



Lone Star Liberty

The Official Monthly Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Texas

March 2006

Attend Libertarian Conventions March 14, 18, 25th

The Libertarian Party of Texas does not hold primary elections. Instead, the LP nominates candidates through the convention process.

According to election law to affiliate with the Libertarian Party registered voters must attend our precinct conventions. These conventions will be held the evening of Tuesday, March 14. This is one week after the primaries.

Any registered voter who did not vote in the Democratic or Republican primary or affiliate with another political party may attend a precinct convention. Most organized counties will hold conventions at one combined location. More populated counties such as Harris and Galveston have several locations. A partial list of precinct conventions scheduled follows. If you do not see your county listed, please visit the state party website at www.lptexas.org for an updated list or contact your County Chair. (Their contact information is available at the website.)

In most cases precinct conventions will begin from 7 to 7:30 p.m. The main business is the act of affiliating (you will need to sign in and have your voter card marked Libertarian) and electing a Precinct Chair. This is usually completed in 15 or 20 minutes. Precinct Conventions may also pass resolutions, have candidate introductions, discuss organizing or campaigns, etc. Often there is a meal beforehand or time for socializing afterwards.

According to our rules, everyone who participates is a delegate to their respective County Convention held Saturday, March 18. If you cannot attend, but would like to be a del-

egate to the county, a district or the state convention contact the temporary chair for your precinct and request that he or she nominate you as a delegate at the convention. Whether you are nominated will be up to those attending. At the County Convention you will need to sign an oath of affiliation before you can be credentialed to participate.

The agenda for all County Conventions will include electing a County Chair and electing delegates to the State Convention. In organized counties with Bylaws there will often be elections for other offices such as a Vice Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary and voting on proposed changes to the Bylaws. In counties without Bylaws there may be a proposal to create them and to elect other officers.

Most County Conventions will also be making nominations for offices up for election November 2006. In Bastrop, Bexar, Brazos, Dallas, Galveston, Jefferson, Lubbock, McLennan, Montgomery, Tarrant, Taylor and Travis Counties candidates have applied to be nominated to local offices. Delegates may nominate these individuals and may vote for them or may vote for None of the Above, leaving the LP spot on the ballot in November open.

In larger counties, such as Dallas, Harris, and Travis where state districts are entirely within the county, the County Convention will make these nominations as well. In smaller counties where districts cover more than one county the County Convention will select delegates to attend a District Convention to make nominations. District Conventions will be held Saturday, March 25.

There is currently no restriction on the number of individuals a County Convention can send to District Conventions. Some County Conventions may choose to send only one delegate to each District Convention. Others may decide to designate the entire body as delegates.

There is likewise no restriction on the number of delegates a County Convention may send to the State Convention. The State Convention will be held Saturday, June 10. At this convention nominations will be made for statewide races such as U.S. Senate and Governor, etc. Delegates will also elect a State Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer as well as regional representatives to the State Executive Committee (SLECT). Changes may be made to the State Party Bylaws and Platform as well.

What follows is the precinct conventions that were announced as of our deadline. All occur Tues. March 14.

Bell County

All Precincts 7 p.m.:
503 N. Wall Street
Belton, TX
Contact Gordon Mobley, mobley1@airmail.net or 254-933-1876

Bexar County

All Precincts 7 p.m.:
Unlimited Thought Bookstore
5525 Blanco, Suite 107
San Antonio, TX
Contact Ray Aleman, rayaleman@quickca.net or 210-222-9489

Brazos County

All Precincts 7 p.m.:

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Candidates please note:

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.

Around the State: Activist Update

Unofficial results from the February 28 Special Election for State Representative District 106 show Libertarian candidate **Gene Freeman** earning .91% of the vote. Republican Kirk England won the race with 52.86%.

State Chair **Patrick Dixon** would like to remind activists that this month is filing for many municipal races. "You can get elected to office as a Libertarian. You do not need a million dollars and friends in high places. You can win a race for city council or school board this May!" he writes. "We have a campaign manager that has successfully elected Libertarians like Pat Dixon to office, and wants to help you as well," he wrote. If you are interested contact Pat as soon as possible at Chair@lptexas.org.

LP U.S. Rep. District 25 candidate **Grant Rostig** would like all candidates, or a designated staff person for each campaign, to participate in a state-wide candidates mailing list. The list would be for sharing ideas and helping each other. Candidates can sign up at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lptx-candidates/>. The list allows uploading files and posting by all members, but will be moderated.

The State Executive Committee met Feb. 25 by teleconference to discuss the location of the State Convention. Previously, the SLECT had chosen Wichita Falls for the June 10 convention. Wichita Falls had presented a bid at the 2004 Convention. However, State Treasurer Geoff Neale did a site visit to the city and found that the location would not be suitable. SLECT concurs and other locations will again be considered.

