



Gulf Coast Liberty

Defending liberty in southeast Texas in the Spirit of San Jacinto

August 2004

Triumph! LPT On November Ballot

The Texas Secretary of State confirmed June 20th that the Libertarian Party of Texas has qualified for the November ballot. The ballot access drive cost roughly \$150,000 and required bringing professional petition collectors from as far away as Illinois, California, and Alaska.

"This was an exceptional effort," said LPT Chair Patrick Dixon. "Texas is an extremely difficult [S]tate for ballot access. ... the only [S]tate ... where voters that voted in the Democratic or Republican primary are denied the right to sign our petition. Those that ... voted in the primary election are never informed that they lost their right to sign [our] petition ... but we were required ... to deny these people the right ... to sign our petition..."

According to the Secretary of State's count the LPT turned in 82,458 signatures on the May 24th deadline. The Secretary of State's office used statistical analysis to determine that the Libertarians turned in between 58,000 to 65,000 valid signatures; the requirement for ballot access was 45,540.

Libertarian Party candidates that will appear on the November General Election ballot in Texas can be found online at www.lptexas.org.

Morrison To Host Planning Meeting Aug. 14th

HCLP Vice-Chair Tom Morrison will host the inaugural meeting of the Goals and Planning Committee at his office on Saturday, August 14th. The meeting, which will start at 2 pm, will discuss how to improve the HCLP's outreach, infrastructure, and electoral success.

Anyone interested should go to Tom's Allstate office in the shopping center at 10924 Fuqua. This is between Sabo and Beamer. For details, email Tom (his e-address is in the list of officers) or call him at (832) 865-1039.

Will Badnarik Decide the Election?

According to the Badnarik press office, preliminary polling data indicate Badnarik has the support to decide the November election.

With the first round of major polling completed since Michael won the Libertarian nomination for President, multiple results show him in a better starting position than previous Libertarian presidential campaigns.

Recent Zogby, Mason-Dixon and Humphrey Institute data indicate that Badnarik is consistently polling around one percent.

According to John Zogby, that may not sound like a lot, but with 16 to 20 States considered "battlegrounds" that are too close to call, this support could determine the outcome of the contest.

A statement released by Larry Jacobs of the Humphrey Institute indicates, "Although Nader enjoys far more press coverage, the Libertarian is still draining Republican votes from the President - a potentially dangerous pattern if it were to continue or expand."

Jacobs was recently quoted by CBS News as saying, "The Libertarians will impact Republicans more than Nader will impact Democrats."

In a recent WorldNetDaily interview, Badnarik explained his three-part plan for getting his message out: "Television, television and television." Aaron Russo (producer of "Trading Places" and "The Rose") is producing his commercials. They will be running on prime time, "not at 2 a.m. on the Home Shopping Network," Badnarik

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27932 Houston, Texas 77227.

Visit us on the web at
[http:// www.lptexas.org/harris](http://www.lptexas.org/harris)

Chair: Jeff Daiell 713-777-1776
JeffDaiell@yahoo.com

Vice Chair: Tom Morrison
(832) 865-1039
TCMAFFT25@wt.net

Secretary: Kristin Thompson
713-680-1291 Kristin@alfheim.org

Treasurer: John Kormylo
713-772-8416
elfsoft@mindspring.com

Past Chair: Anthony Garcia
281-997-8141
Anthony@LibertyWorks.org

Second Saturday Lunch Club
Laura Coker-Garcia
281-997-8141
Laura@LibertyWorks.org

San Jacinto Supper Club:
Bob Lockhart 713-475-0092
boblock@flash.net

Texas Liberty Club:
Tom Clark 713-572-5338
texaslibertyclub@aol.com

University of Houston College Club:
Monica Granger 832-259-2830
uhlibertarians@yahoo.com
<http://geocities.com/uhlibertarians>

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said, highlighting a key difference in strategy from previous Libertarian campaigns.

A Badnarik representative added, "Also, this election cycle is somewhat unique with respect to Libertarian presidential politics. Having the only candidate calling for a complete withdrawal from Iraq - without replacing American troops for American troops wearing a UN patch - places us at a considerable advantage. Our first television commercial, which has just completed production, strongly addresses this issue."

Harris County chair Jeff Daiell adds, "One factor in our favor not considered by these polls is that Mike will be on the ballot in many States where no other alternative candidate will be listed. This could lead to his drawing at least some of the antiwar and other protest votes that would go to other contenders were they on the ballot."

"Patriot" Act Protest by Yvonne Kelly

The number of "protesters" was almost dwarfed by the huge show of force by the Houston Police Department. At one point I photographed a gaggle of the blue boys on bicycles (16 of them) just sitting about in a pack under the shady trees. Add to that those on

foot and horseback (shooting the breeze) and it was quite a fine display of your tax money at work. Actually, it was probably a draw...50 protesters, 50 cops and horses. I wonder why I didn't feel safe?????

Our own D18 Congressional candidate, Brent Sullivan was one of the main speakers and was quite eloquent. He's honed his stump speech to fine edge and got excellent crowd response. Dr. Gillam the main speaker was true "fire & brimstone" he was awesome as he recounted actual cases where citizens have been terrorized and jailed in the name of this evil assault on our rights. He was chilling in his assessment of how it will be used against children in the public school system and as a result, their parents. I doubt Bill O'Reilly would invite him on the show though.

