

The Wayback Machine - <https://web.archive.org/web/20040709223935/http://www.lpva.com:80/Arc...>



- [home](#)
- [who are we?](#)
- [for the media](#)
- [event calendar](#)
- [our candidates](#)
- [office holders](#)
- [organization](#)
- [bylaws](#)
- [local affiliates](#)
- [take action!](#)
- [join us!](#)
- [contribute!](#)
- [opinion](#)
- [related sites](#)
- [archives](#)



Search this site:

Search

The Libertarian Party of Virginia

Virginia Liberty

Volume 6, Issue 5 Bimonthly Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Virginia September/October 2001

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- [Getting "Libertarian Party" on the Ballot](#), from an ALCU media release

- **Opinion: [Who makes life better for you: Gov't or Business?](#)**, by Harry Browne, Libertarian Presidential Candidate, 1996 and 2000.
- **Commentary: [Looking Back](#)**, by Ken Morrison, Libertarian Candidate for US Congress, 1980
- **[Global Capitalism Rally](#)** - December 2
- **[Making a Difference](#)**, Libertarian Candidates for Virginia House of Delegates.
- **[Results of the Post-Election Opinion Poll](#)**

Virginia Liberty is published for the members of the Libertarian Party of Virginia (LPVA), Views expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent those of the Libertarian Party or the editors unless so stated. Libertarians favor returning government to its proper and limited role of protecting individual rights and ceasing all other activities inconsistent with that goal.

Copyright 2001, Marc Montoni. Permission is granted to reprint any article in this issue provided credit is given and a copy of the reprinted material is sent to the LPVA address below.

Deadline for submissions for the Nov/Dec issue of **Virginia Liberty** is October 1, 2001.

Editors: E.T. and Marc Montoni, 703-715-6230.

The Libertarian Party of Virginia
4201 Wilson Blvd. Suite 110-164
Arlington, VA 22203-1859
Information Requests only: 800-619-1776

Copyright © 2001-2004, the Libertarian Party of Virginia

The Wayback Machine - <https://web.archive.org/web/20040710022504/http://www.lpva.com:80/Arc...>



- [home](#)
- [who are we?](#)
- [for the media](#)
- [event calendar](#)
- [our candidates](#)
- [office holders](#)
- [organization](#)
- [bylaws](#)
- [local affiliates](#)
- [take action!](#)
- [join us!](#)
- [contribute!](#)
- [opinion](#)
- [related sites](#)
- [archives](#)



Search this site:

Search

The Libertarian Party of Virginia

Virginia Liberty

Volume 6, Issue 5 Bimonthly Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Virginia September/October 2001

[Table of Contents](#) - [Next Article >>](#)

Getting "Libertarian Party" on the Ballot

RICHMOND - The ACLU of Virginia and the Southern Regional Office of the ACLU have filed a federal

lawsuit challenging Virginia's new law governing political party labels on ballots. Under the law, major political party candidates will be labeled by party affiliation, whereas all other candidates, regardless of party affiliation, will be labeled "Independent." The law affects all statewide, legislative and federal elections, except for presidential elections. Prior to this year, Virginia law forbade the printing of party labels on ballots except for presidential elections.

The lawsuit asks the U.S. District Court to issue a preliminary injunction ordering the State Board of Elections to identify all qualified candidates on ballots by the name of their party. "In addition to favoring major political parties over smaller parties," said ACLU of Virginia executive director Kent Willis. "This law is grossly misleading to voters. Members of the Libertarian, Green or Reform Parties are unequivocally not 'Independents,' and 'Independents' are unequivocally not members of these parties. At the very time the nation is focused on election reform, Virginia seems to have taken a step backward."

According to the law, which took effect on January 1, 2001, candidates nominated for office by "recognized" political parties will have their names and party affiliation printed on ballots. However, in order to be "recognized", a party must have run a candidate for statewide office in at least one of the two pre-ceding elections, and that candidate must have received ten percent or more of the vote in one of those elections. Under this definition, only the Republican and Democratic Party candidates are now qualified to be identified on ballots by their party name. All other qualified candidates, whether running as individuals or for a party, will be labeled "Independent".

