



Gulf Coast Liberty

Defending liberty in southeast Texas in the Spirit of San Jacinto

Nov./Dec. 2002

Votes Fall Short; Party will Petition in '04

For the first time in more than a decade the Libertarian Party will have to collect signatures to place candidates on the general election ballots in 2004.

Parties earning either more than two percent in the Governor's race or at least five percent in any one statewide race do not have to submit petitions to be on the ballot. The LP has been on the ballot continuously since 1988 under this provision. However, our votes have generally come from having candidates in two-way races.

This election cycle all the statewide races were contested by both the major parties and all the nonjudicial races were four-way with the addition of the Green Party. Despite a record number of candidates and increased activism none of our statewide candidates was able to secure the needed totals. Land Commissioner candidate Barbara Hernandez came closest with 4.1 percent of the vote.

The average for Texas Libertarians in a typical race—a three way competition pitting the LP against both a Republican and Democrat— was 1.9 percent. No Party members running on the LP ticket are known to have won office in Texas this election. Nationwide 27 Libertarians were elected—including the re-election of Colorado Sheriff Bill Masters and eight candidates in California. (See sidebar for official vote totals. Please note that these are the final canvass numbers and may differ from election night results; except for the Governor and Lt. Governor's races, which are not expected to be official until January. Those candidates with an asterisk were in three way races where one of the candidates was a Green or independent.)

To recover ballot access for 2004 the Party must show support equal to one percent of the ballots cast in the most recent Governor's race. This means we will need at least 45,271 supporters. Support can be shown by either attending a Libertarian Party precinct convention or signing a petition of support.

Petitions can only be signed by registered voters who do not participate in another parties' primary or convention. They may only be collected for the 75 days following the convention—in this case from March 10, 2004 to May 23, 2004. Each page of 10 signers must be notarized. To ensure enough accurate signatures petitioners usually plan to collect as much as twice as many as needed or in our case a goal of about 90,000.

Candidates will still file with the Party for office

Libertarian Vote Totals, Percentages, Candidates in Race

Governor	Jeff Daiell	66,100	1.5%	4
Lt. Governor	Mark Gessner	54,165	1.2%	4
Attny Gen	Jon Roland	56,880	1.3%	4
Comptroller	Bowie Ibarra	53,614	1.2%	4
Land Comm.	Barbara Hernandez	180,870	4.1%	4
Ag. Comm.	Vincent May	51,547	1.2%	4
Railroad Com	Nazirite Perez	110,160	2.5%	4
Sup. Court Ch.	Eugene Flynn	80,185	1.8%	3
Justice Pl. 1	Quanah Parker	102,926	2.4%	3
Ct. Crim. Ap.	Stephan Kinsella	71,422	1.7%	4
US. Senate	Scott Jameson	35,538	0.8%	5
US Rep. 2	Peter Beach	1,353	1.0%	3
US Rep. 3	John Davis	2,656	1.7%	3
US Rep. 4	Barbara Robinson	3,042	1.8%	3
US Rep. 5	Dan Michalski	1,283	0.9%	4
US Rep. 6	Frank Brady	1,992	1.2%	4
US Rep. 7	Drew Parks	11,674	10.8%	2
US Rep. 8	Gil Guillory	10,351	6.9%	2
US Rep. 9	Dean Tucker	1,613	1.1%	3
US Rep. 10	Michele Messina	21,196	15.6%	2
US Rep. 11	Andrew Francis	1,943	1.3%	3
US Rep. 12	Edward Hanson	10,723	8.1%	2
US Rep. 17	Fred Jones	2,046	1.2%	3
US Rep. 18	Brent Sullivan	1,785	1.4%	3
US Rep. 19	Larry Johnson	10,684	8.4%	2
US Rep. 21	D.G. Roberts	4,051	1.8%	3
US Rep. 22	Jerry LaFleur	1,612	1.0%	4
US Rep. 23	Jeffrey Blunt	1,106	0.7%	4
US Rep. 24	Ken Asby	1,560	1.4%	3
US Rep. 25	Guy McLendon	1,096	1.0%	4
US Rep. 26	David Croft	2,367	2.4%	4
US Rep. 27	Christopher Claytor	2,646	2.4%	3
US Rep. 28	Bill Stallknecht	2,054	2.0%	3
US Rep. 29	Paul Hansen	2,833	4.9%	2
US Rep. 30	Lance Flores	1,856	1.5%	3
US Rep. 31	Clark Simmons	2,037	1.3%	5
US Rep. 32	Steve Martin	1,582	1.1%	4
State BOE 1	Catherine Harrell	14,033	5.8%	3
State BOE 4	Kurt Kessler	10,486	5.9%	2
State BOE 7	William McNicoll	5,063	1.7%	3
State BOE 9	Nicole Lightner	9,170	2.9%	3
State BOE 12	Mark Wilson	34,334	13.6%	2
State BOE 15	Brent Russenberger	5,987	2.0%	3



