

James Werner's Mission to Free Texas

"I'm not jaded, not contaminated by the political process and not cynical," Werner said in a recent phone interview. "I'm just a regular private sector Texan who has a lot of good ideas."

A 43-year-old Austin resident who works as a sales executive with a major software company, Werner moved to Texas in 1998 from California. What appealed to him most were Texas' high quality of life, relatively low tax rate and more freedom than he experienced in California.

Werner has previous political experience as a challenger to Democrat Lloyd Doggett for the US House District 25 seat. Werner said he found running against Doggett provided an excellent forum to promote libertarian ideas, and to be taken seriously and heard by an audience that is difficult to reach outside of such a race.

Werner's overarching themes are fiscal conservatism and social toler-

ance. Werner said in the past he had at times considered himself a conservative and at other times a liberal. About 15 years ago he realized he was both and that the Libertarian Party was for him.

"Our political heritage spans the gamut from the left to the right, yet we have evolved politically to encompass the best of the entire political spectrum—and we have learned to value liberty above all else," Werner said in his nomination speech at the state Libertarian convention in June.

As the Libertarian gubernatorial candidate Werner faces some well-funded and recognizable candidates in the form of Republican Gov. Rick Perry; Carol Keeton Strayhorn, Republican running as an independent, Democrat Chris Bell and independent Kinky Friedman, among others.

"I'm certain I am more equipped to discuss issues and arrive at sensible

solutions than the other candidates today," Werner said. If elected governor of Texas, Werner says he will work to get government off the backs of businesses and people, which will lead to greater general prosperity for everyone.

Based on his experience in the 2004 District 25 congressional race, Werner considers the gubernatorial race to be the largest public forum for libertarian ideas in Texas. Since it's not possible to meet every voter in the state, Werner will focus on gaining as much free media exposure as possible.

"I'm looking for the biggest bang for the lack of buck," he said.

To that end, he will be accepting and asking for invitations to TV, radio and newspaper events about the race. In some cases, just paying attention will do the trick. Just before this interview Werner ended up as an unplanned

Continued page 3

Houston Area Candidates March in Pride Parade

More than a dozen Libertarian Party activists, including three candidates, participated in Houston's Pride Parade June 24. The one mile night parade is the largest annual GLBT event in the southeast. This is the sixth year the group has sponsored an entry.

"This was my first parade and it exceeded my expectations," said Texas Representative District 130 candidate William Gray. "The crowd was very responsive to our presence. I heard loud cheers and a constant stream of encouragement from folks lining the streets. I was asked a couple of times if I was in fact running for office and to stand still long enough so they could get my

web site address off the sign I was holding," Gray said. His website is www.Grayforyou.com.

Lieutenant Governor candidate Judy Baker, her husband and Gabriella Coker-Garcia all wore t-shirts promoting Judy's candidacy. Judy's website is www.judybaker.us. Gerald "Jerry" LaFleur, candidate for Texas Representative District 146 also made an appearance at the parade. His website is www.lafleur4texas146.org.

Parade organizers report that about 150,000 see the parade and it is telecast on Qtelevision and broadcast on several local radio stations. More than 110 organizations participated.





Lone Star Liberty

Volume 16, Issue 5
July 2006
Available monthly
online at
www.lptexas.org;

Publisher:
Libertarian Party of Texas
P.O. Box 27932
Houston, TX 77227
www.lptexas.org
1-800-422-1776

State Chair:
Patrick Dixon
5200 Sundown
Lago Vista, TX 78645
Chair@lptexas.org
512-771-3936

Executive Director:
Wes Benedict
1403-B Kenwood Ave.
Austin, TX 78704
Director@lptexas.org
512-442-4910

Lone Star Liberty Editor:
Jeff Smith
thefez03@yahoo.com

Reporters
Jeff Smith
Laura Coker-Garcia

Layout
Laura Coker-Garcia

Submissions of party news, meeting minutes, photographs, biographies of candidates, suggested websites, letters to the editor, etc. is encouraged. Please send to Laura@libertyworks.org to submit.

Libertarian activists who are interested in volunteering as reporters, editors, columnists, etc. can join our working group at Lonestarliberty@yahoogroups.com.

Around the State: Activist Update

State Convention delegates meeting June 11 nominated the full slate of candidates seeking to run for statewide offices. A list of our candidates with contact information is published at www.lptexas.org.

Scott Lanier Jameson won the contested nomination for Senate over Timothy Wade and Ray Salinas.

Patrick Dixon won re-election as State Party Chair. **Geoff Neale** was re-elected Treasurer and **Laura Coker-Garcia** was re-elected Secretary. Fort Bend County Chair **Kevin Tunstall** was elected Vice Chair.

