

LIBERTY PLEDGE

NEWSLETTER

Libertarian National Committee, Inc. ♦ 2600 Virginia Ave, NW, Suite 200 ♦ Washington, DC 20037 ♦ Phone: (202) 333-0008 ♦ Fax: (202) 333-0072

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Libertarian Judge up for Second Re-election

by Elyse Dorsey
Intern for the Libertarian Party

John Buttrick, an Arizona Superior Court Judge and long-time Libertarian Party member, will be seeking election to his second full, four-year term this coming Nov. "I am confident that I can be retained by popular vote once again," says Buttrick, who was appointed to office in 2001 by then-Governor Jane Dee Hull. Though elections can be a time of anxiety even for incumbents, Buttrick's confidence in his reelection is well founded.

Buttrick enters this election season with confidence derived from his most recent, and very successful, judicial reelection, and from his experiences running as a Libertarian candidate for Governor in 1994 and State Representative. However, running for office is hardly the extent of Buttrick's involvement in the Libertarian Party. From 1997 to 2000 Buttrick was an at-large member of the Libertarian National Committee; he served three times on the National LP Platform Committee, chairing it twice; and he has addressed LP National Convention delegates both in 2002 and in 2006.

In his pursuits at the judicial level, Buttrick feels his known Libertarian affiliation may be an asset to him. "Despite what many people predicted, being a well known Libertarian... did not impede my appointment in 2001 by a Republican Governor," he says. "Governor Hull appointed me over 39 Republicans and Democrats."

Slight concerns did arise over possible negative political responses to his initial appointment and later to his 2004 reelection, when it was feared that the Republicans and Democrats also up for reelection would far surpass his own support, yet in neither case did these worries come to fruition. Though, in the end, his 2004 vote total was among the highest in the state. "All in all, my party affiliation might be working to my advantage," Buttrick concluded.

Prior to applying for a judgeship post, Buttrick says he debated with himself over the "fundamental question as to whether any Libertarian can serve as a judge in the first place, given our antipathy to so

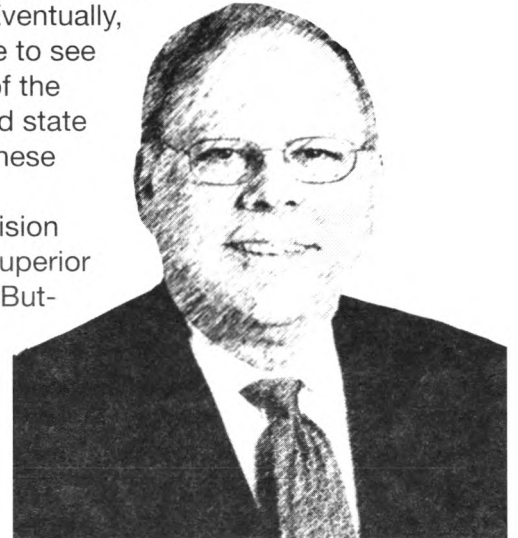
many areas of government involvement." Eventually, Buttrick's desire to see the upholding of the Constitution and state laws trumped these hesitations.

Since his decision to accept the Superior Court position, Buttrick says, "I try to both uphold my oath to follow the Constitution and laws of the state,

and do what is right," when faced with issues of politics and ideology in the courtroom. Having a judge so acutely concerned with and attuned to fundamental rights and the championing of the Constitution is certainly a privilege for the state of Arizona, and Buttrick has loved the perpetual challenges and vast array of experiences he has had while serving as a judge.

Buttrick's numerous experiences with the Libertarian Party and his pursuits for office have given him a solid and perceptive understanding of how to run for office. His advice to any Libertarians who wish to serve in office is: one, be sure you are qualified for and want to do the job; two, cultivate good (or at least civil) relations with the press; three, plan out your campaign with great specificity and well in advance; four, set achievable goals, which may not always be winning the office on the first try.

In his upcoming reelection, Buttrick will not be seeking funds for his campaign, claiming that, "There are more important campaigns for people to support with their dollars and time." He will rely on an independent Judicial Performance Review, the results of which will be made available to all voters, to sufficiently spread knowledge of the impending judicial elections. In the true Libertarian spirit, Buttrick will plan a self-funded campaign if he feels the review fails to live up to his expectations.



Start a Bob Barr Meetup Group in Your Area

by Austin Petersen
Volunteer Coordinator for the Libertarian Party

The 2008 campaign season is in full swing as the volunteer requests went from a trickle, to a constant stream over the past few weeks. Lots of excited young people, former Ron Paul organizers, Veterans, stay at home moms and dads, and all sorts of different patriotic Americans are emailing me asking how they can help.

In all of these emails I have been identifying lots of people with leadership potential who want to start their own Bob Barr Meetup groups, and want my advice on how to get started, and have an active organization. In working on the Paul campaign as a volunteer coordinator, I learned that to be successful we had to develop a team that assigned everyone responsibilities according to his or her talents and experience.

