

# LIBERTY PLEDGE

## newsletter

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## LP launches anti-Census campaign

The Libertarian Party has launched a nationwide campaign to encourage Americans to “boycott nosy Census questions” — and the effort has generated unprecedented television coverage, public interest, and even a scolding from the Census Bureau.

In mid-March — as 120 million Census forms were landing in people’s mailboxes — the party issued a press release encouraging Americans to answer the only Census question required by the Constitution: How many people live in your home?

### Patriotic duty

“Census bureaucrats say it’s your civic duty to answer all the questions,” said Steve Dasbach, LP national director. “But it’s actually your patriotic duty to *refuse* to answer nosy Census

questions that the federal government has no business asking in the first place.”

The press release generated a firestorm of media requests, including:

- An appearance by Dasbach on Fox News’s *O’Reilly Factor* on March 24.
- An interview with LP Press Secretary George Getz on the Fox News Channel appeared on March 20.
- An appearance on Court TV’s *DC Insider* show by Dasbach on March 17.
- A call by ABC News’s John Stossel for a possible segment on his “Gimmie a Break” feature on *20/20*.
- News stories on the popular WorldNetDaily.com site and from the Conservative News Service.
- Twenty-two radio interviews in eight days.
- And calls from newspaper reporters and editorial writers from the

*Portland Oregonian, Detroit News, Baltimore Sun, Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, Washington Times, St. Paul Pioneer-Press, and Florida Times-Union.*

“We haven’t been this busy media-wise since the Know Your Customer campaign,” said Getz.

The campaign also ruffled some feathers at the Census Bureau, he said.

On March 20, Getz got a call from the bureau’s communications director, Steve Jost, who noted, “You Libertarians are really stirring up the pot!”

“I’ll take that as a compliment,” said Getz. “And we’ll *keep* stirring the pot until the Census Bureau stops asking people nosy questions about their race, income, and disabilities — and returns to its Constitutional function of simply counting the population.”

## Libertarian Party joins religious freedom coalition

The Libertarian Party has joined a national coalition that is working to pass religious freedom laws in every state and protect religious Americans from government harassment, National Director Steve Dasbach announced.

The Libertarian Party formally joined the Coalition for the Free Exercise of Religion (CFER) — which

consists of 70 religious faith and civil rights groups — on January 20 at a strategy meeting in Washington, DC.

### Proud to be part

“The Coalition is working to expand the boundaries of the First Amendment’s protection of religious freedom against government encroachment, and we’re proud to be a part of it,”

said Dasbach.

Currently, CFER is spearheading the campaign for the adoption of Religious Freedom Restoration Acts (RFRAs) in each state. The bills would restore the “compelling interest” test — which the Supreme Court threw out in 1990 — whenever the government attempts to infringe on religious freedom.

## Advocates offer new Newsstand

The Advocates for Self-Government has created a “one-stop shopping” option for libertarian publications, and is offering instant subscriptions at the “lowest prices” anywhere on the Internet.

The new feature — “The Libertarian Newsstand” — was launched in early March, and can be found at the Advocates’ popular website, [www.self-gov.org](http://www.self-gov.org).

“We think this will be a big boost for the libertarian movement,” said Sharon Harris, Advocates president. “It’s a way to offer these publications to people who are just discovering libertarian ideas — and who want to learn more.”

Magazines and newspapers offered include *Reason, LP News, Liberty, Ideas on Liberty* (formerly *The Freeman*), the new *Journal of Ayn Rand Studies, The Independent Review, and Regulation*.

“One of our primary goals has been to make the libertarian movement larger. [The Libertarian Newsstand] will help do that,” said Harris.

# Libertarian Party builds steam at local, state levels

BY JULIE HANSON  
STAFF WRITER

When Libertarian Patrick El-Azem of Chelmsford announced his candidacy for state representative last month he already had plenty of company.

Carla Howell, also a Libertarian, is making a run for Democrat Ted Kennedy's United States Senate seat and Weston resident John Sullivan has entered the race as a Libertarian candidate for the Fifth Middlesex District seat now held by state Sen. Susan Fargo. Just last week James D. Mollison of Billerica announced he would run against state Rep. Bill Greene, D-Billerica.

In all, the Libertarian party nationwide has 25 candidates running for state representative seats and five for state senate in the 2000 elections.

"We've managed to double our size in each of the last two election cycles," said Elias Israel, chair of the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts.