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Volume 10 Issue 11
Nov./Dec. 2002

Gulf Coast Liberty is published monthly by the Harris County Libertarian Party. P.O. Box 27932 Houston, Texas 77227. 713-271-1776.

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subscribe@yahoogroups.com

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In the Mail

Dear Texas Libertarian,

It appears I have cost the Libertarian Party of Texas its ballot status. I have let you down, and for that I very humbly apologize.

Looking back, there were several things I could have done better, or earlier, or more of—but didn't.

Over the next two years, I will try to make it up to you by helping the LP-Texas prepare for the 2004 petitioning effort. I have learned some lessons, and will share my insights with David (Delamar) and the rest of you soon.

In the meantime, again, I apologize for letting you down.

Jeff Daiell

It's not your fault, there is a doomsday paradigm propagated by the two party system that you're throwing away your vote if you vote for a third party and the world will collapse if the other guy wins.

I think we need to concentrate on lesser races, though, Barbara Hernandez almost pulled it out for us though she didn't do much campaigning as far as I could tell. It appears that we may do very well in the Hispanic community as Anthony (Garcia) verified by the protests last go around.

I'd like to thank Guy (McLendon)—there were 4 in his hotly contested race too—and the others who worked to get the libertarian message out. The message is the point. We gain experience as we go through these trials and I hope everyone sees this as another step up the ladder.

I think Libertarian activists should pick a topic to harp on (mine is privacy) and take it wherever we are invited. This is a slow process and I am becoming more energized. I agree with Laura (Coker-Garcia) that we have come a long way and shouldn't be discouraged that the journey is long, because we are right.

Kudos to everyone who pitched in!

Drew Parks

Dear Libertarians,

In January the Texas Legislature will be coming back into session. If we are going to make progress toward getting the constitutional amendment passed that provides Initiative and Referendum for Texans, we need supporters of I & R talking to and writing their legislators.

You can find your state representative or state senator at: www.capitol.state.tx.us/fyi/fyi.htm

Currently Initiative for Texas has 1,005 members. We need more. We need for each supporter to find one more person to join our ranks — one more person to go to our web site: www.initiativefortexas.org —and sign up as a supporter.

In summary, your help is needed now in two ways. 1. Get one more person to join Initiative for Texas. 2. Call and write your state senator and your state representative urging them to support the Initiative amendment. Many thanks.

Mike Ford

So, we didn't meet the voter % requirement to retain ballot status. Is this such a bad deal? I think not.

Now we get to go out into the trenches, at every fair, festival and event we can find. We can administer the political "quiz" and help people "see" how Libertarian they really are. We can showcase our (excellent) candidates on an ongoing basis. We can seduce the media, who chooses to ignore us during elections, with something to fill up their dead-times.

We will have a nationally competitive candidate for President in '04 and then for Gov. in '06 coming from right here, in the glorious Republic of Texas—We will make the news and they will cover it.

Get your clipboards out folks, get ready to have some fun and celebrate liberty. Stay tuned for more info. In liberty and excited about it,

