

LIBERTY PLEDGE

NEWSLETTER

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N.C. Libertarians Propose Liberty Agenda

by Brian Irving

Communications Director for the Libertarian Party of NC

Ending the state's power to seize private property by forced annexation and eminent domain, improving public education through competition, restoring free, fair and open elections and cutting off corporate welfare, will be the top legislative priorities of Libertarians elected to the General Assembly.

Thirteen candidates announced the Liberty Agenda for North Carolina on Sept. 15. They are: Kira Howe (Senate 7), Brian Irving (Senate 17), David Rollins (Senate 20), Richard Evey (Senate 44), Jesse Mignogna (House 2), Sean Haugh (House 30), Barbara Howe (House 32), Susan Hogarth (House 38), Robert Richmond (House 71), T.J. Rohr (House 87), Jeffrey Ober (House 95), Lawrence Hollar (House 96), and Keith Calvelli (House 108).

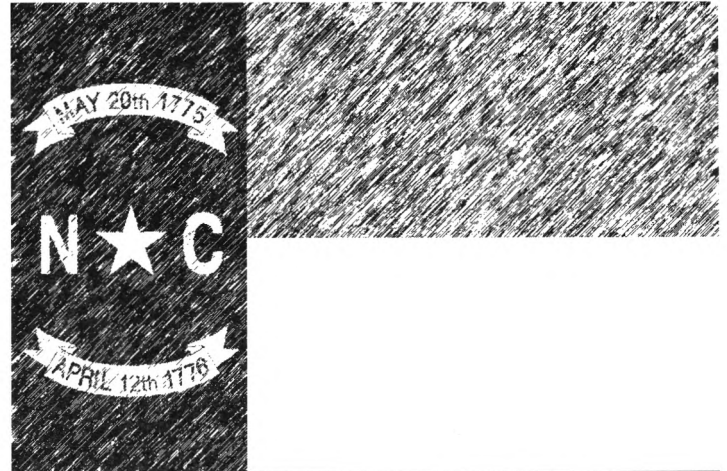
"I originally ran for council because my property was involuntarily annexed and have vigorously opposed any future involuntary annexations," said second-term Lenior City Council member Rohr. "After the U.S. Supreme Court incorrectly allowed the practice of eminent domain for purely economic development purposes, I proposed a city resolution condemning that decision and calling for an amendment to the NC Constitution abolishing such practices. The resolution passed unanimously."

Improving public education is as much a priority for the legislative candidates, as it is for Mike Munger, Libertarian candidate for governor.

"There are many good things happening in North Carolina education," Munger says on his Web site. "And the path to continued improvement is to foster choice."

"We expect Governor Munger will get strong opposition from the education lobby and teacher's unions," said Irving. "So he'll need all the allies in the General Assembly he can muster."

Irving agrees with Munger that it's fashionable to bash public education, rather than sincerely seek ways to improve it. "The problem is that anyone who proposes thinking out of the box when it comes to education is



beat over the head with the supposed public school mandate in the state constitution," states Irving.

"This selective devotion to constitutional principle is curious, since the legislature freely ignores other parts of the Constitution, including the part that says 'all elections shall be free, fair, and open' by restricting the right of people to vote for anyone other than Democrats and Republicans," Irving says.

The Liberty Agenda candidates also oppose economic incentives to businesses, more properly called corporate welfare, as an immoral tax on individuals for the benefit of corporate profits. Recent news reports that the Dell computer company may sell their three-year old Winston-Salem plant, built with nearly \$300 million in corporate welfare. This demonstrates that corporate incentives are ineffective as well as immoral, says Irving.

As proof that Libertarians will do what they say when elected, Rohr says, "I was the only local elected representative to vote against the infamous Lenoir-Google government handouts."

"Ending property theft by government, improving education, restoring fair elections, and cutting off corporate welfare -- these are just our top four issues" said Hogarth. "We will then go on to work to reduce the size, scope and power of government at all levels and on all issues, and will consistently oppose increasing the size, scope and power of government at any level, for any purpose."

This Month in the Media

by Andrew Davis

Media Coordinator for the Libertarian Party

Midwest Libertarians 'Rock the Vote'

Sept. 6 - Local Libertarian candidates were among the politicians invited to participate in this year's "Rock the Vote" concert in Kansas City's Power and Light District.

The event was heavily promoted by local radio station 96.5 The Buzz.

Turnout was estimated to be 5,000 to 6,000. Young people from ages 18 to 34 turned out to hear several bands and learn more about candidates from three political parties.