Lawyers for the ACLU represent the Libertarian Party of Virginia and four Libertarian Party candidates. Plaintiffs William Redpath and Gary Reams have qualified to appear on the ballot as candidates for Governor and Lieutenant Governor respectively. Plaintiffs Timothy Belton and John Girardeau intend to qualify as candidates for the 68th and 65th House of Delegates districts respectively. Additional plaintiffs John Buckley and Shelley Tamres, are Virginia voters who regularly support Libertarian candidates.

"As a small party candidate who receives less attention from the media than the major party candidates, I am not as well known as they are," said Redpath. "If I am labeled as an Independent, many voters will still not know who I am. However, what I stand for will be absolutely clear when they see Libertarian Party next to my name on the ballot. My party affiliation is a valuable piece of information for voters, and they have a right to know it."

"We Libertarians are proud of our political point of view and want to establish our own 'brand' awareness with voters," added Reams. "The older parties should not be afraid to compete with our new brand. We want the voters to make an informed decision in every election."

"As a result of the redistricting process," said Girardeau, "several unhappy Democrats and Republicans have announced that they plan to leave their parties and run as Independents. I am a proud Libertarian and wish to be identified as a Libertarian. I do not want the voters to confuse me with the disgruntled Democrats and Republicans who have abandoned their parties and who should correctly be identified as Independents."

A copy of the complaint and the memorandum in support of the motion for preliminary injunction, which were filed in U.S. District Court in Richmond, can be found on the ACLU of Virginia website:

<http://members.aol.com/acluva>

-FROM A MEDIA RELEASE, ACLU

The Libertarian Party of Virginia
4201 Wilson Blvd. Suite 110-164
Arlington, VA 22203-1859

Information Requests only: 800-619-1776

Copyright © 2001-2004, the Libertarian Party of Virginia

The Wayback Machine - <https://web.archive.org/web/20040710022510/http://www.lpva.com:80/Arc...>



- [home](#)
- [who are we?](#)
- [for the media](#)
- [event calendar](#)
- [our candidates](#)
- [office holders](#)
- [organization](#)
- [bylaws](#)
- [local affiliates](#)
- [take action!](#)
- [join us!](#)
- [contribute!](#)
- [opinion](#)
- [related sites](#)
- [archives](#)



Search this site:

Search

The Libertarian Party of Virginia

Virginia Liberty

Volume 6, Issue 5 Bimonthly Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Virginia September/October 2001

[<< Previous Article](#) - [Table of Contents](#) - [Next Article >>](#)

Opinion:

Who makes life better for you: Gov't or Business?



"All that we value has come from the work of people freely doing what they thought best."

It can be instructive to look at the breakthrough products of the past two centuries -- items that have trans-formed the daily life of human beings from bare subsistence into comfort and even luxury. Just think how much harder life would be without the telephone, automo-biles, airplanes, radio, television, copy machines, computers, refrigeration, frozen food, central heating, air-conditioning, life-saving drugs, or any of dozens of other things we take for granted. Without them we might lead lives of quiet desperation, just barely surviving for short life-spans.

Do we have these products because politicians stuck a gun to the heads of scientists, inventors, and capitalists and ordered to them create these

innovations -- under threat of fines and imprisonment?

Or because reformers shouted in the press that we were all entitled to these things?

Or because consumer advocates demanded them?

Of course not.

These things happened because their creators were seeking better lives for themselves -- through the making of mo-ney, or by satisfying their creative urges, or because they possessed the simple desire to do something good for humanity. Whatever the reason, no one had to force them to develop these products that have so benefitted us. In fact, if the innovators had been forced to work on a project of bureaucratic design, it's highly doubtful they'd ever have done anything worth-while for the rest of us.

Those revolutionary, dramatic breakthroughs are easy to recognize. And it isn't hard to realize that we're better off because their creators were left alone to follow their own stars -- rather than being ordered to conform to a plan put in place by political action.

Little Things Mean a Lot

But those aren't the only benefits that flow from leaving people alone to act on their own self-interest in their own way.

Every day the revolutionary break-throughs are duplicated in millions of smaller ways that aren't so easy to see -- when a businessman discovers how to get a product to his customer more quickly, when he finds a way to cut costs somewhere so he can reduce his prices, when he develops a new system that allows people to obtain what they want more easily.

Do business-people do these things because a politician or bureaucrat sticks a gun to their heads and says: Do it or risk fines and imprisonment?

Of course not.

Do they do it because some consumer advocate has demanded it?

Of course not.

Do they do it to avoid having dema-gogues accuse them of turning away good employees or good customers by being racist, sexist, homophobic, or just plain stupid?

