

North Country

Libertarian

Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Wisconsin
Special Edition

Introduction to the Libertarian Party of Wisconsin

You might be a Libertarian. Take this quiz and see.

1. I believe that each person's ability, dignity, freedom, and responsibility must be honored and recognized.
 Yes No
2. I believe that free enterprise and the encouragement of individual initiative and incentive are the cornerstones of a healthy economy.
 Yes No
3. I favor the establishment of a sound money system and oppose deficit spending.
 Yes No
4. I support voluntary funding of public services as an alternative to taxation.
 Yes No
5. I oppose government subsidies to special interest groups.
 Yes No
6. I oppose wage and price controls.
 Yes No
7. I oppose state licensing and franchising laws which prevent competition and create monopolies such as the Post Office, bus and train services, power, water, and sewer services.
 Yes No
8. I oppose compulsory safety laws such as mandatory seat belt use.
 Yes No
9. I oppose government intervention into the economy except where individual rights have been violated.
 Yes No

see QUIZ, page 4

The Libertarian Party of Wisconsin (LPW) was formed in 1973 as an affiliate of the national Libertarian Party. The LPW operates as an autonomous political organization without direct or indirect control by the national party.

The history of the LPW is one of achieving and maintaining ballot status with progressing activity and growth.

In 1980, the LPW ran candidates for U.S. Senate, two Congressional seats, five State Assembly seats, and supported the Presidential candidacy of Ed Clark.

In 1982, the LPW ran candidates for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, Attorney General, U.S. Senate, six Congressional seats, one State Senate seat, seven State Assembly seats, Milwaukee County Sheriff and County Treasurer, and Iowa County Coroner, Dr. Timothy Correll. He became the first elected official in Wisconsin brought to office carrying the Libertarian banner.

During the 1982 general election, Libertarian candidates for statewide office consistently out-poll other third-party candidates. As a matter of fact, three of the top four minority-party vote counts for statewide office were registered by Libertarians.

Membership

Membership in the LPW is unrestricted by a person's race, creed, color, sex, sexual preference, or national origin.

The only qualifications for membership are payment of annual dues and signing the following statement, "I hereby certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force or fraud as a means of achieving political or social goals."

At this writing, the LPW has affiliate parties in

Brown, Dane, Milwaukee, Rock, Waukesha, and Grant-Crawford counties.

In various stages of organization are affiliates in Washington-Dodge-Ozaukee counties, Outagamie-Winnebago counties, Walworth-Jefferson counties, Marathon county, and in northern portions of the third Congressional district.

The LPW operates entirely through the voluntary efforts of its members and other interested individuals.

Expenses for operation are borne by receipts from dues and contributions or by active individuals through in-kind contributions.

Libertarians do not seek "special interest money" to support either the Party or its candidates. There are fundamental differences between the principles of the Party and those of special interest groups which seek to use government for their respective ends.

Also as a matter of principle, Libertarian candidates oppose the use of government-collected monies to support political campaigns.

These positions might be said to provide an ideal training ground for Libertarians in practicing the art of doing more with less, an art not practiced by the major political parties.

Principles

The key to libertarian principles is the following:

We hold that all individuals have the right to exercise sole dominion over their own lives, and have the right to live in whatever manner they choose, so long as they do not forcibly interfere with the equal right of others to live in whatever manner they choose.

see INTRODUCTION, page 3



Libertarian Party
of Wisconsin
Post Office Box 21745
Milwaukee, WI 53221

Libertarians believe in the right of each person to govern his or her own life. Therefore, laws should exist to protect lives and property, but not for the purpose of social, economic, or military programs. Every government has a responsibility to respect individual rights. The United States, unique in the world, was conceived in liberty, in the idea that people should be free so long as they do not use force or fraud against others. But today we have fallen far from that idea of individual freedom.

Libertarians stand foursquare for liberty across-the-board. The right to control one's life and property means the right to freedom of expression, the right to produce and trade, the right to travel freely, and the right to privacy from government intrusion in matters of personal behavior, to name a few. We believe that people themselves, not government, are best able to solve problems in an intelligent, benevolent, and voluntary way.

What follows are capsule summaries of Libertarian Party positions on some of today's major issues.

Inflation

Inflation is simply legalized counterfeiting caused by government's printing of paper money and the Federal Reserve Board's manipulation of money and credit through the banking system. Inflation means a decrease in the value of our dollars, eroding our earning power and savings.