Yvonne Kelly

Election Results Continued from pg. 1

TX Senate 2	Robert Parker	2,219	1.5%	3
TX Senate 3	Michael Carter	16,001	11.8%	2
TX Senate 5	Randall Barfield	18,482	13.2%	2
TX Senate 7	Edgar Buchanan	13,305	8.7%	2
TX Senate 8	David Spaller	15,525	10.3%	2
TX Senate 9	David Pepperdine	12,727	13.5%	2
TX Senate 10	John Robinson	2,367	1.4%	3
TX Senate 11	Mike Rubin	16,384	13.7%	2
TX Senate 12	Steve Rushton	13,818	10.2%	2
TX Senate 14	Marianne Robbins	7,537	4.2%	3*
TX Senate 16	Jack Thompson	2,857	1.9%	3
TX Senate 18	Horace Henley	2,508	1.6%	3
TX Senate 21	Jeff Caruthers	11,668	10.9%	2
TX Senate 24	Steve Kirby	12,887	9.5%	2
TX Senate 25	Rex Black	6,293	3.1%	3
TX Senate 28	Jon Ensor	11,372	8.7%	2
TX Senate 30	Diane Wilson	4,321	2.7%	3
TX Rep. 14	Bruce Rose	2,894	12.1%	2
TX Rep. 15	Brian Drake	3,270	9.0%	2
TX Rep. 17	Darrell Gear	715	1.9%	3
TX Rep. 46	Dave Nalle	2,553	11.7%	2
TX Rep. 48	Michael Badnarik	1,084	2.2%	3
TX Rep. 49	Rock Howard	2,242	5.8%	3
TX Rep. 50	Rob LeGrand	1,303	3.1%	3
TX Rep. 51	Marjory Glowka	1,793	10.3%	3*
TX Rep. 52	Lillian Simmons	1,336	3.8%	3
TX Rep. 53	James Harrell	3,325	9.5%	2
TX Rep. 60	Joe Swiczynski	2,726	8.7%	2
TX Rep. 64	Robert West	3,518	13.1%	2
TX Rep. 65	Robert Tate	2,983	11.8%	2
TX Rep. 66	David Koch	877	2.3%	3
TX Rep. 70	Robert Worthington	600	1.7%	3
TX Rep. 71	George Schwappach	2,636	9.0%	2
TX Rep. 72	Robert Restivo	383	1.2%	3
TX Rep. 83	David Scott	3,083	8.9%	2
TX Rep. 84	Tim Turnipseed	661	2.4%	3
TX Rep. 91	Ron West	3,921	15.6%	2
TX Rep. 92	Mark Peters	3,278	11.5%	2
TX Rep. 99	Bobby Hearn	566	1.7%	3
TX Rep. 100	Barry Smith	849	4.8%	2
TX Rep. 103	David Mason	266	2.0%	3
TX Rep. 105	Robert Mohler	1,249	7.0%	4*
TX Rep. 122	David T. Kelly	3,362	7.6%	3*
TX Rep. 123	Don Culwell	373	1.6%	3
TX Rep. 132	Michael Sotir	1,488	6.4%	3*
TX Rep. 134	Nathaniel LaFleur	492	1.1%	3
TX Rep. 143	Bob Townsend	913	8.2%	2
TX Rep. 144	Tom Maxton	2,201	12.5%	2
TX Rep. 146	Stacey Bourland	1,951	7.4%	2
Galveston Judge	Dan Murphy	5,379	12.6%	2
Harris Judge	Peter Elloway	7,467	1.2%	4
Harris Comm.	Kenneth Allison	1,864	1.5%	3
Harris Comm. 4	Thomas Rush	3,380	2.0%	3
Harris Clerk	Monica Granger	48,089	11.4%	2
Harris JP Pct 8-2	Les Turlington	4,580	10.1%	2
Jefferson Judge	Allen Lee	4,505	9.5%	2

Libertarians & Debates

Despite an email and phone campaign Libertarian candidate Jeff Daiell was not allowed into the televised Governor's debates. However, Jeff was able to face off with the Green Party candidate at two open debates one at UT Austin and one at St. Thomas University in Houston. Jeff also held a press conference at Rice University outside the auditorium where the two major party candidates were debating.



Guy McLendon debates Opponents

LP candidates in Abilene were included in televised debates in that city.

Guy McLendon running in the 25th Congressional was also able to debate the major party and Green candidates. In fact, Guy was included in several question and answer type forums. A true debate was held Oct. 22 at the University of Houston. The debate was organized by the College Libertarians at UH. While not televised the debate did include all four candidates and was moderated by members of the media.

Join The Party!

Get 12 issues of the LP News and a membership card.

The Libertarian Party is the party of principle. To affirm what we believe and to ensure that our party never strays from our principles we ask our members to sign this statement:

I do not believe in or advocate the **initiation** of force as a means of achieving political or social goals.

(must be signed for membership.)

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Occupation

Election '02 Results — Problems

Continued from pg. 1

in December of 2003 and be nominated at conventions in March for local office and June for statewide offices. The process for activists wishing to run in the upcoming city and board elections in May 2003, which are nonpartisan, is likewise not affected.

One problem with getting more LP votes, that was revealed by this election, is the increasing number of people voting straight party Republican or Democratic tickets. In many cases these individuals are not going through the ballot and casting votes in any races where their Party does not have a candidate. These straight ticket voters are not taking the time to consider alternative candidates at all. As a result the LP is looking at lobbying for reforms that would eliminate straight ticket voting.

