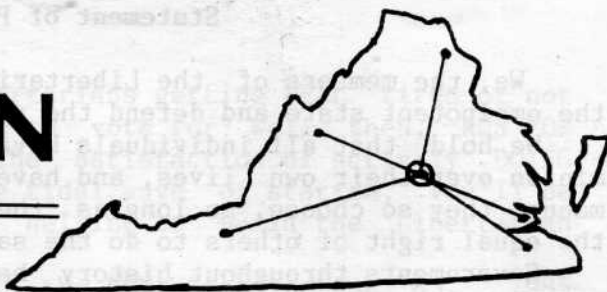


VIRGINIA LIBERTARIAN

december 1984



Well, friends, election '84 is finally over. There were numerous bright spots this year in state and local elections, although our performance on the national front was dismal at best. Many states, all of them with a good number of Libertarian voters, did not have Bergland on the ballot. I believe that is where we lost the most critical part of the votes we collected in 1980. I have not gotten exact figures, but I have heard that roughly 250,000 voted Bergland. By my guess, we probably would have gotten 360,000 if we had had ballot status in all 50 states. Over the next four years, we have got to knock down ballot access restrictions through the courts. States generally increased restrictions after 1980, which meant we were forced to spend more money. Mark my words, there will be increasing numbers of states that will tighten requirements after this year, also. If we don't stay on top of this and try to keep restrictions to a minimum, we will have the pleasure of signing our own death warrant.

Alaska has elected yet another Libertarian, to the state Legislature, and there were impressive vote totals for other Libertarians in that state. If the Alaska LP keeps improving its track record like this, pretty soon Alaska will have to secede from the Union. The Fed (and all other state gov'ts.) will not like one stubborn, free state to become the example for the rest of the citizenry to emulate.

For \$1, payable to Marc Montoni (address in contacts list), I will send you the complete report, election-by-election, on the national, state and local races. Included are the candidates' names, what they tried for, and their vote totals with percentage of the total votes cast.

--- editor

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Statement of Principles

We, the members of the Libertarian Party, challenge the cult of the omnipotent state and defend the rights of the individual.

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 so choose, so long as they do not forcibly interfere with the equal right of others to do the same.

Governments throughout history have regularly operated on the opposite principle, that the state has the right to dispose of the lives of individuals and the fruits of their labor without their consent.

We, on the contrary, deny the right of any government to do these things, and hold that where governments exist, they must not violate the rights of any individual; namely, 1) the right to life—accordingly we support prohibition of the initiation of physical force against others; 2) the right to liberty of speech and action—accordingly we oppose all attempts by government to abridge freedom of speech and press, as well as government censorship in any form; and 3) the right to property—accordingly we oppose all government interference with private property, such as confiscation, nationalization, and eminent domain, and support the prohibition of robbery, trespass, fraud, and misrepresentation.

Since governments, when instituted, must not violate individual rights, we oppose all governmental interference in the areas of voluntary and contractual relations among individuals. People should not be forced to sacrifice their lives or property for the benefit of others. They should be left free by government to deal with one another as free traders, and the resultant economic system, the only one compatible with the protection of individual rights, is the free market.

VIRGINIA LIBERTARIAN is the official newspaper of the Libertarian Party of Virginia. Opinions and articles printed herein do not necessarily represent official Party positions unless so indicated. Please send all ads (note: please include payment with all ads: Fee schedule below.), articles, and newsletter mailing fees (\$10 per year) to: **LPVA Headquarters, 824 W. Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23220.***** Please make all checks payable to: **Libertarian Party of Virginia** ***

DEADLINE for all submissions (ads, articles, news, etc.) is the 10th of every month.

AD RATES

Classifieds and personal ads .15/word; 1/8 page-\$4; 1/4 page-\$7; 1/2 page-\$13; full page-\$25. 10% discount for camera-ready or multi-issue ads. We will be glad to arrange for any of your typesetting needs.

from the chair

25 IN '85!

Are all of you Virginia Libertarians getting REAL tired of not having any Libertarian candidates to vote for? Well, then, RUN FOR OFFICE! Not only will you get the satisfaction of actively DOING something to help roll back the tidal wave of statism, you'll be spreading libertarian ideas and helping to build the Libertarian Party.

