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LIBERTY PLEDGE NEWSLETTER

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Libertarians Protest Waco Siege

Libertarian Party leaders and members have voiced strong objections to the BATF raid on the Mount Carmel sanctuary of the Branch Davidian religious community.

In a press release National Chair Mary Gingell noted that, "The BATF used to be called the Bureau of Prohibition and, ever since Prohibition was repealed in 1933, it has been an agency in search of a mission. This dangerous agency has a history of provoking shoot-outs and an attitude of 'Shoot first and negotiate later.' "

The Texas Libertarians organized several protests of the BATF raid, carrying signs that read, "I love my country, but I fear my government," "Live and let live," "Please, no more macho cops," "ATF ignores the Constitution," and "Is your church ATF approved?"

The protests have been covered by newspapers across the country, including the Washington Post. Although some reporting was negatively slanted, most of the press coverage has been accurate and even-handed.

Columnist is [l]ibertarian

Syndicated columnist Nat Hentoff mentioned in a C-SPAN interview that he is "a small-l libertarian" and that he voted for Andre Marrou in the last election. Hentoff is a staunch defender of the first amendment, and his popular column is carried by over 200 newspapers nationwide. He was being interviewed about his new book, "Free Speech for Me--But Not for Thee," in which he discusses "How the American Left and Right Relentlessly Censor Each Other."

North Carolina Libertarians Sue for Party Status

The LP of North Carolina has filed suit in federal court asking that a state law that revoked their party status be declared unconstitutional.

North Carolina law requires a party to receive 10 percent of the votes in either the gubernatorial or presidential elections to retain their status. Last year LP candidate Scott McLaughlin received 4.5 percent of the vote for governor. This vote total, however, exceeds the 2 percent petition requirement the Party would need to meet to regain recognition.

"The entire idea that the government is going to tell a citizen what party they can register under, and to limit those choices, I think is ridiculous," McLaughlin said.

Just Say No to Dogs

In New Hampshire a state licensing board is threatening to revoke the license of barber Norm Longval unless he stops bringing his dog Shadow to work. Longval claims that he keeps the dog in his shop for protection, but the government considers Shadow's presence a health hazard.

LP members have protested the board's actions carrying signs that read, "If dogs are outlawed, only outlaws will have dogs."

State Chair Doug Harrigan hopes he can use the incident to allow the Libertarian legislators in New Hampshire to call for the abolition of the board.

LIBERTARIAN PARTY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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Libertarians say election laws flawed

By MICHAEL SZNAJDERMAN
Tribune Staff Writer

TAMPA — Florida election law overly restricts minor political party candidates from access to the ballot, state Libertarian Party officials say, and they plan to challenge the law in court.

The party plans to file suit on Monday in Hillsborough County circuit court in hope of opening up the ballot in time for the 1994 elections, Libertarian Party spokesman Ed Reasor of Tampa said Wednesday.

Under state law, minor political party candidates must obtain signatures from at least 3 percent of the voters in their districts and pay a qualifying fee before being placed on the ballot. That's in contrast to major party candidates, who can pay a qualifying fee or get signatures from 3 percent of voters registered with their parties.

Reasor, who mounted a petition drive for Hillsborough County Commission last year but failed to collect enough signatures, said the rule requires minor party candidates to collect far more names than major party candidates.

As for statewide candidates, minor parties must get petitions from 3 percent of registered voters across Florida, or more than 300,000 signatures, before they can mount a slate of candidates. Statewide independent candidates face the same requirement, while major party candidates don't.

"There's a bunch of draconian rules," said Ralph Swanson, state Libertarian Party chairman.

Tampa lawyer John MacKay, who will represent the party in the case, said he plans to point up conflicts in state election law, rather than challenge the law on constitutional grounds.

"People haven't taken the approach we're taking," he said, declining to provide details until the lawsuit is filed.

Earlier challenges to Florida's ballot access requirements have been based on constitutional arguments, including one last year by one-time presidential candidate David Duke. Those challenges have failed in court.

—Ann Pelham
Tampa Tribune, Tampa, FL, Jan. 28, 1993
Legal Times, Jan. 11, 1993

Arlington Sign Law Overturned by Court As Unconstitutional

Republicans and Libertarians in Arlington County, Va., who challenged a local sign ordinance have won their case in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit.

The Richmond-based court, in a 2-1 opinion issued Jan. 4, agreed with the political parties that the restrictive ordinance violated the First Amendment's guarantee of free speech.

