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Liberty Pledge

► NEWSLETTER

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LP state parties battle unfair election laws

Across the country, the Libertarian Party has launched a wave of lawsuits to try to loosen the Republican and Democratic stranglehold on the election system — with a mixed record of wins and losses.

■ In **Michigan**, the party filed a lawsuit on March 5th challenging a new law that prohibits Libertarians from serving as Election Inspectors. “If only Democrats and Republicans can work the polls, how will the state guarantee impartiality for independent and minor party candidates?” asked State Chair Emily Salvette.

■ In **Illinois**, the Libertarian Party has filed a notice to appeal a decision on their lawsuit to win the right to nominate candidates for Congress by primary. “The premise of our lawsuit is simple,” said Illinois LP State Chair Mike Ginsberg. “The U.S. Constitution specifies age and residency requirements [for political office]. It makes no mention of penalizing third party candidates with onerous petitioning requirements not imposed upon the two major parties.”

■ In **Georgia**, 1994 LP candidate for Lt. Governor Walker Chandler lost a lawsuit challenging a state law denying ballot status to any candidate who fails to pass a test for illegal drug usage. The 11th Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the law on a 2-1 vote in late January. “These tests are just another step down the road to increasing Big Government intrusion into our lives. Where will they stop? Will we soon be testing voters?” asked Chandler.

■ In **North Carolina**, the state party is taking a lawsuit to the Supreme Court. In late January, they filed the case of *McLaughlin vs. N.C. Election Board* with the nation’s highest court, arguing that North Carolina’s requirement that a party must poll 10% for governor or president to stay on the ballot is unconstitutional.

■ In **Washington, DC**, LP National Director Perry Willis and State Chair Gene Cisewski testified in U.S. District Court in February against Initiative 41, which restricted campaign contributions. “The law seriously infringes on free speech rights and unfairly gives incumbent parties a tremendous edge in raising money,” said Cisewski.

■ In a court victory in **Arizona**, a judge ruled in early February that the LP could not be forced to hold a presidential primary. The Arizona LP had contended that the state had no right to tell political parties how to pick their presidential nominee, especially at taxpayer’s expense.

Delaware LP member launches group to “dilute” AARP’s clout

A long-time Libertarian activist in Delaware wants to make the future SAFE for senior citizens — and is prepared to battle one of the nation’s most powerful special interest groups to accomplish that goal.

William Morris, 75, has helped form a new organization called Seniors Against Federal Extravagance (SAFE) to “counter the big government lobbyists” of the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP).

“Most members do not realize the harmful nature of the political activities of the AARP,” said Morris.

Morris said SAFE has two principal goals: “No. 1, push for decreasing government spending. No. 2, dilute the lobbying effort of AARP to help achieve purpose No. 1.”

Why is Morris targeting AARP? “We are very concerned about the growth of the federal government, and the huge debt being left for our children and grandchildren,” he explained. “The AARP is part of the problem — [it] has consistently pushed for more government spending.”

A 1993 National Taxpayer’s Union study confirmed his accusations. According to NTU, AARP “is advancing policies that would increase annual federal spending by at least \$1 trillion over the next decade.”

Morris started the non-partisan SAFE with other disgruntled AARP members last year. Already, more than 200 people have signed a petition in support of SAFE’s goals. “I believe the time is ripe for SAFE,” he said.

Popular Non Sequitur cartoonist acknowledges libertarian influence

A nationally-syndicated cartoonist — known for his pronounced anti-government comic strips — has admitted that he agrees “with a lot of the Libertarian point of view.”

The creator of the popular *Non Sequitur* cartoon, who signs his strips with the single name “Wiley,” was asked recently via e-mail if he considers himself a Libertarian. Wiley’s response was: “I do not label myself in any manner, as no single group has all the answers. But I agree with a lot of the libertarian point of view.”

Non Sequitur has a history of libertarian-flavored themes. For example, Wiley’s February 11, 1996 cartoon showed a caveman setting up a sign. Several other cave-men gather around to read the sign, which says: “Deposit 1/3 of Income. Expect Nothing. Get What You Expect.” The caption: “The First Formation of Government.”

Libertarians pay to vote

State won't fund 3rd-party House primary



Photo by Christopher B. Corder/The Washington Times



Photo by Ross D. Franklin/The Washington Times

Libertarian primary candidate Bob Creager (left) addresses a Senate hearing on voting. He faces Terry Atwood in a party election tomorrow.

◀ *The Washington Times*
Washington, DC
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1996

By Karen Carstens
CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Libertarians — who believe in a small, limited government — will put their money where their mouths are tomorrow, when two party members square off for the nomination in Maryland's 8th Congressional District.

