



LIBERTY PLEDGE NEWSLETTER

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

AUGUST 1990

Libertarians Campaign for Ballot Initiatives

Libertarian activists around the country have been taking greater advantage of the opportunities presented by ballot initiative campaigns in recent months.

Illinois

Illinois Libertarians are active in the Tax Accountability Amendment, which would require a three-fifths vote of the Illinois legislature to pass any tax increase, as well as a two-week public notice and hearings prior to any tax increase. While recent polls show 77 percent of the people in support of the amendment, opponents filed suit to throw the amendment off the ballot on constitutional grounds. The TAA Committee won round one in the courts, and at press time were awaiting the decision of the Illinois Supreme Court on the matter.

California

San Francisco LP members were successful when voters recently passed an initiative calling on the state legislature to legalize intravenous needles. The effort sponsored by the LP gained the support of many other organizations, including the local Democratic Party.

Currently, California Libertarians are involved in Proposition 140, an initiative to limit the number of terms for state elected officials, eliminate the state officials' pension program,

and cut the overall legislative budget to 80 percent of the current level. Current polls show 70 percent voter approval, but proponents of the measure expect the opposition to spend as much as \$10 million on television ads opposing the measure. Other initiatives which California Libertarians have been involved in would require voter approval of some tax increases, require "super-majorities" for tax increase approval, and require voter approval of any changes to the initiative and referendum process.

Massachusetts

In Massachusetts, the state LP is involved in the Fair Ballot Access Initiative, which would cut the petition signature requirement from two percent of the vote for governor in the previous election to half of one percent. Libertarians collected over 80,000 signatures to place the initiative on the November ballot. The campaign has recently hired a public relations person to help get publicity for the initiative. This will be the first time voters have had the opportunity to speak on ballot access issues.

PAUL TO APPEAR ON C-SPAN

Ron Paul will appear on the C-Span cable network on a talk show, August 31 at 7:30pm. Don't forget to tune it!

LNC Meets in San Francisco

The Libertarian National Committee voted to trim expenses back to \$500,000 annually at its San Francisco meeting, August 11 and 12. The LNC also agreed to make a concerted effort to add prospect names from local LP campaign to national party lists for follow-up.

Arrangements for the 1991 Libertarian Party National Convention to be held in Chicago were also discussed at the meeting.

LIBERTARIAN PARTY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

1528 Pennsylvania Avenue, S.E. • Washington, D.C. 20003 • (202) 543-1988

Libertarian Party nominates Houston man for governor

TEXAS ELECTIONS '90

■ Negative ads.	1A
■ Political watchdogs.	27A
■ Convention notebook.	29A
■ Richards campaign.	30A

SAN ANTONIO — The Libertarian Party of Texas nominated Jeff Deseil of Houston for governor and used its annual convention Saturday to blast government intrusion in citizens' lives.

"The Republicans want to control people's personal lives, and the Democrats want to control their economic lives," said Mr. Deseil, who defeated Gene Mitchell of Austin for the party's gubernatorial nomination.

Mr. Deseil, 38, an electronics firm technical assistant, ran in 1988 for U.S. Senate as a Libertarian, and he sought a seat on the Houston City Council in 1979.

The Libertarian nominee said his chances of beating Democrat Ann Richards or Republican Clayton Williams in the Texas governor's race will not be his top concern as a candidate.

Officials said about 80 people attended the Libertarian gathering, which featured a slate of speakers addressing topics ranging from medicine to gun control to the possibility of Texas' secession from the union.

Other Libertarian candidates nominated for office include Gary Johnson of Austin for U.S. senator, Tom Owens of Midland for lieutenant governor and Ray E. Dittmar of Houston for attorney general.

William E. "Bill" Grisham of San Antonio was nominated for state comptroller, Richard C. Donaldson of Royce City for land commissioner, Karen Tegtmeyer of Dallas for agriculture commissioner and C.W. Steinbrecher for railroad commissioner.

Mr. Deseil said he opposed further restrictions on abortion and is against taxpayer-funded abortions. He told convention delegates that he sees a lottery as a possible alternative to raising state money but not as a method of adding to the tax base.