"It impacts on the First Amendment rights not only of political parties and candidates, but of homeowners," says John Zwierling, name partner at Alexandria, Va.'s Moffitt, Zwierling & Kemler, who represented the Arlington County Republican Committee.

The county ordinance, which took effect in February 1991, allowed a homeowner to put up only two signs in a private yard—one political and one for other purposes. Zoning officials argued that the limit, along with others in the sign ordinance, was necessary to promote aesthetics and traffic safety.

But the local Republican and Libertarian parties, along with several individual candidates, filed suit challenging the law in October 1991. ("Anti-Sign Law Sparks Free-Speech Showdown," Nov. 4, 1991, Page 1.)

U.S. District Judge James Cacheris of the Eastern District of Virginia agreed with their objections and issued a preliminary injunction that kept the signs up until the November election. He then followed with a summary-judgment ruling that the ordinance was unconstitutional.

Although county officials on appeal cited several precedents to make their argument, the 4th Circuit panel found none provided authority for the Arlington case. The opinion was written by Judge Clyde Hamilton and joined by Judge Francis Murnaghan Jr.

"The court found it was a case of first impression because all the cases the county cited involved billboards or public lands," says Zwierling. "This is simply about what a homeowner can do."

Judge Paul Niemeyer filed a dissenting opinion, arguing that the ordinance was directed not at political speech but at all signs.

"I cannot conclude that this burden significantly impedes the ability of a candidate to inform the citizens of Arlington County about his ideas," wrote Niemeyer.

The case was argued before the 4th Circuit by Victor Glasberg of Alexandria's Victor Glasberg & Associates, who represented the Libertarian Party. Cynthia Lee Perry, special counsel to Arlington County Attorney Charles Flinn, argued the county's case. The challengers plan to seek attorney fees.

Sandi Webb has her own special way

By Steve Whitmore
Staff writer

Libertarian Sandi Webb has a non-traditional way of looking at the world. Sometimes the 44-year-old Simi Valley city councilwoman has a non-traditional way of expressing her worldly views as well.

Most recently Webb used a well-known expletive to describe the nation's economic condition during a council meeting. The colorful outburst resulted when her frustration level broke during an examination of some line-item costs in the massive city services' fee book.

Webb thought it was important, so when her efforts were stymied by less-than-enthusiastic responses from staff, other councilmembers and the audience in council chambers, she cussed. It's her way, she says.

It's this way, she also says, that got her a resounding, but surprise victory to the council in 1990. Webb acknowledged she was a long-shot in 1990. She even remembers that some thought her candidacy a joke.

Webb had never held elected office before. She was not one of the "insiders" and many people did not know her at all.

But she still pulled in more votes than then-Planning Commissioner and now Mayor Pro Tem Judy Mikels. In fact, Webb was the top vote-getter in the council race that year.

All this for a woman who doesn't particularly like government.

"Government should protect its citizens against foreign aggression and provide a court system to set-

tle disputes," she said recently during an hour-long interview at her building design office in Simi Valley.

Is that all government should do? "That's it," she replied.

Then, why is she in city government, the veritable hub of everything with which she disagrees.

"I wanted to do something about it, rather than sit on the sidelines and complain," she said. "I think I've made a difference."

Webb is now committed to reforming government and will seek re-election in 1994.

Her non-traditional ways stretch into her personal life as well.

Although never married, Webb has a successful relationship with Dan Wiener, 44, — her "POSLQ," as she calls him — for the past 16 years. The couple have one child, a girl, 12-year-old Aubri.

POSLQ is the acronym used by the federal government on census forms. It stands for Persons of Opposite Sex Sharing Living Quarters.

"Dan is my POSLQ," Webb said, laughing.

Marriage is far too embedded in religion, and the contract arrangement works fine, she said.

"We must be doing something right, we've been together for 16 years," she said.

The couple has an annual, renewable contract for the relationship, and a binding, non-negotiable contract for Aubri, she said.

Each year Webb and Wiener have a contract-signing party, instead of a wedding anniversary.

Sometimes, she says, the contract is amended and changed, most



Larry Tynan/Staff photo

NON-TRADITIONAL: Simi Valley City Councilwoman Sandi Webb has always followed the beat of a different drum.

times it's not.

"We invite a small number of friends over and have a celebra-

tion," she said. "Sometimes we go

to dinner. We have a good relationship."

