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# Liberty Pledge

➤ NEWSLETTER

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Libertarian Party National Headquarters ♦ 1528 Pennsylvania Avenue SE ♦ Washington DC 20003 ♦ (202) 543-1988

## Nine Libertarian Party candidates victorious in November elections

Eight Libertarian Party candidates around the country were elected to office in November and one was re-elected, in spite of increasingly harsh partisan attacks by Republicans and Democrats.

"We're becoming a threat," said Libertarian Party national Chair Steve Dasbach. "The two-party system is reacting to us now."

Republicans and Democrats went on the offensive against Libertarian candidates in Virginia, Arizona, Alabama, Missouri, Montana, and Pennsylvania, according to reports from around the country. "In years past, they would just ignore us. Now, in nearly half our races, they devoted considerable resources to attacking us," said Dasbach.

"Where we ran serious races, the Republicans and Democrats saw us as a bigger threat than the other party. They would even work together to defeat us, frequently resorting to underhanded tactics," he said.

Despite this, nine of the more than four dozen Libertarian candidates in this off-year election ended up in the winner's circle.

In a closely watched race, Alabama LP Chairman Dr. Jimmy Blake won a seat on the Birmingham City Council, garnering 55.5% of the vote in a two-way, non-partisan race.

In New York, Rebecca Wilber became possibly the first Libertarian in state history to gain partisan public office. She was elected to the Town Board in Woodstock with 50.4% of the vote in a four-way race for two seats, running on both the Libertarian and Republican tickets.

In Ohio, Robert deBrossee captured a seat on the Piqua City Council, winning 52% of the vote in a two-way, non-partisan race.

Five Libertarians were victorious in Pennsylvania. Timothy Moir was elected Inspector of Elections, Upper Merion's Gulph 2 precinct; Danielle Cauley won the office of Inspector of Elections, Upper Merion's King 2 precinct; and John Pata won as a write-in candidate for Judge of Elections of the Lower 11th District, Middletown township. In addition, Ken Sturzenacker (Pennsylvania LP Chair) won a seat on the Borough Council in North Catasauqua in a two-way, non-partisan race, and Berlie Etzel was elected to the non-partisan Keystone School Board in the Ashland Township.

The flurry of election success in Pennsylvania increased to eight the total number of Libertarians in office in that state, tying them for third place with Texas and trailing only New Hampshire (20) and California (12).

In the one re-election victory, voters in Winona, Minnesota returned Libertarian Donald Salyards to his office as Director of School District 861. The race was non-partisan.

In other races around the country, an aggressive bid by seven Virginia LP members to win a partisan seat in the House of Delegates came up short. Among the highlights, State Chair John Buckley won 11% of the vote in a three-way race; Rick Sincere garnered 10% in a four-way race; and William Redpath received 12% in a three-way race.

## Nobel prize winner reveals that he's a Libertarian

The winner of the 1993 Nobel prize in chemistry has announced publicly that he's a libertarian.

Kary Mullis, 48, won the Nobel prize this year for figuring out how to make unlimited copies of DNA — but is as interested in talking about the need for "less government interference in private lives" as he is in discussing chemistry and microbiology.

In an interview with the *Fort Bragg Advocate News* in California, a reporter noted that Mullis "talks about his Libertarian philosophy" as just one of "his wildly divergent interests."

"Government, he feels, is best suited to protect groups of people from outside interference, but ill-suited to dictate how individuals should lead their private lives," said the article. "He's against drug laws, or any laws that interfere with personal freedom, claiming drugs don't cause society's problems, 'it's the cops that cause the problems.'"

Mullis has been described as an "untamed genius," and said he rollerblades regularly, does his best thinking in a hot tub, and when in La Jolla spends most mornings surfing.

He will be heading to Stockholm, Sweden in December to accept his half of the prestigious \$825,000 prize, which he shares with Canadian Michael Smith.

# Hoosier Libertarian looks to grass roots for support

SOUTH WHITLEY — Andre Marrou was fuming in his St. Louis hotel room one afternoon in September 1992 when I called him.

The Libertarian candidate for president was under siege from the Secret Service to vacate his room in the Drury Inn to make way for the massive entourage of President George Bush, who was there to debate Bill Clinton and Ross Perot.

"I paid for this room," Marrou said, "And I'm going to keep it." He also railed at what he called the "socialists" — political figures you and I might call Democrats and Republicans. Marrou was advocating things like rolling back taxes 90 percent, saying that true private enterprise could pave the streets and take care of the poor.

Marrou kept his room in St. Louis that day — a tiny island surrounded by all the president's men. His Libertarian Party, which made it onto the ballot in all 50 states, ended up with a minuscule vote of less than a percentage point, compared to 19 percent that Ross Perot drew.

It is this historical backdrop that a Whitley County school teacher named Stephen Dasbach has taken over the reigns of one of America's fringe political movements. He was elected chairman of the Libertarian Party at its convention in Salt Lake City recently. It is Dasbach's goal to steer the Libertarian Party closer to the nation's mainstream during the next 10 years.