LP Executive Director **Wes Benedict** made the Austin American-Statesman Feb. 15 as they reported on his continuing effort to get politicians to follow their own ethics rules. Wes had filed an ethics complaint against Save Our Springs Alliance for failing to report campaign contributions. Wes

is now being referred to as "a Libertarian Party leader," by the paper.

Wes and Pat Dixon appeared on Austin channel 10 Feb. 25 in a debate on the Fairtax. Wes debated the con side, while Pat favored the idea.

U.S. Representative District 3 candidate **Chris Claytor** participated in a candidate forum at the Frisco Chamber of Commerce Feb. 15. The Lubbock Avalanche Journal carried a Libertarian candidates list in their Feb. 19 edition. U.S. Representative District 19 candidate **Fred Jones** was interviewed on KBYG radio in Big Spring on Feb. 27.

Lt. Governor candidate **Judy Baker** announced this month that she has t-shirts, pens and business cards made for her campaign. State Representative District 100 candidate **Robert Prichett** announces his campaign website at <http://vote4rmp.rmmpc.com>. State Representative District 65 candidate **John Shuey** reports that his website has moved to the domain www.voteshuey.us. Dallas JP candidate Rose Mercer reports she has magnets, keychains and buttons and a store at www.cafepress.com/voteforrose.

Tom Clark of the Texas Liberty Club reports that the club placed 11 pro-liberty books in the Harris County Library permanent collection this last quarter. Books by Robert Ringer, Dr. Mary Ruwart, and Ken Schoolland were included. The non-profit club uses Kroger and Randall's share card programs to fund purchases. To join contact Tom at Texaslibertyclub@aol.com or call 713-722-9032.

The Marijuana Policy Project (MPP) seeks experienced community and/or political organizers to do part-time grassroots organizing in US Rep. District 22 between February 2006 and June 2006. The goal will be to persuade the member of Congress to vote for medical marijuana legislation. Must live in the district, pay is \$1,000 a month. See <http://www.mpp.org/jobs/orgprocess.html> to apply.

Release: Libertarians Oppose Caldwell Toll Roads

PRESS RELEASE

February 16 2006 Lockhart, Texas

The Texas Department of Transportation public comment meeting brought opposition from the vast majority of the public who spoke. The meeting was called to discuss Segment 5 of the proposed State Highway 130 (SH 130). The segment runs south from Mustang Ridge to FM1185 on the existing US 185 highway.

Grant Rostig, the leading Libertarian Party candidate for Congress in Texas's 25th district, spoke against the abuse of government power in seiz-

ing private property and double taxation.

Rostig received rousing applause from the attendees with the para-phrased statement; "They are taking away a road we have already paid for. It's the only reasonable way for people to commute to work in Austin. The supposedly free service road will become clogged with truckers trying to avoid paying the toll."

Rostig also made the point that, the road could have been built in open fields, where at least people's homes would not have to be forcibly taken.

Grant Rostig opposes SH 130 project and objects to the poor mapping of the project plan. "It's hard to figure out where this road is supposed to go. The maps don't clearly show the county roads. The maps are broken up into small sections, without even indications of which way is North. This is government pulling the wool over people's eyes."

The campaign is looking for a volunteer PR person. Contact them at 512-398-6813. Donations may be sent to the Grant Rostig For Congress Committee, 100 Reata Ranch Road, Lockhart, TX 78644

Precinct Conventions Continued from page 1

College Station Conference Center
1300 George Bush Drive
College Station, TX
Contact Chris Jagge at c_jagge@
email.msn.com or 979-695-9646

Burleson County

All Precincts 7:30 p.m.:
Masfajitas Restaurant
305 State Highway 36 S.
Caldwell, TX
Contact Barbara Cunningham,
bcunningham2@verizon.net or 979-
567-7262

Collin County

All Precincts 7 p.m.:
912 White River Drive
Allen, TX
Contact Michelle Shinghal, lptxcollin
countychair@yahoo.com

Dallas County

All Precincts 7 p.m.:
Tejano's Restaurant
110 West Davis
Dallas, TX
Contact Tim Lebsack, tim_lebsack
@yahoo.com or 214-824-2697

Fort Bend County

All Precincts 6 p.m. (meal):
Cafe East

4645 Hwy 6
Sugarland, TX
Contact Kevin Tunstall, ktunstall@
houston.rr.com

Galveston County

Multiple locations all at 7 p.m.

Precinct 103.:
1014 W. Canal
Crystal Beach, TX (Bolivar Peninsula)
Contact Michelle Fraps, tfraps@
yahoo.com or 409-684-1013.

