



Lone Star Liberty

The Official Monthly Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Texas

February 2004

Three Libertarians Run for Local City Government

Kevin Anderson became the third Libertarian to announce for local office when on January 16 he reported that he will file to run for Mayor of Anna, Texas. Filing for the non-partisan May election opens February 7, 2005 for this municipality.

Kevin ran for U.S. Representative District 4 in 2004 and is an announced candidate for that race in 2006. Kevin is active in the Collin County LP and assists the Denton County LP by arranging for the restaurant he manages to host local party meetings. Kevin, a graduate of UT Arlington, is married with two children.

"This is a race we can definitely win," Kevin says.

He already lists his Democratic opponent for Congress, a current city council member, and the former Mayor of Frisco among his support-

ers. He has a preliminary website available at www.Kevinpoliticalgateway.com and is working on getting yard signs. He's stressing the need for lower taxes and better city services as his main message.

Donations to his campaign can be sent to 1626 Willow Way, Anna, TX 75409. He can be reached by phone at 214-677-7507 or by email at electkevinanderson@yahoo.com.

State LP Chair Patrick Dixon also recently announced that he would run for Lago Vista Alderman. Filing in Lago Vista opens February 5. The city has a population of about 5,360 and is located 20 miles northwest of Austin.

Patrick was elected State Chair in June 2004. Previously he was the Chair for the 2004 Ballot Access Committee and Travis County LP Chair. Patrick is an engineer and owner of

Dixon Process Associates.

Patrick does not yet have a campaign treasurer.

Last month's Lone Star Liberty mentioned Steven Adams' campaign for Austin City Council. He now has a campaign website available at www.AdamsforAustin.com.

Steven, a self-employed general contractor and veteran of Desert Storm/Shield, hosts a one hour call-in television show called *Frontline Austin* on Time Warner Cable Channel 10. He is a member of the State Executive Committee and both he and his wife Celeste are active in the county LP. He has one son.

Steven's campaign issues will be lowering taxes, cutting red-tape, and protecting private property. Donations can be made online or sent to his campaign at P.O. Box 200428, Austin, TX 78720.

Release: Texas LP Opposes Marriage Amendment

The Libertarian Party of Texas condemns a proposed state constitutional amendment against gay marriage as government interference in personal relationships and religion, according to a press release issued January 20 by State Party Chairman Patrick Dixon.

"Texas state government needs to focus on its constitutional responsibilities instead of re-defining itself to intrude on the responsibilities of churches and families," said Dixon in a statement given January 19th.

House Joint Resolution 6, sponsored by Republican state representative Warren Chisum, would prohibit all forms of marriage except that between one man and one woman. It

has provoked opposition from several groups, including Democratic Party of Texas chair Charles Soechting and the organization www.PracticeWhatYouPreach.org.

"I join Charles Soechting and Practice What You Preach in opposition to this constitutional amendment. The purpose of a constitution is to limit the power and scope of government. In a time of ever growing government control, we need to reverse the trend. Marriage is the domain of churches and families, not government."

Dixon noted that government intrusion into marriage began when the first marriage licenses were issued after the Civil War to prevent inter-ra-

cial marriage. "The founder of our country, George Washington, did not have a marriage license. He did not need government to define marriage for him. Does that make his marriage to Martha any less valid without the government stamp of approval?"

The Libertarian Party regards prohibitions against same-sex marriage as the government establishment of religious tenets as law, in violation of the First Amendment.

"As a Christian, I do not look to Ted Kennedy, Tom Delay, or Bill Clinton for my moral guidance," said Dixon. "I will not have politicians dictate my religious beliefs."



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Publisher:
Libertarian Party of Texas
P.O. Box 27932
Houston, TX 77227
www.lptexas.org
1-800-422-1776

State Chair:
Patrick Dixon
5200 Sundown
Lago Vista, TX 78645
Chair@lptexas.org
512-771-3936

Executive Director:
Wes Benedict
1403-B Kenwood Ave.
Austin, TX 78704
Director@lptexas.org
512-442-4910

Lone Star Liberty Editor:
Laura Coker-Garcia
9835 Sagedowne Lane
Houston, TX 77089
Laura@LibertyWorks.org
281-997-8141

Database Manager:
James VanBeek
2739 San Felipe Drive
College Station, TX 77845
jim@vanbeek.us
979-696-9766

Website Manager:
Daniel Falconer
Webmaster@lptexas.org

Submissions of party news, meeting minutes, photographs, biographies of candidates, suggested websites, letters to the editor, etc. is encouraged. Please send to Laura@libertyworks.org to submit.

Around the State: Activist Update

Aggie Libertarians held an Operation Politically Homeless Booth January 23 at the Texas A&M University MSC Open House. **Josh Shamburger, President, Josh Pickett, Treasurer, and Clyde Garland**, Brazos County activist, staffed the booth. One hundred sixty-five people took the quiz with 32 scoring libertarian. Forty-nine quiz takers left their name and email address. Several others who already knew about the Party stopped by to leave contact information with the group.