The Libertarian Party is paying for the primary because the state will not.

"This is the first time ever that we're holding a privately run primary for a congressional election," said Jesse Markowitz, chairman of the Maryland Libertarian Party.

It is also the only third-party primary being held in the state, Mr. Markowitz said.

But, then, the Libertarians are the only other legal party in the state, after the Republicans and the Democrats.

The state recognized the Libertarian Party in June, when party workers submitted petitions containing the signatures of more than 10,000 registered voters.

Since then, the party has graduated to its first primary, fielding two candidates who are vying for the chance to run for the 8th District seat held for five terms by Rep. Constance A. Morella, a Republican.

Mrs. Morella faces three GOP challengers in the primary tomorrow, while nine Democrats are vying for the chance to take on the incumbent in November.



In the Libertarian primary, Terry Atwood, 45, of Bethesda will face Bob Creager, 46, of Burtonsville.

Mr. Markowitz said he expects more than half of the roughly 200 Libertarian voters in the district to turn out to vote at the party's single polling place, Twinbrook Library in Rockville.

The party was forced to pay for its own primary because it didn't meet a state requirement that says 10 percent of the state's voters must be registered with a party before its candidates can appear on the regular primary ballot.

"It's a lot of work," Mr. Markowitz said.

"When you explain the law to most people in the state of Maryland, they're flabbergasted, shocked ... at the hurdles and the hoops through which the Democrats and the Republicans make everyone else jump to compete," he said.

Richard Winger agreed that Maryland's requirement is a tough one. He is the publisher of Ballot Access News, a newsletter that monitors states' ballot-access laws.

"No third party in any state has gotten even 5 percent registration membership since the 1910s," Mr. Winger said.

Winning recognition as a legitimate party was only the "first hurdle" for potential Libertarian candidates, said Mr. Markowitz, who estimates that 4,500 hours of work went into collecting more than 10,000 signatures.

Those signatures allow the party to get a presidential or vice-presidential candidate on the general election ballot. To field a candidate for any other office — such as the 8th Congressional District — the Libertarians must go through a second step and obtain the signatures of at least 3 percent of the voters eligible to vote for that particular office.

Neither Mr. Atwood, a systems engineer for I-NET, nor Mr. Creager, a systems integrator with BDM, intend to obtain the signatures if they become their party's nominee.

The signatures would have to be submitted by August in order for their names to appear on the November ballot.

"I don't have the resources to conduct that kind of petitioning in that short a time," Mr. Atwood said.

Instead, the party plans to get a candidate on the general election ballot by filing a federal lawsuit, if necessary, Mr. Markowitz said.

Challenging the state law was Mr. Creager's main reason for entering the race.

"I thought this would be a good opportunity to test that law," he said.

Unlike Mr. Creager, Mr. Atwood said his primary imperative for running was not to alter the legal situation, but to protect civil liberties.

Both seek to promote the Libertarian Party platform of smaller government, including the lowering of — or in Mr. Creager's case the complete eradication of — federal taxes.

Libertarians believe in a small, limited government, "and that people should be able to eat, sleep, dream, make love, the way they want to, as long as they're not raping, killing, stealing," Mr. Markowitz said. The party also favors "private solutions to a lot of the problems the government is now trying to solve," he said.

A spokeswoman for Mrs. Morella said the congresswoman "really didn't know anything about" the Libertarian primary.

A bill pending in the Maryland General Assembly could clear a path for the primary winner to the general election ballot. The bill, sponsored by State Sen. Paul Pinsky, Prince George's County Democrat, would do away with petition requirements for third-party candidates once the party itself qualified under the 10,000-signature rule.

Under Mr. Pinsky's bill, independent candidates not affiliated with any party would still need to collect signatures from 1 percent of the voters. A similar measure failed last year.

"The bill doesn't change the law to make it a level playing field, it's just not quite so slanted against us," Mr. Markowitz said.

Ginsberg touts Libertarian plan to balance budget

State party leader says GOP plan would take seven years too long

By **John Roszkowski**
Journal-Standard Reporter

FREEPORT — Mike Ginsberg believes the time has come for less government, not more.

Ginsberg, state chairman of the Libertarian Party, said that message is starting to strike a chord among voters who are tired of seeing their tax dollars going to support an ever-increasing federal government debt.

In Illinois, Ginsberg said the Libertarian Party has made history by becoming the first third party in 100 years to qualify for ballot status in the primary elections for U.S. Senate and president.