A related issue is turnout. Statewide only 36% of registered voters voted in this election. It certainly appears that there is a significant number of people who either do not support any of the candidates or feel that they do not know enough about them to cast a vote. Getting our message to these people and motivating them to come out and vote Libertarian continues to be important.

Another issue in the election has been with electronic voting machines. The Executive Committee of the Dallas County Libertarian Party plans to file an intervention in the court case regarding the problems voters have had with the voting machines used during early voting in Dallas. This intervention is being filed to protect the interest of the electorate and the interests of the Libertarian Party. Some voters have had problems with the touch-screen voting machines not correctly recording the candidates for whom they were trying to vote. Some of the machines have been re-calibrated as a result of the problems and others have been removed from service.

A fundamental problem with the touch-screen machines is that it is not apparent to the voter that his or her vote is being transferred accurately to the central counting machine. The electronics are out of sight to the voter, and there is no paper trail of the votes cast. A better system would give each voter a certified paper receipt of his or her vote. In this way if a problem were to be suspected with the accurate tallying of votes, voters could come forward with their receipts to help identify if indeed there was a problem with the tally.

HCLP Adds Granger

Taking advantage of a rule added to our bylaws in 2000, for the first time a group has added a voting member to the HCLP Executive Committee. Affiliate members Guy McLendon, Sanford Smith, Drew Parks, Les Turlington and Tom Maxton submitted a petition to designate Monica Granger as their representative on the Committee.

Monica is the President of the College Libertarians at UH. She recently spoke at a Students for Peace Rally and was interviewed on KPFT radio on the subject.

Pink Pistol Event

Nov. 17, ten members of the Pink Pistols and HCLP had a joint shooting event in honor of National Ammo Day. The day was a boycott encouraging Second Amendment supporters to buy 100 rounds of ammunition. (See www.ammoday.com.)

This month HCLP and the Pistols, a GLBT group, plan another joint shooting event in honor of Bill of Rights Day on Sunday, Dec. 15. The event is open to anyone interested and will take place Carter's Country shooting range in Spring. See the calendar page for contact information.

Mock Election

Support for Libertarians is greater among the young if the results of this year's mock election can be believed. In the high schooler's election Jeff Daiell earned 4.2% of the vote—considerably better than the real election results. The students picked Tony Sanchez to win with 45.7%.

Endorsements

The media blackout of LP candidates wasn't complete—the Daily Texan (UT) endorsed Rock Howard for State Rep. 49 and Michele Messina for US Congress 10. NOKOA, an Austin area black newspaper, endorsed Quanah Parker for Supreme Court Justice and Steven Adams for Travis County Justice of the Peace pct. 2.

Outreach Report

While there wasn't a large crowd at the Texas Family Learning Conference for our outreach booth—almost everyone taking the quiz scored as a Libertarian or at least a Libertarian leaning centrist. Six people asked to be on our mailing list. One teenager became active on the spot—gathering others to take the quiz and spreading the message to her family and friends.

Outreach at the Westheimer Festival was also very successful. Despite a rainy weekend, our volunteers were able to give out about 250 candidate pushcards, about 200 copies of the US Constitution and add 38 names to our mailing list. Another 18 individuals requested more information.

Prior to taking the quiz respondents were asked to report their political affiliation—25 or 66% of those interested in joining our mailing list had reported they were independents, undecided or left the question blank. Three people or 7.9% knew they were Libertarians, six or 15.8% thought they were Democrats and five or 13% said they were Republicans. The event cost \$300 for space rental.

To build a Bigger, Better Libertarian Party—Give!

Here is my best donation: _____\$25_____ \$50_____ \$75_____ \$100_____ Other

Occupation_____

Tired of missing all the really cool activist opportunities? Send us your email and we'll let you in on all the details: _____

Thanks!

The Harris County Libertarian Party would like to thank everyone who ran for office this cycle especially our locals: Jeff Daiell, Stephan Kinsella, Drew Parks, Gil Guillory, Dean Tucker, Brent Sullivan, Jerry and Nathaniel LaFleur, Guy McLendon, Paul Hanson, William McNicoll, Kurt Kessler, Edgar Buchanan, Michael Rubin, Brian Drake, Michael Sotir, Bob Townsend, Tom Maxton, Stacey Bourland, Dan Murphy, Monica Granger, Peter Elloway, Kenneth Allison, Thomas Rush, Les Turlington, Allen Lee and Steve Martin.