But some individuals and groups actually benefit from inflation. Creating new money allows politicians to pay for programs without raising taxes, and it allows government and favored interests to spend this new money before it has spread through the economy and diluted the value of the currency. Inflation can be stopped — but not by blaming and scapegoating workers, businesspeople, or the OPEC nations, and not by taking the blame ourselves. Inflation can be stopped only by stopping its cause: government's expansion of the money supply.

Unemployment

Stopping inflation and the economic distortions it causes will help solve our unemployment problem. Jobs are created in a stable and productive economy which is not subject to the boom-or-bust economic manipulations offered by Republican and Democratic politicians. An equally important step is to de-tax and deregulate the economy, allowing new businesses and jobs to develop; in particular, minimum wage laws and licensing laws should be abolished.

The minimum wage law doesn't guarantee a job to anyone; rather, it violates the rights of anyone willing to take a job at below the minimum wage. Who is hurt the most? Often, teenagers, especially minority teenagers, who end up with no job at all.

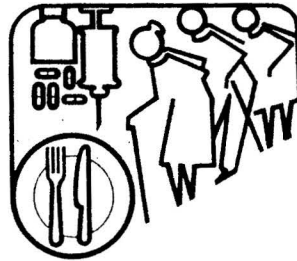
Licensing requirements reduce employment opportunities by making it costly and difficult to enter businesses and professions. In the past thirty years, the number of occupations requiring licenses has jumped from eighty to eight hundred, in areas as diverse as taxi driving, haircutting, and law. Typically, licensing requirements are created through the influence of established professionals, not to protect the public, but rather to protect themselves from competition, thus guaranteeing themselves higher incomes.

Poverty

Ending inflation and freeing the economy will go a long way toward helping the poor and unemployed, but not far enough. Government programs such as rent control and urban renewal have destroyed whole neighborhoods and eliminated incentives to maintain or build decent housing, while in many poor areas, police are seen not as protectors but as aggressors. Government welfare and poverty programs are a manipulative, coercive, and paternalistic system locking the poor into a permanent underclass, and after twenty years of these programs, the future of the poor looks as bleak as ever.

Libertarians would abolish urban renewal programs, rent control, zoning laws, licensing laws, welfare programs, and other impediments to healthy, vital communities.

For those who cannot help themselves we look to America's tradition of volunteer charitable action as more benevolent, humane, creative, and efficient than any bureaucratic scheme. Presently, many voluntary charitable activities have actually been made illegal by government, or they are subject to interference through regulations and bureaucracy. Such voluntary activities as providing day care, education, transportation, and meals should not be restricted by government. Rather, permitting these enterprises to flourish is the best way to end today's system of government-enforced poverty.



Social Security

The Social Security system staggers from crisis to crisis. The debt of federal pension programs exceeds \$7 trillion. Americans under fifty years of age face the prospect of years of taxation with no benefits. Many elderly live in fear of losing their only income.

It's time to face up to the problems of Social Security. Quick fixes by Congress from election to election have failed. We must act now to safeguard the incomes of the elderly who have depended on the promises of government for their retirement.

At the same time we must recognize that continuation of the Social Security program is a tragic fraud on the young. In the face of the debt of the system, the government itself estimates Social Security tax rates reaching up to forty percent in the next thirty years. There is no doubt that if people were allowed to save and invest the amounts they now pay in Social Security taxes, their retirement incomes would be greater and safer and there would be more money left in the private sector to create more jobs.



Taxes and Spending

Taxation violates individual rights and is an economic burden most people cannot afford. Libertarians are working at all levels of government, and at the grassroots, to remove the tax burden. Taxes and spending can be cut significantly and rapidly, with tremendous benefits. Other political parties debate how much taxes and spending should increase, and their tax "cuts" (when they occur) are really only cuts in the rate at which taxes increase. Libertarians are not satisfied with phony cuts in taxing and spending, but rather believe that taxes are a kind of legalized theft which can and should be slashed immediately, and abolished as soon as possible.

Education

Government-operated schools compel attendance, remove parental authority to decide what is taught, exact more and more tax money to fund their operation — and are declining to the level of a national disgrace. Test scores go down as costs go up, and in many cities, public schools breed crime and vandalism. As a result, many low and middle income parents are scraping together what money they can to send their children to alternative schools.

The solution is to respect the rights of parents and children to choose the kind of education they want. Libertarians would eliminate compulsory attendance laws and allow educational tax credits for anyone who pays for the education of a child. Tax credits make quality education available to everyone, and would be particularly beneficial to low and middle income people who could have a true choice among educational alternatives. They are a big step toward our goal of eliminating government involvement in the area of educating children.