Of course, I had the only Badnarik sign and hopefully it will show up in the media later [it did on at least one TV station - ed.], as there was a fair amount of coverage. I made a couple of excellent news radio contacts for 740 and 950 AM (our big Clear Channel stations) and they are now interested in having Mike on the air. I'll persue that next week. I think I rustled a few Naderites over to Mike too.

Robert F. Lockhart C.P.A.
P.O. Box 1398
Pasadena, Texas 77501
713-475-0092

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SLEC CUTS DEBT BY HALF

By Jeff Daiell

The State Libertarian Executive Committee of Texas met on July 31st. The following is not a complete record, but minutes are available for review.

One piece of good news is that we now have county chairs in 30 counties. These are apparently individuals interested in working for the cause, as opposed to placeholders.

At the moment, five Texas LPers are in office, although three of them are nearing the end of their terms. Some 77 candidates have filed for this November's election. There may be some problems with the paperwork of some, however.

Jesse Unruh, a career politician in California, once said: "Money is the mother's milk of politics." And while the LPT is limited to a trickle, compared to the veritable floods available to the Democans and Republicrats, that trickle is at least up to about \$2,000 monthly, and we have on hand enough that a motion passed to pay half of the \$25,000 debt left over from the ballot drive. It is anticipated that the rest will be paid within a few months.

Pat Dixon recently represented the LPT at a meeting of the Texas Publishers Association, an alliance of newspapers owned by members of minority groups. They were impressed enough to invite our Statewide nominees to address a forum in September.

Committee heads were announced; please check the LPT website for details.

Executive Director Wes Benedict reported that the data base of county chairs has been improved, and he is seeking chairs in other counties, as well.

More good news: this year's LPT Conference made a net profit of over \$1980! So carefully were expenses controlled and attendance maximized that finishing in the black did not depend on the traditional Saturday fundraiser (which is good, since the Badnarik campaign had first crack at the banquet attendees!).

Regional reports were given, and it was encouraging that so many SLEC members had activities to report.

Goals were then set. Among them are: recruiting chairs in unorganized counties; recruiting candidates, especially for next May's nonpartisan local races; and increasing the number of Texans who are paid National members. For a complete list, please check the official minutes.

State-county revenue sharing was enhanced by adding monies from National's Unified Membership Program, although this augmentation will not start until after the LPT's debt is paid. Polk, Harris, Denton, and Travis counties all saw their applications for the program approved.

The next two meetings will be October 9th and December 11th of this year.

Outreach by Jeff Daiell

I gave my presentation on election reform ("The Good, the Chad, and the Ugly") to two Wharton County JC government classes on July 22nd. Four persons signed up for more info on the LP, even though the speech was not about libertarianism *per se*; one of them requested being placed on the Harris County LP mailing list.

I was encouraged that several folks seemed irked at the discriminatory laws we have to put up with -- and even more irked at some of the shenanigans to which we've been subjected. And, of course, those in the second class were properly impressed by my Favorite Younger Daughter, who observed that presentation!

If anyone knows a group that needs a speaker, please let me know! Topics include the above; libertarianism in general; the growth of the executive branch of the Federal Government and why that's a bad thing; the property-rights basis of much of the Bill Of Rights, and others.

Libertarian Party Of Texas
Gulf Coast Liberty
P.O. Box 27932
Houston, Texas 77227

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Planning Committee Meeting

Libertarian Activities for August 2004

August 14 (Sat.) 2 p.m. Goals and Planning Meeting at Allstate Office, 10924 Fuqua. See page 1 for details.

Second Saturday Libertarian Lunch resumes in September.

August 15 (Sun.) time TBA. Harris County LP business meeting at 9614 Oregano Circle (off Corporate Drive near Beechnut) Open to all. Call John Kormylo at 713-271-1776 for information.

August 17 (Third Tues.) 7 p.m. Brazoria County Meeting at Golden Coral, Hwy 288 Business, Angleton. Contact George Harper at Gharper@sat.net or 979-964-3693.

August 17 (Third Tues.) 6:30 p.m. Jefferson County Meeting at the LogonC@fe, 3805 Calder Ave, in Beaumont. Contact Dean Tucker at revdeantucker@aol.com

August 19 (Third Thurs.) 7 p.m. San Jacinto Supper Club at Golden Corral at 4021 Spencer Highway in Pasadena. Contact Bob Lockhart 713-475-0092

November 2 (Tues.) Election Day. Garcia for Railroad Commissioner!

May 2005 - Many municipal elections. Be a candidate! "The best way to win a partisan race is to first win a non-partisan office."

Letter

The ballot petition drive was phenomenal! I, for one, am truly amazed at how many signatures were gathered and I have renewed optimism that the LP will be on the ballot this year. And this is an especially important time for the LP since the close race is raising our profile significantly.

I have personal knowledge that Anthony Garcia [and] Laura Coker-Garcia ... worked like demons (or is that angels?), making great personal sacrifices for the cause of liberty. I want to especially thank them.

But I know that there were others who worked hard whose names I do not know, so I want to thank everyone involved in this effort. It was a hard job done superlatively.

-- Marie Angell