

LIBERTY PLEDGE

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newsletter

POLICE STATE NEWS...

Denver police has file on LP, Libertarians discover

Colorado Libertarians have discovered that the Denver Police Department has been keeping a file on the Libertarian Party over the past several months.

On September 5, Colorado LP Fundraising Director Walter Schlomer picked up a copy of the file at the Denver police headquarters.

According to Schlomer, the file classifies the Libertarian Party as a "militia-type organization," noting that the party is pro-gun rights. It also has several lines of blacked-out text.

LP State Chair John Berntson said the classification of the LP as a militia group was "ridiculous" and "laughable."

"About the only thing that report has right is that we [Libertarians] are pro-gun," he said.

According to the American Civil Liberties Union, the Denver police department has created files on over 3,000 citizens and organizations. An ACLU lawsuit against the department is currently pending.

In the meantime, the department has agreed to release the files to anyone who requests them.

Party leaders have speculated that the file may have been created soon after Libertarians participated in two events: An April protest against the police for creating files on peaceful ralliers, and a May counter-protest of the Million Mom March.

"While the files themselves are laughable [in] that they illustrate just how pathetically ill-informed the Denver P.D. is, they are also scary for the same reason," said Berntson.

The party has issued a press release on the subject, but has not yet determined whether any legal action will be taken.

CAMPAIGN 2002...

Libertarian Spear Lancaster will be on Maryland ballot

LP gubernatorial candidate Spear Lancaster has been certified to appear on the November election ballot in Maryland, and is determined to "change the paradigm" of politics in the state.

On August 26, the State Board of Elections in Annapolis announced that Lancaster, 68, had submitted the 27,117 valid signatures required by state law.

This marks the first time since 1966 that a third-party candidate for governor has accomplished such a feat in the heavily Democratic state.

"Now we can move on to the real campaign, and bring real issues to the table that people care about," said Steve Boone, Lancaster's campaign manager.

Libertarians had toiled for about 18 months to collect the necessary signatures, buttonholing voters at state fairs, concerts, colleges, supermarkets, and other venues.

On August 5, Libertarians delivered three bankers' boxes – plastered with "Lancaster for Governor" bumper stickers – to the board of elections office. The boxes contained over 36,000 signatures, about 9,000 more than necessary.

Now, Lancaster said he and lieutenant gubernatorial candidate Lorenzo Gaztanaga, a Cuban-American, will concentrate on soliciting votes in an effort to "change the paradigm of politics" in the state.

"I've had some interesting experiences as a businessman and entrepreneur, but it's nothing compared to this," said Lancaster. "I've never been so excited about the potential to enact change and accomplish something creative."

During his campaign, Lancaster has advocated more choice in education, less taxation and spending, diverting state resources away from victimless crimes, and privatizing certain government services.

Since completing his ballot drive, Lancaster has also pledged to enact ballot access reform if elected.

"During my first term as governor, I will work with the General Assembly to level the playing field," he said.

Lancaster will face Democrat Kathleen Kennedy Townsend and Republican Robert Erlich in the November election.

A former salesman for the Rubbermaid Corporation, Lancaster is a past vice chair of the Maryland LP and a past chair of the Anne Arundel County LP.

For more information, visit: www.spear2002.com.

NTU endorses candidate

An LP candidate for Congress in Massachusetts has been endorsed by the National Taxpayers Union Campaign Fund.

On August 21, the organization announced that it would support LP candidate Ilana Freedman in her race for the fifth district seat in the U.S. House.

"Ilana is the candidate of less government and lower taxes," said NTUCF President John Berthoud.

The 335,000-member National Taxpayers Union is the largest taxpayer organization in America.

Freedman faces incumbent Democrat Marty Meehan and a Republican challenger in the election.

District 1 candidate wants to leave people alone

The Gazette

Less government is the better, says Arthur "Rob" Roberts, Libertarian candidate in El Paso County Commission District 1, which covers the northern area.

"There are plenty of people around who just want to be left alone to live their lives," Roberts said. "They don't want help for which they didn't ask and they don't want to be part of the big system. They just want to be able to do anything that's peaceful."

Roberts, 59, a computer programmer in the U.S. Air Force for 12 years, will face Republican Wayne Williams, 39, a lawyer, who won the GOP nomination in the Tuesday primary.

A paper carrier and the Libertarian party's local advertising committee chairman, Roberts served at Peterson Air Force Base and in Korea prior to an honorable discharge.

Roberts said if elected he would require sheriff's deputies to make crimes against persons and property the highest priorities.

"Mere regulatory violations, where there is no victim, would be handled dead last," he said.

He also would work to require all judges to file oaths of office. He said some do not swear to uphold the Constitution.

Libertarian says state ignored several ways to keep Sheridan prison open

By the NewsTribune staff

Cal Skinner, Libertarian candidate for governor, said the Illinois Department of Corrections is ignoring several opportunities to keep the Sheridan prison open.

During an interview Wednesday with the NewsTribune, Skinner said Sheridan needs approximately \$50 per inmate per day to meet its operating costs.