Of course not.

They do it because this is what they do for a living -- making money by helping people get what they want. They know far more about what their customers and employees need and want than any politician or reformer could ever know. And they care far more about their customers and employees than any politician or reformer. They have to care -- or they go out of business.

Mistakes

Are business people always right? Of course not. But when they're wrong, they pay for it -- through the nose, out of their own pockets -- in smaller profits, in outright losses, in diminished good will, in employee discontent, in long-time customers' looking for new alternatives.

When a politician or bureaucrat is wrong, the mistakes don't hurt him personally. In fact, the failure of a political program is used to justify increasing the budget, expanding the program, giving the politicians more political power.

The Future

All that we value has come from the work of people freely doing what they thought best. Most of society's problems -- falling health-care standards, poor schools, high crime rates, illegitimacy -- have come from turning to politicians for help.

So now, what of future innovations?

Will progress stop now -- now that politicians, rather than doctors and scientists, are in charge of the nation's health care?

Will innovations come to a halt now -- now that innovators can't develop and market a better computer product unless they can prove to the politicians that what they're doing isn't unfair to their competitors?

Will the breathtaking developments come to an end now -- now that innovators must prove to some federal agency that they haven't discriminated or made any employee unhappy or done anything that isn't the way a politician or bureaucrat thinks he would have done it (but, of course, never has)?

Progress comes from people working voluntarily to better their lives.

Inefficiency, retrogression, chaos, resentment, and unintended consequences come from ordering people to do what other people think is best.

Which do you want for the future?

- **HARRY BROWNE**

Libertarian Presidential Candidate
1996 and 2000

The Libertarian Party of Virginia
4201 Wilson Blvd. Suite 110-164
Arlington, VA 22203-1859
Information Requests only: 800-619-1776

Copyright © 2001-2004, the Libertarian Party of Virginia

The Wayback Machine - <https://web.archive.org/web/20040710022523/http://www.lpva.com:80/Arc...>



- [home](#)
- [who are we?](#)
- [for the media](#)
- [event calendar](#)
- [our candidates](#)
- [office holders](#)
- [organization](#)
- [bylaws](#)
- [local affiliates](#)
- [take action!](#)
- [join us!](#)
- [contribute!](#)
- [opinion](#)
- [related sites](#)
- [archives](#)



Search this site:

Search

The Libertarian Party of Virginia

Virginia Liberty

Volume 6, Issue 5 Bimonthly Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Virginia September/October 2001

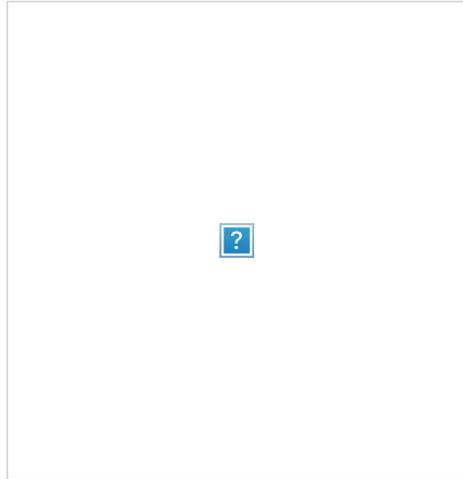
[<< Previous Article](#) - [Table of Contents](#) - [Next Article >>](#)

LOOKING BACK

Election night, November, 1976, was a rainy, cold night in Norfolk. I had just returned home from voting for the lesser of two evils (Ford or Carter) and decided to sit on my porch for a while even though the weather was very raw and think about the choice I had just been given.

I remember sitting there thinking how badly America needed a viable third party since the choice we had just been handed was not much of a choice at all. Below the Republican choice were a few alternatives: Socialist Workers Party, Communist Party and a new one, Libertarian Party.

I didn't think much about those choices at the time. A few years later, 1979, I read Robert Ringer's book "Restoring the American Dream," in which he heralded the Libertarian Party as that new hope for America.



Remembering that I had seen the Libertarian Party on the ballot in '76 I began to investigate what this new party was all about. It did not take long for me to realize that the Libertarian Party could be the third party alternative I and many other Americans were looking for.

I joined the party in 1980 and attended my first local meeting chaired by Henry Thrasher shortly thereafter. The 1980 election was coming up fast and the Libertarian Party wanted to run as many congressional candidates as possible to create exposure and support the Clark for President campaign.