Starting a local Bob Barr Meetup group is as simple as going to Meetup.com and registering for an account, then registering as an organizer with the available tools. Once you have begun, the first thing you should do is get on the phone and call your most trusted activist friends and get them to register and hopefully become assistant organizers. Once that is finished, you should begin emailing everyone in your community that might be interested, sending them the link to your Meetup, and asking them to join.

Once these initial steps are completed, you can begin searching for other local Meetup groups in your area by zip code that relate to the topics of Liberty, and political activism. These are generally presented to you automatically when you are signed into the site. Email the organizers for other local groups that might be interested in joining your Meetup, and invite them to your first meeting.

Scheduling your first meetup is important, you want to start things off on the right foot. You'll want to pick a local location that is not too crowded, but is a welcoming environment to all types of people. That means, if you decide to have it at a bar, check to make sure that people under 21 are allowed in; otherwise you might lose an opportunity to recruit young activists.

Also, always call ahead to the location that you will be meeting at. I say that because it is always good manners to the proprietor of the establishment, and because you may be able to get group discount rates on things like food and drink. Don't be shy to ask for them, most bar and restaurant owners are glad to offer deals to people who bring in large groups. They

may even save you large tables if you ask.

They say all politics is local, and of course it is true. Local activism is extremely important and can make a huge difference nowadays even on a national scale. Local meetup groups that broadcast their activities on the Internet via you tube videos, are inspirations to other groups and can be good training tools for other people to learn from. The more visible your local groups are on the Internet, the more we can grow and learn from each other. If you have someone in your group that enjoys making videos, encourage them to post your events on YouTube so that other people can see what goes on, and be inspired to replicate your results.

If you find that you have a thriving group with many dedicated members that consistently show up to events, you might want to consider finding a permanent meeting location for your group. Even if it's just someone's basement or garage, having a "War Room" to coordinate events and phone banking operations can be a very powerful tool to execute important tasks. Ideally you will have a volunteer at your headquarters to man phones, and field calls if you are really growing and have an active group. Phone banking operations will become more important as Nov. comes closer, and in a future publication I will give you some tips and tricks to run a successful volunteer phone bank operation at little to no cost.

Starting a Bob Barr Meetup in your community will help elevate the LP's profile and spread our message in your communities in very positive ways. If you have a fun, active group it will encourage others to join, and learn what we have to teach about our philosophy of liberty, peace and prosperity.

For more information or suggestions, please email me at volunteer@lp.org.



Ticket to the White House

by Andrew Davis

Media Coordinator for the Libertarian Party

Following his nomination as the Libertarian Party's presidential candidate for the 2008 election, Bob Barr stood on stage before some 650 delegates ready for the LP's biggest year since the party was founded in 1971. "I'm sure we will emerge here with the strongest ticket in the history of the Libertarian Party," Barr stated in his victory speech shortly after being selected as the Party's nominee. "I want everybody to remember that we only have 163 days to win this election. Do not waste one single day."

Barr, who bested 14 other candidates for the nomination of the Libertarian Party, will head the party's ticket in the upcoming election, facing Republican John McCain and Democrat Barack Obama. A Rasmussen poll last month showed Barr polling at 6 percent nationally--better than any other LP candidate has ever done. Additionally, Barr has done media appearances across the nation including interviews with the *Colbert Report*, *Glenn Beck* and *Bloomberg Television*.

Barr joined the Libertarian Party in 2006, and up until officially announcing his intentions to seek the Libertarian Party's presidential nomination, served on the Libertarian National Committee as the Region 4 Representative. As a member of the LNC, Barr helped Libertarian candidates across the country through financial support or speaking at various events.

Barr attributes his turn-around from the GOP to the powerful message of the Libertarian Party. "For more than three decades," Barr recently wrote in his regular column at the *Huffington Post*, "the Libertarian Party and small 'l' libertarians have done their part to prove to America that liberty is the answer to most of the problems that we face today. Over the past several years, I was one of the many people influenced by this small party."

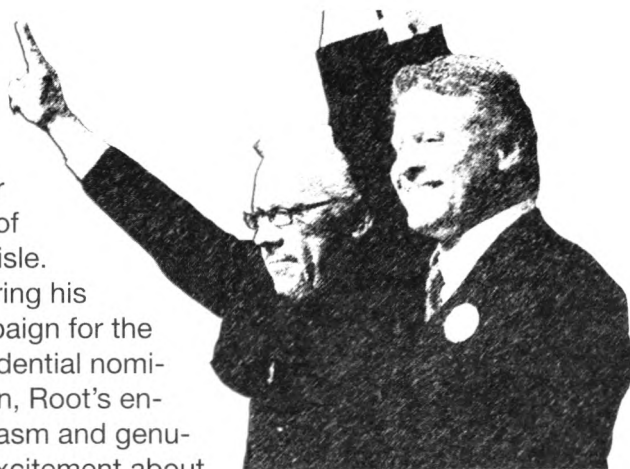
Barr is joined on the LP ticket by Wayne Allyn Root, a small business owner from Las Vegas, NV who was one of Barr's main competitors in the bid for the Libertarian Party's presidential nomination, but endorsed Barr after being eliminated in the fourth round of voting. Barr in-turn endorsed Root for the vice presidential nomination.