Precinct 488:
Residence at 2616 Merrimac Dr.
League City, TX
Contact Brady Lee Hutchinson,
blhutch@rice.edu or 281-338-5174

Precincts in Northern Galveston
County: (Dickinson) 172, 220, 280,
281, 339, 340, 341, 344, 389, 398;
(League City) 263, 286, 452, 453, 545,
455, 464, 467, 470, 471, 487, 490, 491,
492, 493; (Friendswood) 401, 402,
456, 457, 460, 461, 462, 483, 484, 485.
Residence at 2600 Ware Dairy Road
Friendswood, TX
Contact Bob Smither, Bob@smither.
com or 281-331-2548.

ALL remaining precincts:

The Texas Tavern/Jernigans
3520 FM 1765 (Texas Ave.)
Texas City, TX.
Contact Stan Norred, norredgs@
bp.com or 409-316-1710.

Gray County

All Precincts 7 p.m.:
410 E. 9th Street
Lefors, TX
Contact Amy Justice, graycountyp@
hotmail.com or 806-662-5366

Harris County

Multiple locations all at 7 p.m.

All Precincts in State Rep. Districts
126, 130, and 135:
Residence at 16011 Stratton Park Drive
Spring, TX
Contact Jay Cookingham, jaycooker@
sbcglobal.net or 281-370-9755

All Precincts in State Rep. Districts
127, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 148 and
150:
Residence at 910 Omar
Houston, TX
Contact Brent Sullivan, brent.sullivan
@gmail.com or 713-861-1802

All Precincts in State Rep. Districts
128, Precincts that are East of I-45 in

Today's Common Sense: a column by Fred Drew

Grant Rostig's announcement that he would provide a choice to what seem to be socialists offered by the Democrat Republican Party or the Republican Democrat Party, gave me an inkling that there might be hope for a real representative of the "folks" to reach Congress. I only wish I lived in that District so I could vote for him. Fortunately there are lots of Libertarians here in the "Valley" but unfortunately they just don't know it yet.

The news story published in The Brownsville Herald, supplied even more to be optimistic about. First, the story about a Libertarian Candidate occupied twenty column inches on a premium day, seems like a good start even in a Libertarian friendly paper.

Second, Mr. Rostig will attract those disenfranchised by both the Democrats and Republicans in particular as many Texas Democrats are quite conservative and not happy with Congressman Dogget's "hard left" stance on gun control, votes to increase taxes by supporting the retention of the marriage tax, being against a permanent child tax credit, as well as being against the tax cuts of 2001.

Many Republicans will identify with his position on "real" limited government, real income tax reform in go-

ing to a consumption Tax or a flat tax though it was first suggested by Democrat in the 1960's by George Wallace. (Yes – I was there at that speech!)

The only weakness noted in the article describing Mr. Rostig's announcement was that "the military would not be sent to fight in overseas wars or missions. This would indicate that no circumstance could justify such an eventuality. Would a case such as the terrorists that caused both attacks on the World Trade Center or perhaps something like the attack of our merchant ships and imprisoning our seamen such as occurred in North Africa just after we became a nation justify military action? Perhaps some eventuality that we have not experienced may occur. This would be especially meaningful as many in South Texas are military families and truly believe in what they are doing.

My preference would be to develop an easily understood and unambiguous position that would restrict the possibility of military action to only the most extreme of circumstances.

An example would be to call for the repeal of the Nixon Era War Powers Act and replace it with one that requires that and military action constitutes a war and must be declared by

Congress on the request of the President. All Congressional Representatives and Senators must vote and no abstentions can be accepted. Those incapacitated will have their vote taken by the Master at Arms of the Congress. Approval would require a super majority or 2/3 of all members. Included in the Declaration will be the specifics as to whom we are to fight, why it is necessary for the survival of the Nation. A statement that we will commit 100% of our resources to winning the war and a declaration of martial law so long as troops are on the field of battle, should also be included.

Such a requirement and the action that Congress will give up power, will reduce the possibility of war to only the most eminent of dangers.

His success in the campaign will depend on getting his message out in the Rio Grande Valley and rural areas assuring them that his location with the Austin elite is not as important as representing the "folks" in the places where the Democratic/Republican elites have perennially forgotten; and have treated like little children that need to be told what they should need.

I wish Grant Rostig success in his endeavor and offer what help I can to the effort!