Switch to Libertarian Party

On June 5, for the first time, I actually enjoyed voting. For years, I have put up with the same election day frustrations that we all face: choosing between the lesser of two evils, frustrated because my vote was lost in the clamor of so many issues bundled together, wondering if going to the polls was worth the effort.

Then I discovered the Libertarian Party. I was surprised at how closely their philosophy matched my own: strong on personal freedoms like the liberals, strong on economic freedoms and fiscal responsibility like the conservatives.

Here at last was a political group I could truly identify with. My conversion was not instant, but the more I heard the more sense it made. After last November's election, I re-registered as a Libertarian.

The big surprise came in the polling booth, when I realized that even though my candidate would certainly not be elected, my vote would be heard. The Libertarian philosophy has some very powerful ideas about government. As our voice grows, the status-quo political machine will not be able to ignore it.

If you are tired of feeling that your vote is wasted on election day, try the Libertarian Party for a change.

Glen Rickard
Pleasant Hill

Contra Costa, CA Times
June 24, 1990.

Private 302 FROM PAGE A3

Tom McClintock, R-Camarillo, has latched onto the report and is calling for it to become a mainstay not only for budget negotiations but as a guide for Republican Party leadership.

But these notions flabbergast many other public officials.

Assemblyman Tom Hayden, the Santa Monica Democrat and chairman of the Assembly Labor Committee, said, "The cost of oversight and the new bureaucracy to make sure of quality control runs the bill up. The savings are a fiction."

These ideas are generated by people sitting in pristine environments and ideal intellectual settings who base their beliefs on models devoid of reality, he said.

There often is no perfect real competition but plenty of cut-throat, fly-by-night operations which could disappear in no time, he said.

Pat McConahay, a spokeswoman for the California State Employees Association, said there might be cost savings from contracting out for services, but that accountants often fail to note a decline in the quality of the services.

"We have the training, salary and benefits that create a good worker," McConahay said.

She pointed to a report filed this year by the Legislative Analyst's Office complaining that the private janitorial services, despite a \$10 million contract, were failing to clean state health service centers.

Poole said public employee organizations often complain for fear of losing their jobs. He claims he has heard of only a couple of dozen specific complaints while accumulating a 30,000-case file of privatization efforts in government.

"We're not saying this is a panacea for all problems or that it always works well," Poole said. But he added that many of the problems raised have more to do with contracting and oversight.

In 1982, Redondo Beach abandoned its publicly run residential garbage collection service and contracted with Western Waste. City Manager Tim Casey said a city poll showed the residents gave the service very high marks. Meanwhile, residents save about \$200,000 a year.

The savings occur largely because the trash hauler pays its workers less and provides many less benefits than the city had, he said.

On the downsides, Casey said, the city had to regain control of its data processing from a private company that suffered from high turnover. City employees now provide the service.

Casey said he thought contracting out worked better for jobs requiring semi-skilled and unskilled workers than for professional services.

South Bay Hospital in Redondo Beach is probably one of the biggest privatization efforts in the county. Owned by a public district covering three beach cities, the troubled facility was turned over to privately owned AMI, which manages and operates the hospital. AMI has paid millions of dollars to the district's board, which now acts as a philanthropic entity.

Officials in Albany, N.Y., seemed to agree with Poole, tried to sell their airport to Lockheed Company. Even though the Federal Aviation Administration has blocked the deal, an LAX study for a similar effort is continuing.

Assemblyman Richard Katz, D-Panorama City, chairman of the Assembly transportation committee, said people often forget street car lines were once in private hands, just as Poole might suggest they be today. But the lines were taken over at the public demand because of complaints of corruption, he said.

Katz, nonetheless, supports some proposals for selling public assets or finding ways to generate more profits from public facilities, like airports.

"Government doesn't have the resources and, in some cases, the abilities to get everything done," Katz said.

But Poole aims higher. Companies could build freeways next to public roads and charge drivers for the pleasure of escaping gridlock, he said.

To cut pollution, Poole thinks government ought to set the amount of pollution it can tolerate and then let each company have its share of pollution.

"I see the ongoing trends of governments continuing unless they suddenly get flush with resources," Poole said.