Energy

The solution to America's energy problems is a truly free market in energy. Energy producers should have the same right as anyone else to manufacture and market their products free of government interference. Libertarians would abolish the excise tax on crude oil and repeal all price controls and allocation requirements, which have discouraged the efficient production and distribution of oil and natural gas. At the same time, we would end all subsidies to energy producers, including the corporate welfare package known as "synfuels."

Subsidizing nuclear power plant owners and protecting them from liability in an accident forces taxpayers to foot the bill and actually discourages safety. These subsidies and protections should be repealed. If nuclear energy producers can survive in a free market with full liability for their actions, fine; if not, the resources they now use will be turned to more desirable uses.

The Environment

Libertarians favor strong laws protecting people's lives, bodies, and property from pollutants. Those responsible for pollution should not be bailed out by the taxpayers, but should be held fully liable for their actions.

The worst environmental problems often occur when private property rights are not recognized and government bureaucracy is allowed to control natural resources — as with land controlled by the Bureau of Land Management. Libertarians would abolish government programs which encourage destruction of the environment: the Army Corps of Engineers, with its dam, road, and bridge projects that have opened up or flooded wilderness areas; and the U.S. Flood Insurance program, which has artificially encouraged construction on deltas and wetlands.

Organizations such as the Audubon Society successfully operate hundreds of nature preserves covering millions of acres. Wilderness lovers and environmentalists should look to these alternatives rather than government policy, which can change according to political pressure from competing interest groups. At the same time, freedom from government harassment is the right of landowners who do not damage the property of their neighbors. The present tangled web of land-use restrictions has in effect stolen the right to use their own land from many property owners.

INTRODUCTION, from page 1

Libertarians are opposed to the status quo of big government and the politics-as-usual approach of the Democratic and Republican parties.

Purpose

The purpose of the LPW is to implement and give voice to libertarian principles by:

- a. Promoting candidates for local and statewide public office within Wisconsin.
- b. Working for the election of the national Libertarian Party nominees for President and Vice-President.
- c. Promoting, chartering, and coordinating affiliate parties throughout the state, and
- d. Entering into informational and educational activities.

Activities

Regular annual events of the LPW are its Annual Convention and operation of a booth at the Wisconsin State Fair.

Project activities in the planning stages include Social Security Week, Tax Protest Day, Fourth of July Celebration, and Anti-Draft demonstrations.

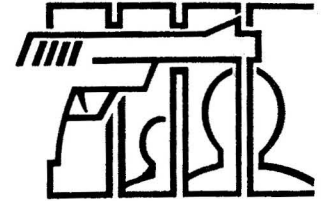
The Libertarian Party is the only political party successfully challenging the traditional political system. We are standing up for you in the face of infringements of your rights by a government consistently supported by the Republican and Democratic parties. Why waste your vote on politics-as-usual? Why not make your vote count by voting for the principles of liberty and a party which can back up its words with actions? People who are now supporting the Libertarian Party and its candidates value freedom and care about their state and country. They feel they can do nothing less than support a real political alternative which offers a realistic hope for a better future.

Our Statement of Principles, Platform, and list of a growing body of libertarian literature may be acquired by writing to the Libertarian Party of Wisconsin, Post Office Box 21745, Milwaukee, WI 53221.

Regulation and Big Business

Democratic and Republican politicians often pay lip service to "free enterprise," but government regulations multiply, violating individual rights, establishing monopolies, reducing product reliability, and raising consumer costs. This is no accident — big business and big government have always been friends. Many large, established businesses have asked for regulations as a means of stifling competition from smaller, more innovative businesses. As examples, many large airline and trucking companies have opposed deregulation, automobile and steel companies have lobbied for subsidies and protection — but "little guys," such as independent truckers and small businesses, usually oppose regulation. Regulations create monopolies and centralize government's control over the economy. Consumers need a free, competitive market backed by tough laws against fraud, enforcement of warranties, and standards set by commercially successful testing agencies, such as Underwriters Laboratories.

Libertarians call for a free market which recognizes the right of all to trade at their own risk, without either help or hindrance from the government.



Crime and Civil Liberties

The purpose of law enforcement should be to stop violent crimes against persons and property — not to abuse people with peaceful but unpopular lifestyles. The American Bar Association has estimated that nearly fifty percent of the cop-on-the-beat's time is spent on victimless crime. This misuse of resources on nonaggressive behavior must stop.

