



# Lone Star Liberty

*The Official Monthly Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Texas*

*April 2005*

## LP Critical of Perry's Trans-Texas Corridor Project

Despite at least four bills currently in the legislature aimed to limit, control, or address concerns about the Trans-Texas Corridor Project Governor Rick Perry is plowing ahead with what Time Magazine called his "brain-child." March 11, he and TXDoT officials and Federal Highway Administrator Mary Peters met to sign a 342 page contract with a Spanish firm that has been hired to finalize plans to build the first 600 mile section of the proposed 4,000 mile project.

The Trans-Texas Corridor is a scar across Texas," State Chair Patrick Dixon said in an LP press release issued March 3. "It will divide counties, drain the State Highway Fund and ultimately fail. We need practical solutions, not grandiose visions," he said.

The Texas-Trans Corridor plan calls for multimodal corridors that would have six car lanes, four truck lanes, six rail lines, and a utility zone for gas or utility lines and such. Time magazine reports the corridors could be "up to a quarter of a mile across" and that the project would cost "at least \$183 billion," which is more than the original price for the entire U.S. interstate system.

Corridor Watch, an organization formed to oppose the project, reports that the road plan will "consume 584,000 acres of land," and is an attack on the free enterprise system.

"Unlike our interstate highways the Trans-Texas Corridor is a closed access facility that will not present the adjacent land owners with the same commercial development opportunities. Those opportunities are reserved for the state and their private

partners. The state-sponsored monopoly of economic development, and the redirection of traffic induced revenues, will directly compete with existing and future free enterprise," says David Stall of Corridor Watch.

Stall also argues that the plan is not needed, has had no public discussion or debate prior to adoption, that it is driven by revenue needs and not transportation needs, that the contracting is being done in secret and that state sponsored monopolies are profiteering

The revenue aspect comes in as many of the existing roads to be incorporated in the plan will made toll roads.

"While tolls are a sensible method of financing new road and bridge construction, the blanket tolling of existing roads is an extreme idea," Patrick Dixon said. "The problems include double taxation, toll rates set by

political forces instead of actual user benefits, and decision making by unelected bodies."

Dixon pointed out that, contrary to official claims, sufficient revenue exists from gas taxes to expand and maintain our state highway network. "The problem arises with Democrats and Republicans in the state-house, the Congress and bloated bureaucracies who spend gas tax dollars on wasteful projects like Boston's 'Big Dig' or billion dollar bridges to nowhere in Alaska" Dixon explained.

The State Libertarian Executive Committee passed a resolution October 9, 2004 in opposition to the 2003 House Bill 3588 that allows Perry to take up to 20% of the State Highway Fund for the Trans-Texas Corridor Project. "Our Highway funds are already being looted for other uses," said Vice Chair Nancy Neale.

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## Ballot Access Bill May be Stalled

HB 1721, the Libertarian written ballot access bill, may be stalled in the Elections Committee, LP Legislative Advisor Rock Howard reported March 28. As of that date the bill had not yet been scheduled for testimony.

Rock is now lobbying for a hearing date no later than April 6. "Further delays may seriously impeded our chances of passing the bill in this session," he writes.

The bill if passed would greatly increase the time allowed for collecting signatures and remove the primary voter screenout. Rep. Todd Baxter is the bills sponsor and Reps. Mark Strama, Terry Keel and Suzanna Hupp are also supporting the bill.

State Chair Patrick Dixon has urged all libertarians to contact their state representative and ask them to support the bill. Activists should also urge Election Committee Members, Representatives Mary Denny (Chair), Dwayne Bohac, Todd Smith, Rafael Anchia, Charles Anderson, Bryan Hughes and Jesse Jones to schedule a hearing on the bill and move it forward.

Email to State Representatives can be sent by putting their name in to the following address: [firstname.lastname@house.state.tx.us](mailto:firstname.lastname@house.state.tx.us). You can find the postal address and phone number of your representative at [www.capitol.state.tx.us/fyi/fyi/htm](http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/fyi/fyi/htm).