Jason Hemann has founded a libertarian student organization at Trinity University in San Antonio. The group at this 2,500 student liberal arts university is called Trinity Libertarian Society. Jason can be reached at serendipitousus@yahoo.com

Angela Keaten host of the *Liberated Space* on KOOP 97.1 FM in Austin started a news blog at www.liberatedspace.com.

Yvonne Kelly of Houston has created a webpage for the Texas Liberty Club. The club, founded in 2001 by **Tom Clark**, uses donations from the Kroger Share Card and Randall's shopping card to purchase libertarian books for libraries. This great non-profit organization can now be found online at www.texaslibertyclub.org

LP Executive Director Wes Benedict was interviewed by the *Galveston Daily News* for a January 6 article on the Texas Enterprise Fund's giving more than \$800,000 to a BP spinoff company to locate a regional office in League City. The article questioned whether the new facility will create jobs or cause layoffs in the company's petrochemical plants in nearby Texas City.

Wes called the donations "incentives for corruption." And pointed out that enterprise tax deals "give tax cuts to certain lucky groups and taxes go up on the average citizen."

On January 22 **Jeff Daiell**, Harris County LP Chair, had a letter

to the editor praising the *Galveston Daily News* for the above mentioned article. He wrote thanking them for including a Libertarian Party representative and thus "providing a more complete range of opinion."

Wes Benedict had a letter printed January 14 in the *Austin Chronicle* calling for coverage of more local issues, which used the word libertarian. Wes also had a letter in the January 16 *Austin American Statesmen* with his suggestions for the legislature. Best quote: "Of course, the Libertarian Party will remain a place for people committed to freedom on all issues."

Steve Ravet, LP Transportation Committee Chair, had a letter printed January 20 in the *Austin American Statesmen*. The letter called attention to the Austin Toll Party website.

Michael Badnarik spoke to Campus Libertarian supporters at the University of Texas—Arlington January 26. Mike shared campaign experiences, talked about his book and answered questions from the 20 or so audience members. His appearance was also covered in the college newspaper the *Shorthorn*.

Travis County Libertarians held an effective outreach booth at the 590 KLBJ Talkfest January 25. Booth staff including **Steven Adams, Michael Badnarik, Wes Benedict, Mike Burris, Art DiBianca, Patrick Dixon, Rebekah Duke, Rock Howard, Rick McGinnis and Nancy Neale** helped 246 people take the quiz. Of those 35 scored Libertarian, but 55 were interested enough to sign up for TCLP's online newsletter. Ten individuals joined the National Party on the spot and many others bought copies of Michael's book or bumperstickers.

"This was easily the most libertarian-friendly public meeting that I have seen," TCLP Chair Rock Howard said. Wes Benedict called the event the most successful membership effort he'd ever witnessed.

Yes, I want the Texas Libertarian Party to Succeed!

Name : _____ Address: _____ City & Zip _____

Phone (evenings): _____ Phone (day): _____ Email: _____

County: _____ Occupation: _____ Employer: _____

- _____ I can distribute Libertarian Party outreach materials.
- _____ I can hold or attend a meeting in my county.
- _____ I can design or host a website for a candidate or county party.
- _____ I am considering running for a local office in 2005.
- _____ I am interested in being an appointed County Chair.

Print this form and mail to:
Libertarian Party
PO Box 27932,
Houston, TX 77227

- _____ Enclosed is a **one-time contribution** to help reach our goals.
- _____ **Monthly Pledge** (please bill my credit card on a monthly basis.)

Amount: ___ \$1,000 ___ \$250 ___ \$100 ___ \$50 ___ \$30 ___ \$10 ___ Other

Please enclose a check or money order made payable to the Libertarian Party of Texas. (No corporate checks, please.)
Or provide the following information to authorize billing to your credit card.

Name on card: _____ Signature: _____

Visa ___ Mastercard ___ American Express ___ Discover

Account number: _____ Expiration: (mm/yy) _____

Federal law requires political committees to report the name, mailing address, and occupation and name of employer for each individual whose contributions aggregate in excess of \$200 in a calendar year. The Libertarian Party of Texas also submits finance reports to the Texas Ethics Commission.

Supreme Court Hears Oklahoma LP's Case

The United States Supreme Court heard oral arguments January 19 in the Libertarian Party of Oklahoma's ballot access lawsuit.

The suit, *Clingman v Beaver*, was brought by the Party in 2000. The Oklahoma LP is seeking to open its primary to all registered voters in an effort to draw more support in what is widely considered to be the LP's toughest state for ballot access.

Oklahoma is the only state that still requires a party to get a petition signed by 5% of the state's voters to get candidates on the ballot. It's primary is semi-closed in that only those registered in a party or registered independents may participate in a party's primary. The LP did not have ballot status for the 2004 elections.

Libertarian Party attorney Jim Linger argued that Oklahoma's primary violates the First Amendment's

freedom of association clause. The US Court of Appeals, 10th circuit, agreed in a ruling this summer, that was then appealed by the state of Oklahoma.

Several justices seemed concerned that "Oklahoma did not give voters a chance to participate in third-party elections," according to Associated Press reports. Justice Sandra Day O'Connor is reported as saying that the eight week deadline to change registration before the primary is "an impossibly short window" given that ballot status for the LP in the general election is generally not yet known.