Torrence, CA Daily Breeze
June 24, 1990.



Robert Poole Jr. says the nation can benefit from the privatization of several government operations and programs.

THE PRIVATE LIFE

Group has plan to rely on a more free-market society

By Alan Janson
POLITICAL WRITER

Robert Poole Jr. of the Santa Monica-based Reason Foundation has a vision of California's future in which its drivers would pay tolls to cruise the freeways.

The face greeting arrivals at Los Angeles International Airport no longer would be Mayor Tom Bradley's, but that of the head of the corporation that bought the airport.

Oil companies no longer would be fined for polluting. They would pay for the right to pollute.

Crazy notions by some accounts, but Poole and his libertarian think tank have lots of listeners.

■ The state Department of Transportation, with the approval of the Legislature, will choose in August four locations for toll roads, built and maintained by profit-seeking companies.

■ Los Angeles airport officials are conducting a study that considers the sale of the airport to a private company. It could run the facility under authority of a city commission, Poole said.

■ The Southern California Association of Governments is co-sponsoring an event to hear "privatization" solutions for pollution that the foundation has fostered.

All have been influenced in one way or another by Poole and his foundation dedicated to what he calls "privatization."

"It's a vindication," Poole says, "not only for libertarianism and classical conservatism, but for what we've been saying for 25 years."

With governments from the local city councils up to Congress squeezed by tight budgets, Poole sees only a brighter future for his brand of thinking.

The foundation is based on "the traditional American principles of limited government, individual liberty, protection of property rights and economic freedom," one of its publications states.

While the Libertarian Party promotes similar philosophy, it also has promoted legalized drugs and prostitution.

But Poole's foundation would rather

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— Robert Poole Jr.
Reason Foundation
On privatization

generated more interest in his ideas with the publication of his book, *Cutting Back City Hall*.

The timing seemed right. Local governments were strapped for money and looking for new solutions.

Between the book and the political climate, Poole's and some libertarian thinking moved from the realm of interesting fringe ideas to mainstream thinking, he said.

But Poole realized that Santa Barbara was too far in the media backwaters. In 1986, he moved the foundation to Santa Monica, home already for a much better known think tank, RAND Corp.

"This has been a tremendous improvement," he said. "We have five times more visibility. We are more known to the world because this is a major media city."

Access to large business and government centers also has allowed the foundation to have a large impact on real problems.

The foundation's annual budget, consisting of private — never public — donations and paid subscriptions to *Reason* magazine, has reached \$2 million. Paid circulation for the monthly magazine has reached about 40,000, comparing favorably with "think" magazines like *Washington Monthly*, *American Spectator* and *Commentary*.

A week ago, the foundation released a report that spelled out \$1.3 billion in savings in the state budget. It called for the elimination of the California Arts Commission, the Agricultural Export Program and the Energy Commission's development program because they subsidize commercial activities.

It said the state could save \$339 million by contracting with private companies to manage and operate state prisons, developmental centers for the physically and mentally disabled and highway maintenance.

The largest share of the savings would come from forcing local governments to let the private sector compete for local services funded by the state.

concentrate on specific programs and policies that would save government, and therefore taxpayers, money through privatization.

These are heady times for the mild-mannered Poole, whose thoughts on government and society blossomed while attending MIT where he read Ayn Rand's philosophy in the early 1960s.

Poole went on to earn a master's degree, and took a job as a weapons-systems analyst at Sikorsky Aircraft.

"I was disillusioned with the large aerospace firm," he said. "After writing some, I found I didn't have to make a career in it."

Poole wrote his first article for a small publication called *Reason* and never turned back. He landed a think-tank job in General Research Corp. of Santa Barbara, where he studied municipal services and discovered that many cities already were finding alternatives to the public payroll for local services.

About the same time, Poole and several investors bought the Boston-based *Reason* magazine and began their own garage publishing business committed to the free market.

In 1978, just as California's tax revolt movement was hitting its stride, Poole incorporated the magazine into a non-profit foundation. Two years later, he

U.S. sugar prices leave sour taste for consumers

By STEPHEN CHAPMAN

If you're a typical American, you eat the equivalent of more than 130 pounds of sugar every year. I'm not trying to make you feel guilty — I'm trying to make you feel angry.