Precinct Conventions list continued—

State Rep. Districts 129 and 144;
Residence at 6503 Coldstream
Pasadena, TX
Contact Kevin Hagan, sml@tree.
mailshell.com or 281-998-7766

All Precincts in State Rep. Districts 129 and 144 that are West of I-45:
Community Meeting Room,
Parker Williams Library
10851 Scarsdale Blvd.
Houston, TX
Contact Laura Coker-Garcia, Laura
@libertyworks.org or 281-997-8141

Precinct 172:
Residence at 7758 Hereford Street
Houston, TX
Contact Marie Angell, mangell@
ev1.net

All Precincts in State Rep. Districts 131, 134, 143, 145, 146 and 147 (Except Pct. 172):
UH Student Center
University of Houston Main Campus
4800 Calhoun
Houston, TX
Contact Monica Granger, mgranger@
sbcglobal.net

All Precincts in State Rep. Districts 132, 133, and 149:
Residence at 14902 Chadbourne Drive
Houston, TX
Contact Chris Camero, chris_camero
@yahoo.com

All Precincts in State Rep. Districts 136 and 137:
Residence at 12415 Woodthorpe
Houston, TX
Contact David Hutzelman, david@
hutzelman.com or 713-464-6603

Llano County

All Precincts 7 p.m.:

Events of Interest to Texas Libertarians

March 3 (Fri.) County Chairs Post Notice. Each County Chair should post a notice on the County Commissioner's Bulletin Board listing the time and location for all precinct conventions. A copy should also be given to the County Clerk. Deadline to post is March 4 on Saturday. You may also post County Conventions at this time, but deadline is not until March 8.

March 4 (Sat.) Noon to 4 p.m. SLECT Meeting, La Palapa restaurant, 6640 Hwy 290 East, Austin. For more information contact State Chair Patrick Dixon at Chair@lptexas.org.

March 4 (Sat.) 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mises Circle, Maggiano's Little Italy Restaurant, 2019 Post Oak Blvd. Houston. Inaugural meeting a "working lunch" sponsored by Jeremy Davis. Ron Paul and Lew Rockwell will be there for a mini-seminar on Austrian economics and libertarianism. James Fogal of the Mises Institute will talk about tax strategies. Cost is \$30. Attendance limited, RSVP and to register visit www.mises.org/upcomingstory.aspx?Id=87.

March 5 (Sun.) Harris County LP Meeting, 9614 Oregano Circle, Houston. Contact Jeffdaiell@yahoo.com for information.

March 6 (Mon.) 1 p.m. Campus Libertarians at UH meeting, UC front steps, University of Houston Main Campus.

March 7 (Tues.) 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Primary Election Day.

March 7 (Tues.) 6:45 p.m. Travis County LP Meeting, Mekong River Restaurant, 215 E. 6th Street, Austin. Contact Wesliberty@aol.com.

March 8 (Wed.) 9:45 p.m. Showing of "Waiting to Inhale" at Alamo Drafthouse, 409 Colorado St. Aus-

tin. The documentary examines the controversial movement to legalize medical marijuana. See www.texasformedicalmarijuana.org/docs/Austin%20Screening%20-Waiting%20to%20Inhale.doc.

March 13 (Mon.) Filing closes for candidates for non-partisan local political subdivisions holding elections in May.

March 14 (Tues.) 7 p.m. Libertarian Party Precinct Conventions. You must be a registered voter who has not voted in the primary in order to participate. By rule all participants are delegates to the County Convention. Precinct Conventions also elect Precinct Chairs and may pass resolutions.

March 18 (Sat.) Libertarian Party County Conventions. Conventions will elect County officers, nominate candidates for local office, and choose delegates to the District and State Conventions.

March 25 (Sat.) Libertarian Party District Conventions. Time and location is set by the Chairs for counties within the district. These Conventions will select the nominee for district offices.

April 21 (Sat.) Texas Taxpayer Summit, Stephen F. Austin Hotel, 701 Congress Ave., Austin. Sponsored by Americans for Prosperity. See www.americansforprosperity.org/ for information.

May 13 (Sat.) Election Day for non-partisan local political subdivisions.

June 10 (Sat.) Libertarian Party State Convention. Time and location to be determined. Election of Party officers, and District Representatives for the Executive Committee, consideration of rules and changes to the Platform, nominations for statewide offices.

Residence at 307 W. Bluebonnet Road
Horseshoe Bay, TX
Contact Randy Remington, chair@lpillano@org or 830-598-2291

Travis County
All Precincts 7 p.m.:
Travis County Commissioners Courtroom
314 W. 11th Street
Austin, TX

Contact Wes Benedict, wesliberty@aol.com or 512-442-4910

Williamson County
All Precincts 7 p.m.:
Georgetown Recreation Center
1003 N. Austin Avenue
Georgetown, TX
Contact Bryan Bracamonte, chairman@txwclp.org or 512-296-4784