Henry explained the strategy and why we needed candidates and I said "Okay, I'll do it."

Well, I went home that night, sat on the same porch and asked myself: "What have I gotten myself into?" I had never run for any elected office -- ever. My opponent was Dr. G. William Whitehurst (R-VA-2nd) who was virtually invincible. The Democrats had not opposed him in years.

Nonetheless, with Henry as campaign manager we plunged into the campaign. It was quite an experience; one I would recommend to all party faithful.

That was twenty years ago, and the situation in America is still unchanged. We still have two major parties that offer very little differences except how they each plan to spend the money they steal from us. Until the Libertarian Party can grow to a point where we can challenge the status quo, elect Representatives and Senators, or, at a minimum, influence what happens in government, the erosion of freedom as we move along Hayek's road to serfdom will continue.

If we are to succeed we must not only increase our membership, we must increase the number of party members who know how to fight and eventually win elected office.

I strongly believe that all Libertarian Party members should take on an election campaign at least once at some level if for no other reason than to learn first hand what a campaign is all about and the amount of effort that has to be expended. It forces you to become very knowledgeable of the issues and to develop libertarian solutions to the problems that concern the constituency. As we used to say in the Army, "it's good training."

The Libertarian Party is the only political party in America that sincerely believes in much less government, elimination of income taxation and the restoration of individual freedom as conceived by the Founding Fathers. I believe that the success of the Libertarian Party is the only hope America has to remain a free country and to regain the freedoms we have already lost, peacefully. I urge all Virginia libertarians to make sure we have candidates this November for all House of Delegate and State Senate races.

We have already achieved a milestone with Bill Redpath and Gary Reams achieving ballot status for governor and Lt governor, respectively. Let's fill out the ballot and send a message to the Republicans. Many of your campaigns will be "kamikaze" campaigns as mine was in 1980. You may not have much of a chance of winning but you will gain exposure for the party, its ideals and its message of freedom for the individual,

and it's good training.

Veteran soldiers fight smarter than raw recruits in the next battle and there are many battles ahead.

-KEN MORRISON
Libertarian Candidate for
US Congress, 1980

**The Libertarian Party of Virginia
4201 Wilson Blvd. Suite 110-164
Arlington, VA 22203-1859
Information Requests only: 800-619-1776**

Copyright © 2001-2004, the Libertarian Party of Virginia

The Wayback Machine - <https://web.archive.org/web/20040710022530/http://www.lpva.com:80/Arc...>



- [home](#)
- [who are we?](#)
- [for the media](#)
- [event calendar](#)
- [our candidates](#)
- [office holders](#)
- [organization](#)
- [bylaws](#)
- [local affiliates](#)
- [take action!](#)
- [join us!](#)
- [contribute!](#)
- [opinion](#)
- [related sites](#)
- [archives](#)



Search this site:

Search

The Libertarian Party of Virginia

Virginia Liberty

Volume 6, Issue 5 Bimonthly Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Virginia September/October 2001

[<< Previous Article](#) - [Table of Contents](#) - [Next Article >>](#)

Global Capitalism Rally - December 2

Around the world on "D2" - December 02 - [Sunday] those who love freedom will stand up for the productive and the creative, for individual rights and the principle that each of us is the owner of our own life - not the state, and not the "community".

We will "walk" with Ayn Rand, Thomas Jefferson, John Locke and the great thinkers of all time -- FOR reason, FOR technological progress, FOR prosperity and FOR individual liberty.

Now, as you can see from the campaign's global HQ website at:

<http://www.walkforcapitalism.org/>

there are already 33 cities signed up for the event.

**The Libertarian Party of Virginia
4201 Wilson Blvd. Suite 110-164
Arlington, VA 22203-1859
Information Requests only: 800-619-1776**

Copyright © 2001-2004, the Libertarian Party of Virginia

The Wayback Machine - <https://web.archive.org/web/20040710022542/http://www.lpva.com:80/Arc...>



- [home](#)
- [who are we?](#)
- [for the media](#)
- [event calendar](#)
- [our candidates](#)
- [office holders](#)
- [organization](#)
- [bylaws](#)
- [local affiliates](#)
- [take action!](#)
- [join us!](#)
- [contribute!](#)
- [opinion](#)
- [related sites](#)
- [archives](#)



Search this site:

Search

The Libertarian Party of Virginia

Virginia Liberty

Volume 6, Issue 5 Bimonthly Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Virginia September/October 2001

[<< Previous Article](#) - [Table of Contents](#) - [Next Article >>](#)

Making a Difference

It's always heartening to watch an underdog. What you see is people who have such spirit and commitment to an idea that they will struggle for that idea in spite of long hours and long odds. Success doesn't come cheaply, for them, and frequently they must see their success in terms of the Big Picture and small gains, rather than quick wins and overnight fame and stardom..

