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**:: LONE STAR LIBERTY, JUNE 2008 (STATE CONVENTION IN 10 DAYS!) ::**

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**Date:** June 3rd 2008

Lone Star Liberty newsletter:  
the monthly newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Texas, [www.LPTexas.org](http://www.LPTexas.org)

June 2008  
Over 1470 subscribers

- OUR PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE
- NATIONAL CONVENTION WRAP UP
- 3. LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF TEXAS STATE CONVENTION
- 4. BRING YOUR CAMERAS, RECORDERS
- 5. JUNE 15 MONEY BOMB
- 6. PLATFORM PROPOSALS
- 7. BYLAWS PROPOSALS
- 8. WES AND PAT'S EXCELLENT ADVENTURE
- ELECTED LIBERTARIANS
- RON PAUL CANDIDATES
- 11. MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR
- 12. SCHEDULE OF IMPORTANT DATES

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- 1. OUR PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE

You may have heard the results of the Libertarian Party's national convention by now. Some may not be very familiar with our presidential nominee. Below is a helpful introduction:

<http://www.chbn.com/Clip.aspx?key=8BF2D6BFC8CACDoC>

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- 2. NATIONAL CONVENTION WRAP UP

Texas delegates were a big part of the thrilling national convention in Denver. Dr Mary

Ruwart from Texas finished a very close second to Bob Barr on the 6th round of voting for president. Texans were on the credentials, bylaws, and platform committees. Texans Pat Dixon and Dr Mary Ruwart were elected to the national committee.

Out of 77 Texans approved by the state committee as delegates, 35 attended in the Texas delegation.

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### 3. LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF TEXAS STATE CONVENTION COMING QUICK!

It is only 10 days away!

The political party with 174 candidates on the ballot this year is having a party in Fort Worth and you are invited. Details are posted at [www.LPTexas.org](http://www.LPTexas.org).

Although rooms at the hotel are filling up fast, there are other hotels in the area.

Some of the events are:

Nominee for President: Presidential nominee Congressman Bob Barr has confirmed his attendance.

Michael Badnarik: Our 2004 presidential nominee Michael Badnarik, one of the most passionate advocates for liberty, will inspire you.

Mary Ruwart: One of our favorite Texas Libertarians, Dr Mary Ruwart, finished just behind our nominee on the 6th ballot for the presidential nomination. You won't want to miss her.

US Senate Debate: The three candidates, Scott Jameson, Jon Roland, and Yvonne Adams Schick, seeking the nomination for US Senate from Texas are invited to debate Friday evening.

Global Warming Debate: Do you believe in Global Warming? A debate between Dr H Sterling Burnett from the National Center for Policy Analysis and Andy Wilson from Public Citizen may settle the score.

FairTax Debate: Is the FairTax fair or foul? Where should Libertarians stand? Ken Hoagland, Communications Director for Americans for Fair Taxation, will debate Wes Benedict, Executive Director of the Libertarian Party of Texas.

Toll Road Debate: What do you think of toll roads? We are working on a discussion including Terri Hall, founder of the San Antonio Toll Party and Texans United for Reform and Freedom (T.U.R.F.). Terri was named 2007 San Antonian of the Year by WOAI Radio.

Not your typical Drug War Debate: A controversial video Never Get Busted was produced by

Libertarian candidate and former drug enforcement officer Barry Cooper. Law Enforcement Against Prohibition (LEAP) does not like this approach, and Russ Jones from LEAP will debate Barry on his concerns about this tactic on the drug war.

Abortion: Dr. Adam Groza is a very articulate Baptist minister and Libertarian who will discuss the application of Libertarian principles to the pro-life issue. A respectful debate of this difficult subject will help find some common ground.

War: Scott Horton from AntiWar.com radio offers a very impressive series of guests on his radio show, and will be on hand to discuss war and national security.

Youth Outreach: Dr Jim Lark will discuss growing the Libertarian movement on school campuses.

National Chairs: Past chairs of the Libertarian Party National Committee Dr. Jim Lark, Geoff Neale, and Bill Redpath will be on hand for “Lamentations of Libertarian Leadership.”

Elected Libertarians: Libertarians are getting elected to local office in Texas. Who are they? Come to our panel discussion on Local Libertarian Winners.

Farewell Address: Wes Benedict has served as the executive director of the Libertarian Party of Texas since 2004 and has contributed more than any other single individual to the growth and success of the state party in recent years. Wes will step back into the private sector in 2009. Please don't miss Wes Benedict's Farewell Address.

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#### 4. BRING YOUR CAMERAS, RECORDERS

In this age of YouTube, we encourage you to bring video recording equipment to our convention. There will be more activities than you have time for, so it would be good to have video recordings of these events.

We also encourage you to bring your cameras. Candidates that wish to have photos taken would appreciate getting a photo taken.