DOC could generate that money, Skinner said, by offering detention space to other overcrowded county jails or to the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Skinner said Winnebago and Kane counties both have surplus inmates. He also said Ogle County is working toward construction of a 600-bed INS detention center and will need short-term space, for which INS will pay \$90 per inmate per day. He also said the District of Columbia facilities are overcrowded and sends its prisoners as far west as Ohio for temporary housing.

And that's just a sample, Skinner said, of jurisdictions that would at least consider using Sheridan as an alternative to overcrowded or under-constructed facilities.

"If you were the Department of Corrections, and you were trying to market a prison, you would look anyplace where anybody is having a problem," Skinner said. "Or you can just do nothing, which apparently has happened here."

County businessman throws hat into the ring in race for governor

By MARGARET GIBBONS
For The Reporter

NORRISTOWN — The name of a Montgomery County resident will appear along side the names of Republican Mike Fisher and Democrat Ed Rendell on the November ballot in the race for Pennsylvania governor.

Libertarian Party member Ken Krawchuk, a 50-year-old businessman from Abington, this week filed nominating papers with the state Election Board to run for governor.

Papers containing 23,710 signatures were filed Wednesday, and additional papers containing another approximate 8,000 signa-



THIRD PARTY HOPEFULS: A5

tures were filed Thursday.

Third-party candidates for governor this year were required to collect 21,028 valid signatures to have their names placed on the November ballot.

Claiming that this is some 10 times more signatures than are

required for the signatures needed by the gubernatorial candidates from the two major parties, Krawchuk said, "I guess some political parties are more equal than others."

Krawchuk, who once attempted to run for county commissioner, had filed a legal challenge to the number of signatures required for a third-party candidate filing for that office, but lost that battle.

Krawchuk ran for governor four years ago, receiving about 1.5 percent of the vote.

In the upcoming battle for governor, Krawchuk pledged to serve as the voice of all state residents who favor smaller, less expensive government.

(Top Left) *The Gazette* – Colorado Springs, Colorado – August 18, 2002

(Top Right) *News Tribune* – La Salle, Illinois – August 15, 2002

(Right) *The Reporter* – Lansdale, Pennsylvania – August 2, 2002

Police remove Libertarian candidate from audience

BY TERRY WOSTER
Argus Leader

HURON – State Fair security officers took the Libertarian Party candidate for governor away from a candidates forum after the man yelled questions about why his party's congressional candidate wasn't included in the discussion.

As Republican Gov. Bill Janklow and Democrat Stephanie Herseth began the forum, Nathan Barton of Rapid City yelled, "Where's Begay?" It was a reference to Terry Begay of Volin, the Libertarian candidate for U.S. House.

Two security guards approached Barton and scuffled briefly before leading him away from the Freedom Stage area, where the forum was taking place. Some audience members near the street could see some of the activity, but many in the crowd were unaware of what had happened.

The American Ag and Dakota News Network sponsored the forums. The group has in the past

limited invitations to major party candidates. That's unfair to lesser known candidates, said Robert Newland, Libertarian candidate for attorney general.

"There's no reason people shouldn't be allowed to state their views and let the voters decide whether they agree with them," Newland said. "Nathan perhaps should have grabbed a microphone and gotten a few thoughts out before they went after him."

Herseth and Janklow said they had no voice in which candidates participated.

"There are rules established for these debates by the sponsors," Janklow said.

Herseth said she wouldn't object to other candidates having a spot in forums; she said the Libertarian Party itself might consider hosting a public event.

"I'd be open to participating in such an event if the Libertarian Party wants to sponsor its own forum," she said.

Md. Libertarian candidate visits

By Jason Rhodes
Staff Writer

CAMBRIDGE - While much of 2002's gubernatorial election coverage has focused on candidates from the Republican and Democratic parties, they will not be the only parties represented on the ballots this year.

Maryland Libertarian Party candidate Spear Lancaster is making sure of that.



Spear Lancaster

Though Libertarian candidates are considered "third party" candidates in Maryland, Mr. Lancaster and his running mate, lieutenant governor candidate Lorenzo Gaztanaga, will likely appear on this year's ballot after collecting the signatures of 40,000 registered state voters.

Visiting Cambridge during Saturday's 23rd Dorchester Seafood Feast-I-Val, Mr. Lancaster, 69, said he became interested in running for office three years ago after decades of being dissatisfied with political representation

in Maryland.

"I was a Republican," he said. "I voted a straight Republican ticket until I was 55. I never really thought about it. Then when I was 60, I became a Democrat, and I didn't like them as much as the other guys."

Mr. Lancaster said he became interested in the Libertarian Party after seeing information about it on CNN. He said he believed in the Libertarian philosophy.

"As long as you don't engage in violence and don't engage in corruption, we let you live your life the way you want," he said.

He also said he thought the state government, from personnel to taxes, could be cut by at least one-third. Raised in Southern Maryland, Mr. Lancaster said he understood the burden recent state regulations have placed on farmers and watermen.