Root is a second generation American; small businessman (and son and grandson of small businessmen); and a home-school father of four young children. His experience in business and management are a welcomed return to the "citizen politician" instead of the "business-as-usual" politicians found

on either side of the aisle.

During his campaign for the presidential nomination, Root's enthusiasm and genuine excitement about leading the Libertarian-revolution in 2008 impressed people from all political parties at the events where he spoke. Root plans to use his enthusiasm to reenergize the libertarian revolution begun by Ron Paul, and not to let that torch of liberty burn out.

With Barr and Root heading the LP ticket in 2008 elections, it is sure to be a banner year for the Libertarian Party; however, we need your support to ensure that our candidates are on the ballot. Please visit our new Web site at www.lp.org/contribute to support these candidates in 2008. The official campaign Web site can be found at www.bobbarr2008.com.



Welcome to the Liberty Pledge Club!

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This Month in the Media

by Andrew Davis
Media Coordinator for the Libertarian Party

Huckabee Bashes Libertarians

May 29 - During an interview at the end of May with a writer for the *Huffington Post*, former Arkansas governor and Republican candidate for president Mike Huckabee called libertarianism “not an American message,” stating libertarianism was a “soulless type of economic conservatism” and a threat to Republicanism. In response, the Libertarian Party agreed with Huckabee that the libertarian message was a threat to the Republican establishment.

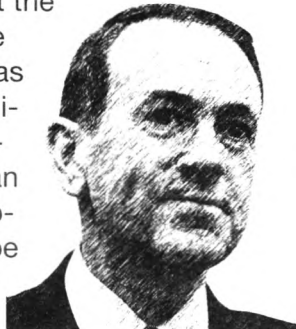
“Huckabee is right that Libertarianism is a threat to Republicanism,” said Libertarian Party spokesperson Andrew Davis. “The Republican Party, with the help of people like Sen. John McCain, has done nothing but increase the scope and power of government while throwing fiscal responsibility to the wind. It’s the ‘compassionate conservatism’ touted by people like Huckabee, McCain and President Bush that has caused a soaring national debt and a society where prisons are overflowing because of Republican ‘compassion.’”

Davis called the Libertarian Party message “the American message” because it is the only political message that empowers the American people, instead of the American government. After all, it was Republican icon Ronald Reagan that called libertarianism the heart of GOP ideology.

Micromanaging the Weather

June 3 - Discovering that banning the light bulb did not go far enough, Congress is now looking at the Lieberman-Warner Climate Securities Act of 2007 as its latest weapon to stop global climate change. The bill, which makes use of cap and trade initiatives that have been tried in such over-regulated environments

as Europe, is expected to cost anywhere between \$1.7 and \$4.1 trillion in GDP losses from 2010 to 2030, if implemented. “The idea that the federal government can micromanage the global environment is about as absurd as it can get,” says Libertarian Party spokesper-



son Andrew Davis. “Congress might as well pass legislation calling for the regulation of eclipses and the earth’s rotation--as it would be in the same spirit as the Lieberman-Warner Act.”

Davis stated that the government had no right to throttle American industries with overbearing regulation in pursuit of environmentalism. “The future of the environmental movement should rest in the hands of consumers and their choices made in the free market rather than in burdensome legislation that is destined to yield no results at an astronomical cost to an already struggling U.S. economy,” Davis said.

McCain Equals the Same



June 9 - When similarities to President Bush’s administration became the “kiss of death” in early GOP campaigning, presidential candidate Sen. John McCain made sure to empha-

size differences between his policies and those of the administration. However, as McCain sealed the nomination of his party, those differences began to wane. Now, it appears McCain plans to continue the administration’s policies of civil liberties abuse in pursuit of “terrorists” -- at least according to one McCain adviser.

“Real change--the kind that a Barr administration would bring to Americans--would be returning America to a place where citizens can trust that the government is not looking over their shoulder or listening in on their phone calls,” LP presidential candidate and former Congressman Bob Barr said. “A McCain administration would undoubtedly be a continuation of the status quo from which Americans are ready to escape. McCain is not change. McCain is four more years of the same.”

The New York Times quoted the McCain adviser as saying that McCain believes that “neither the administration nor the telecoms need apologize for actions that most people, except for the A.C.L.U. and trial lawyers, understand were constitutional and appropriate in the wake of the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001.”

“McCain has tried to project himself as a ‘real change’ from the disastrous programs of the last seven years,” Davis continues. “However, McCain’s reluctance to fully abandon the egregious policies of his predecessor makes him simply a repackaged version of the Bush administration--far from the illusion of change McCain has worked so hard to create.”