There are 11,138 registered Libertarians in Massachusetts. Israel receives 300 to 500 new registrations a month. He attributes the growth to the recent popular appeal of the Libertarian "hands-off" philosophy — 30 percent of Americans said they'd prefer less government involvement in their lives.

Such views are especially popular with younger voters, Israel said. The average age of a regis-

**'We've managed to double our size in each of the last two election cycles.'**

ELIAS ISRAEL, CHAIR OF THE  
LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF  
MASSACHUSETTS.

tered Libertarian is 35. Republicans report an average age of 51 and Democrats are 55.

"We expect to be a growing influence this year, next year and the year after that," Israel said.

Libertarian Marketing Director Elaine Berchin attributes the growth to several factors.

"A number of people are disgusted by the status quo," Berchin said.

The number of unenrolled and independent voters in Massachusetts is larger than the number of Democrats and Republicans combined. Berchin said many voters are now looking to the Libertarian party as an alternative. She believes the success of third-party candidates such as Gov. Jesse Ventura of Minnesota have paved the way for others and people are ready to listen to the fresh ideas of small parties.

"In brief, the Libertarian Party stands for individual liberty, personal responsibility and a small constitutionally-limited govern-

ment," said Laura El-Azem, press relations secretary for the Chelmsford Libertarian Committee.

The Libertarians held their first national convention in 1972, nominating philosophy professor John Hospers for president. His back-to-basics platform revolved around a free-market economy, a dedication to civil liberties and personal freedom and a foreign policy of non-intervention, peace and free trade. Also that year, Libertarian vice-presidential candidate Tonie Nathan became the first woman in U.S. history to receive an electoral vote. The Libertarians have fielded a presidential candidate in every election since that time.

The Libertarians have historically been strong in New Hampshire, according to George Getz of the National Libertarian Party. The party's greatest victory to date occurred in Dixville Notch, N.H. — the first town in the nation to vote during the 1992 presidential primary. Presidential incumbent George Bush was defeated 11 votes to 9 by Libertarian candidate Andre Marrou. That same year Libertarian legislators Cal Warburton and Findlay Rothaus were re-elected and newcomers Don Gorman and Andy Borsa were elected to the legislature for their first terms.

In 1996 more than 20,000 Massachusetts voters backed Libertarian presidential candidate Harry Browne. The Libertar-

## Party to elect state delegates

The Westford Libertarian Town Committee will hold its annual caucus on March 9 at the J. V. Fletcher Library. The caucus begins at 7 p.m. Invitations have been mailed to all Westford Libertarians.

"We're really excited about this caucus," said Brian DeRosa, chair of the Westford Libertarian Town Committee. "This is a great opportunity for local Libertarians to meet and vote on the future of our party and our town committee."

At the caucus, Libertarians will vote for delegates to the state convention. Westford will send three official delegates to the state convention as well as many alternate delegates. While all Libertarians are encouraged to attend the state convention April 15,

at the Newton Marriott, the Westford delegates will help choose the next Libertarian presidential candidate by selecting delegates for the national convention.

"Since our caucus is just after the Libertarian Presidential primary on March 7, we're expecting lots of excitement and activity," said Joe Fischetti member of the town committee and candidate for State Representative.

After the caucus business is completed, the regular Libertarian town committee meeting will commence. On the agenda are a discussion of support for local candidates and a scholarship fund for local high school seniors.

ian party retains ballot status in 34 states including Massachusetts.

Membership is growing in New England.

"The trend is up," said David Roscoe, the local membership secretary.

Roscoe said rising taxes and an overall dissatisfaction with the government is bringing more people to the Libertarian Party. He has 854 people on his mailing list. Massachusetts has 750 party members who have signed the Libertarian Pledge of Non-aggression. The pledge is a cornerstone of the party's beliefs. It states that no person, group or form of government has the right to initiate force against any other person, group or form of government. Aggres-

sion is simply defined as forcing anyone to take an action against his or her will. In this context taxes are an act of aggression.

The party's focus on personal responsibility requires that criminals pay the price for violating other's rights. The Libertarian crime program seeks to protect victim's rights by requiring that criminals fully compensate their victims for property and medical costs as well as pain and suffering. Convicted criminals would serve all of their time without parole.

Libertarians tend to favor less government involvement in just about everything. In order to make American companies competitive, Libertarians believe the government must put an end to foreign subsidies, domestic

trade barriers and tariffs. The party has also spoken against minimum wage laws.

Libertarians have taken controversial stands in their fight for personal freedom, among them the weakening of gun control and the legalization of drugs.

