



Serving Libertarians in the Greater Texas Gulf Coast Region

# Gulf Coast Liberty

December 2006

Defending Liberty in Southeast Texas in the Spirit of San Jacinto

## Libertarians Make Major Gains

By Wes Benedict

The Libertarian Party of Texas (LPT) showed major improvement in the 2006 general election, relative to its performance in previous years. LPT had to get more than 5% in at least one statewide race in order to sustain ballot access in 2008 without petitioning. Six of our candidates reached this target. The party had 168 candidates on the ballot - its highest count ever.

### Overall trends:

In 2002, Libertarian candidates in a three-way race for U.S. House received an average of 1.6% of the vote. In 2004, they received an average of 1.7%. In 2006, they received an average of 2.6%. (Note, "three-way" means a Libertarian running against a Republican and a Democrat, with no other candidates in the race.)

In 2002, Libertarian candidates in a two-way race for U.S. House received an average of 8.8% of the vote. In 2004, they received an average of 6.9%. In 2006, they received an average of 17.0%.

In 2002, Libertarian candidates in a three-way race for Texas House received an average of 2.4% of the vote. In 2004, they received an average of 2.7%. In 2006, they received an average of 3.6%.

In 2002, Libertarian candidates in a two-way race for Texas House received an average of 10.3% of the vote. In 2004, they received an average of 9.7%. In 2006, they received an average of 16.0%.

LPT Executive Director Wes Benedict said, "The results show that voters are no longer afraid to vote Libertarian. More and more voters know who we are and what we stand for."

In this 2006 election, 22 Libertarian candidates for federal and state offices received over 20% of the vote. The last time Libertarian candidates for federal or state offices earned more than 20% of the vote was in 1992: two Libertarians broke the threshold that year.

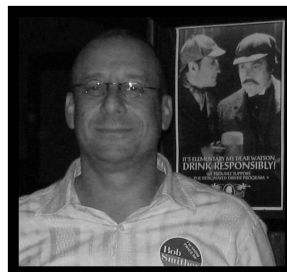
Percentages and vote counts are according to the Secretary of State's unofficial results as of Nov 8, 2006 at 4:40 pm.



Election Night Party (Nov 7, 2006) - New HCLP Secretary Crystal Meadows signs Oath of Affiliation while Texas Vice Chair Kevin Tunstall savors the moment.



Election Night (Nov 7, 2006) - New Regional Coordinators [L to R] Sam Smith (Pasadena), and Drew Parks (Beltway 8 East) meet Social Coordinator Martin Nitschke



Election Night (Nov 7, 2006) New Regional Coordinator White Marriot (Tomball)



# Gulf Coast Liberty

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P.O. Box 27932  
Houston, Texas 77227  
Website: [www.lptexas.org/harris](http://www.lptexas.org/harris)

GCL Volunteers (Alpha Order):  
Yvonne Kelly - Lib Reporter  
John Kormylo - Coordinator  
Candace Sessums - Editor & LR  
Kristin Thompson - Database  
John Trotter - Photographer

## County Contacts:

Harris Chair: Guy McLendon  
832-372-8131, [guy@mclendon.net](mailto:guy@mclendon.net)

Brazoria Chair: Open Seat  
Volunteers?

Fort Bend Chair: Kevin Tunstall  
713-702-1938, [ktunstall@fortbendlp.org](mailto:ktunstall@fortbendlp.org)

Galveston Chair: Stan Norred  
281-782-9744, [windstalker@windstalker.com](mailto:windstalker@windstalker.com)

Jefferson Chair: Dean Tucker  
409-626-4691, [revdeantucker@aol.com](mailto:revdeantucker@aol.com)

Washington Chair: Lynna Wright  
979-421-9066, [lynna@wright.org](mailto:lynna@wright.org)

## Organizational/Event Contacts:

College Lib. @ UH: Monica Granger  
832-259-2830, [monica.granger@gmail.com](mailto:monica.granger@gmail.com)