Every sweet bite, you see, is subject to a covert tax that goes not to reduce the federal budget deficit, but to help a politically powerful group of farmers and corporations. Whatever heft you add to your waistline with an apple pie or a chocolate chip cookie, these groups subtract directly from your wallet.

Maybe this scheme sounds like a shrewd government effort to promote dieting. That might be the only way to defend Washington's elaborate efforts to raise sugar prices, penalize consumers, enrich a handful of lucky Americans and impoverish poor countries that would be happy to satisfy our sugar cravings for a lot less than we're used to paying.

But Congress is reconsidering its generosity to the sugar lobby. The Senate will vote this week on a 2-cent cut in the domestic price of sugar, which is effectively set by federal decree. Thanks to the Bush administration's support, the measure may pass.

It would be a good start. The sugar program has the proud distinction of being the worst of all the government's foolish efforts to dictate what farmers do. Of course, it's advertised as being the best — because it costs taxpayers nothing.

The only reason you don't have to pay your sugar tithe to the Internal Revenue Service on April 15 is that you've spent the whole year paying at the grocery store. Americans pay nearly twice as much for raw sugar as they would if they bought it on the world market.

The price difference comes to you courtesy of the federal government, which sets strict limits on shipments from abroad. Since 1975, notes James Bovard in a recent study for the Cato Institute, sugar imports have been cut by 80 percent — not good news if you're a poor Third World sugar producer like the Philippines or Panama. Meanwhile, responding to the handsome rewards conferred by Washington, U.S. growers have been producing at a record rate.

It even means higher prices for some things that don't contain sugar.

A lot of soft drink companies and other manufacturers pinch pennies by using corn-based sweeteners instead — which might not be able to compete with sugar in a freer market.

The world price of sugar is about as stable as a Hollywood marriage, which means that in some years U.S. consumers pay only slightly more than the rest of the world, while in other years they get skinned alive. The Agriculture Department says that it has inflated food bills by nearly \$6 billion over the last three years.

The sugar program's defenders say this estimate is absurd, and that the cost to consumers is tiny. The argument is that Kellogg's and RJR Nabisco, if blessed with lower sugar prices, would cheerfully pocket the savings and keep charging consumers what they're charging now.

In the short run, this claim may be true: If the price of sugar in the United States were cut in half this morning, M&M's wouldn't go on sale from coast to coast this afternoon. But competitive pressures are bound to push prices down eventually.

As it is, the sugar program is a good reason for those sinister "industrial users" to pick up and leave. E.J. Brach's, the country's third-biggest candy-maker, says that because of U.S. sugar quotas it may close its Chicago plant and relocate to Canada or Mexico — taking 3,000 jobs with it.

Inflating American food bills in order to export American jobs — some recipe for national prosperity, huh? The sugar program is wasteful and embarrassing, which is exactly what Congress will be if it supports the chance for change.



CHAPMAN

Stephen Chapman is syndicated as a libertarian columnist. He writes for the Chicago Tribune.

Libertarians may gain ground

By DAVID A. ANDERSON
Democrat Staff Writer

ROCHESTER — The 1980s were lean years for Libertarians, but the party may be waking up for the 1990s.

Party leaders say they believe with more and more people becoming frustrated with their elected officials, the political landscape may be right for a third party that favors minimizing the role of government.

The previous decade began well enough for Libertarians.

Ed Clark, the party's well-financed presidential candidate in 1980, drew some attention during an election that also featured independent John Anderson.

Because Clark had enough money to circulate the party's message, and because the 1980 race looked more like a multi-party election than any other modern-day presidential election, that year raised the hopes of a number of people in the party.

However, that election also produced Ronald Reagan, a man whose "government is the problem" message sounded very similar to the call of many Libertarians.

The party was formed in 1971 on the platform of advocating economic and personal freedom. Libertarians generally believe government should only be involved in police, courts, and national defense. Everything else, they say, can be done better by private enterprise.

The election of Reagan, according to Bill Winter, state Libertarian Party chairman, quieted Libertarians for much of the decade.