The party supports the push to privatize many government departments, such as the Department of Education. If the DOE were eliminated, the Libertarians would push for such measures as tax credits to give parents the financial ability to choose among schools. Financial incentives would be considered for businesses and individuals, to help fund the educational system.

Privatization also plays a part in the party's health care platform.

## QUOTABLE

**"The Reform Party is just an organization with a vague principle ... It lends itself to anyone who can get hold of the microphone."**

— Libertarian presidential candidate Harry Browne, explaining why his is the third party that should matter in American politics

- ▲ *The Westford Eagle*,  
Westford, Massachusetts, March 2, 2000
- ▶ *The Desert Sun*,  
Palm Springs, California, February 15, 2000
- ▼ *The East Oregonian*,  
Pendleton, Oregon, February 11, 2000

# Libertarian candidate says state government should back off

By the East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Mitch Shults says he wants to be state treasurer for a couple of reasons: it would be good for Oregon and good for the Libertarian Party.

First a Democrat and then a disillusioned Republican, Shults became a Libertarian after he became convinced both major parties approached problems under the assumption that government intervention was necessary.

"I think government is the problem," he said during a recent campaign stop in Pendleton. "There is an appropriate role for government to play, but in many ways today it's inappropriate."



Mitch Shults

If elected treasurer, Shults said he would try to bring free-market principals into each debate. For instance, he thinks the State Land Board, which manages more than one million acres of state-owned lands under the treasurer's jurisdiction, could do much better than the 1.5 percent return on state assets by privatizing.

State parks are just one example of an area that could be managed more efficiently and productively through private enterprise, he said, pointing to states such as Georgia. Since the money raised from state-owned lands goes directly to the Common School Fund, improving the return on state lands would benefit public education, he noted.

Shults would also like to see private-practice principles be used to reform

the Oregon Public Employees Retirement System and the Public Employees Retirement Fund that supports it.

He said he would like to make PERS "look like the defined-contribution 401K plans that most of the private employers in the state currently offer. Give the beneficiaries real choices for their investments. Make them responsible for those choices. And get the taxpayers out of the position of holding the bag if the market takes a dive."

Shults admitted such a proposal would make unions "squeal," but he thinks "the majority of their members will find it very appealing. When it comes to money, everyone's first preference is to control their own, and that's precisely what I aim to let the state's hard-working employees do."

He contends his background is well-

sued to such challenges. He's worked at Intel since 1992, and before that worked several years for Arthur Andersen/Andersen Consulting and then started his own consulting firm; He has a degree in economics and political science from Rice University, and his Arthur Anderson training included programs in auditing, management consulting, financial accounting and project management.

Those credentials, and a campaign budget that will allow him to compete head-on with the other candidates, makes this race a prime one for giving the Libertarian Party real credibility, Shults said.

"Conventional political wisdom says the electorate is perfectly happy with the status quo ... I think that conventional wisdom is wrong," he said.

# Libertarian on the air

Max Robinson premieres as the host of a one-hour public access cable TV talk show.

BY JASON THOMAS  
Times Staff Writer

HAMMOND – Watch out, Tom Brokaw. Heads up, Peter Jennings. Howard Stern who?

Clear the way for Max “Madd Maxx” Robinson, the newest face in television.

Robinson, known for his outspoken personality and Libertarian Party affiliation, is the host of his own public access cable talk show. The hour-long show, “They’re Stealing Your Country, Take It Back!” debuted Wednesday on AT&T Ca-

ble Channel 16.

Donning a gray suit, blue shirt and a patterned tie, Robinson tackled topics ranging from the drug war to the New World Order. The only problem Robinson had was knowing when his allotted hour was over.

“The next time, I’m bringing a clock,” he said with a laugh after the inaugural show. “I didn’t know when it was a half hour, an hour or more.”

The hour went by too quickly for Robinson, who promises to cover more topics and even do investigative pieces

outside of the studio.

“I’m in attack mode,” he said.

Local politics are a hot issue for the self-proclaimed activist. Robinson ran for Hammond mayor on the Libertarian ticket in last year’s election after running for Lake County sheriff in 1998. Robinson said he will not limit his show, which currently runs live at 5 p.m. on alternate Wednesdays, to Libertarian Party issues.

“It’s my show,” he said. “It’s my time. Of course, Libertarian views will be

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## Libertarian

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expressed. I don’t want to have to go by someone else’s guidelines. I want complete control over what I’m doing.”

Viewers are urged to call the studio to chat with Robinson.

“I’d like for them to join in,” he said. “It’s a lot of fun.”

