

LIBERTY PLEDGE

Libertarian National Committee, Inc. ♦ 2600 Virginia Ave, NW, Suite 100
Washington DC 20037 ♦ Phone: (202) 333-0008 ♦ Fax: (202) 333-0072

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newsletter

Libertarian Party of Texas Breaks Records, Make Major Gains

The Libertarian Party of Texas (LPT) gave its best performance yet in the 2006 general election, blowing past previous records and achievements. The party had a record number of candidates on the ballot, a total of 168. The LPT scored another big victory by

Libertarian,



Short & Simple

automatically qualifying for ballot access in 2008 by achieving 5 percent or better in at least one statewide race. In addition, average vote totals increased dramatically in two- and three-way races.

LPT's Executive Director, Wes Benedict, said "The results show that voters are no longer afraid to vote Libertarian. More and more voters know who we are and what we stand for."

Those results came from great campaigns run across Texas by many Libertarian candidates, and the numbers showed just how well the LPT did. In the three-way House races in 2004, Texas Libertarians averaged 1.7 percent of the vote. In 2006, they averaged 2.6 percent of the vote. In 2004, Libertarian candidates in a two-way race for the Texas House received an average of 9.7 percent of the vote. In 2006, they received an average of 16 percent. In 2004, Libertarian candidates in a three-way race for the Texas House received an average of 2.7 percent of the vote. In 2006, they received an average of 3.6 percent.

Benedict praised the big increases: "Our vote percentages went way up. Even though we may not have won, our vote totals went up 50 to 100 percent." Indeed, the vote totals earned by Texas Libertarian candidates were the best performances by the LPT compared to recent years. Vote counts across Texas show that averages compared to previous years show big gains for the LPT. In this 2006 election, 22 Libertarian candidates for federal and state offices received over 20

percent of the vote. The last time a Libertarian candidate for federal or state offices earned more than 20 percent of the vote was in 1992. Two Libertarians broke the threshold that year.

The LPT also supported Bob Smither in Texas' 22nd District, which had no incumbent running and no Republican on the ballot due to the resignation of Rep. Tom DeLay. However, the Republicans mounted an effective write-in campaign in DeLay's place. Benedict said, "We're very pleased with Bob Smither's results in District 22. Bob broke the Texas Libertarian record for a Congressional candidate running against a well-funded Democrat and Republican." Preliminary results showed Smither with 6.1 percent of the vote. U.S. Senate candidate Scott Jameson received 2.3 percent, the highest percentage received by a Texas Libertarian for U.S. Senate since 1990.

Overall, the LPT was a powerful force in elections across all of Texas. While most Texas races have a majority winner, in 2006 many race winners for the U.S. House failed to obtain a majority. In six U.S. House races, the winner's margin of victory was less than the vote total of the Libertarian candidate in that race. "I'm pleased to see that we acted as kingmaker in several of these races," said LPT chair Patrick Dixon.

Those results are going to have a noticeable effect on the public perception of Libertarians. "It's really raised awareness of Libertarians in Texas. They're going to pay more attention to us in 2008," said Benedict. Come 2008, the LPT is going to work for another stellar year of growth. Wes Benedict says the LPT is again going to "focus on running lots of candidates. It's generated a lot of press and publicity for us."

The LPT now has a big precedent to live up to - one of outstanding growth and campaigning, but they'll be ready for 2008. The LPT is already planning for the next election cycle. To learn more about the Libertarian Party of Texas or to find out how you can support them, go to <http://www.lptexas.org>.

Libertarian Party Mourns the Loss of Milton Friedman

Famous libertarian economist, Milton Friedman, passed away in his home in San Francisco, California on November 16th, 2006. Dr. Friedman died of heart failure at the age of 94.