Ask them if they think it was all worth it - and they will tell you that it is, no doubt. A typical jaded American will tell you that no one believes in anything, anymore - especially not politicians - the sort who aren't the "underdogs". They will trash any belief they have if it means getting elected. They will sell out on issue after issue. And they won't fight for anything against the odds.

I prefer the underdogs. Especially after speaking to a few of them. They're Libertarians - and part of the slate running for the Virginia House of Delegates.

Bill Peabody, 47, of Fairfax county, is seeking the 39th Virginia House seat. Currently, Peabody is collecting signatures on his candidate petition. Peabody is a graduate of Babson College in Wellesley, Massachusetts. This will be Peabody's first try for public office.

Peabody realized he was a Libertarian about twenty years ago, but doesn't remember his introduction to the philosophy. "Maybe by reading Ayn Rand," he said.

If the voters send him to Richmond next year, Peabody says he would focus on eliminating the BPOL tax (a tax on business profits that counties charge IN ADVANCE of the profit actually being made!). He would work to keep taxes low - specifically, he would fight against any increases in the sales tax on food. Peabody says he is ambivalent about the car tax once the value of a vehicle goes above \$10,000.

His campaign goals are to "influence Republicans to be less worried about wars on drugs" and to "bring more business to Virginia through lower taxes," he said. "Virginia has grown in the last twenty years largely due to its efforts to lower taxes."

Peabody advises voters that there is no such thing as 'wasting your vote' - "because one or two issues will assure neither of the others will ever have a clear majority. There's not enough difference to matter," he said.

Besides, "if you're voting for someone you don't really like, isn't that wasting your vote?"

To help with the Peabody for Delegate campaign, write: Bill Peabody for Delegate, Springfield, VA 22030, call 703-323-9072.

Peabody has a campaign website under construction: <http://xpage.com/39thDistrict>

Christine Austen is running for the 47th House of Delegates seat in Arlington.

Austen, a first-time candidate, reports her petitioning effort is almost complete. As of August 8, she had collected over 200 signatures. The petitions must be filed with the state Board of Elections before the deadline on August 27.

Austen thinks it's never a bad choice to vote your conscience. "To those voting for a third party is essentially 'throwing your vote away', I would say this: you only throw your vote away when you vote AGAINST someone instead of FOR someone. When you pick the lesser of two evils, you effectively say, "I give up...there's no way we will ever get what we really want, which is freedom, so I'll just go with whoever will take me where I really don't want to go at the slowest possible rate."

"Thanks for stopping by my web site, www.VoteJES.com," says the welcome page of **James Simpson's** campaign site. "I am running for the Virginia House of Delegates, 51st District," he continues. The 51st is a seat currently held by Del. Michele McQuigg. "If you are curious about my political philosophy it is closely aligned with that of one of the most respected statesmen of all time, Thomas Jefferson."

Well, now, that's a good start.

Mr. Simpson has worked in the microcomputer industry for 11 years, and is a Network Analyst at America Online.

Education reform, tax reduction, and transportation lead the list of issues that he wishes to address during his campaign. Mr. Simpson intends to sign the Prince William Taxpayer Alliance pledge, as a candidate, agreeing not to vote to increase taxes while in office.

"To put it in the simplest terms, I believe in lower taxes, fewer laws, and less intrusive government. I believe that government should exist to fulfill a few basic functions, primarily guaranteeing that individual freedoms are not trod upon by other individuals or governments," he said.

"It's also my belief that government has far exceeded it's charter and does not appear to be slowing down to correct it's course."

Simpson takes the view that politicians should be citizens first, and so pledges to limit his service to two terms.

Simpson tells the voters: "If elected, I am not going to tell you that your issues or problems can be fixed by government. I believe that most of the functions performed by government today could be addressed more effectively by the free market. I believe that individuals should have the freedom to live their lives the way they want as long as they don't impose on the rights of others. Individuals should and must be held accountable for their actions. We must stop misplacing blame."