"The state made it extremely tough on us, but we beat the odds and we're on the ballot," said Ginsberg, who made stops in Freeport and other northern Illinois communities last week to tout the Libertarian platform. Ginsberg said the Libertarian Party has some of the "most qualified candidates it's ever run" for public office in the upcoming elections.

Robin Miller, who garnered 200,000 votes for University of Illinois trustee during the last election, will face Dave Hoscheidt, a Bloomington lawyer, in the Libertarian primary for Senate on March 19.

In the presidential primary, Harry Browne, a financial analyst from Franklin, Tenn., and author of a book entitled "Why Government Doesn't Work," will face Irwin Shift, a tax analyst from Las Vegas.

Ginsberg said the Libertarians disagree with the current national debate by the two major political parties over reducing the federal debt.

The Republicans, for example, have proposed a balanced budget in seven years and the Democrats have no clear timetable for balancing the budget, he said.

Ginsberg said the seven-year balanced budget takes too long and does nothing to pay off the existing \$5

“At the end of seven years, the debt's going to look more like \$7 trillion. If anybody other than government tells you it's going to take more than seven years to balance your budget, they would call it bankruptcy.”

Mike Ginsberg
state chairman of the
Libertarian party

trillion federal debt.

"At the end of seven years, the debt's going to look more like \$7 trillion," he said. "If anybody other than government tells you it's going to take more than seven years to balance your budget, they would call it bankruptcy."

The Libertarian platform calls for "shrinking the size of government by getting out of services the government shouldn't be providing," Ginsberg said. Their plan calls for balancing the budget immediately and paying off the federal debt in five years by selling off government assets.

Social Security, for example, would be replaced by a privately run and operated savings system, Ginsberg said. And, with the size of the federal government reduced, he said the federal government could sell off many of 441,000 buildings it currently owns.

In foreign affairs, Ginsberg said the Libertarian platform calls for a hands off policy that fosters peace and open trade rather than "forcing our political might on other countries."

He said recent military missions in Somalia, Haiti and Bosnia have made those countries contemptuous of the United States, not earned respect.

"We're not the global policeman," he said. "We do not have the authority to meddle in other nations' problems."

Libertarian chair supports minimal government

By **MIKE PERKINS**
Editor

More Americans than ever complain to pollsters that they are chafing under the tax and regulatory burdens imposed by a federal government they no longer trust. That gloomy assessment of the national mood is music to Steve Dasbach's ears.

Dasbach, of Fort Wayne, is national chairman of the Libertarian Party, the keeper of a political philosophy stressing individual freedom and responsibility with minimal government involvement in people's lives. And to hear him explain the party's platform planks to an audience at Huntington College Monday night as part of the Forester Lecture series, the Libertarians have the prescription for what ails America.

"Our party is the party of economic freedom," the Whitko High School chemistry teacher said. "It's a party that believes you can make decisions about your personal life better than the politicians in Huntington, Indianapolis, or Washington can."

It's also a party that has been a political presence on the national scene for decades but is only recently had much success getting its presidential candidates on state ballots. It's also a party whose controversial positions on legalization of drugs (favors) and the individual income tax (opposes) have overshadowed its traditional belief in limited government and personal accountability that has found mainstream acceptance in society today.

"Americans are getting frustrated," Dasbach declared. "They seek the nation's problems getting worse, government getting larger, and their paychecks getting smaller. Americans are looking for a third party — and we're here."

The Christian Science Monitor recently has the Libertarians "the closest thing to a real third party in America today."

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But media attention in recent elections has been directed at the third-party efforts of Ross Perot and Jesse Jackson. Dasbach said the party's fortunes bottomed out a decade ago and his job has been to rebuild its grass roots to provide candidates at all levels of government as a political foundation for success at the national level.

"Day-to-day had work is the key to building a minor party," he explained. "Things are looking better for us. We've recently moved our national headquarters from a rather bad section of Washington into the Watergate."

Then he laughed: "Nixon nearly destroyed the Republican Party at Watergate. Now that we're in there, maybe we can finish the job."

Dasbach is disdainful of Republicans and Democrats, labeling both parties as defenders of the status quo. A self-described former liberal Democrat, he is particularly disappointed with what the GOP has achieved since it gained control of Congress in 1994.

"The Republicans have been way too timid in what they're tried to accomplish," he said. "They've chosen to talk about these terrible personal sacrifices that accompany change when they should have been talking about what the long-term benefits to individuals will be from what they're trying to accomplish."

"Newt Gingrich himself said if the public perceives that it will continue to be business as usual in Washington that there will be a massive movement to a third political party."