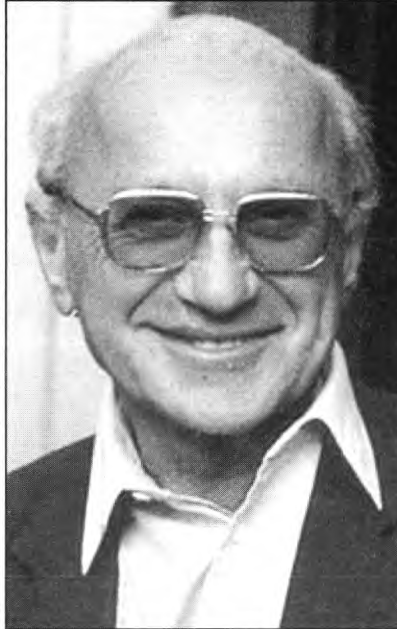
Born in New York City in 1912, Friedman was the son of Jewish immigrants from Hungary. Milton attended Rutgers University for his Bachelors Degree and later the University of Chicago where he obtained a Masters Degree in 1933. Later, in 1946, after working for the U.S. Department of Treasury, he received a doctorate from Columbia University for his outstanding work.

Friedman is renowned for his free market ideologies. His theories were groundbreaking and most are still widely accepted. He was a proponent of small government and argued that government spending should not be used as a tool to guide the economy. He once said: "The government solution to a problem is usually as bad as the problem." He served under Ronald Reagan, and many of his ideas about shrinking government can be seen in Reagan's economic policies.

Dr. Friedman led the Chicago School of monetary economics which claims that the supply of money controls inflation and, in turn, can control the ups and downs of the business cycle. He believed that it was difficult to control the cycle and that government should stay out and allow the free market to adjust. If the government were to interfere, he argued, it may give a positive boost in the short run, but in the scheme of things it would likely hurt the economy as a whole.

The underlying belief of Milton Friedman's work is that individuals are better able to spend money than the government. He argued, "Underlying most arguments against the free market is a lack of belief in freedom itself."

In addition to his strong beliefs of economic freedoms, he was also an advocate of social freedoms, promoting the legalization of drugs and prostitution, and supporting an entirely volunteer military. Fried-



man once said, "I'm in favor of legalizing drugs. According to my values system, if people want to kill themselves, they have every right to do so. Most of the harm that comes from drugs is because they are illegal." He has conveyed his messages in a number of books and essays including the celebrated, *Capitalism and Freedom*, written in 1962.

Unlike many economists, Milton Friedman was much more than an idealist. He was known for his work in statistics and his ideas and philosophies were always backed with sophisticated research.

In 1976 Milton Friedman won the Nobel Prize in Economics for his work on consumption analysis. Friedman received countless awards throughout his life including the National Medal of Science and the Presidential Medal of Freedom, both awarded to the economist in 1988.

William Redpath, Chairman of the Libertarian National Committee, stated in reflection, "Milton Friedman was more than just a great economist whose scholarly work on monetarism helped tame this nation's inflation and bring about the prosperity of the past quarter-century. Until today, he was the greatest living libertarian. The words that adequately convey the loss to libertarianism that his passing brings have yet to be invented."

Dr. Milton Friedman was one of the greatest classical liberal thinkers of all time. He was a brilliant laissez-faire economist who believed that social liberties were key to a free and thriving society. His leadership and contributions to the libertarian ideology will be greatly missed, but certainly always remembered.

Everyone here at the Libertarian National Committee would like to wish you, your family and friends a Healthy and Happy New Year. Thank you for your support.

Ballot Base Improves Candidates' Results Across the Country

The 2006 general election marked the debut of the Libertarian National Party's new Get Out the Vote technology known as "Ballot Base." Ballot Base (<http://ballotbase.org>) is a web-based application that enables Libertarian volunteers to place phone calls to targeted demographics in races all across the country. By analyzing the data of millions of registered voters, Ballot Base directs volunteers to make contact with important demographics, such as likely Libertarian voters in targeted races. This technology connected thousands of voters with Libertarian candidates in 2006 and is intended to help reach many more in the coming years!

Unveiled at the Libertarian National Convention in July 2006, Ballot Base has performed exceptionally well ever since its first test run, helping Libertarian Paul King more than triple his vote total in California's 50th U.S. House district. What makes Ballot Base so powerful is its strength in numbers. It connects volunteers across the county and unites them in support of LP candidates. In preparation for the 2006 general election, appeals were sent throughout the LP and the Blogosphere for volunteers to make calls and use Ballot Base in order to get out the vote. A total of 851 volunteers worked the phones this year, and that number is expected to rise significantly in upcoming elections.

