



Lone Star Liberty

The Official Monthly Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Texas

November 2003

2004 Candidates Must File Applications

Running for office is the single most important thing any individual can do to build the Libertarian Party and work toward increasing our freedom. In 2000 we had 109 individuals file for office. In 2002 we had 176 individuals file for office. That year Mark Wilson was elected to the St. Paul City Council. This year Marshall Phillips won a seat on the Buffalo Springs Township Council.

With the entry of the Greens onto the ballot last cycle and the renewed efforts of the Democrats to run for statewide office—we were knocked off the ballot for 2004—but we have a strong drive planned and

have every expectation of placing our nominees on the November ballot.

Our petition drive will place all of our candidates on the ballot—individual candidates do not need to submit petitions—or pay filing fees. All that is required to run for office as the LP candidate is for you to file an application for nomination and then win that nomination at the County or State Convention (depending on the office chosen). Filing opens this December and the deadline to file is January 2, 2004.

You can download the form from www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/forms/nomin.pdf.

Completed forms for statewide or district offices that cover more than one county should be sent to the State Chair, David Delamar (address on page 2). Those filing for county level positions should send the form to their county chair. A list of chairs is online at www.lptexas.org.

A list of offices up for election was published in last month's LSL, which is available online. The Secretary of State's office also has an online list. The League of Women's Voters publishes a booklet called the voter's key with descriptions of the offices up for election and qualifications. These can be found at most libraries.

Online Donations Available

Starting this month individuals can donate to the Libertarian Party of Texas online through Paypal.

The feature, set up by the Ballot Access Committee, should make donating quicker and easier—and hopefully encourage more people to support the Party. To donate to the Party using

Paypal you must first set up an account with Paypal using a credit card or an electronic bank draft. Visit www.paypal.com to do so.

Checks mailed to the LP of Texas or cash donations remain welcome. Supporters may also consider naming the LP of Texas in their will.

Petition Volunteer's Group

County or Regional Coordinators are needed for the volunteer effort of the ballot access petition drive. Wes Benedict (wesliberty@aol.com) is organizing our volunteer petitioning and is looking for someone to be the lead for each county.

Wes has created a yahoo group for volunteers. The group's associated web pages will have a copy of the petition form for downloading, pledge forms, and a how-to instruction kit that Wes

is developing. Lists of events to petition at, notaries, etc. will also be available for volunteers.

"The primary advantage of using this yahoo groups database is that we can all access it in real time," Wes said. This will help as the petitioning begins to track the numbers of signatures collected so that we are aware of where we are in the drive.

To volunteer for your County or area contact wesliberty@aol.com.

Supporters

The Libertarian Party of Texas would like to thank recent donors:

Guy McLendon..... Houston
Terence Murphee.....Houston
Russell Phillips..... Keller

New National party member:
James LawrenceLewisville

The following activists who have pledged to collect 1,000 signatures during the ballot access petition drive:

Steve Adams.....Austin
Celeste Adams.....Austin
Rick McGinnis.....Austin
Neil Stokes.....Austin

And the **Travis County CEC** , for a **\$1,000 donation to the Ballot Access Drive.**



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Volunteer Opportunities!
The Libertarian Party of Texas needs someone to manage our member database. Also, Lone Star Liberty could use someone willing to solicit advertising. Contact David at Chair@lptexas.org.

Submissions are welcome. Please send to the editor at Laura@Libertyworks.org. Deadline for inclusion is the 20th day of the prior month; except for the January issue, which has a deadline of Dec. 15th.

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Gun Show OPH in Bell Gains 17

Bell County Chair Bill Oliver reports that the county party held an outreach event at the Real Gun Show at the Exposition Center in Belton, Texas.

In the two day presence, October 11 and 12, three Bell County activists persuaded 110 individuals to take the World's Smallest Political Quiz at their Operation Politically Homeless Booth (OPH). Thirty-eight test takers scored Libertarian. Seventeen people were interested in the Party and left contact information.

OPH was created by the Advocates

for Self Government. It has proved to be one of the most effective means for LP activists to locate potential supporters. A short quiz on a business size card is used to question passers-by on issues and then their score identifies their "political home." Both the Advocates and the National LP sell quizzes— or activists can print their own.

Anyone who is unfamiliar with the quiz can find it linked at www.LPTexas.org/harris. Bill Oliver can be contacted at woliver@hotmail.com.

Delegates to National Convention

Texas delegates to the Libertarian Party National Convention will be selected by the State Libertarian Executive Committee (SLEC) at the February 21, 2004 meeting.

The National Convention is scheduled for May 27-31 in Atlanta, Georgia. Individuals chosen as delegates will participate in the election of the 2004 LP Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates, elect the next National Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer and National Committee members. Delegates will also address changes to the Platform and Bylaws.

In the past the LNC has set delegate numbers in January and has used a proportional allocation to reflect the number of National Party members each state has as well as bonus delegates awarded based on the percent-

age of votes cast in the state for the LP Presidential candidate in the last election cycle. In 2000 Texas was awarded 67 delegates.

Individuals who want to be delegates for 2004 should attend the February 21 SLEC meeting, which will take place in Austin.

If you can not attend the meeting you should contact your SLEC representative. A list of the representatives is available online at www.lptexas.org/district_representatives.html.

The SLEC selects National Convention Delegates in election cycles where it is not possible for the State Convention to elect them. Texas Election Law sets the State Party Convention date (June 11-13, 2003) meaning for this cycle the National Party Convention will occur first.

Badnarik, Nolan LP Frontrunners

Leading LP Presidential candidates Michael Badnarik and Gary Nolan were both active in October.