Convention delegates also selected representatives to serve on the State Libertarian Executive Committee of Texas. Delegates from each state senate district select two individuals to represent the district on the committee. The following people were elected: **District 4 Yvonne Kelly; District 5 Bryan Bracamonte and Chris Jagge; District 6 Joe Marcom; District 7 Jay Cookingham and William Gray; District 9 John Shuey and William Sparkman; District 11 Anthony Garcia and Stan Norred; District 13 Jeff Daiell and Guy McLendon; District 14 Matt Finkel and Nancy Neale; District 17 David Finberg and Michael Lee; District 18 Candace Sessums; District 23 T. Evan Fisher and John Hawley; District 24 Jon Roland and Randy Remington; District 25 Michael Burris; District 27 Fred Drew and Wendell Drye; and District 30 James Gholston.**

Contact information for each of the members is in the database at http://www.lptexas.org/district_representatives.shtml.

The committee voted to add **Mark Hopkins** to represent District 1 and **Chris Austin and Kendall Beerwinkle** for District 16. Several districts have vacancies. **Chris Jagge**, chair of the Brazos County Libertarian Party, was elected to the Operations Committee in a run-off over Matt Finkel of Travis.

Jeff Daiell of Houston seeks contributions to the "Loving County Project." Inspired by the voters of tiny Dixville Notch, NH, who gave good publicity to 1992 LP presidential candidate Andre Marrou as a result of their first-in-the-nation primary votes, Daiell is trying to reproduce that phenomenon in Loving County, Texas. With donations and his own money, Daiell has an account for this project to pay for mailings to Loving County voters in an effort to pick up more LP votes in this tiny population 60 county. Mail your contribution to Jeff Daiell, Apt. 113, 8701 S. Braeswood, Houston, TX 77031.

Justo Perez, Libertarian for U.S. House, District 2, has started a Libertarian group that will meet at the library conference room in Kingswood, TX. Perez intends the group to be informal and for stimulating discussion of ideals and debating contemporary issues. Perez' contact information can be found online at <http://www.lptexas.org/2006/jperez/>

The movie, "America: Freedom to Fascism," will see its theatrical release July 28th. Probably the only place you can see it in Texas that day is at the AMC Barton Creek Square 14 theater in Austin. The movie explores the legal basis of the income tax, among other questionable government financial actions. You can download a flyer and get more information about the movie at the Web site, <http://www.freedomtofascism.com>.

Rock Howard, candidate for Texas State Senate, District 14, kicked off his campaign on June 22 at Ventana del Soul in Austin. On his Web site, rockhoward.org, Howard said there was a good turnout. Gubernatorial candidate James Werner brought the event to order and introduced U.S. Congressional candidate Michael Badnarik, who introduced Howard. Howard's Web site has video clips of the event, among other useful information about his campaign.

LP State Executive Committee Sets Annual Goals

Getting a bill to the Statehouse floor and increasing pledges and donors were among the 2007 goals adopted by the newly elected State Libertarian Executive Committee of Texas (SLECT) June 11 in Houston.

After discussing more than 20 goals for the coming year, SLECT decided to partition the goals into political, financial and organizational categories.

The top vote getter for political goals was to recruit 5 serious candidates for non-partisan offices in May 2007. That was followed closely by deploying 5,000 signs and 100,000 door

hangers for the November elections and presenting a bill to the Statehouse for a floor vote.

Financial goals adopted include establishing a financial reserve plan, establishing a reserve, increasing the pledge amount to \$5,000, increasing pledgers to 150, and increasing the donor base by 50%. The committee decided to develop the party by having a plan for precinct chairs in organized counties, get one or more counties to adopt bylaws and have a standing executive committee in each state senate district, develop a county organizational guide, and re-form a Publi-

cations Committee to create a newsletter or other type of communication. The committee also voted to "clean up" the database.

Some proposals that were cast aside included producing a 30-second TV commercial to air at least 100 times in each of the six most populous counties in the run-up to the election, trying to get organized counties to adopt neighboring unorganized counties, and encouraging county parties to meet at least 4 times a year.

The meeting was held at the Doubletree Hotel in Houston and was attended by about 30 people.

James Werner Seeks to Set Texas Free

from page 1

guest on Jeff Ward's afternoon drive time show on KLBJ News Radio for about 20 minutes, Werner said. He was prompted to call the show when he heard the gubernatorial candidates being discussed without the Libertarian being listed as a candidate.

The idea of a level playing field is unrealistic when it comes to this race, Werner said. He is drawing on thousands of dollars of his own money to finance his campaign as well as donations from concerned and interested Texans, he said. That contrasts to the hundreds of thousands that Perry, Strayhorn and Bell have raised in just over a few weeks time.

"Every 50 bucks, every 100 bucks is a tremendous benefit," Werner said. Each donor who gives over \$25 will receive a campaign bumper sticker, Werner said. Secure online donations can be made at Werner's Web site, <http://www.werner4texas.com>. A mailing address is also available on the site, for those who prefer to send checks.

Werner's campaign will piggyback on state and county party initiatives, he said. In addition to bumper stickers, he has 10,000 lawn signs to be distributed.