I am working on coordinating the LPVA Campaign for '85. 1985 offers a lot of opportunities for libertarians to run for numerous city and county supervisory boards, and for the House of Delegates. These are all local-oriented positions for which we can seriously compete with small-scale campaigns.

Al Anders and I are already committed to running for House of Delegates, and we both could use lots of company. If you want to run for an office, please let me know now! We can help each other on issues research, getting media coverage, fundraising ideas, petitioning, and campaign strategies. If you would like to volunteer to assist candidates in your area, let us know soon.

Let's shoot for "25 in '85." We need 25 quality candidates for the coming election, and you're IT.

---Jim Elwood

NOTE: See centerfold for House of Delegates district map. Check with your local election board for additional local information.

LIBERTARIAN GROUP OF THE MONTH

LOCAL GOVERNMENT CENTER

For those of you who think that you can't fight City Hall, here's some good advice: join forces with Reason Foundation's **Local Government Center** project.

Their monthly bulletin, **Fiscal Watchdog**, covers different ideas on how to cut the cost of local government. If you are running for a local office (you are, aren't you?), this should prove an invaluable source of information to use on your opponents in debates.

For your membership fee of \$20.00 you will receive **Fiscal Watchdog**, edited by Bob Poole, for a year.

Send all requests for information and membership fees/contributions to: Local Government Center, c/o Reason Foundation, 1018 Garden St., Santa Barbara, CA 93101. PH:805-963-5993.

It is unwise for libertarians to berate each other when something "goes wrong" and one of our candidates fails to qualify for the ballot. The same thing happens to Democrats and Republicans, including sitting Presidents!

No major party Presidential candidate who is recognized by the news media ever needs more than 5,000 valid signatures to get himself or herself on a Presidential ballot, except in New York, a Democratic candidate needs 10,000 valid signatures. These numbers compare favorably with the 148,000 that a Libertarian in Florida would need, or the 68,000 needed for a statewide libertarian in Georgia. Nevertheless, even though major party candidates face far smaller ballot requirements, they do manage to fail sometimes.

In New York in 1980, Jerry Brown's 18,000 signature petition was found to contain fewer than 10,000 valid ones, and he was thereby kept off the ballot. He unsuccessfully insisted that the requirement was unconstitutional. No one asked him about his home state of California's 100,000-signature requirement for independents.

Also in 1980, John Anderson failed to get the 1,000 valid signatures required to get on the Republican Presidential primary in Pennsylvania. He forgot about the deadline until it was only three days away, and his crash petitioning effort didn't succeed.

Even incumbent Presidents have had their names omitted from ballots. In 1948, Harry Truman missed the deadline to qualify as an independent in Alabama (as the Alabama Democratic Party refused to nominate him, he needed to qualify by petition, but failed.). The same thing happened to LBJ in 1964.

State legislatures, controlled by Republicans and Democrats, have never written the election laws to keep either major party from being "state recognized." There is one instance in which the Republican Party polled such a low vote that it was disqualified as a major party, in Florida, after 1936. At the time, the state's law applied a 30% requirement for ballot status. However, no problem: the 1937 legislature simply reduced the percentage to 15%. Later, they reduced the requirement further, to 5%. Since no third party in ANY state in this country had then (nor has today) held as much as 5% of that state's registration, this law guarantees that the majors would remain safely qualified, while insuring that no upstart new party could qualify.

So, let's not develop an inferiority complex. If major party candidates, all of whom have matching funds, sometimes fail to collect 5,000 or 10,000 valid signatures, or miss deadlines, or if major parties in the past have polled lower than 2% of the vote for President (as happened to the Republicans in 1932 and 1936, with 1.9% and 1.4% respectively), we can surely forgive ourselves a few imperfections!