Instead of focusing on presidential, Senate and House races, Dasbach wants to field candidates for city council, county commissioner, and state legislatures across the nation.

"While the problems are at their worst at the federal level, it is hardest to attack there. People are realizing that you have to start at the grassroots level and work up," Dasbach said, using Ross Perot's United We Stand movement as an antithesis. "With Perot, there is a lot of control being exerted from Dallas and in the long run, that will be a weakness. People are looking for a voice in government and they are looking for an alternative where they can have a say."

The Libertarian model for gradual success exists in New Hampshire, a tiny state with a large legislature. That system allows candidates to have politically intimate contact with their constituents. Two Libertarians were elected, and two Republicans switched parties, giving the party a caucus of four.

"In New Hampshire, we built up the membership and got people into selected offices. They have built up a strong enough party organization that established office holders felt comfortable enough to switch," Dasbach said. "We've got a way to go in Indiana."

It is a state Dasbach knows well, having run for the state Legislature, secretary of state, Congress and superintendent for public instruction between 1980 and 1986. However, it is a state that has only several thousand actual party members, even though it can muster up the 30,000 or so signatures needed to place statewide candidates. "I think to a large extent those were the wrong offices to be running for," he said. "But the goal was to let more people know what the party stood for."



**Brian Howey**

In 1994 and 1995, Dasbach envisions running good candidates for county and legislative seats, and then for city councils. "By 2004, I would like to be in a position where we can make a serious run at a congressional seat. Our first congressman will be a state legislator who has already shown what he can do. It will take a few more election cycles to elect legislators in states other than New Hampshire."

The key to appealing to the grassroots, Dasbach believes, is to move from Marrou's hard-line stance on taxes and civil liberties, and blend central Libertarian themes with more moderate policies.

"Libertarians believe the primary function of government is protecting individual rights," said the Whitko High School chemistry teacher. "What has happened over the last several decades is that people have lost the concept of personal responsibility."

Dasbach points to the so-called "war on drugs" as a prime example of where he believes the Libertarian Party can connect with mainstream voters. "We are running an incredibly expensive war on drugs along with serious breaches of civil liberties such as asset forfeiture," Dasbach said. "We've been doing these things, but things aren't getting any better."

He believes that regulations on small businesses are keeping the economy from growing. "Someone can't cut hair in their own living room to make a living," he said, coming up with an example. "The Cosmetology and Barber Boards won't allow it. It is clearly limiting competition."

While Perot polled 19 percent in 1992, a sizeable faction of the United We Stand movement was disappointed in the Texan's lack of resolve to stay in the race. It is within these disaffected ranks of American voters that Libertarians might find momentum. The problem Dasbach faces is that the Libertarians lack a personality like Perot that can galvanize support and deliver the message.

The affable, easy-going Dasbach will be serving a three-year term as national Libertarian chairman. The duties won't be pulling Dasbach away from his Fort Wayne home too much. There is a staff of six professionals manning the party headquarters in Washington. Most of the communicating will be done over the phone lines and fax machines.

In a sense, Dasbach will be counting on greater contact with regular folks in places like South Whitley to make the Libertarians competitive, rather than St. Louis hotel rooms.

*Brian Howey is a political columnist based in Fort Wayne.*

*New Hampshire Business Review  
Manchester, New Hampshire  
October 15, 1993*

## Bringing back the work ethic

Well, there's at least one result from Gov. Merrill's appointment of Libertarian-turned-bureaucrat Miriam Luce to the State Liquor Commission. Those who work at the liquor monopoly's Concord offices — including the other two commissioners — are finding themselves working harder to impress Luce.

One employee admits that "it's been a lot tighter" since Luce came on board, with some of the bigger-wigs even spending more time at the office so people will know they're "working."

### EDITORIALS

## Everyone wins

Smart politics, or just plain smart? It really doesn't matter what Gov. Merrill's motives are in reaching out to New Hampshire's Libertarians. The bottom line is still the same: Merrill continues to score high marks in bringing common sense to the corner office.

Last week Merrill became the first sitting governor of New Hampshire to formally address the Libertarian Party at a gathering in Concord. The governor, who just two weeks earlier named the party's 1992 gubernatorial standard bearer — Miriam Luce of Windham — to the state Liquor Commission, received a standing ovation for just showing up. Then he continued to flatter Libertarians, telling them he admired their idealism in the face of an ever-increasing stream of political rhetoric. Merrill talked of the common ground he shares with the party, namely a distaste for higher taxes and excessive government regulation that gets in the way of growth and the free-market system. And he acknowledged that the party will continue to be a political force to be reckoned with in the future.

If it's all in the name of politics to build a broad-based coalition in which the best ideas rise to the top regardless of who authors them, then Merrill is, indeed, demonstrating his mastery of the game. And if gamesmanship translates into better government for Granite Staters, then let the games continue and let the best players prevail. Seems this is one of those win-win situations, regardless of Merrill's motives, and the ultimate victors are New Hampshire's taxpayers.