And just how does Werner plan to

set Texas free? Here are the issues:

Taxes: Werner favors replacing all business and personal taxes with the Texas Fair Tax, according to his Web site. This would be applied at the point of final purchase for all goods and services. Werner cites Texas Public Policy Foundation information that says a sales tax of between 8 and 10 percent should be enough to cover the state's existing expenses. He would also propose an immediate 10% cut in the state budget.

Law Enforcement : Werner would shift the focus from jailing marijuana smokers to pursuing dangerous felons, white collar criminals and others who threaten peace and security, his Web site says. He would also stop prosecuting medical marijuana patients and repeal state drug laws in favor of seeking alternative solutions for Texas' drug problem.

Education: Introducing competition to the school system, Werner proposes a full-value voucher to be used at any public or private institution in the state. "Opponents of my voucher proposal fear that it will starve the public school system of money," Werner said. "But if parents are unwilling to send their children to a particular

school, by what authority do politicians and bureaucrats propose to lock students into those schools?"

Immigration: Werner would bar known criminals or people with ties to criminal or terrorist organizations from entering the country, says his web site. Otherwise, anyone who wants to come to the U.S. and work is welcome. Werner opposes government handouts to new immigrants, but would work with other governors to lobby the federal government for more rational immigration policies.

Crime: To reduce crime, Werner would reform the concealed carry permit process, end prohibition against open carry, and redirect the police to focus on violence, theft and fraud.

"Make no mistake about it—I am the only pro-immigrant candidate on the ballot for Texas Governor," Werner told the convention. "I am the only pro-business, fiscal conservative on the ballot for Texas Governor. I am the only candidate who calls for an end to the cruel and increasingly destructive 'war on drugs.' And I am the only candidate who unashamedly calls for equal rights for all Texans, regardless of their race, creed, color, or sexual orientation."

Events of Interest to Texas Libertarians

July 1 (Sat.) Noon Brazos County LP Meeting, C&J BBQ, 1010 S. Texas Ave., Bryan. For information contact Chair Chris Jagge at c_jagge@msn.com.

July 1-2 (Sat.-Sun) LP National Convention, main business, at the Hilton Portland and Executive Tower in Portland, Oregon. For more information, please visit www.lpconvention.org. For updates on activity as it happens the National website has a blog at www.lp.org.

July 3 (Mon.) Williamson County LP Meeting, Hunan Lion Chinese Restaurant, Round Rock. Contact Brian Bracamonte at chairman@txwclp.org for information.

July 4 (Tues.) Independence Day

July 4 (Tues.) LP Candidate Appearance, Friendswood July 4th parade. Bob Smither for U.S. Representative District 22. Contact Bob@smither.com for information.

July 4 (Tues.) 10 a.m. LP Float in Southbelt July 4th parade. Southeast Houston area. Contact Laura Coker-Garcia at Laura@libertyworks.org.

July 4 (Tues.) 10:45 a.m. Candidate Appearance, Austin. Congressional candidate Grant Rostig will march in a south Austin parade starting at Edwards University. Contact Grant@grant4congress.com.

July 4 (Tues.) Williamson County activists will host a booth at the Round Rock Fourth of July Festival. Contact Brian Bracamonte at chairman@txwclp.org.

July 4 (Tues.) 7 p.m. LP of Bexar County July 4th Barbecue at Kallison Park in San Antonio. The party meets the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at Unlimited Thought Bookstore. See their Web site for more information: <http://www.geocities.com/c2777/lpb/lpbexar.html>

July 11 (Tues.) 6:45 to 8:30 p.m. Travis County LP Meeting, Mekong River Restaurant, 215 E. 6th Street, Austin. Visitors Welcome.

July 28 (Fri.) "America...From Freedom to Facism" a film by Aaron Russo screens at AMC Barton

Creek Square 14 theater in Austin. The movie explores the legal basis of the income tax, among other questionable government financial actions. You can download a flyer and get more information about the movie at the Web site, <http://www.freedomtofascism.com>.

Aug. 4 (Fri.) "America...From Freedom to Facism" a film by Aaron Russo screens should open at Angelika Film Center, 510 Texas Ave. Houston. Contact www.angelikafilmmcenter.com for confirmation and times.

Aug. 20 (Sun.) 1 to 4 p.m. Ron Paul's Annual Birthday Celebration; Doyle Convention Center, 2010 5th Ave., Texas City. Tom Tancredo will be speaking. Contact Penny Langford-Freeman at 1-800-Ron-Paul for information.

Sept. (Sat.) SLECT Meeting tentatively scheduled for a Saturday in September in College Station.

Sept. 29-Oct. 1 (Fri-Sun.) LP Booth at Fort Bend County Fair, Rosenberg. Booth needs staffing to continue past this weekend. Contact Chair Kevin Tunstall at ktunstall@fortbendlp.org. Information on the Fair can be found at <http://www.fbcfa.org/map.htm>.

Oct. 10 (Mon.) Last day to register to vote for the November General Election.

Oct. 23 (Mon.) First Day of Early Voting for the November General Election.

Nov. 3 (Fri.) Last Day of Early Voting for the November General Election.

Nov. 7 (Tues.) Election Day.