Liberty Coalition: Chris Camero  
281-497-8019, [chris\\_camero@yahoo.com](mailto:chris_camero@yahoo.com)

Texas Liberty Club: Tom Clark  
713-572-5338, [texaslibertyclub@aol.com](mailto:texaslibertyclub@aol.com)

West Houston Libertarians: Carl Wetzel  
281-578-1180, [cwetzel@houston.rr.com](mailto:cwetzel@houston.rr.com)

## Yahoo Group:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HCLP/>  
Email: [hclp@yahoogroups.com](mailto:hclp@yahoogroups.com)

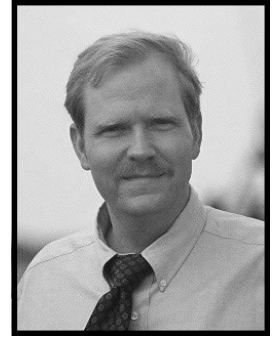
## LPT Exec. Dir. - Wes Benedict

512-442-4910, [director@lptexas.org](mailto:director@lptexas.org)

# From the HCLP Chair

By Guy McLendon

My Fellow Libertarians,  
Now I've seen everything. Constitution Party & Reform Party Chairs fulfilled their promise made during the Sept Common Ground event. We three Chairs all block walked together to distribute yard signs for the Bob Smither campaign. Such examples shine hope that Americans can restore Liberty here in the USA. In addition, Republicans sponsored signs for the Bob Smither campaign. May the forces for good cooperate!



On Election Day 2006, our candidates struck a blow for Liberty, and made significant electoral gains. We are proud of our candidates: they truly are our champions in the battles for Liberty.

Since my last report, HCLP enjoyed a whirlwind season. For the first time, we planted LP yard signs at 94% of all early voting locations in Harris County. LP had a major presence at festivals & voter registration drives including the Fort Bend County Fair, and the Katy Rice Festival booth sponsored by the Badnarik campaign. FBC Vice-Chair Michael Lee coordinated LP booth at HCC campus in West Houston. LP candidates spoke in Candidate Forums including the Sept 28<sup>th</sup> forum in Southwest Houston coordinated by Chris Camero, and Mhair Dekmezian's speaking in a forum at Rice University.

After Election Day, Precinct Chair Carl Wetzel sponsored an outreach event in his West Houston home. Thanks to Carl, new prospects heard my one hour speech that includes a history of the LP, and a crash course on the US Constitution. I challenge other Region & Precinct leaders to **host similar events**.

Looking forward to 2007, new HCLP activist Boyd Smith accepted the role of Municipal Election Coordinator. Boyd will report on opportunities this coming January 21 at UH. It is up to HCLP affiliates to take these opportunities. Do HCLP affiliates only want to talk & complain, or **will we take action?** The choice is ours to make.

Year 2006 has truly been the best of times, and the worst of times. Abuse of power is the root cause for many social ailments, and a revitalized LP could become the cure for America's malaise.

HCLP is serious about being a viable political party. This election made it clear the LP needs to work on our brand as we lay the groundwork for ultimate electoral success. Let's earn the trust of voters by offering well thought out solutions.

**Guy McLendon**  
**HCLP Chairman**

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

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832-372-8131

### **Precinct Chair?**

Willing to serve as Chairperson for your precinct? Contact [guy@mclendon.net](mailto:guy@mclendon.net) for info.

## The Bloodless Revolution

By Danny Sessums

During the late 1790s there emerged a group of anti-Federalists under the leadership of Southerners Thomas Jefferson and James Madison, who congealed to openly oppose the political machinations of Alexander Hamilton. It was during these pivotal times that the seminal, “state’s rights” versus “national government rights,” conflict arose as to which faction had the best interests of Americans at heart, and thereby who would be entitled to govern the People (It should be noted that the writer understands that government by nature has no *rights* but instead has powers vested it by the governed). Jefferson and Madison envisioned a political organization that would migrate across state lines and work to curb the powers then being exercised by Federalist Party adherents. As the noted American historian Alan Brinkley advised in his work *American History*, when confronted with disturbing international events in the wake of the French Revolution, Federalists “believed [there] was a stark choice between respecting individual liberties [or] preserving stability, [and they] chose stability.”