Michael spent the first week of October visiting Missouri where he scored radio interviews in St. Louis, Columbia, and Kansas City. He also taught his Constitution Class in Independence, Missouri.

Michael won an endorsement from science fiction author L. Neil Smith.

Smith announced that he would not accept efforts to draft him for the job and was instead supporting Michael.

Big news for Gary's campaign included his appearance on CSPAN's Washington Journal and being the only third party candidate to speak at the National Arab American Convention held in Detroit—an event with eight Democratic candidates in attendance and national media exposure.

Your Donation is Needed to Fund Petition Drive

The Libertarian Party of Texas needs your help. In 2004, we must conduct a petition drive to get our candidates on the November ballot. Starting March 10, 2004 Texas Libertarians have only 75 days to gather about 100,000 signatures to qualify the Libertarian Party for a place on the ballot.

According to current state election law, signers of our petition must:

1. Be a registered voter in Texas.
2. Listen to a 20-second verbal message from the person collecting their signature.
3. Must **not** have voted in the Democratic or Republican primaries, or have signed a petition for another party.

The requirement for the signer not to have voted in the primary or signed another party's petition makes gathering valid signatures very difficult.

We need to collect over 1000 signatures per day. We've done it before—and we can do it again—but we need your help. If you can collect petition signatures from March 10 to May 23, we want to hear from you. Please let us know how many signatures you think you will be able to collect. If possible ask friends and family to sign our petition instead of voting in the March primary election. You can get their name and address on a petition form in advance, and then have them sign on March 10.

In addition to collecting petition signatures, you can help by donating money. We must hire paid petitioners. It's a sad but true fact: volunteer petitioning will not be able to collect the required amount of signatures within the required period of time. Paid petitioners will cost us about two dollars per signature.

There are more than 1000 Libertarian Party members in Texas. If you are reading this message we need your help. To successfully complete this drive, we must get an average of either \$150 in donations or 75 petition signatures from each member.

We cannot depend on funding from the Libertarian National Committee. They are fundraising for ballot access nationwide, but they are already facing a cash crunch. Texas is 2nd to last on their priority list. National has told us that Texas will get nothing from them to finish our petition drive unless the combined total of Texas fundraising and National fundraising available for Texas meets the necessary target of nearly \$150,000.

Any donation, from \$1 on up, will help.

Please help. We can't do it without your support. It's important, for the future of freedom in Texas and in America, to keep the Libertarian Party on the ballot and going strong.

Check any that apply:

_____ I plan to be a **candidate** in 2004 for the office of: _____

_____ I **will petition** during March, April and May 2004.

_____ I will **host a Precinct Convention** on the evening of Tues. March 9, 2004.

_____ I am a **notary public** and will volunteer for the petition drive.

_____ I can provide **room and board** to petitioners from out-of-town.

_____ I am a **printer/copier** and will help with printing petition sheets.

_____ I am enclosing a donation to **fund the petition drive**.

_____ I am enclosing a donation to **support party activities** (outreach, newsletter, etc.)

My best donation: _____ \$35 _____ \$75 _____ \$100 _____ \$150 _____ Other

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Precinct #: _____

County: _____

Please make checks payable to the Libertarian Party of Texas. Include this form with any donations and Mail to: PO Box 27932 , Houston, TX 77227



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The Libertarian Party of Texas
P.O. Box 27932
Houston, TX 77227

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Events of Interest to Texas Libertarians

Nov. 4 (Tues.) 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Election Day—for local political subdivisions—also Mayor and City Council races in Houston and other cities that did not hold May elections.

Nov. 8 (Sat.) 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Grassroots Get Out the Vote Workshop in Weatherford, TX. One day crash course in communicating with voters and getting them to the polls. Covers voter contact, identification, mail, door-to-door, phones, etc. Organized by the Leadership Institute. Highly recommended! \$49 registration. www.lead-inst.org to register.

Nov. 16 (Sun.) 3:45 p.m. The Distinguished Speaker Series in Austin hosts Jerry Patterson, Texas Land Commissioner. The event is open to the public and individuals of all political affiliations are welcome. Held at the LCRA Hancock Building conference room, 3700 Lake Austin Bl. For more information call 512-467-1776. The group features a different speaker each third Sunday of the month.

Dec. 1 (Mon.) Filing Opens for candidates seeking the Libertarian nomination for offices up for election November 2004. Forms may be downloaded from the Secretary of State's website at www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/forms/nomin.pdf and should be delivered to the State Chair for statewide and district offices and to your County Chair for local county offices before January 2, 2003.

Dec. 6 (Sat.) 1 p.m.-4:30 p.m. SLEC meeting in Austin at the Cepeda Branch Library, 651 N. Pleasant Valley Rd.

Feb. 21 (Sat.) SLEC meeting to be held in Austin. Those wishing to be delegates to the National Convention should plan to attend.

March 9 (Tue.) after 7 p.m. LP Precinct Conventions You must attend in order to affiliate with the LP for 2004 and to be eligible as a delegate to the County Convention. Voting in a primary election held this day makes you ineligible to attend our conventions, run for office as a Libertarian or sign our ballot access petition. Please do not vote! Plan to attend or host your local precinct convention. Contact your County Chair to volunteer.

May 27-31 (Thur.-Mon.) Libertarian Party National Convention in Atlanta, Georgia at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis. Contact Convention Committee Chair Nancy Neale at convention@hq.LP.org or 512-263-1681.

June 11-13 (Fri.-Sun.) Libertarian Party of Texas State Convention at the Hilton Hotel in College Station. Convention packages not yet announced. Committee Chair Christopher Jagge can be contacted at c_jagge@email.msn.com or P.O. Box 8064, College Station, TX 77844 or 979-695-9646.