To help with the Simpson for Delegate campaign, write: James Simpson for Delegate, 11562 Hill Meade Ln., Lake Ridge, VA 22192. The official website is at www.VoteJES.com.

Other Libertarians running for office this fall include: **Paul Hopersberger**, Norfolk - 5th; **Frank Redmond**, Arlington - 28th; **Chris Levendis**, Herndon - 36th; **Pat Cooper**, Falls Church - 38th; **William Peabody**, Springfield - 39th; **Micah C. Gray**, Springfield - 42nd; **Robert Berry**, Woodbridge - 52nd; **John Girardeau**, Midlothian - 65th; **Tim Belton**, Richmond - 68th; **Matt Haglund**, Richmond - 73rd; **Charles Cooper**, Norfolk - 89th; and **Robert Stermer**, Williamsburg - 96th.

Wayne Hunt, Fairfax - 37th was forced to withdraw from his race.

- Marc Montoni, Chairman
Libertarian Party of Virginia

The Libertarian Party of Virginia
4201 Wilson Blvd. Suite 110-164
Arlington, VA 22203-1859
Information Requests only: 800-619-1776

Copyright © 2001-2004, the Libertarian Party of Virginia

The Wayback Machine - <https://web.archive.org/web/20040710022419/http://www.lpva.com:80/Arc...>



- [home](#)
- [who are we?](#)
- [for the media](#)
- [event calendar](#)
- [our candidates](#)
- [office holders](#)
- [organization](#)
- [bylaws](#)
- [local affiliates](#)
- [take action!](#)
- [join us!](#)
- [contribute!](#)
- [opinion](#)
- [related sites](#)
- [archives](#)



Search this site:

Search

The Libertarian Party of Virginia

Virginia Liberty

Volume 6, Issue 5 Bimonthly Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Virginia September/October 2001

[<< Previous Article - Table of Contents](#)

RESULTS OF THE POST-ELECTION OPINION POLL

Recently the Libertarian Party of Virginia sent out a poll. The intent was to gauge members' perception of the election results of 2000.

Lack of media coverage was cited over again as an obstacle to Libertarians getting into public office. How can media coverage be improved? Read some of the comments below and send your suggestions to Libertarian Party, PO Box 28263, Richmond VA 23228-0263.

How did Harry Browne and Art Olivier perform in the November 2000 election?

- Better than I expected - 11%
- Worse than I expected - 55%
- They performed up to my expectations - 27%

What in your opinion could have been done to improve Harry Browne and Art Olivier's performance in Presidential elections?

- More media coverage - 90%
- More personal appearances - 33%

- "All third-party candidates who were on the ballots should've been included in the debates." - Anon. [Ed: We tried pretty hard to get Harry and Art into the debates. If you have any ideas on how to accomplish this, and a willingness to implement your ideas, please contact us.]

- "Unfortunately, Harry Browne just seemed to be going through the motions. Mechanical. Too much theory, not enough concrete issues." - J. F., Alexandria. [Ed: This one kind of surprised us. Harry and Art talked about issues just about every time they said anything. J., we'd be interested in seeing an article or letter to Virginia Liberty from you on this subject.]

- "Less division [with regard to] personalities at LP National. More support from National HQ for Harry." - S. M., Centreville.

- "It is simple: exposure wins the election. Dollars = votes, I'm afraid." - E. C., Springfield

- "We need to find a well-qualified Steve Forbes type of candidate who can put \$10 million of his own fortune into the campaign..." - D. C., Charlottesville.

- "Volunteer coordinators could have been given free campaign literature." - J. D., Burke. [Ed: We would have liked to. But frankly, we didn't have the money to purchase millions of copies of literature to get them into the sub-penny apiece piece range like the old parties do. Our print runs are in the tens of thousands; and at that level they are exceedingly expensive. One of the things we did while I was in Richmond was to ask for donations for literature from people who came to our local meetings. We never had a single project that we weren't able to fund entirely from donations by our fellow local members. Some have more money than time, and are willing to invest it. But they won't unless you ask them.]

- "We need to spend serious dollars on advertising; i.e., radio, print, etc. To date, Neil Boortz is our best advertising. This has to change asap." - T. S., Chesapeake. [Ed: Agreed. For us to spend those dollars, we have two things to do: 1) enroll many more of our members into the monthly pledge program; and 2) get many more people to join the Party. Will you help?]