"We think that it's still business as usual. Both parties just cutting

up the pork differently."

Dasbach tailored much of his message Monday to the students in his audience, who he said will have no Social Security unless radical reforms are made in the system he called "a rip-off ... chain-letter Ponzi scheme."

"The only faith there is in retirement is in the willingness of the next generation to pay ever-increasing taxes to pay for it," he declared, suggesting that the government sell assets to provide annuities to everyone currently in the system and allow young workers to count on private investments for their retirement.

"Most Americans would be millionaires by the time they retire if they could take the money they put into Social Security and invest it," he asserted. "But now we have a system that is going to take 70 to 80 percent tax rates in the next generation to fund."

A student asked Dasbach where the Libertarians would get the money to continue to pay for the few government services they support — national defense, police, the courts, and some infrastructure.

"Basically, from anything but a personal income tax," he responded, citing user fees, corporate income taxes, tariffs and "as unobtrusive taxes as possible" as potential revenue sources.

He said a coercive tax system funds misguided government solutions to the problems of poverty and the environment as well as education.

"If you compel people to pay, people will always find ways to avoid paying," he said, contending that as the problems grow, the government now must grow to keep pace with them.

▲ *The Journal-Standard*
Freeport, Illinois
February 19, 1996

► *The Huntington Herald-Press*
Huntington, Indiana
February 13, 1996

Libertarian organizers seek disaffected voters

Party plans to address local issues, candidates

By John Clarke
Herald Staff Writer

Depressed by Democrats? Roughed up by Republicans? Maybe the Libertarian Party is more your style.

If you find certain aspects of both parties appealing but can't find a home in either one of them, then perhaps the Libertarian Party is what you have been looking for.

After years of lying dormant — or near-dead, the La Plata Libertarian Party (LP²) is readying itself for the upcoming state and national elections.

Leading the local reach-out campaign is Dugan & Associates attorney Bill Zimsky and developer Brad Elder, both Durango residents.



Zimsky



Elder

As of May 1995, there were only 27 registered Libertarians in La Plata County. Zimsky and Elder hope to change that.

"We need to pull together people with similar interests and desires that are not finding a home in either party," said Elder, a registered Libertarian for 15 years.

"We're going to start small and

just try to work up and see what we can do about fielding a candidate," Zimsky added. "Maybe something local, like a county commissioner."

Zimsky and Elder said they hope to have the party start out taking up local issues such as land use and private property rights.

Like any other political party, Libertarians has a variety of extreme members from the gun-toting constitutionalists to the pro-hemp hippies. But all Libertarians share a belief in personal freedom and responsibility and the desire to reduce government an absolute minimum.

The general principles of the 25-year-old Libertarian Party are individual freedom, responsibility and a healthy dose of constitutional

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has wandered far from its original legislative intents.

"We were formed on rock-solid principles," said Zimsky, a registered Libertarian for the past three years. "But we've strayed to a welfare state and there's a loss of freedom."

Though some Libertarian ideals may sound distinctively Republican, they rarely share the same philosophy.

For instance, where the majority of Republicans want to do away with welfare, the Libertarians want to localize it and change it to a voluntary system.

Libertarians see restrictions of any kind, from forced welfare to forced religion, as a threat to their individuality and freedom.

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fundamentalism.

According to the party's statement of principles, Libertarians believe all individuals have the right to live whatever way they choose, just as long as they do not "forcibly" interfere with the equal rights of others.

They also believe the government should not violate an individual's rights or infringe on a person's liberty of free speech and action, including censorship in any form.

Libertarians also strongly oppose any government interference with private property.

For both Zimsky and Elder, the ways and means of United States

▲ (Above) *The Durango Herald*, Durango, Colorado, February 20, 1996

▲ (Right) *The Athens Messenger*, Athens, Ohio, February 20, 1996

▶ *USA Today*, Washington, DC, Arlington, Virginia, February 29, 1996

▼ *The Herald Bulletin*, Anderson, Indiana, January 21, 1996

Third parties: Libertarian Party offers voters an alternative

It's more than a political party, it's a philosophy

By PAUL ZIMMERMAN
Anderson resident



Zimmerman

These principles the party has developed positions that are coherent and internally consistent.

I will examine each of these principles in some detail.

Free will is the essential underpinning of Libertarianism. How can one have liberty unless one is free to choose and act? How can one be held responsible for one's actions unless one has a choice regarding one's actions? How can one take credit for one's achievements unless he is an agent of free will?

Seems like pretty basic stuff, but many politicians preach the opposite of free will: determinism.

Certainly they don't say that determinism is what they preach.

