

LIBERTY PLEDGE

NEWSLETTER

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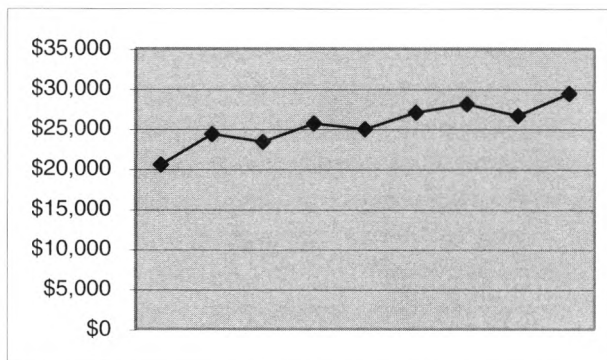
Monthly Pledge grows from \$20k to \$29k; thanks for your support!

*By Wes Benedict
 Executive Director
 Libertarian National Committee*

Our monthly pledge program **surpassed \$29,000** for April. That is incredible growth from a low of \$20,504 back in August when we started focusing intensely on improving pledges.

		Pledgers	Amount
December	2008	1,045	\$24,468
August	2009	902	\$20,504
September	2009	940	\$24,301
October	2009	933	\$23,353
November	2009	1,035	\$25,623
December	2009	1,012	\$24,907
<i>Goal for December 2009</i>		<i>1,000</i>	<i>\$25,000</i>
January	2010	1,089	\$26,969
February	2010	1,120	\$28,019
March	2010	1,102	\$26,594
April	2010	1,210	\$29,331
<i>Goal for April 2010</i>		<i>1,200</i>	<i>\$28,000</i>

Here's a graph of the pledge total since last August:



That roughly \$9,000 increase, if sustained, would mean an extra \$108,000 per year. That's a big boost to our overall revenue. (Our annual budget has been between \$1 million and \$2 million for many years.)

With the U.S. economy in such bad shape and unemployment remaining high, it's especially encouraging to see our donors coming through for the LP.

Our staff has focused on customer service, keeping expenses low, and improving fundraising so that we can be prepared for the upcoming November elections. Since we're operating with a smaller staff than in recent years, we haven't been able to provide a lot of direct assistance to our states with candidate recruitment.

Instead, we have tried to provide broad encouragement by pointing out how running for office is one of the best ways to promote liberty and the Libertarian Party. We have repeated the message that candidates make a difference whether they win or lose, and that seems to be effective at getting people to run.

It looks like we will have more candidates on the ballot this year than in 2006 or 2008. We already have **over 600 candidates** from 33 states listed on our website.

I also want to mention that our National Convention will be happening right around the time you receive this issue of Liberty Pledge News. I hope you are able to attend. The convention will elect new officers and Libertarian National Committee representatives from around the country.

Our LNC representatives are some of the most dedicated activists in the party. They are unpaid volunteers and pay their own expenses to attend quarterly board meetings. Many of them are monthly pledgers to the party as well.

Unlike the federal government, the LP is working hard to get its financial house in order. Thank you for your past and continuing support. I'm looking forward to a great election season.

Libertarian Party: On the Trail

Texas Party Secures \$150,000 Matching Challenge

from Pat Dixon, Texas LP chair

The Libertarian Party of Texas state committee passed an annual budget of \$370,000 at their meeting Feb 28 in Austin. A large component of this budget is comprised of a \$150,000 matching challenge by a donor to the party. For every dollar contributed in 2010 to the Libertarian Party of Texas, this donor will match that contribution up to \$150,000, yielding \$300,000 in revenue to the party. The party also has approximately \$85,000 in reserve from the previous year.

Under executive director Robert Butler, the party has opened an office near the University of Texas campus and hired Membership Coordinator Heather Fazio to work from the office in Austin. In addition, Butler has hired Amie Parsons from Dallas as the North Texas regional director, Christie Cole Pearson from Houston as the Gulf Coast area regional coordinator, and Kris Russell from College Station as Campus Coordinator.

"We are getting significant investment in our party this year, and we have to deliver results in November to merit continuation of that investment," says state chair Pat Dixon. "We are hoping that our membership will support us in meeting the challenge to take advantage of \$150,000 offered to us."