The Libertarian Party was well represented by candidates from Kansas and Missouri. The candidates from the Libertarian Party of Kansas included Treasurer and Candidate for State Senate Patrick Wilbur, Chair and State Senate candidate Rob Hodgkinson, Vice Chair and candidate for State House Jason Peck and U.S. Senate candidate Randall Hodgkinson.

All four candidates addressed different issues. Wilbur emphasized removing the sales tax on groceries, and Hodgkinson stressed the need for young people to register and vote in 2008. Randall talked about the need for following "the rule of law," inviting the attendees to take the current two major parties to task for allowing the unconstitutional intrusions in our lives. Peck stressed the need for "real change" instead of the same old symbolic rhetoric from the two major parties.

Barr Wins Lawsuit in PA

Sept. 14 - "It's a great day for Pennsylvania voters," says Bob Barr, the Libertarian Party's presidential nominee, after defeating a Republican challenge to his right to be on the ballot in Pennsylvania.

The lawsuit, filed by a Republican Party official in Cumberland County, PA, sought to remove Barr's name from the ballot—contrary to promises made by John McCain during his first



bid for the presidency after then Texas Governor George Bush tried to have McCain blocked from the New York primary ballot. "I would never consider, ever consider," McCain said during his 2000 campaign, "allowing a supporter of mine to challenge [an opponent's] right to be on the ballot in all 50 states."

McCain went on to call such tactics, "Stalinist politics."

"We're happy that the Pennsylvania courts recognized the absurd nature of the Republican's lawsuit," says Russell Verney, Barr's campaign manager. "It was very hypocritical of McCain to allow one of his agents to try to block a legitimate candidate like Congressman Bob Barr from the ballot. Fortunately, these hypocritical tactics of McCain's agents failed."

The court ruled that the Libertarian Party and the Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania "simply took reasonable action to abide by the Election Code while furthering its legitimate interest."

'I Told You So'

Sept. 16 - "It appears that President George W. Bush should say that we are all socialists now," says Bob Barr,



the Libertarian Party nominee for president, as he explains that the government has now taken over insurance giant AIG with an \$85 billion loan, for which it received an 80 percent equity stake in the company. "In other words, the federal government now will own and run one of the nation's largest insurance companies."

Barr had these harsh words for the government after it decided to go back against its word that it was done with bailouts for failing financial firms.

"This administration, supposedly devoted to free markets and fiscal responsibility, has bailed out the housing industry, the quasi-government mortgage companies Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, the investment house Bear Stearns, and a leading insurer. What's next?" asks Barr.

"Capitalism involves losses as well as profits," Barr explains. "When government tries to insulate businesses and investors from paying for their mistakes, we all lose. In a Barr administration, there would be no more corporate bailouts or takeovers."



How to Talk to Potential Voters

by Austin Petersen
Volunteer Coordinator for the Libertarian Party

While manning a booth at the “Rally for the Republic” earlier this month, I was often asked why our candidate should deserve the vote of people at the event. It was usually brought up in terms of why Barr would be a better vote than the Constitution Party candidate, Chuck Baldwin.

When confronted with this, it’s best to try and gauge what type of response will be most effective on the person who is asking. Some people are more swayed by arguments from facts and reason, and others are more susceptible to emotional argumentation.

For example, an older gentleman approached me asking why he should vote for Barr. It was obvious that he was a ‘no nonsense’ type, so I shifted my reasoning to explain that by voting for Barr, you advance not just the candidate, but the entire party. Higher vote percentages means more ballot access down the line, and that translates to more time spent campaigning and less time petitioning. That means that in four years, our message will be easier to spread.

This was enough for him, as he claimed that I was “speaking his language.” Conversely, a younger gentleman was asking what the differences are between Baldwin and Barr. I could tell he was very idealistic in his reasons for voting, so I took the approach of explaining the difference between a vote for the Constitution versus the Libertarian Parties. I provided him with a copy of the platforms and preambles of both parties, and asked which one sounded more like something he believed in. A half hour later, the same young man came back and asked me for a Bob Barr shirt.

Conversion techniques are something that I work on with my interns frequently, as we are often beleaguered with young democrats on the streets of D.C. Greenpeace activists, Obama supporters, PETA activists and other socialists are found on every street corner begging for money or your time. Arguments from reason are often lost on these young ideologues, so I keep handy some of the strongest arguments from Libertarian stalwarts.

PETA activists are floored when faced with fact-based arguments such as Ruwart’s environmental statement written in *Healing Our World*:

“Indeed, ownership of wildlife can literally save endangered species from extinction. Between 1979 and 1989, Kenya banned elephant hunting, yet the numbers of these noble beasts dropped from 65,000 to 19,000. In Zimbabwe during the same time period,



however, elephants could be legally ‘owned’ and sold. The number of elephants increased from 30,000 to 43,000 as their owners became fiercely protective of their ‘property.’ Poachers didn’t have a chance!”