The "outcome is difficult to predict," Richard Winger of Ballot access News reports. A ruling is not expected until later this year. Twenty-four states have closed or semi-closed primaries and could be affected by this case. Texas has open primaries and does not register by party.

Chair's Conference

Libertarian State Chairs met in St. Louis for a conference January 22. Texas Chair Patrick Dixon and Executive Director Wes Benedict both attended.

The State Chair's Conference gives state party officers a chance to hear about things that work. Topics examined during this conference included interactive websites, organizational programming, campus organizing, National's new database, successful efforts in Indiana including forming relationships with state government and increasing statewide participation, how state parties can help candidates, and the small business initiative.

The group, which remains without formal structure or bylaws, chose our own Patrick Dixon to serve as Chair for the next year. The next meeting was set for January 2006 in Phoenix.

Events of Interest to Texas Libertarians

Feb. 1 (Tues.) 6:45 to 8 p.m. Travis County LP meeting, Mekong River Restaurant, 215 E. 6th Street, Austin. Contact Rock Howard at rockmh@austin.rr.com.

Feb. 1 (Tues.) 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Rally to Oppose Round Rock ISD Bond Package, RRISD Football Stadium, Parmer Lane west of 620. Contact carolbernhard@austin.rr.com.

Feb. 5 (Sat.) Noon Brazos County LP Meeting, China King Buffet, College Station. Contact Christopher Jagge at 979-695-9646 or c_jagge@msn.com.

Feb. 5-6 (Sat.-Sun.) Student Publications Workshop, Austin. From the Leadership Institute. \$15 registration. See www.leadershipinstitute.org or call 800-827-Lead.

Feb. 5 (Sat.) Texas Environmental Leadership Conference in Houston at Downtown University of Houston. \$25 includes lunch and materials. See www.texpirg.org for information.

Feb. 6 (Sun.) 1 p.m. Harris County LP meeting, Houston. Contact Jeff Daiell at jeffdaiell@yahoo.com or 713-777-1776 for information.

Feb. 8 (Tues.) Williamson County LP Meeting, Hunan Lian, 1208 IH-35 #9. For information contact Dave Howard at dhoward7999@austin.rr.com.

Feb. 11 (Fri.) Noon to 1 p.m. Crash Course on US Constitution, Lake Charles, LA. Guy McLendon will give a 30 minute course to the League of Women Voters, Uptown Catering restaurant, 1639 Ryan Street, Lake Charles, LA. More information at www.mclendon.net/active/LWV.htm.

Feb. 14 (Mon.) 6 to 8 p.m. Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) meeting. UT Campus, 26th and Red River. The Austin Toll Party recall petition turn-in at this meeting.

Feb. 15 (Tues.) 7 p.m. Bexar County LP Meeting, for information contact James Holland at jamesho81@aol.com.

Feb. 17 (Thur.) 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Texans for Medical Marijuana Lobby Day. See www.TexansforMedicalMarijuana.org for information.

Feb. 19 (Sat.) 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Harris County LP Garage Sale Fundraiser, 1111 Chamboard, Houston. Contact Kristin Thompson at kristin@alfheim.org.

Feb. 19 (Sat.) 2 p.m. Collin County LP meeting, IHOP, 933 N. Central Exp., Plano. Contact Wes Benedict at Director@lptexas.org or 512-442-4910.

Feb. 23 (Wed.) 8 p.m. LP Meetup in Austin. Triumph Cafe, 3808 Spicewood Springs Rd., Austin. Hosted by James Hammett. See www.meetup.com.

Feb. 28 (Mon.) 6 p.m. John Stossel speaker, East Texas Citizens For Lawsuit Abuse, Longview. Meet 20/20 Co-anchor John Stossel. For information call 903-234-8300 or email etala@swbell.net.

March 1 (Tues.) 8 p.m. John Stossel, Distinguished Speaker Series, UT Tyler. Ticketed event. Call 903-566-7424 for ticket information.

March 2 (Wed.) 12:30 p.m. John Stossel speaker, Better Business Bureau, El Paso. Tickets \$65 general public, \$50 members. Contact 577-0195 for information or www.elpaso.bbb.org.

March 2 (Wed.) 6 p.m. John Stossel, speaker, Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse Rio Grande Valley, Weslaco. For information contact 956-968-4594 or bill@valleychamber.com.

March 3 (Thur.) 6 p.m. John Stossel speech, "Why do Some Nations Flourish While Others Flounder," Houston World Affairs Council. Tickets \$20. Westin Oaks Hotel, 5011 Westheimer, Houston. For more information see www.houstonworldaffairs.org.

March 12 (Sat.) SLECT Meeting, College Station. Time and meeting location yet to be determined.

April 15-17 (Fri.-Sun.) National Rifle Association Annual Conference, George R. Brown Convention Center, Houston. Registration required, some events require tickets or invitation. Information will be posted to www.nraam.org.

May 7 (Sat.) Nonpartisan Municipal Election Day. Potential candidates and activists should watch for local filing deadlines.