The Enterprise, CA, Feb. 13, 1993

Libertarian Party Senate candidate wants drugs legal

By Stan Milam
Gazette Staff

MADISON—Drugs should be legalized, a state Senate candidate said Friday.

Violence and crime associated with drugs, "not the few who abuse marijuana and other drugs," are the real problems with drugs, Libertarian candidate Jeff Friebert said.

"I'm the last person in the world who would ever endorse drug use, but I do think I'm uniquely qualified to help shape a saner policy to end the drug nightmare we're experiencing today," Friebert told the UW Jefferson Society.

Friebert lives in Oregon and works for the UAW-GM Legal Services Plan in Janesville. He is a candidate for the 27th state Senate seat, which Russell Feingold left when he won his U.S. Senate race against Robert Kasten Jr. in November.

The 27th district includes two wards in the city of Janesville and the northern and western towns in Rock County.

Friebert said he overcame chemical dependency through a 12-step program.

Every year, more than 48,000 Americans die from alcohol abuse, Friebert said, and more than 400,000 die from cigarette-related illnesses. Meanwhile, he said, fewer than 3,000 people die from illegal drugs.

"Compared to tobacco and alcohol, marijuana—the most commonly used illegal drug—is not physically addicting, and there has never been a recorded case of anyone dying from an overdose," Friebert said. "Illegal drugs are not good or safe, but they cause far less medical harm than do alcohol and nicotine."

Despite President Reagan's all-out war on drugs, violent crimes have increased sharply, Friebert said.

"As gangs battle each other and the police over turf, violence is inevitable. In addition, the high price of drugs forces addicts to steal to maintain their habits," he said.

"Drugs should be re-legalized not because they are good or beneficial, but because drugs do less harm to our lives, our property, and our humanity than drug laws," he said. "The war on drugs is the cause of our drug nightmare, not the solution."

Janesville Gazette, Janesville, WI, Jan. 30, 1993



Friebert

Mother fights for all Libertarians

By Scott Sexton
STAFF WRITER

Tending to an active 2-year-old, Kathleen Ferrell doesn't sound like the plaintiff in a class action lawsuit against the state.

But she is. That's her name typed neatly at the top of a suit filed in the U.S. Middle District Court in Greensboro Monday.

"I'm representing all Libertarians who went to the trouble to register," said Ferrell, 36, of High Point. "I don't feel it's right to have the state change my affiliation if I don't want it to."

"If the North Carolina Libertarian Party fails in its bid to win an injunction from a federal judge Wednesday, that's exactly what the state will do."

Under state law, the N.C. Board of Elections can strip any voters registered to third parties of their affiliation if their party failed to net 10 percent of the vote for governor or president 90 days after the election.

"That's why I didn't change (party affiliations) before," Ferrell said. "I was hesitant because I didn't want to be listed as 'unaffiliated.' I think it's worth it to try getting the law changed."

Since Scott McLaughlin only got about 4.5 percent of the vote — or about 101,000 — cast in the gubernatorial race, Wednesday would mark the official end of the Libertarian Party. But party members went to work on petitions.

Libertarians are confident about their chances in court.

"I am confident we will prevail in the case. In fact, the Constitutional issues raised may reach the U.S. Supreme Court," said E. Clark Dummit, the party's attorney.

State law requires third parties to collect 43,600 signatures of registered voters — 2 percent of the turnout in the 1988 gubernatorial election — to keep an active status.

Because the state requires a fee of 5-cents per

signature to validate, the most recent petition drive cost the party about \$70,000, including postage to all 100 counties, McLaughlin said.

That figure staggers a 677-member party which only spent about \$20,000 in the governor's race.

"He (McLaughlin) worked hard and it showed," Ferrell said. "... 4 percent was a great victory. His votes cost a nickel apiece versus \$5 for the others when you figure he only had about \$20,000 to spend and the others had millions."

As a member of the other officially recognized part (besides the GOP and the Democrats), Ferrell wants to channel the funds and energy-spent earning and re-earning official party status into political races.

"The law was written for inactive parties," she said. "We're small but we're definitely active."

Wednesday's date in federal court with a High Point mother serving as the plaintiff may prove that point.

High Point - Enterprise, N.C. Feb. 23, 1993

Electi n probe bill postponed

□ Lawmakers shelve the idea when they are told inquiries are under way, and they draw criticism.