Mark Brickman, a fellow Libertarian who helped Robinson with

his show, said the time is ripe for Robinson to hit the airwaves.

“In my opinion, there is no other voice like Max’s out there right now,” he said. “He’s living what he’s saying. He knows firsthand what’s going on. He’s been doing it for 16 years.”

Robinson, who also runs a Web site (<http://listen.to/maddmaxx>), joked about dabbling in other media. “I’m looking into a

small radio station,” he said.

For now, Robinson has a whole hour where he can speak his mind.

“I was worried about running out of stuff to say,” he said. “Now, I will run the hour with a mix of stuff. I ended up with not enough time.”

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### LOCAL Report

## Former candidate becomes a Libertarian

VIRGINIA CITY — Former candidate Jessi Winchester has switched to the Libertarian Party, she announced Monday.

Winchester was a Democrat in 1996 when she ran for U.S. Congress. Then she was a Republican in 1998 while running for lieutenant governor.

She said she does not have any plans to run for office in 2000, but she has not ruled out future possibilities.

Former gubernatorial candidate Aaron Russo joined the Libertarian Party in August.

## Local Libertarians gearing up for precinct convention

By EMILY MORRIS  
Sentinel Staff

While Republicans and Democrats are gearing up for party primaries March 14, members of the local Libertarian Party are also preparing for their precinct convention, which will be held the same day.

The Libertarian convention is scheduled for 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 14, at Dr. Brad Wilson’s office located at 1326 North University Drive.

There are currently two Libertarians seeking office in Nacogdoches County.

Jocelyn Winter is running for the position of commissioner, Precinct 1, and R. Paty is running for the position of county weigher.

Nacogdoches County has not had a public weigher since 1934, according to the elections office.

The purpose of the office at that time was to weigh produce at the farmers market.

Paty has said he will try to have the position abolished if he is elected.

The chairman of the local Libertarian Party, Joe Allport, said Libertarian conventions are not tax-funded.

“We have conventions rather than primaries,” he said. “And Libertarian candidates must meet the same criteria for filing to run for office as candidates in the Republican and Democratic primaries. The difference is that we don’t have a filing fee.”

Allport said people who vote in either the Republican or Democratic primary may not vote at the Libertarian convention.

“If they intend to vote Libertarian, they must sign an oath of affiliation to show they are not voting anywhere else,” he said. “Our district convention will be held a week after the county convention.”

Allport said the Libertarian Party’s districts are the same as senatorial districts.

“We will make our nominations for state offices at the district convention,” he said. “The state convention will be held in June.”

▲ (TOP) *The Times-Mail*,  
Bedford, Indiana, February 3, 2000

▲ (CENTER) *The Nevada Appeal*,  
Carson City, Nevada, February 22, 2000

▶ *The Daily Sentinel*,  
Nacogdoches, Texas, February 11, 2000



LEE  
DREYFUS

## Libertarians more about ideas than successful candidates

Last night I spoke to the Milwaukee area gathering of the Libertarian Party. They are a very interesting group of people who are deeply committed to many of the basic principles enunciated so clearly in our founding document, the U.S. Constitution. Admittedly, I was surprised at the invitation; but then I thought that of all the "used" governors, I was probably the least objectionable to the group.

Personally, my long interest in the writings of John Locke, John Stuart Mill and Thomas Jefferson made me feel quite comfortable with that group because, like me, they revered the ideas about individual freedom expressed so eloquently by those three. While I don't consider myself as having any expertise in economics, Milton Friedman, the Nobel economist, has always made great sense to me. He seems to be the Libertarian Party patron saint in that area.

Most of you probably don't even recognize the Libertarians as a viable political party because you only pay attention to those that have some chance of electing their candidates to office. Some parties actually are intellectual movements rather than political movements. Their guiding logic is that ideas, not people, guide the course of history. Any historian knows the truth of that. Ideas have consequences.

The best example over the long years of my life is the Socialist Party under the state leadership of Norman Thomas, a name unknown to most of you under 60. Norman Thomas was a candidate for president on the Socialist Party ticket every four years for six straight elections. He and his party knew they would never win, or did they?

In the arena of ideas, the Socialist Party won big by the time Thomas died in 1968. Eight of their 10 basic premises were incorporated to some degree in this country by forces set in motion under the New Deal in 1933. The elements of a welfare state such as redistribution of wealth through taxation, entitlement programs for the poor, the sick and the elderly, plus the increasing regulation of individuals for the good of the whole are all an accepted part of 21st century America.