Responding to the threat of a Quasi-War with France in 1798, the Federalist administration passed the notorious Alien and Sedition Acts; the first allowed deportation of foreign-born, albeit naturalized, anti-Federalist Americans at the whim of the national government, while the latter led to the suppression (indeed, arrest and conviction) of those editing newspapers that wrote spitefully about the Federalist agenda. Some anti-Federalists went to prison for attacking government policy and bucking national authority, this being construed as literally “treasonous” behavior! While deporting “foreigners” might not on the surface appear to be a threatening proposition in itself, depriving the press of its role in combating tyranny and corruption within the national government of a supposed free society certainly was!

Looking for a way to respond, Jefferson and Madison respectively introduced the Kentucky and Virginia resolutions in '98 and 99. Both were couched in the enlightenment philosophy so dynamically voiced by the great English political theorist, John Locke. Locke pronounced government to be a “compact,” or contract, between the states and the national government, specifying that the parties only possessed specific delegated powers that

had been constitutionally-stipulated. Essentially, the acts expressed that: “Whenever the national government exercised un-delegated powers, those acts were un-authoritative, void and of no force!” If that were the case, states had the “duty” to nullify acts of the national government; just as citizens retained the same rights to so act with regards to state governments.

This resulted in a national political crisis that brought about the “Bloodless Revolution of 1800”, and with it the complete destruction of the Federalist Party in America, or so it was believed at the time. As northern-born Federalist, John Adams ran for the Presidency in 1799, he faced “republican” Thomas Jefferson (note that “republican” is not to be construed with the later party formed in 1854 and still extant today) in a quite bitter, if momentous election. In the subsequent plebiscite, Jefferson clearly won, but running-mate Aaron Burr, so manipulated the electoral-college vote to engineer a tie which left the Federalist candidate, Adams, embarrassingly coming in a distant third. However, since the Federalists still dominated the congress at the time, they would have to break the “tie” between Burr and Jefferson; ultimately they choose what they took to be the lesser of two evils, selecting Jefferson. The new President referred to his elevation as a “Bloodless Revolution,” in that it appeared that republican values would always prevail over those who, through wanton practices, could justify to themselves the preservation of power to themselves over that of the people.

Recent elections have clearly reflected that continuation in power appears to be the sole criteria for success, not necessarily the will of the people! Jefferson had shown what had been expressed by America’s talented “fathers” in his era: America was to be a “government of the people, for the people, and by the people.” It should be noted that no where does it say “bought” from the people!

A new “bloodless revolution” can only be accomplished through winning the hearts and minds of the people at the local level before we can ever hope to win at the state or national level. Consider: Were we to somehow capture that third of the people who have previously dropped out of the election process and align them with the other third that encompasses “fringe” elements or independent voters, would we not have the opportunity to displace the current, stagnant two-party system and get back to allowing a fair majority the right to decide where we are to go in the future?

*Danny Sessums is the Curator of the Museum of Southern History currently located in Sugar Land, Texas and the Treasurer for the FBLP. [www.museumofsouthernhistory.org](http://www.museumofsouthernhistory.org)*

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## Special News Reports



### It's Time to Bust the Media Blackout!

By Mhair Dekmezian

The Mhair Dekmezian campaign for Texas SR D134 (<http://www.mhair2006.com>) began as a normal LP semi-active campaign. Then, Mhair's opponents announced two debates would be held, and one was to be hosted at Rice University where Mhair pursues a bachelor's degree in bio-chemistry and cell biology. To protest his exclusion, Mhair wrote a newspaper article and several letters, and this media contact resulted in an article in the Examiner News. Martha Wong's campaign responded with a demand that Mhair be included in the Rice debate. Subsequently, more coverage was given by Examiner, Village News and the St. John's School student paper.