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Co-optation is not necessarily a bad thing for third parties in our



Miriam Luce

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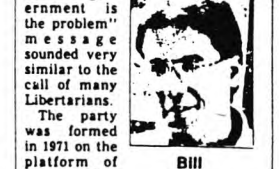
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Bill Winter

Winter said since Gregg is not pro-choice and not all of the Democratic candidates are pro-choice, it is possible the Libertarian party will nominate the only gubernatorial pro-choice candidate.

Winter said he is optimistic the current frustration with the performance of government will continue to spark interest in the Libertarian Party's push to decrease the scope of government.

He said third parties have often played the role of catalyst during previous periods of change in the United States.

Usually that happens when the nation begins to move in the direction the third party is leading, like when the nation in the mid-19th century followed the Republican push against slavery.

Winter said the current frustration with the performance of both major parties makes this a time of opportunity for his party.

☆ Libertarians
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Portland Sunday Oregonian, July 15, 1990.

Libertarians formally back food tax repeal

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Utah Libertarians formally endorsed at their state convention a Nov. 6 ballot initiative to repeal the sales tax on groceries.

And the 50 Libertarian delegates, gathering Saturday, also unleashed two new petition drives of their own for a future ballot.

The first would place a question asking whether juries should be able to set aside rigid verdict instructions and statute interpretations in criminal cases and be able to vote "their conscience based on facts."

A second would turn over liquor sales to private enterprise in an attempt "to legalize adulthood in Utah."

The Libertarians' so-called "Fully Informed Jury" petition was cleared for signature collections Friday by the Utah lieutenant governor, according to party officials.

The so-called SOBER initiative — standing for Society Opposing Bad Entertainment Regulations

— is still being reviewed by the Utah attorney general for any constitutional snarls.

"This initiative is designed so that people who drink responsibly, the state has nothing to do with," explained Bob Waldrop, a former Utah Libertarian Party chairman and the SOBER initiative's chief sponsor.

"If they drink irresponsibly, boom, the state comes down on them like a ton of bricks," said Waldrop, noting the initiative's stringent sentencing and restitution edicts.

Both petitions would need nearly 65,000 signatures by Utah's registered voters over the next two years to be directly placed on the 1992 statewide ballot.

Assembled at M. Lynn Benning Elementary School, the Libertarian delegates ended their work Saturday with quick, unanimous endorsement of Nov. 6's food-tax repeal — largely a spinoff of 1988's tax-protest movement.

Libertarian seeks to make drugs legal

By James Goodman
Democrat and Chronicle

W. Gary Johnson readily admits his chances of becoming the next governor of New York are slim, but the 35-year-old Manhattan insurance-sales representative hopes to give the Libertarian cause a boost. Johnson's campaign appearance in Rochester yesterday suggests that he'll stand apart from the major candidates on the drug issue.

"We're going to have to go the decriminalization route — and give addicts an opportunity to come out," said Johnson at a news conference outside the Federal Building.

Johnson said that making drugs illegal has only exacerbated the problem.

"Prohibitions have made drug dealing so profitable, so lucrative. You don't have people peddling gin and vodka and beer and tobacco because these things are legally available in stores in a controlled environment."

Decriminalization of drugs is part of Johnson's philosophy: the best government is one that governs least.

Still, Johnson said political realities would prevent dismantling the existing social welfare system. "I'm not saying we need to abolish these programs tomorrow. I would look toward providing alternatives."

Today, Johnson will appear at a picnic organized by Rochester Libertarians. The event, which begins at 1 p.m. and is open to the public, will be held at the Valley View Shelter at Webster Park.



W. Gary Johnson

The Sacramento Bee Final • Monday July 16, 1990

Third-party voices

Re "A 5-minute fix for campaigns." Forum, July 1: Writer Paul Taylor proposes forcing radio and TV stations to grant five minutes of free air time to presidential nominees each day during prime audience time, the Democratic and Republican nominees alternating, while the ballot-qualified nominees of all other parties can go to hell.

But if there is one factor that can cause major party candidates to address the issues it is the inclusion of one or more third party candidates in a public forum. What these candidates lack in funding and experience they often make up for in ideas and innovative approaches to society's problems — ideas that are sometimes adopted by the major parties.