An extra special thanks goes to candidate Thomas Rush. Thomas' wife died in September and our thoughts are with him.

Special thanks also to Brent Sullivan and especially his wife Tina, who gave birth to a baby girl during the campaign.

While this list will without doubt be incomplete I'd also like to thank everyone who helped our candidates, including Yvonne Kelly, Marie Angell, Will Blumentritt, Bill Fason,

Bill Abbott, Holly Furgason, Dan Weiner, Mary Kelly, Sanford Smith, John Kormylo, Tom Clark, Chris Loyd and Joshua David.

We'd also like to thank recent donors: Jeremy Davis, Charles Edmondson, Charles Fuller, Grayson Moss, Oscar Palma, Jr., Betty Shelsy, Joe Turner, John Willis.

Web Sightings

www.lptexas.org/harris—HCLP's website was updated in October and now has a new style, content and features. One feature volunteer webmaster Anthony Garcia was able to add is an electronic version of the newsletter that can easily be updated. Others include new links and directions for receiving our email updates and joining the online discussion group. The new site was up and running in time to meet the increased usage caused by our television ads.

www.guidrynews.com—Updated local news for Galveston and Jefferson Counties and the Clear Lake area in Houston. The owners also publish a variety of email newsletters for

subscribers. While the prices are high—\$75 a quarter for a Clear Lake edition covering all the public posted meetings—they could be worth it for a group wanting to watchdog their local government.

www.Bureaucrash.com—an interesting site for "grassroot guerilla activism dedicated to stopping the growing power of the bureaucratic state." Has a good news section with stories of recent government atrocities. Encourages volunteers to promote their own liberty increasing projects.

www.antiwar.com—an excellent site devoted to non-interventionism developed by the Center For Libertarian Studies. This site has loads of content and is updated daily. International in scope, it covers all aspects of the conflict with Iraq and other nations with current news, photos, and editorials. Also has activism organizing, etc.

www.ci.yourcity.tx.us/—Replace the words "your city" with Pasadena, Bellaire, or wherever and you should find the official website for your locality. Notice of public meetings, agendas, sometimes minutes.

Certified Public Accountant

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Libertarian Activities December 2002

Dec. 10 (Tues.) 7 p.m. Brazoria County Meeting at Golden Corral, Hwy 388 Business, Angleton. Contact George Harper at Gharper@computron.net or 979-964-3693.

Dec. 15 (Sun.) Bill of Rights Day. Celebrate the day the Bill of Rights was ratified. For an online copy of this important document visit www.Constitution.org/billofright.htm. For more on the holiday and great pins, posters, stamps and bumperstickers promoting it visit www.jpfo.org/jpfobor.htm.

Dec. 15 (Sun.) 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. Pink Pistols & HCLP Bill of Rights Day Shoot at Carter Country in Spring. For information contact Dan Weiner at 713-272-8265 or email pinkpistolshouston@hotmail.com

Dec. 17 (Tues.) 6:30 p.m. Jefferson County Meeting at the LogonC@fe, 3805 Calder Ave., in Beaumont. Contact John Gossage at che_prof@hotmail.com or 409-860-4499.

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

Dec. 19 (Thurs.) 7 p.m. Montgomery County Meeting at the South County Community Center, 2235 Lake Robbins Drive, The Woodlands. Contact Ron Hard at

ellyhard@email.msn.com or 281-363-9211.

Dec. 26 (Thur.) 7 p.m. Clear Lake Libertarian Caucus Supper Club at Fuddrucker's Restaurant on Nasa Rd 1. Contact Paul 281-280-8660 or Paul.Morris@directvinternet.com to confirm.

Jan. 5 (Sun.) 2 p.m. Harris County Meeting at 9614 Oregano Circle (off Corporate Drive.) Contact John at elfsoft@mindspring.com or 713-271-1776.

Feb. 1 (Sat.) 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Election Day: Local political subdivisions holding special elections.

Feb. 2 (Sun.) 2 p.m. Harris County Meeting at 9614 Oregano Circle. See Jan. 5.

Feb. 8 & 9 (Sat.-Sun.) Counterattack 2003; Six tracks of workshops for Second Amendment activists at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Addison (North Dallas). For information visit www.northbridgetraining.com/home or email davidr@northbridgetraining.com or call 214-707-1004.

Feb. 17 (Mon.) Filing opens for candidates for offices on the ballot on May 3. Election is for Mayors, City Councils, School, Hospital, and Water Districts. In most cases filing ends March 19.