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online at  
[www.lptexas.org](http://www.lptexas.org);

Publisher:  
Libertarian Party of Texas  
P.O. Box 27932  
Houston, TX 77227  
[www.lptexas.org](http://www.lptexas.org)  
1-800-422-1776

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

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

Lone Star Liberty Editor:  
Laura Coker-Garcia  
9835 Sagedowne Lane  
Houston, TX 77089  
[Laura@LibertyWorks.org](mailto:Laura@LibertyWorks.org)  
281-997-8141

Database Manager:  
James VanBeek  
2739 San Felipe Drive  
College Station, TX 77845  
[jim@vanbeek.us](mailto:jim@vanbeek.us)  
979-696-9766

Website Manager:  
Daniel Falconer  
[Webmaster@lptexas.org](mailto:Webmaster@lptexas.org)

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](mailto:Laura@libertyworks.org) to submit.

## Around the State: Activist Update

Anderson County Libertarians held an OPH booth March 19. **Clyde Garland** from Brazos County helped organize the event at which 212 people took the World's Smallest Political Quiz. Volunteers participating included **Anderson County Chair Scott Haseltine, Smith County Chair Eric Rathbone and his daughter Samantha Rathbone, Jake Wise and family, and Ken Cook.**

Samantha is a student at the University of Texas at Taylor and is working to organize a libertarian club on that campus.

**Yvonne Kelly** from Harris County attended the Anti-War March and Rally March 19 in honor of the anniversary of the start of the War in Iraq.

The Travis County LP held a candidate forum for Austin City Council candidates March 20. Eight candidates including LP members **Steven Adams and Wes Benedict** participated.

Travis County LP Treasurer **Art DiBianca** had a letter printed in the March 25 issue of the Austin Business Journal. His letter, which included his LP title was titled "Cap Metro must drive changes." Art used National Transportation Database statistics to show the inefficiency in the Cap Metro system. He suggested raising fares to \$1, ending discounts and freebies and eliminating underused services. "Unfortunately, Cap Metro's seven-member board would prefer not to change things," he wrote.

**James Strater**, North Texas Free State Project Coordinator, held a gathering for Fort Worth area Free Staters March 26. He is organizing monthly gatherings for Denton beginning in April. The Free State Project is an effort to achieve a Libertarian state by moving libertarians into New Hampshire. If you are interested contact James at 972-977-6544 or [strater@expersionsoft.com](mailto:strater@expersionsoft.com).

Harris County LP members

**Monica Granger and Yvonne Kelly** volunteered to be judges at the 2005 Texas State Homeschool Speech and Debate Championship held in Houston March 31, April 1, and 2. HCLP members have frequently used events such as these to steer students toward libertarian ideas. "Hopefully, some of the students will be receptive to the outside (subversive!) sources Yvonne and I mentioned," Monica said.

Harris County LP Chair **Jeff Daiell** has announced that he will be giving three presentations to students at Wharton Community College Sugar Land campus on April 18. His topic for two classes will be "economic policy" and he will speak on "political parties and election law" to the final class.

**Jeff, Brent Sullivan and Guy McLendon** are all scheduled speakers at the April 23 Houston NORML benefit. See calendar for more information.

**Marshall Fritz**, founder of the Separation of School and State and Advocates for Self Government, has announced that the 2006 SepCon will be held in Texas, probably in the Dallas area. He will be visiting Dallas-Fort Worth this month.

Lone Star Liberty Editor **Laura Coker-Garcia** is working on organizing a program for children to be held at the next State Conference this September in Austin. Workshops on economics, the Constitution and other issues are being developed for two age levels. The program will also include games, crafts and stories. Anyone with ideas to share, who would like to lead a workshop or volunteer their time at the conference is highly encouraged to contact Laura at [Laura@Libertyworks.org](mailto:Laura@Libertyworks.org).

Laura is also looking for anyone interested in being on a CPS/Family Court study group or committee. This newspapers have been full of stories on the problems with foster homes and CPS in Texas. Legislation is being proposed to "fix" these problems that needs to be examined.