As examples, look at the worldwide trend now toward privatization or "service shedding" by governments, which was first championed by the Libertarian Party. Or consider the Socialist Party's earlier success in getting its platform (including Social Security and a progressive income tax) implemented by both the Republicans and Democrats.

Taylor's idea may serve to strengthen the Republican and Democratic Party power structures, but it is just one more example of how these parties effectively kill off new voices.

Cool.

JIM McCLARIN.

A 4TH OF JULY PROPOSAL: LET'S WORK FOR LIBERTY AGAIN!

Has America lost sight of the real meaning of the 4th of July?

The day was originally set aside to honor the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the document which proclaimed the United States of America an independent country, free of the taxes and tyranny of England.

But now, a little more than 200 years later, our freedoms are under attack again.

The Declaration of Independence is best known for its stirring definition of the rights of free men, including "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." But it also listed specific grievances against the oppressive English government. While some of those grievances might seem archaic, one is still worth quoting:

"He has erected a multitude of new Offices, and sent hither a swarm of Officers to harass our People, and eat out their substance."

That was Thomas Jefferson's complaint against King George in 1776—but have you ever read a better description of the Internal



Revenue Service of 1990? Like the "multitude of officers" eating "out our substance" in colonial America, the IRS is threatening the liberty we've worked so hard to protect. Just look at the facts:

There are over 123,000 IRS employees, leading *Time* magazine to call it "the largest and most feared bureaucracy." IRS agents have the license to confiscate your wealth, seize your bank account, and force you to incriminate yourself without due

Paid for by the Libertarian Party of New Hampshire (John Elnou, Treasurer), and Tom Lawrence.

process of law. In spite of the fact that even the IRS can't agree on the meaning of the massive tax code, the taxpayer is never excused for filing errors. No wonder Malcolm Forbes once said: "I think the terror most people are concerned with is the IRS."

Something has to be done. If you want to stop the erosion of liberty in this country, consider joining the Libertarian Party. The third largest and fastest growing political party in the country, the Libertarian Party is dedicated to a smaller, less intrusive government—and dedicated to protecting the rights we gained in the Declaration of Independence and celebrate on the 4th of July. Including the right not to live in fear of the IRS.

After all, as Andre Marrou, a former Libertarian state Legislator from Alaska said: "This shouldn't be the kind of country where we have to live in fear of our government."

For a no-obligation information package about the Libertarian Party, write: LPNH, P.O. Box 669, Windham, NH 03087.

Savannah, GA, Press, June 27, 1990.

Libertarian Candidate Rand Qualifies for November List

ATLANTA (AP) — Georgians will be able to choose a governor from one of three parties when they go to the polls in November.

In addition to the Republican and Democratic nominees, who will be selected in the July 17 party primaries and runoffs, the ballot will list a woman representing the Libertarian Party, Carole Ann Rand of Atlanta, who paid her qualifying fee Tuesday.

She said the party stands for unrestricted personal freedom, with the exception of force and fraud against other people. She said she favors decriminalization of drugs, a voucher system that would allow parents to choose among public or private schools, unrestricted abortion rights and legalized gambling.

Mrs. Rand, who was nominated at a party convention this spring, is the first Libertarian Party candidate for governor whose name will be printed on the ballot.

The Libertarian Party submitted petitions with 26,000 signatures of registered voters in 1988 to place

three candidates for the Public Service Commission on the ballot statewide.

The party won the right to place candidates on the statewide ballot without a petition when one of those candidates, Elizabeth Goldin, got more than 1 percent of the votes cast. She got 4.2 percent of the vote in a four-person race.

Also qualifying Tuesday were Libertarians Walker Chandler, candidate for lieutenant governor, and Ms. Goldin, who is seeking the PSC seat now held by Billy Lovett, who is retiring to run for insurance commissioner.

Meanwhile, Lt. Gov. Zell Miller's Democratic gubernatorial campaign tried to put out a political fire Tuesday involving a phony campaign letter mailed on Miller's stationery to church leaders around Georgia.

Miller has asked the U.S. Postal Service to investigate the fraudulent letter, which attacks four Democratic candidates and asks for campaign contributions.