By Ed Vogel
Donrey Capital Bureau

CARSON CITY — After being told an investigation is in progress, the Senate Finance Committee postponed acting Friday on a bill calling for a grand jury to probe last year's election in Clark County.

Clark County Deputy District Attorney Ben Graham said Las Vegas police and his office are investigating charges of wrongdoing in the conduct of the Nov. 3 election. Their reports will be turned over to the current grand jury, he said.

"There is some evidence of criminal wrongdoing with the registration process," Graham said. "Indictments may be issued from the grand jury."

After his testimony, the Senate committee deferred action on Senate Bill 94. The bill requests the Clark County District Courts to direct the current grand jury, or a special grand jury, to investigate the election. The measure also calls for the Legislature to spend up to \$50,000 for the investigation.

Contacted in Las Vegas, Libertarian Party leader Tamara Clark was not surprised the committee members did not act on the bill, saying they really do not want to know the truth. She said she also expects little from the current investigation by the Metropolitan Police Department Election Task Force.

The task force is only looking at issues raised by Clark County Registrar of Voters Deborah West and Deputy Registrar Doug Lovitt, Clark said. "It's like the fox guarding the henhouse," she said.

Clark expects the grand jury to indict about 25 deputy registrars who turned in names of bogus voters to collect a \$2 per-voter bounty paid by the Democratic Party. The Clark County Election Department, which should be investigated, will escape any scrutiny, she said.

A Metro task force investigator confirmed the Election Department is not under investigation. The probe focuses on the actions of the deputy registrars, he said. No information as yet has been given to the grand jury.

Clark said senators can expect many

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calls from residents objecting to the decision to accept Clark County's handling of problems associated with the election.

"The claims of Clark County that this is all under control is crap," she said.

The bill calling for a grand jury was drafted after Clark and Republicans Jack Kenney and John DuBois challenged their defeats in the November election.

Clark lost the District 2 race to Sen. Ray Shaffer, D-North Las Vegas, by 3,476 votes. DuBois was defeated by Sen. Matthew Callister, D-Las Vegas, in the District 8 race by 478 votes, while Sen. Lori Lipman Brown, D-Las Vegas, beat Kenney by 9,281 votes in District 7.

During a hearing on their challenges, Clark and the others repeatedly said they wanted the Election Department investigated. The Senate bill, however, makes no mention of investigating the Election Department.

Brown told the committee her constituents want a special prosecutor and grand jury to review the election. She said they "don't

feel confident in any system tied to our county."

"There are people in Southern Nevada who don't believe any of us here were legitimately elected," she said. "They simply don't feel Clark County people will be unbiased."

Legislative Counsel Lorne Malkiewicz explained that under law the Legislature cannot name a grand jury to investigate the election. Grand juries are controlled by the chief judge of the District Court in the affected county.

"We have no authority to tell the courts to do anything," added committee Chairman Bill Raggio, R-Reno.

Graham said there will be "no bias" in the investigation, but added the process may not satisfy concerns of critics.

Raggio repeatedly told Graham he wants the investigation completed before the Legislature adjourns. He also will send a committee-approved letter to Clark County authorities that emphasizes the Senate wants an unbiased investigation that considers information gathered by the three losing candidates.

Las Vegas Review - Journal, Las Vegas, NV. Feb. 6, 1993

Libertarian candidate charts his own course

Rick Draheim wants to take on the federal deficit.

It's a tall task. But who could possibly be better to tackle the question of reducing government spending than a Libertarian, whose party is dedicated to getting government out of people's lives?

"No one is as willing to take on cutting the deficit as the Libertarian Party is," said Draheim, the party's candidate in the May 1 U.S. Senate race.

Draheim, a 34-year-old Rockwall businessman who was campaigning in Houston last week, is a two-time candidate for the Texas Railroad Commission. He received more than 400,000 votes last fall — less than 10 percent of the total vote cast.



A glance at Draheim's cost-saving recommendations quickly separates him from the other Senate candidates: stop federal subsidizing of banks, end all foreign aid, bring overseas troops home, legalize drugs, abolish the departments of energy and education, stop agricultural subsidies, and reform social security, including stopping payments to people earning \$50,000 or more.

One of about a dozen declared candidates for the Senate seat, Draheim knows his chances are slim. His first goal is to get on the ballot through a petition drive. He'll need 5,000 signatures by March 31, the filing deadline.



Houston Post, Houston, TX. Feb. 14, 1993