"This new law on [farm] runoff is going to eliminate half the farmers in the state of Maryland," he said. "You've got people out there trying to control your life."

A retired sales and marketing representative, Mr. Lancaster resides in Crownsville with his wife, Doris.

Education priority for state Senate candidate

The Gazette

Libertarian candidate Jessica Wheeler is challenging incumbent state Sen. Doug Lamborn in Senate District 9.

Wheeler, the county party treasurer, said she's tired of the negative impact government has on the average family.

She vowed to work to reduce the size of state government and eliminate the state income tax.

A former teacher who works with children who have learning problems, Wheeler said, "Most parents are lying to themselves about the quality of schools their children attend. The majority of the students I saw were not proficient in reading, writing or math skills."

She opposes "social promotion" of students from one grade to the next, even if they've not completed the necessary work.

The solution is competition.

"Taxing and funding mechanisms must be changed," she said. "Although vouchers have made some headlines of late, we should be leery of the state's desire to attach strings to such money, which would burden private schools with all the same problems government schools have currently."

Wheeler has a bachelor's degree in history from Mesa

State College.

Lamborn, a Republican, has held the seat since 1998 and served in the state House from 1995 to 1998. No Democrats have filed in Senate District 9, which covers a portion of north El Paso County.



(Top Left) *Argus Leader* – Sioux Falls, South Dakota – August 4, 2002

(Top Right) *The Daily Banner* – Cambridge, Maryland – August 13, 2002

(Left) *The Gazette* – Colorado Springs, Colorado – August 18, 2002

Libertarian candidate for secretary of state wants to end gerrymandering

By RYAN FRIESEN
Goshen News Staff Writer

Former grade school art teacher turned political candidate, Rebecca Sink-Burris is on a mission to be elected Indiana's first Libertarian secretary of state and to eventually restore accountability and end the redistricting process known as gerrymandering.

Sink-Burris, of Bloomington, spoke Saturday afternoon at the Elkhart Public Library as part of her campaign. Having run on the Libertarian ticket for the Indiana House of Representatives in 1996 and as a U.S. Senate candidate in 1998, Sink-Burris is now staring down the secretary of state position and what she calls one of Indiana Libertarians' biggest hurdles.

In her speech Sink-Burris addressed her plan to seek a constitutional amendment, which would be required in this case, to end the practice of gerrymandering. As she sees it, gerrymandering — drawing districts to take political advantage — is holding Indiana back politically and economically.

If elected, Sink-Burris stated she will engage two think tanks, one liberal and one conservative, to develop an amendment that will provide guidelines for drawing districts to prevent gerrymandering and provide for a Redistricting Commission of citizens rather than politicians.

She said she would also create a panel of citizens from across the state to vote on provisions to be included in the amendment and to champion the amendment in their region.

While Sink-Burris admitted the secretary of state does not have the power to directly bring about some of these changes, the position would allow her to pressure the governor and legislature to follow the will of the people (represented, she said, by the fact that a Libertarian



News Photo by Ryan Friesen

Libertarian party candidate for Indiana Secretary of State Rebecca Sink-Burris speaks Saturday at the Elkhart County Public Library about her goal to end gerrymandering in Indiana and curb partisan action that hurts Hoosiers.

candidate was elected into office) and pass such an amendment.

Sink-Burris said she would find members within both the Indiana House and Senate to introduce the amendment or tap possible Libertarians elected to the Indiana House and Senate to introduce and move along the amendment.

The Libertarian party has existed now for 30 years and is for small government that is fiscally responsible. According to Sink-Burris, it is "The party of the Constitution."

Taking the best of both the conserva-

tive and liberal points of view, Sink-Burris said Libertarians are for economic as well as personal freedom. "We take the best of both worlds," she said.

One of the Libertarian parties biggest goals is to simply stay on the ballot this year and in the future. To do this the Libertarians need to garner 2 percent, (approximately 30,000 votes), of the total vote, something they have had success achieving recently.

Another aspect of the Libertarian position is that Hoosiers have no choice under current practices. Sink-Burris said 72 of the 125 races in Indiana have no opponents to run against the traditional candidate.

"If there is no choice, then there is no America," she stated.

Indiana citizens can't trust partisan officials to step out of their traditional roles, she said.

"Only a Libertarian can be non-partisan," she continued.

Currently, Sink-Burris said, there are around 10 Libertarians in office with around 150 candidates running for an office this election cycle. Sink-Burris said the Libertarian party is completely funded through donations, and has gone so far as to reject federal and state matching grants.

She said the Libertarian movement is a "grass roots" one which is building from the bottom up. She said Libertarians are for business and want to help retain and expand the business market in Indiana. Libertarians, Sink-Burris said, are also for privatization of many federal and state programs which are not, according to her, allotted for in the U.S. and state constitutions.

More information about the Libertarian party and Indiana secretary of state candidate Rebecca Sink-Burris can be found at www.electrebecca.org, www.LPIN.org, www.LP.org, and www.Libertarian.org.