# Yes, I want the Texas Libertarian Party to Succeed!

Name : \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City & Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone (evenings): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (day): \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
County: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_ Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_ I can distribute Libertarian Party outreach materials.  
\_\_\_\_\_ I can hold or attend a meeting in my county.  
\_\_\_\_\_ I can design or host a website for a candidate or county party.  
\_\_\_\_\_ I am considering running for a local office in 2005.  
\_\_\_\_\_ I am interested in being an appointed County Chair.

Print this form and mail to:  
Libertarian Party  
PO Box 27932,  
Houston, TX 77227

- \_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed is a **one-time contribution** to help reach our goals.  
\_\_\_\_\_ **Monthly Pledge** (please bill my credit card on a monthly basis.)

Amount: \_\_\_ \$1,000 \_\_\_ \$250 \_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_ \$30 \_\_\_ \$10 \_\_\_ Other

Please enclose a check or money order made payable to the Libertarian Party of Texas. (No corporate checks, please.)  
Or provide the following information to authorize billing to your credit card.

Name on card: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Visa \_\_\_ Mastercard \_\_\_ American Express \_\_\_ Discover \_\_\_  
Account number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration: (mm/yy) \_\_\_\_\_

Federal law requires political committees to report the name, mailing address, and occupation and name of employer for each individual whose contributions aggregate in excess of \$200 in a calendar year. The Libertarian Party of Texas also submits finance reports to the Texas Ethics Commission.

## Letters to Lone Star Liberty

## '05 Candidates

Dear Friend of Liberty,

Campaign signs are on the way! See what my signs look like at [www.PatDixon.org](http://www.PatDixon.org).

A lot has been happening on my campaign. I have knocked on lots of doors. I have met with many community groups. I have placed ads in the newspaper. I have gained endorsements. I have a local campaign manager that is managing a letters to the editor campaign. I have the registered voter database for Lago Vista to use for mailings.

My challenge is name recognition. The incumbent is better known simply because he is the incumbent. Those that find out about me vote for me. When they find out about my qualifications and compare me to my opponent, I win. The more ads and signs I can place, the better my name

recognition. More people will visit my website and contact me about my campaign. If I raise the funds I need, I will be able to place lots of signs and send out direct mail to the registered voters in Lago Vista.

If I can place enough ads, buy enough yard signs, and send direct mail, I can win this election!

If you can make a contribution at my website [www.PatDixon.org](http://www.PatDixon.org) or send in a check or credit card donation I will put it to good and effective use.

Thank you for your support.

PAT DIXON for COUNCIL  
"The property owners friend"  
[www.PatDixon.org](http://www.PatDixon.org)  
KT Hernandez, Treasurer  
21203 Park Drive  
Lago Vista, TX 78645

Six Libertarians are running for offices up for election in May.

Kevin Anderson is running for Mayor of Anna. Steven Adams, after missing the deadline to file by one-minute, is running a write in campaign for Austin City Council Place 1. Wes Benedict, who has recently been endorsed by the Austin Toll Party group, is running for Austin City Council Place 4. Barbara Cunningham is running for City Council in Caldwell. Patrick Dixon is running for Lago Vista City Council. Clyde Garland and Daniel Graalum are both running for the Bryan ISD Place 6 spot. The incumbent is expected to win, but Clyde and Daniel are using the campaign to promote Clyde's Pro-Ed Plan.

For links to the campaign websites or contact information see the candidates page on [www.lptexas.org](http://www.lptexas.org).

# Events of Interest to Texas Libertarians

**April 2 (Sat.) Noon. Brazos County LP meeting,** China King Buffet, 2402 Texas Ave. S. College Station. Contact Chris Jagge at c\_jagge@MSN.com.

**April 3 (Sun.) 2 p.m. Harris County LP meeting,** Houston. Contact Jeff Daiell at jeffdaiell@yahoo.com or 713-777-1776 for information.

**April 5 (Tues.) 6:45 to 8:30 p.m. Travis County LP meeting,** Mekong River Restaurant, 215 E. 6th Street, Austin. For information contact Chair Rock Howard at rockmh@austin.rr.com.