*Derry News  
Derry, New Hampshire  
September 15, 1993*

# Libertarian takes candidacy seriously

By William Hanrahan  
Register Staff

MILFORD

MILFORD — For those who don't think Libertarian mayoral candidate David Wilson is serious about being included in upcoming campaign debates, read his lips:

"I'm as serious as a funeral," the 38-year-old, bearded Vietnam veteran said in a recent interview. "This is not a joke to me."

Wilson, who ran for state Senate last year and received just five votes, says he is considering filing a lawsuit against the organizers of a recent debate because they did not let him participate.

The debate between Republican Mayor Fred Lisman and Democrat Kathy Lutz was held at the First Church of Christ, Congregational. It was sponsored by the Plymouth Men's Club.

Wilson asked to participate at the start of the Sept. 21 debate, but he said he was informed by a moderator that the format did not include him.

Steven F. Rogers, president of the Plymouth Men's Club, said he had no contact with Wilson before or after the debate. He said he did not wish to comment on the matter.

*New Haven Register  
New Haven, Connecticut  
September 27, 1993*

**"I'm as serious as a funeral. This is not a joke to me."**

Mayoral candidate  
David Wilson

## Libertarians doomed to get wiped from wall

GUYMON, Okla. — Those who would like to learn more about the Libertarian Party better get to the Mr. Burger in east Guymon before the paint crew does.

This weekend, the graffiti on the men's room wall — and, presumably, the women's room wall — will be lost to posterity when the painters ply their trade in the Mr. Burger restrooms.

That means patrons of the men's room soon will be deprived of a curious message that reads: LEGALIZE FREEDOM 1-800-682-1776. It's scrawled just below and to the right of a hand-lettered note from the management that says: DO NOT WRITE ON WALLS.

Dial the toll-free number — go ahead. A perky woman will answer. "Thank you for calling the Libertarian Party," she says. "How may I help you?"

A quick explanation describing how the number was displayed in the restroom of the Guymon Mr. Burger brought only a momentary chuckle. Then back to business.

"What is your name and address? An information packet will be delivered to you within three to five days," she said.

Another phone call to the Mr. Burger brought only an apology.

"I'm sorry about that," said Jeannette Dodson, the assistant manager. "I don't know who wrote that number, but I'll go and check on it. We've had a problem with graffiti being written on the walls, and we're going to paint over it."

Some might say that's a shame — there's so little interesting graffiti these days.

Oh, well. Maybe it's for the best. A good Libertarian would never deface another person's property, anyway.

— SONNY BOHANAN  
Globe-News Staff Writer

*Auburn Star  
Auburn, Indiana  
October 12, 1993*

*Amarillo Daily News  
Amarillo, Texas  
October 9, 1993*



MARV BONDAROWICZ/The Oregonian

Libertarian Party Chairman Richard P. Burke gives his views on the sales tax Sunday from the steps of the Capitol.

# Libertarians: Sales tax a ploy for government to waste more

■ About 30 persons cheer attacks on Measure 1 on broad grounds of economic freedom

By BARNES C. ELLIS  
of The Oregonian staff

SALEM — The Libertarian Party of Oregon staged an anti-sales tax rally on the Capitol steps Sunday, becoming the third party to turn its back on the proposal.

Only about 30 people attended the event, but they enthusiastically applauded a series of speakers who ripped the tax plan as a misguided attempt to pick the pockets of unwilling taxpayers.

Richard P. Burke, chairman of the party, said the proposed tax was "adding insult to injury" on top of the state's other taxes. He also criticized public schools, which would get the money.

In a visit to Sunset High School a year ago, Burke said he heard stu-

dents asking, "Where is Nebraska? Is West Virginia a state?"

"More money does not mean better schools," said Burke, whose party claims about 9,000 members statewide.

Martin Buchanan, a one-time Libertarian political candidate, dripped with sarcasm as he pretended to back the measure.

He said it was important to shift money from the "lazy and unproductive private sector" to the "hard-working and productive public sector."

The tag line for Measure 1 is "Dedicated to schools, controlled by voters," but Buchanan offered another one: "Dedicated to pork, controlled by legislators." State workers already enjoy \$6,000 a year more in benefits than private-sector workers, he said, and he warned that the Legislature could expand the tax to include services.

Bill Sizemore, executive director of Oregon Taxpayers United, said



voters had reached a "critical mass with taxes," and were ready to organize to oppose any more.

With property assessment jumps after Measure 5, Sizemore said, "People are really ticked.

They feel betrayed."

While the Libertarian Party opposes Measure 1 on broad grounds of economic freedom, the state Democratic Party is opposing the sales tax as especially regressive.

The state Republican Party executive committee rejected the tax by arguing that government should cut spending, although the central committee must still vote on it.

The Oregonian  
Portland Oregon  
October 5, 1993