We oppose all laws that tell individuals what they can read, what they can smoke, who they can love, or how they must lead their private lives.

Libertarians would give peaceful citizens the ability to defend themselves by abolishing restrictions on gun ownership. Gun control laws not only violate civil liberties but are ineffective in reducing crime.

Libertarians favor programs which require criminals to compensate their victims and make full restitution for their crimes.

Libertarian Party of Wisconsin Membership Application

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone _____

"I hereby certify I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force or fraud as a means of achieving political or social goals."

Signature _____ Date _____

\$15 (primary membership)

\$5 (additional memberships at same address)

\$25 (combined state and national memberships)



Clip and mail with check (payable to Libertarian Party of Wisconsin) to: LPW, Post Office Box 21745, Milwaukee, WI 53221.

If you would like to find out more or become involved, please write or call:

Tom Westgaard, Chair
Libertarian Party of Wisconsin
Post Office Box 21745
Milwaukee, WI 53221
(414) 271-3011 ext. 1345 (office)
(414) 282-1924 (home)

or write the person nearest you:

Carl Chantelois
 Post Office Box 241
 Jackson, WI 53037

Jeff Stiehm
 206 Mary
 Johnson Creek, WI 53038

James Richard Ciancimino
 2020 Oaklawn Avenue
 Waukesha, WI 53186

Nick Youngers
 328 Maple Avenue - Number 104
 Waukesha, WI 53186

B. J. Larson
 4420 Lindemann Avenue
 Racine, WI 53405

Jim Coffey
 Route 2
 Dodgeville, WI 53533

Art Jackson
 2310 Elizabeth Street
 Janesville, WI 53545

Larry Smiley
 Route 1, Mansfield Road
 Lake Mills Township, WI 53551

Gary Witte
 801 Hamilton Drive
 Mt. Horeb, WI 53572

Tom Hazen
 729 North Meadow Lane
 Madison, WI 53705

Leslie Graves
 912 Vernon Avenue
 Madison, WI 53714

Anthony Theisen
 1472 Chicago Street
 Green Bay, WI 54301

Stan Hoffert
 1204 Spring Street
 Wausau, WI 54401

Jerry Shidell
 724 Bruns Drive
 Rhinelander, WI 54501

Ken Van Doren
 510 Nelson Street
 Coon Valley, WI 54623

Sandra Weitz
 742 Jackson Street
 Oshkosh, WI 54901

Libertarianism
An Introductory Reading List

A New Beginning, by Ed Clark. Highly recommended overview of libertarianism with specific applications to important public policy areas. Written by 1980 Libertarian presidential candidate.

The Libertarian Alternative, by Tibor Machan. Thirty-seven essays by contemporary defenders of liberty.

Restoring the American Dream, by Robert Ringier. A well-written presentation of the case for liberty.

Economics in One Lesson, by Henry Hazlitt. Classic primer on the principles of the free market economy and the dangers of government intervention.

In Search of Peace, by F. A. Harper. This eloquent pamphlet argues that force and coercion are inappropriate means to achieve social goals.

QUIZ, from page 1

10. I believe the only proper function of government is to defend the life, liberty, and property of citizens.

Yes No

11. I believe the law should be applied equally to all individuals, regardless of race, sex, creed, political status, or socio-economic background.

Yes No

12. I oppose preventive detention laws such as involuntary psychiatric commitment of non-criminals.

Yes No

13. I believe all sex relations between consenting individuals should be decriminalized. "Big Brother" has no business in the bedroom.

Yes No

14. I oppose laws prohibiting the ownership of guns.

Yes No

15. I believe "there is no such thing as a free lunch."

Yes No

How do you rate?

The Libertarian Party has two major principles: 1) Each individual has sole dominion over his own life and the fruits of his labor. 2) No individual or group has the right to initiate force (or the threat of force) or fraud against others.

These two principles are applied equally to economic liberties and civil liberties. Whereas liberals tend to support civil liberties, they do not hesitate to violate individual rights when it comes to intervening in and controlling the economy. In a similar fashion, conservatives tend to support voluntary trade with little government interference in the market, but they don't hesitate to violate individual rights when it comes to legislating their version of morality.

The Libertarian Party is the only political party which applies the principles of liberty equally to civil and economic issues. The LP is uncompromising in its principles.

If you have answered yes to many of the above questions, you might be a libertarian. Congratulations!