"We were very impressed with the results we saw from Ballot Base and the Get Out the Vote team. They worked hard and we saw real results from Bob Smither's race in Texas to races in Colorado and Vermont," said the Libertarian Party's Executive Director, Shane Cory. "It was an initial success and we're looking to expand our efforts in the next elections."

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 us at pledge@lp.org or call us at (202) 333-0008 for assistance.

Bringing Libertarianism to the Masses: Learning from Mr. Maymin's Congressional Campaign

Phil Maymin, born in the former U.S.S.R, knows what it is like to live in a country where economic and social liberties don't exist. Moving to America at a young age he saw the virtues of libertarianism.

Maymin decided to run for Congress in Connecticut's 4th district against Incumbent Republican Christopher Shays and Democrat Diane Ferrell. He started by collectively referring to his opponents as Shays/Ferrell, deciding that one platform couldn't be distinguished from the other. In one of his campaign ads he argued, "Left and right is a myth that has been propagated to you, that the political parties have split your liberties."

Despite the campaign's low budget, Maymin tried desperately to get exposure. He argued in a series of debates and launched a newspaper, radio, and TV advertising campaign. He used his uncanny wit to get his message across.

His key newspaper advertisement depicted Moses standing before the Jews in Egypt saying, "Let me lead you to freedom!" The slaves below talked amongst themselves saying, "I'd follow him, but he's not a major party candidate."

Maymin's radio advertisements were very assertive. He never attacked the personal character of either candidate, but he bluntly attacked their political platforms.

Despite the admirable radio and newspaper campaigns, Maymin's TV advertisements are what got him a lot of attention. He appeared on two nationally televised programs, including MSNBC's *Tucker* to discuss an advertisement that showed him getting a massage.

Maymin took a risk by searching for new and aggressive forms of advertising. He launched a campaign to get his message out and open people's eyes to libertarianism. Maymin's creativity in his congressional campaign should serve as a guide for future Libertarian Party candidates. (TV advertisements can be seen at www.youtube.com, keyword: Phil Maymin and newspaper advertisements can be seen at www.mayminforcongress.com)

Liberty Pledge News - Oct-Nov 2006

A Big Thank You to All of our Liberty Pledgers

Amid all the encouraging news of election results and positive gains for the Libertarian Party, we wanted to take a moment to thank a special group of people that have helped to make it all possible in a big way. We are, of course, talking about the Liberty Pledgers, a select group of loyal Libertarians whose support makes much of our work in defending freedom possible.

We wish to highlight the success of this special program. In 2006 we've seen the amount of revenue generated by the Liberty Pledge program increase by 6.8%. That means that the Libertarian Party has more resources with which to fight for liberty. It also means we can work to put more Libertarians into office. On behalf of Libertarians everywhere, we thank you.

"The Liberty Pledgers provide valuable and consistent support for our party. They're a vital part of our fight for freedom," said Shane Cory, Executive Director of the Libertarian Party.

In addition, we'd like to thank our new and renewed pledgers for October and November:

Russell Freeman
Darren Thorneycroft
Alexander Skinner
Michael Johnson
Jason Peck
David McGraw
Stephanie Murphy
Robby Ticknor
Greg Masters
Christopher Parker
Terry Floyd
Greg Swartwout
Kendy Freeman
Darcey Kobs
Olaf Klutke
Kathryn Gavel

Christine Jordan
William Buzzell
Phillip Boyd
Rebecca Kurk
Robert Bulechek
Mark Edgar
Christopher Sessions
Nathan Barnum
Abigail Hamilton
Michelle Kingston
Tim Blessing
Charles Hough
Kristian Jungen
Kevin Cunningham
Douglas Maltais
Jonathan Prather
Brian Mork
Thomas Gandet
Steven Ferrari
Kathleen Polizzi
Daniel Vogel
Timothy Justice
Gregory Meckling
Gordon Feige
Arthur Thomas IV