So began the whirlwind! From August to Election Day, Mhair was included in the debate at Rice University & another at the Jewish Community Center. This publicity resulted in sizable contributions that funded his campaign. Throughout more than 4 weekends over 15 high school and

college students provided nearly 60 hours of volunteer time, allowing his campaign to distribute thousands of door hangers, flyers and 200 yard signs throughout Braeswood Place and Montrose.

The campaign was very active when the Rice U debate was held, but the mainstream media once again biased the information available to the voting public. During the 90 minute debate having some TV coverage, only Mhair presented a limited-government perspective on such issues as property taxes, public healthcare, the Trans-Texas Corridor, the environment, and personal issues such as marriage, family planning, and drinking laws. Both the televised debate and the Houston Chronicle edited out Mhair's arguments for limited government. This unfair treatment highlights the urgency for HCLP to develop and execute a plan to break through the media blackout.

### Running to Win?

The Texas LP is looking for persons interested in running for non-partisan municipal offices. If you are interested in winning and serving in a municipal position to further the cause of Liberty, contact your county chair. For HCLP:

Guy@McLendon.net  
Cell: 832-372-8131

### Help Wanted! HCLP Media Coordinator

Duties include issuing press releases, and interfacing with local news media to build relationships & solicit coverage for HCLP events & candidates. We ask for a minimum of 4 hours per week; additional time is required during election season. Benefits include massive job satisfaction, and an official "PRESS" picture badge. If interested, contact [guy@mclendon.net](mailto:guy@mclendon.net)

# Restore Freedom Now — Make Checks Out to “HCLP”!

Please financially sponsor our upcoming outreach efforts! We Need Your Help.

Here is my best donation:  \$35  \$60  \$100  \$200  \$1000  Other [Sky is the limit!]

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_ Employer (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_ Precinct \_\_\_\_\_

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Texas county LP parties do not receive direct cash contributions from either the Texas or National Libertarian Parties. In addition to supporting the vital work at state & national levels, please also donate generously to support your local county activists!

## Fort Bend County Fair

By: Candace Sessums

Thanks to support of activists from several Gulf Coast counties, the Libertarian Booth at the Fort Bend County Fair was a huge success. Generous donations allowed the Fort Bend LP to rent a highly visible corner booth located directly within the line of foot-traffic entering the exhibit hall. Contributors & volunteers working the booth were Judy Baker (Cand. Lt. Governor), Laura Coker-Garcia, Clyde Garland, Art Faye, David Finberg, Michael Lee, Joe Marcom (Cand. TX Rep. 143), Todd Owens, Guy McLendon, Candace Sessums, Danny Sessums, Bob Smither (Cand. CD22) and Kevin Tunstall.

Our volunteers made great use of their persuasive abilities by convincing over 1,000 fair attendees to take the “World’s Smallest Political Quiz.” Of those, nearly 400 scored as Libertarians and a boost was provided to local contact databases for the Gulf Coast region.