VIEWPOINT

but it is. People are not individuals who are what and where they are because of the choices they have made, but rather they are inert balls in a giant societal pinball machine, receiving their direction from forces outside themselves (race, socio-economic status, genetic make up, whatever).

Thus the stage is set for governmental intervention since it is up to these wise politicians to guide the masses as they see fit. These are the individuals who apparently do not believe that people are capable of running their own lives, yet somehow they themselves have been blessed with the wisdom not only to run their own lives, but the lives of other people as well.

The next point is self ownership. Who owns you? You do. Seems

simple enough, but we live in a country in which the state, that is the government, operates with the belief that it owns everything, even us.

The state tells us what substances we may or may not put into our body. It tells us how much we can sell our time and labor for and in what labors we may or may not engage. It tells us which medical procedures we are allowed to undergo and which ones we cannot.

I could go on and on, but suffice it to say that I own me and you own you, and no matter what sophistry or tyranny comes out of Indianapolis or Washington this basic fact remains.

The next principle is nonaggression against people or their property. It is first necessary to say who owns what. I own myself and I own the fruits of my labor. I voluntarily work for my employer and he in turn pays me for my labor. I

also own the money that I have earned.

Having established that I own me and having established what constitutes my property I can now state that I and I alone can decide what to do with me and my labor and my property.

Having said this, I and others are free to voluntarily interact or not interact as we agree. Thus you have a service or product that I want and I have a product or service that you want and we voluntarily enter into a mutual exchange. It has often been said that Libertarians believe in capitalist acts between consenting adults.

In other words, individuals should be free to do anything that they want as long as they do not aggress against the person or property of others. To do otherwise is wrong. To take someone's property without his consent is wrong and is theft. To attack

someone or his property is wrong. Our interactions with others should be peaceful and voluntary; it is wrong to use force or coercion against others.

See where this is going? Right is right and wrong is wrong. It is wrong for individuals to steal. It is wrong for individuals to murder. If an action is wrong for an individual to engage in, it is wrong for the state to engage in.

The Libertarian Party stands for individual liberty and minimal state interference in our lives.

If this sounds like something you'd like to learn more about feel free to contact the National Libertarian Party at 1 (800) 682-1776 or the Libertarian Party of Indiana at 1 (800) 633-1776.

Paul Zimmerman is a resident of Anderson. He has been active in the Libertarian Party for 15 years.

Vice presidential candidate to visit

Jorgensen to speak on Republican party

Libertarian vice presidential candidate Jo Jorgensen will be in Athens Friday.

According to Donald Gallick of Athens, secretary of the state Libertarian Party, Jorgensen will speak about the Republican Party, particularly "how they make a lot of promises, but don't back them up," he said.

Her speech will be at Ohio University's Irvine Hall room 199 Friday from 1 to 2 p.m.

Gallick said one of the main platforms of the Libertarian Party focuses on the Bill of Rights, charging that it has been subverted over the years.

Before visiting the OU campus, Jorgensen will be a panelist Thursday in a debate in Columbus. The topic will be "Drug Legalization (or Decriminalization) and Its Effects on Society."

The Libertarians' nominating convention will be held July 3-6 in Washington, D.C.

If Jorgensen receives the nomination, she will be the third female vice presidential candidate in the history of the Libertarian Party.

Nancy Lord ran in 1992, and Tonic Nathan sought the nomination in 1972.

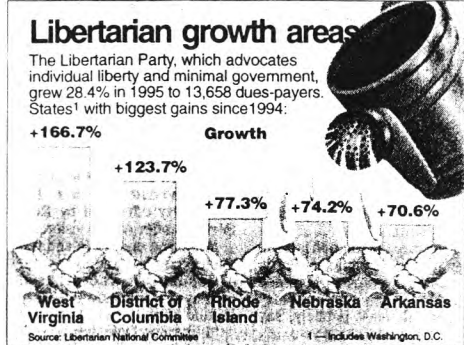
A resident of Greenville, S.C., Jorgensen is president and part owner of DigiTech Inc., a software production company.

She is the former vice chairwoman of the South Carolina Libertarian Party. She has also worked as a marketing director for the national Libertarian Party. Four years ago, Jorgensen was a Libertarian candidate for Congress.

Jorgensen worked three years as a marketing representative for IBM before founding her own company. She has a masters degree in business administration from Southern Methodist University and a bachelors degree in psychology from Baylor University.

USA SNAPSHOTS®

A look at statistics that shape the nation



By Dairde R. Schwesow, Anne R. Carey and Marcy E. Mullins, USA TODAY