Libertarian Message To Harrisonburg Commonwealth's Attorney Marsha Garst: Resign!

from the Virginia LP

On Friday, April 16, 2010, Rockingham County Commonwealth's Attorney Marsha Garst arrived at the offices of 'The Breeze' (the James Madison University student newspaper) with police officers in a raid demanding photographs taken

during an altercation between police and students at Springfest on April 10. They told the editor, Katie Thisdell, if she didn't comply, they would seize computers and other equipment.

"This is absolutely chilling," said Bill Wood, Chairman of the Libertarian Party of Virginia.

"It is the kind of thing you would hear happening in the former Soviet Union or Cuba, not in the United States of America. In this country we respect the freedom of the press, which is fundamental in protecting our liberty. Ms. Garst should immediately offer her resignation. Based on her actions, she is unfit for public office. Any government official who violates the Bill of Rights should be removed and prosecuted."

"And it was over in less than 5 minutes"

from Kevin Knedler, Ohio LP chair

Yes, that was the time I spent in my polling place in rural Delaware County on Tuesday morning, May 4. With anticipation, I drove to the Methodist Church, which is also my voting center. As I walked in, I felt both hope that the poll workers would "get it right" and excitement that I would actually be able to vote for something principled. As it should be, the poll worker asked me "which ballot" I wanted. Euphoria and some human emotion gripped me as I stated, "I want the Libertarian ballot"! As they handed me the LP ballot, I realized I had done it. For the first time in over 20 years I was no longer "unaffiliated." I was part of a party and part of a movement. The past 5 years of hard work as a leader in the Libertarian Party of Ohio; the memories of court battles, attorney meetings, sitting in Judge chambers; and presentations to members of the Ohio Assembly SUDDENLY became worth it.

I was at this point because of not only the recent work, but that of others that had fought for ballot access freedoms before me. Those champions of Liberty in Ohio should not go unnoticed, because they did some serious heavy lifting in the 1980's

Libertarian Party in the News

Tea Party activists rally in Austin

KVUE, April 15, 2010

AUSTIN -- Hundreds of tea party activists taking part in tax day rallies in Austin expressed a broad range of worries....

A gun-wielding gun-rights activist, a Texas secessionist and the head of the state libertarian party all agree that governments have grown too big.

"We think that if you treat people equally and with respect and let them make their own decisions, then they can take charge of their own lives. We don't need government taking care of people from cradle to grave," said **Robert Butler**, executive director of the Libertarian Party of Texas.

NY civil rights group sues over federal photo ban

AP, April 22, 2010

NEW YORK — A civil rights group accused the U.S. government of harassing law-abiding photographers outside a courthouse, saying in a lawsuit Thursday that a vague federal regulation restricting photography has been used inconsistently and is unconstitutional.

The New York Civil Liberties Union used the case of a photographer who was arrested in November outside federal court in Manhattan to illustrate its claim.

Antonio Musumeci, the only plaintiff in the lawsuit, was arrested as he videotaped a political protest in a public plaza. Musumeci, a member of the Manhattan Libertarian Party and a software developer for an investment bank, lives in Edgewater, N.J.

The civil rights group said the regulation he was accused of violating is unconstitutional because it regulates noncommercial photography in outdoor

areas such as sidewalks and plazas, where the public is supposed to have unrestricted access....

Musumeci, 29, was arrested as he sought to videotape a libertarian activist who had been arrested outside the courthouse several times after he distributed pamphlets to potential jurors as part of an effort to advocate for jury nullification.

Macon Massage Parlor Public Hearing Draws Large Crowd

WMAZ (Georgia), April 20, 2010

More than 80 people packed Macon City Hall Monday night to talk about massage parlor regulations....

But **David Corr**, chairman of Bibb County's Libertarian Party, doesn't believe someone should need a license to give a massage.

He says, "nobody's rights to life, liberty or property have been violated by these spas, they've been a great asset to our tourism industry, they have plenty willing buyers and willing sellers."

Others agreed, there are bigger issues for police to focus on.

Minor parties on primary ballot

Akron Beacon Journal (Ohio), May 1, 2010

When **Jake Digman** votes on Tuesday, he won't cast a ballot for Democrats or Republicans.

He'll vote for Libertarians.

"I think it's about time," said Digman, 27, of Cuyahoga Falls. "We are a country founded on picking the best person for the job. People need to know they have other options." excited about this. I'm hearing from people from Marietta to Cleveland and everywhere in between."...

For the first time in 50 years, candidates will be on the primary ballot in May.