointed when he failed to deliver on his promises. By 1984, I was so disgusted with both major parties that for the first and only time, I didn't vote for President at all. Sometime between then and 1988 I heard about the LP. I voted for Ron Paul that year, and have been voting Libertarian ever since.

I think I first became a dues-paying LP member sometime in the mid-1990s. Due to graduate school and then my career and family, I didn't really get active in the party until the late 90s. I have been pretty active at the local and state level for several years, though 2004 was my first national convention. It won't be my last, as we are making the trip to Portland this year!

What do you feel you can do for your state that the major party candidates cannot?

Well, since I am a candidate for county office, fiscal and regulatory issues are the ones that will get most of my attention. Most of the office holders from both "major" parties seem to take it for granted that government should get bigger, more expensive, and more intrusive every year. They only differ over the details. My emphasis will be on holding the line on spending by delivering necessary services more efficiently, while cutting "pork" and reducing the regulatory burden on citizens and small businesses. I know that one Libertarian in a county office can't just abolish all taxes overnight, but I hope first of all to stop any new tax proposals in their tracks, keep existing taxes from increasing, and (as I can gradually win over the other eight commissioners by showing them where to find savings in the budget), start reducing taxes a little at a time. Slow and steady is how the socialists got us where we are today, and it's going to take the same sort of long-term effort to take us back in the other direction.

What is the most important issue for voters in your state right now and how will you tackle this issue if you are to win?

Besides the general size and scope of government, which I mentioned before, another major issue for Tennesseans right now is government corruption. A number of high-ranking state and local officials were caught taking bribes in the FBI's "Tennessee Waltz" investigation, and several of them have already plead guilty or been convicted and sent to prison. The citizens' faith in the honesty of their elected officials seems to be at an all-time low. I want to be the kind of official, and the kind of person, that the citizens can count on to represent them honestly and fairly. I never want there to be any question of me using my office for any sort of personal gain. To that end, not only will I uphold the highest ethical standards and reject any sort of bribe or undue influence, but I have decided to decline the salary and benefits (including a county cell phone, health insurance, retirement plan, etc.) normally paid to commissioners. I will serve the public completely pro bono, just for the honor and privilege of representing my district to the best of my ability.