Because of this trend that has increased government taxation and bureaucracies at an alarming rate, we now see a reformation movement taking shape in the form of the 30-year-old Libertarian Party. It now exists in all 50 states and is growing. That party believes in the right of individuals to engage in any activity that is peaceful and honest. The individual should be free to follow his or her dreams without interference from any government, as long as that pursuit remains peaceful and honest.

Based on those ideals, the party wants to reduce government, repeal the income tax, legalize drugs, maintain the right to bear arms, break the government monopoly over public education and end all foreign subsidies. In short, limit government to those activities that cannot be served by individuals, charities or the marketplace.

There are things in there that clearly appeal to me. I do believe that we have moved too far along the road to state welfarism, particularly since we've replaced the odious term of "welfare" with the more euphemistic term of "entitlement". What an irony that in the past century Russia as the prime socialist state moved away from collectivism toward capitalism and individualism, while here we moved away from individualism towards a collective socialism.

The Libertarians will not win electoral control, but I'm glad they are there to apply the brakes. I'm sure that Locke, Mill and Jefferson are up there cheering them on. If they are but half as successful in this century as the Socialist Party was in the last, our future freedom will be secure.

## CAMPAIGN NOTEBOOK

### Browne, Libertarians to convene March 4

Harry Browne, one of the Libertarian Party's presidential candidates, will be on hand March 4 for the Delaware Libertarians' annual convention in Wilmington.

Browne came in fifth in 1996 behind the Reform Party's **Ross Perot** and the Green Party's **Ralph Nader**.

Browne and Bridgeville Mayor **Jack Dalton** will be featured speakers at the gathering.

Though the Libertarians, who support strict adherence to the Constitution, think they don't get as much coverage as the Reform Party, they have had more frequent success at the polls.

"We have nearly 300 people serving in state and local offices. The Reform Party has less than 10," said party spokesman **Mike Smith**. "Our membership is unified by principle, whereas the Reform Party only attracts those that want to vote against the status quo."

— Patrick Jackson

## Medical pot trial resumes Tuesday

The medical marijuana trial of former gubernatorial candidate Steven Wynn Kubby and his wife, Michele Renee Kubby, returns to Placer County on Tuesday with Judge James L. Roeder presiding.

Prosecution of the Kubbys was put on hold during jury selection last August when Michele Kubby, experiencing complications related to her pregnancy, was confined to bed by doctors.

The Kubbys are charged with cultivating and possessing marijuana for sale, two counts of conspiracy, and various other possession counts stemming from a sheriff's raid on Jan. 19, 1999, that netted 265 marijuana plants, 110 of them fully grown and budded females.

The couple contend they were growing the pot for medicinal use. Steven Kubby, 53, a Libertarian candidate for governor in 1998, was diagnosed with adrenal cancer more than 16 years ago and claims marijuana use has extended his life. Michele Kubby, 34, had used marijuana prior to her pregnancy to treat a chronic stomach ailment.

Their trial originally was scheduled to start this week, but one attorney's previous commitment created a conflict precipitating the delay.

## Libertarian representative addresses college class

by Jennifer Sue Wood  
PNJ Intern

Dean Hodge, representative of the Libertarian Party, spoke to Professor Craig Cobane's "Political Parties" class Dec. 8 at Culver-Stockton College.

Hodge is currently a graduate student at Lindenwood University. He is from St. Charles County and has run for office in the Missouri State House from the 80th House District.

Hodge addressed the issues of tax reduction, moving education from the public to the private sector, immigration, placing responsibility for restricting pharmaceuticals on physicians and patients, eliminating welfare, and restoring the opportunity for each individual to decide what is best for herself or himself. Hodge also gave a brief synopsis of the develop-

ment of the Libertarian Party.

Hodge said the Libertarian Party "gets things done even though they may not win many elections." He emphasized the importance of having party members involved at all levels of government. He explained that individual members of the Libertarian Party make a difference in their respective communities across the U.S. whether they are serving on water boards and county councils or serving as mayors.

Junior Jim Coniglio, when asked his opinion of having the "Political Parties" class end with speakers representing the various parties said it was "a good way to end the semester because the whole class was focused on the parties and their ideologies and having speakers is much better than just reading about the parties."

◀ (FAR LEFT) *The Freeman*, Waukesha, Wisconsin, February 24, 2000

▲ (TOP LEFT) *The News Journal*, New Castle, Delaware, February 20, 2000

▲ (TOP RIGHT) *The Sacramento Bee*, Sacramento, California, February 17, 2000

◀ *The Press-News Journal*, Canton, Missouri, December 16, 1999