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#### 5. JUNE 15 MONEY BOMB

The Libertarian Party of Texas announced a money bomb for March 15 with a goal of \$50,000. The result was over \$28,000 donated. These funds are needed to meet our annual budget and keep our staff working. With a record number of candidates, increased media attention, and Ron Paul supporters looking for a home, we need your support.

We are extending our money bomb to June 15. Please consider helping us by joining at one

our membership levels prior to the state convention. We would like to give you a membership card indicating your membership level (silver, gold, platinum, etc) so that you can be recognized for your support at our convention.

Donations and memberships can be made securely online at <http://lptexas.org/membership.shtml>

Thank you to those who support our party. We truly appreciate you!

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## PLATFORM PROPOSALS

The state platform committee, chaired by Kevin Tunstall, has posted proposals to be presented at the state convention. The proposals and discussion can be found at <http://www.lptexas.org/phpBB2/index.php?f=11&sid=f5012d053868216a0ff08f188922a77c>

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## 7. BYLAWS PROPOSALS

The chair of the bylaws committee Rock Howard provides the following in preparation for the state convention:

It is my pleasure to serve again as the Chair of the LPT Bylaws Committee. Art DiBianca is the other committee member and together we have considered 9 possible changes to put before the delegates at the state convention.

While we don't have final language prepared for any of our proposals, I will recap some of them for the benefit of those who will attend and serve as convention delegates in Fort Worth.

### Endorsements

We want to make it clearer that County affiliates are free to endorse candidates of their choosing in non-partisan elections. This should not be a controversial matter.

Also we plan to at least get a sense of the body for whether LP conventions should be allowed to endorse LP members who are running for office under some other party label. The National Bylaws committee created a proposal along these lines that we shall also consider. (The proposal was not considered at the National Convention due to lack of time.)

### Delegates

We want to consider improving the definition of who can be named as convention delegates

and separately consider an improved method for delegate allocation. This is particularly important in a high growth scenario that we hope to face in the near future. Currently the matter is left up to the SLEC, but this will become a divisive issue if divergent opinions develop in that body. We think it best to address this in the Party Rules.

### Approval Voting

The SLEC has used Approval Voting with much success over the last few years. There is now a proposal to use Approval Voting to select nominees and/or state officers at future Texas LP Conventions. (Approval Voting allows the voter to vote for one or more candidates standing for a given office. The candidate who gets the most votes wins so long as they are named on the majority of the ballots. In the case where no candidate gains a majority, the candidate with the most support runs in a runoff against "None of the Above".)

### Other Matters

There are 2 or 3 matters that the committee is reviewing that are best described as "clean up" proposals. Our intention with these is not to change the rules per se, but instead to clean up language that is unclear or to eliminate provisions that have become obsolete due to other past changes in the Rules.

It is the committee's opinion that while we have some interesting and important changes to consider, the time allotted at the convention for the Rules Committee presentation should be more than sufficient to allow us to debate all planned proposals.

Robert "Rock" Howard  
Chair, Rules Committee  
Libertarian Party of Texas

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### WES AND PAT'S EXCELLENT ADVENTURE

Last year, Wes Benedict and Pat Dixon travelled to 25 Texas cities recruiting candidates and growing the party. This adventure is captured in a 12 minute video.

The low resolution version has been placed on Google Video:

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=531240252429247725&q=&hl=en>

The high resolution version is location here. This link is also featured on the home page of [www.LPTexas.org](http://www.LPTexas.org):

<http://patdixon.org/wesandpat.mov>

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## ELECTED LIBERTARIANS

Some say that Libertarians never get elected. They have not seen our list of elected Libertarians at <http://www.lptexas.org/inoffice.shtml>

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## RON PAUL CANDIDATES

There is a website of candidates that represent the Constitutional principles of Ron Paul. We encourage candidates to submit their contact information and photos to [PaulCongress.com](http://PaulCongress.com)

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## 11. MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

I look forward to seeing you at our state convention June 13-15 in Fort Worth. With 174 candidates on the ballot this year, we hope to have a huge turnout.

Please go to [www.LPTexas.org](http://www.LPTexas.org) and send in your registration. We are working very hard to give you the best convention we can. A lot of important business and interesting discussion will be crammed into 3 days, so don't miss it!

Patrick Dixon  
Chair, Libertarian Party of Texas

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## 12. SCHEDULE OF IMPORTANT DATES:

June 13-15: Texas LP convention, Radisson Fort Worth Fossil Creek ([http://www.radisson.com/ftworthtx\\_north](http://www.radisson.com/ftworthtx_north)). Info posted to [www.LPTexas.org](http://www.LPTexas.org)

Nov 4: General election date, get out and vote!

<< **Previous: Lone Star Liberty - May 2008 (Ron Paul Endorsements, Conventions)**

| **[Archive Index](#)** |

**Next: Lone Star Liberty- July 2008 (Barr in Texas, State Convention results, and more ....) >>**

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