**April 8 (Fri.) 6 to 8 p.m. "Toll Roads and Taxation" speech** by David Hartman, of the Texas Pubic Policy Foundation. Sponsored by Republican Liberty Caucus. Dave and Buster's, US 183 and Mopac. Contact hq@rlctexas.org for information.

**April 11 (Mon.) Tax Foundation report on Tax Freedom Day** for 2005 will be released. See [www.taxfoundation.org](http://www.taxfoundation.org) today to find out how to use this easy way to gauge the overall tax take in your tax day outreach.

**April 12 (Tues.) 7 p.m. Tarrant County LP meeting,** Jason's Deli, 2400 Airport Fwy, Ste. 120, Bedford. For information contact Larry Nickerson at 817-370-0941 or hlarrynickerson@hotmail.com.

**April 15 (Fri.) 9 a.m. to Noon. NRA-ILA Grassroots Workshop,** Hilton Americas Hotel, 1600 Lamar Street, Houston. This free workshop includes an 8 a.m. free breakfast. How to advance and protect your Second Amendment freedoms, will "provide you with the materials and strategies you will need to educate and empower your fellow gun owners." Registration and information at 800-392-8683 or [www.nraam.org/seminars/grassroots](http://www.nraam.org/seminars/grassroots).

**April 15-17 (Fri.-Sun.) National Rifle Association Annual Conference,** George R. Brown Convention Center, Houston. Harris County Libertarians organizing outreach at event. Volunteers contact Jeff Daiell at jeffdaiell@yahoo.com for time and location.

**April 16 (Sat.) Noon Dallas County LP meeting,** Rockfish Grill, 5331 E. Mockingbird #160, Dallas. For information contact Tim Lebsack at 214-824-2697 or [tim.lebsack@yahoo.com](mailto:tim.lebsack@yahoo.com).

**April 16 (Sat.) 2 p.m. Collin County LP meeting,** IHOP, 933 N. Central Exp., Plano. Contact Michelle Shingal at 469-877-4661 or [lptxcollincountychair@yahoo.com](mailto:lptxcollincountychair@yahoo.com).

**April 17 (Sun.) 6:30 p.m. Travis County LP Distinguished Speaker Series** hosts a presentation on the Fair Tax Plan. LCRA Hancock Bldg. 3700 Lake Austin Blvd. Austin.

**April 23 (Sat.) 4:23 p.m. 2nd Annual Houston NORML Benefit,** Last Concert Cafe, 1403 Nance Street, Houston. HCLP Chair Jeff Daiell, former LP Congressional candidate Brent Sullivan, and Guy McLendon will be speaking. Also, 8 bands. Tickets \$10. Contact [jeffdaiell@yahoo.com](mailto:jeffdaiell@yahoo.com) for information.

**April 25 (Thur.) 7:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. "Tunes not Tolls Fest,"** Jimmie Vaughan and Friends benefit concert for Austin Toll Party. Doubletree Hotel, I-335 and Hwy 290 Austin. See [http://www.austintollparty.org/index\\_JimmieVaughan.php](http://www.austintollparty.org/index_JimmieVaughan.php).

**April 30 (Sat.) Grassroots Activist School in Arlington, TX.** Leadership Institute one-day workshop on political technology. For more information or to register contact Dana Stevens at 800-827-5323 or [dstevens@limail.us](mailto:dstevens@limail.us).

**May 7 (Sat.) Nonpartisan Municipal Election Day.** LP Candidates for Anna City Council, Austin City Council, Brazos ISD, Caldwell City Council, and Lago Vista City Council.

**May 14-15 (Sat.-Sun.) Libertarian National Committee Meeting.** Intercontinental Hotel, Addison, TX. Local activists may sit in on the meeting. Contact LNC member Rick McGinnis at 512-413-5928 for information and before planning to attend.

**June 11 (Sat.) Noon to 4 p.m. SLECT Meeting,** China King Buffet, 2402 Texas Ave. S., College Station. Phone 979-694-7959 for directions. Contact [Chair@lptexas.org](mailto:Chair@lptexas.org) for information. Lunch available for \$7.30 per person.

**September (Date to be announced) Texas State LP Conference,** Austin. Details will be posted as they are made available.