- "Not to run until local office [holder] base is stronger." - J.L., Reedville.

- "They could have cloned themselves and done twice the work. They could have liquidated all of their assets for the Party! Seriously, I don't think we could have asked for much more!" - N.S., Falls Church.

- "At every possible opportunity, jump in front of the camera. Be aggressive, make the media come to us." - T. M., Newport News. [Ed: Can't wait to see you on T.V.! Even I had quite a bit of success with this last year. Particularly in some appearances I made in support of the Wood For Congress Campaign in the 1st District. I can tell you that it works - but more of us need to get in the habit of doing it. Go for it!]

How do you think the Libertarian Party should approach the next Presidential election?

- Begin planning strategy now - 28%
- Concentrate on fundraising - 27%
- Spread the word about the Libertarian Party - 59%

- "Devote all efforts and funds to local and congressional races." - J. L., Reedville. [Ed: Many Libertarians, including this author, share your preference for intensive targeting of local races. However, the LP is not permitted to redirect the contributions individual members send to candidates. If a person wants to donate to the Presidential campaign, that is their choice. And we Libertarians are, after all, about leaving individuals free to choose their own path! If you wish to see Libertarians concentrate their donations on local candidates, the way to make them do it is by your own example and by persuasion. Write letters to the party newsletter suggesting that course to other members; when you attend local meetings, ask your fellow members to do the same.]

- "Continue encouraging Libertarians to seek local offices as many elected leaders progress from local to state then national offices. Outline strategies/platform for 'hot-button' issues (social security, medical savings accounts, campaign finance reform), then educate voters. Combat concerns about realistic, systematic reforms with fact-based research re. how to realize platform goals." - Anon.

- "All it takes is dollars." - J. F., Alexandria.

- "Convert some prominent Republicans and Democrats to the Libertarian Party - target some moderates from each party." - N. M., Williamsburg.

- "The American public is entrenched in socialist ideas fed to them for 50 + years. It will take effort, money, education - and the failure, catastrophic failure of the socialist state before change can begin in the other direction." - E. C., Springfield.

- "Focus on informing Americans all the ways the L.P. is working for them. Let it be known the battles the L.P. is fighting today." - J. G., Nokesville.

- "Getting more people interested will bring in more money. Sell the ideas - the money will come." - J. M., Hampton.

What do you think is the biggest obstacle the national Libertarian Party will face in the coming years?

- Lack of candidates to run - 10%
- 3rd party candidates as "spoilers" - 43%
- Opposition to libertarianism - 17%

- "Lack of grassroots base. Lack of public understanding of Libertarians." - J. L., Reedville.

- "The media's fear of 3rd parties as spoilers of the status quo." - J. M., Richmond.

- "Hostility from entrenched Democrats and Repugnants [sic]; ignorant and/or indifferent media personnel." - S. A., Alexandria.

- "Getting 60% of the people who don't vote to come out and support our team. The non-voter needs to be made aware he or she knows what's best for themselves, not the elected politician or expert. Remember no matter what is said you live the answer." - P. J., King William.

- "Growing opposition from the other parties as they realize we're a real threat. Dirty tricks galore! We have to be ready." - N. S., Falls Church.

- "Lack of media coverage." - T. C., Richmond.

- "Fatigue from all the above as well as ballot access challenges, perceived lack of credibility (few office

holders), continued fundraising, etc." - Anon. [Ed: None of us like to have to fundraise but without it nothing happens. Anyone who can figure out how to fund Libertarian Party growth projects without fundraising would be more than welcome in our office.]

Did you vote Libertarian in the November 2000 election?

- Yes - 78%
- No - 14%
- There were no Libertarian candidates running in my district - 7%

"Voted Bush to stop Gore." - J.L. Reedville. [Ed: A lot of people thought that, but did it make much of a difference?]

"I wanted the Democrats out." - P.J., King William.

"Yes, across the board, or I cast no vote." - E. C., Springfield.

"Yes, and in 1996 and in 1992, and 1998, and would have in 1984 if they had allowed Bergland/Lewis on the Virginia ballot." - M. P., Vienna.

**The Libertarian Party of Virginia
4201 Wilson Blvd. Suite 110-164
Arlington, VA 22203-1859
Information Requests only: 800-619-1776**

Copyright © 2001-2004, the Libertarian Party of Virginia