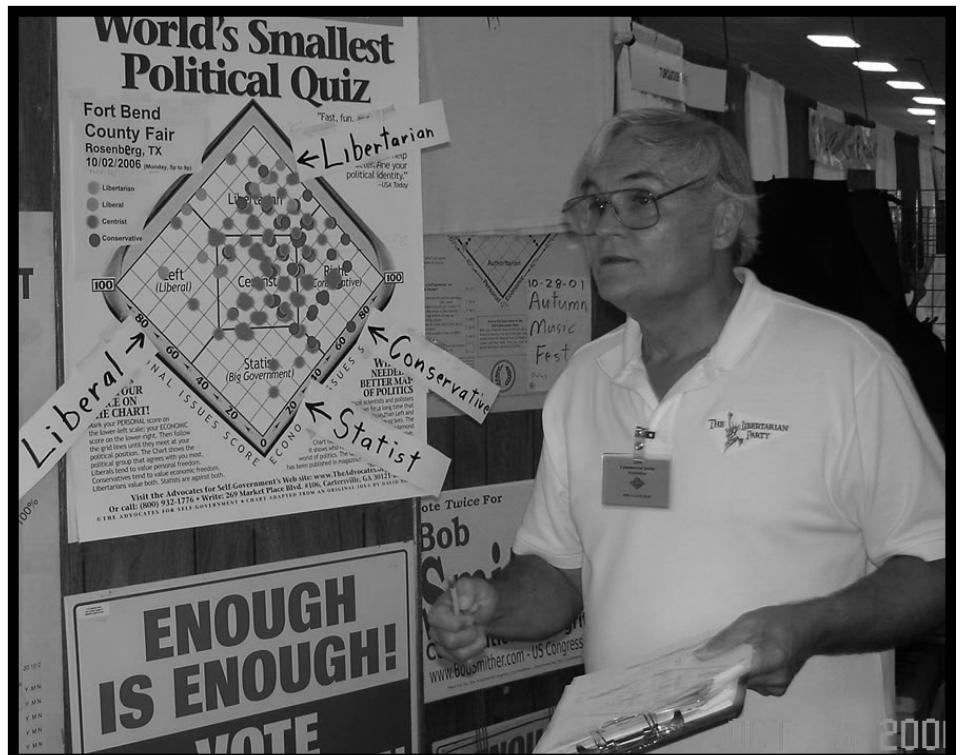
Notably, our booth exhibited nearly constant activity in sharp contrast to other political parties. A public atmosphere of political frustration found a much needed outlet for discussion. Danny Sessums provided historical perspective to interested persons. Bob Smither and other candidates took the opportunity to speak directly to the electorate, and many voters expressed gratitude at having the opportunity to speak directly with candidates.

Special thanks go to Clyde Garland who provided the tests and much of the supplies for the booth. Clyde spent nearly every day and night manning the booth for the entire fair which lasted from September 29<sup>th</sup> until October 7<sup>th</sup>.

### Your Right to Free Speech!

GCL wants to hear from you, our readers. Send your editorial or letters for possible publication—max length of 500 words, please.

Email submissions to GCL  
Editor Candace Sessums  
csessums@grslegal.com



Clyde Garland @ Fort Bend County Fair

Libertarian Party of Texas  
Gulf Coast Liberty  
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Houston, Texas 77227

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## Fun Things to Do in 2007 !

### January 13 (Sat 12-4 PM) Texas SLEC Meeting.

Location: La Palapa Mexican Restaurant, 6640 Hwy 290 East  
Austin, Texas 78723, Restaurant phone: (512) 459-8729.  
Contact: wesliberty@aol.com.

**January - Municipal Election Coordinator's Report.** Location/time: see website for info. Contact: Guy@McLendon.Net, 832-372-8131.

**February HCLP Executive Committee.** Standard business plus coordination for Municipal Election. Location/time: see website for info. Contact: Guy@McLendon.Net, 832-372-8131.

For the most current info,  
visit our website:

<http://www.lptexas.org/harris>

**March - HCLP Affiliates Business Meeting.** Participate in the first ever affiliates business meeting, and help a revitalized HCLP become more effective and make electoral gains. Agenda will include: administer Oath of Affiliation for new members, review proposed changes to HCLP bylaws, and unveil new Organizational Chart. Location/time: see website for info. Contact: Guy@McLendon.Net, 832-372-8131.

Continued from Page 1



Election Night Party (Nov 7, 2006) - [L to R] UH Club President Monica Granger visits with activist Jim Wildermuth, New Regional Coordinators Stacey Bourland (610 Loop SW), and John Stables (Galleria).



Election Night Party (Nov 7, 2006) - [R to L] Bob Smither with Campaign Manager Kevin Tunstall