I’m always surprised by the reaction of Obama supporters on the streets when I tell them I can’t vote for him because I am against the wars in Iraq, and Afghanistan, as well as against intervention in Georgia and South Ossetia. They actually have the nerve to say that I am a liar when I tell them Obama will not be bringing the troops home. The facts state otherwise. In a statement to the Associated Press, Barack Obama criticized George Bush’s Afghanistan policy stating:

“It is not enough troops, and not enough resources, with not enough urgency.”

As the election draws nearer, my recruitment ads have gotten sharper and more to the point. Subject lines such as: “No trip home from Iraq for soldiers, record suicides,” and “Obama = George W. Bush,” can sometimes draw heated responses, but more times than not, providing them with the facts brings them to our side. People from all over the country are reaching out for the answers that we provide. It just takes the right argument from the right angle to sway them.

Look for your opponents issues, find common ground, then work your way up from there. After all, everyone is a libertarian about something.

2008 Ballot Access Season Winds Down

by Sean Haugh
Political Director for the Libertarian Party

As Ballot Access season winds to a close, new challenges arise. The petitioning phase is done. Now everything left to do is in the hands of bureaucrats and lawyers.

We are currently in court in two states—Massachusetts and New Hampshire—over substitution. In many states, the law makes provisions for parties to start petitioning before their conventions with the use of stand-ins for President and Vice President. Substitution is a well-established practice with a very strong body of case law supporting it. We are optimistic that we will prevail in all these lawsuits.

The lawsuit against the Barr campaign in Pennsylvania, filed by an agent from the McCain campaign, came out in favor of Barr.

The Libertarian Party also has filed lawsuits in Maine and Louisiana over the arbitrary deadlines placed on our paperwork in each state. In Maine, we met the final deadline for signatures, but missed a deadline to have them into the cities and towns for verification, which has never been enforced in the past. In Louisiana, the state takes the position that we missed a deadline to file our slate of Presidential electors although they were closed due to Hurricane Gustav during that time.

The Barr campaign's lawsuit in Oklahoma continues, and has finally been given a tentative court date in mid-September. The campaign lost its lawsuit in West Virginia, with the court upholding the high signature requirements in that state.

The news is good in other states.

Since last report, we have been officially certified in all other states except Minnesota and Connecticut. In those two states, we have turned in more than enough signatures and are simply waiting for state officials to finish counting them. Our most recent official certifications have come from Rhode Island and Alabama.

Going into the next election cycle, we will be taking all we have learned from this year to try to change our approach to ballot access. One thing we can do is spread out the petitioning efforts over the entire cycle instead

of waiting until just before the 2010 and 2012 elections. We will be looking for any opportunities to work with our state affiliates to lobby state legislatures for ballot access reform, and when appropriate, file lawsuits when we are harmed by the unconstitutional provisions in these laws.

We will also be working with all other parties and several nonpartisan reform groups to raise public awareness of Ballot Access issues.

For now, we are at the end of our usual election year predicament. We have spent so much time, energy and money just to get on the ballot, that we have little left to support all our great candidates. Please help by visiting <https://www.lp.org/contribute>, so we can get back to the real business of any political party and elect more Libertarians in November.

Election after election, our members and supporters have to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars and tens of thousands of hours pounding the pavement to get the signatures we need to get on the ballot. Yes, the national party collects the money and hires the paid petitioners, but none of that could happen without the support of literally hundreds of state and

local activists and thousands of donors.

I'd like to take a moment to thank some of these good people, but just to even mention all the state coordinators would take up another long article. Each of these people would tell you the same thing, that they couldn't have accomplished what they did without their own state level support team. We wouldn't be on the ballot in these states if it weren't for the generosity and sacrifices from all of these wonderful people.

From the Blogs...

"[The New Hampshire lawsuit] It isn't costing very much, and if the party wins, it gets its money back. Also, the double petitioning this year cost far more than the lawsuit is costing. The goal of the lawsuit is so we never need to circulate two petitions for the same office in the future.

Another goal of the lawsuit is that, if we win and the legislature must pass a bill fixing that one problem, we can perhaps get other badly-needed improvements in the same bill."

-Richard Winger
Editor, Ballot-Access.org

Welcome to the Liberty Pledge Club!

Thank you for your generous contributions

Damon Z. Dillon
Steven A. Hoffman
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Thomas J. Kern
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