

LNC Region 6 Report for Dec 10-11, 2016

D.C. Meeting at Alexandria LPHQ

Submitted December 5, 2016 by David Pratt Demarest, LNC Region 6 Representative

Libertarians: We Stand for FREEDOM, Nothing More, Nothing Less

1 SUMMARY

The big news is that Region 6 states have not paused after breaking records in the 2016 election cycle. LP voter registration increases continue to be astounding.

Congratulations to Iowa, LPIA activists and Chair Keith Laube for achieving major party status setting the stage for participation in primaries for the first time in 2018. Be prepared for a rousing state convention on March 25th.

Chair Jon Boon McNutt, Sean Metz and Greg Baldwin earned our kudos on their LPSOUTHDAKOTA revitalization program, statewide county affiliate campaign and collaboration with Chair Daniel Hayes and the ASC committee on South Dakota efforts to rejoin an LNC region.

Chris Dock, LPMN Chair, relayed news that Minnesota is building on the exciting 2016 LP gains with 2017 initiatives for membership, fundraising, and candidate recruitment and will hold an holiday party next weekend and the 2017 Annual Convention on April 22nd.

Lex Green, LPILLINOIS Chair, provided an update on their candidate recruitment campaign that has generated high interest.

Sean O'Toole, LNC Region 6 Alternate, reports that Missouri has launched an ambitious AuditKC petition to audit the failing Kansas City Water Department.

Roland Riemers, Immediate Past Region 6 Representative, provided an illuminating analysis of 2016 LPNORTHDAKOTA election statistics that we can all learn from.

Joe Kexel, Wisconsin Chair, states that "Libertarians had a great year in Wisconsin compared to 2012. We will continue to work for a limited federal government. Real change begins in households and individuals. Educate yourselves and be the change you want to see in the world."

Nebraska is now the only state with a Libertarian state legislator. Senator Laura Ebke is leading the charge to build the Great Plains Liberty farm team. Scott Zimmerman, LPNE Chair, indicated that the Nebraska has increased voter registration nearly 70% in the past 12 months, multiplied county affiliates nine-fold and is already gearing up for the 2018 election cycle to maintain ballot access and get Laura reelected under the LP banner. I will submit a motion at the appropriate time to help fund Laura's reelection effort with due diligence requirements well in mind. Nebraska is considering a joint 2017 Libertarian Festival with the help of Iowa and neighboring states.

LNC goals suggested by Region 6 state affiliates:

- Increased LNC due diligence before contributing to candidate campaigns starting with the creation of a Candidate Support Committee
- LNC support for national and local media enhancements to improve LP credibility and get Libertarian candidates elected at all levels starting from the bottom up
- Creation of an LNC Affinity Group Support Committee proposed by Prof. George Phillipies
- Continue LNC efforts to support state affiliates that have ongoing ballot access issues
- Support Andy Burns' initiative to regularly email an LNC newsletter detailing best practices and shared content suggestions to state, county and local affiliates and affinity groups

2 ILLINOIS

Lex Green
Chair LPILLINOIS
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The Libertarian Party of Illinois has been working on two major fronts: more electoral success in the next election cycle and effective party strategies for the future. Since we are an all-volunteer organization, these challenges often stretch us thin.

With two very strong candidates for statewide office, added to a strong candidate for President, we were able to break vote total records for all three offices. Because of higher turnout than previous years, our percentages did not increase except for President. Claire Ball, Comptroller candidate, earned over 182,000 votes and Kent McMillen, Senate candidate, pulled in 172,000. Presidential candidate Gary Johnson's 204,000 Illinois total was 3.6 times larger than his previous record in 2012, and 3.8% of the vote in Illinois. This success was achieved in spite of all candidates being shut out of all debates within the state. Nationally, Illinois had the fourth highest vote total for Gary Johnson, behind California, Texas and Florida.

The Johnson ticket inspired thousands of new volunteers who staffed a large phone banking service for the campaign. Part of the focus of the State Organizing Committee (SOC) has been to provide volunteer opportunities for this workforce in the months after the election. The SOC is working to build a network of new county chapters and build up the ranks of Precinct Committeemen. Building this grassroots organization will give future candidates more local support, while giving potential volunteers achievable goals. It also helps aspiring candidates to work on campaign skills and build support within their neighborhoods and communities.

Recruiting for candidates at all levels has been ongoing. The interest is high, and we continue to provide guidance and training to get the best candidates and help them run the best campaigns.

"...the saddest epitaph which can be carved in memory of a vanquished liberty is that it was lost because its possessors failed to stretch for a saving hand while yet there was time." – George Sutherland 1921

3 IOWA

Keith Laube
LPIA Chair

Iowa Earns Political Party Status

Johnson/Weld won 3.8% of the votes in Iowa, which exceeds the 2% of votes needed to be recognized as a full-status political party. Iowans will be able to participate in the 2018 primaries for the first time!

"Voters ask us why they don't hear about Libertarian candidates until late in an election," said Campaigns and Elections Chair James Schneider. "Our candidates have been campaigning for months, but they have not been allowed to file their candidacy papers until August - and often the media and polls do not acknowledge a candidate until papers are filed." As a Political Party, Libertarians will now be able to file for office before primary elections.

A record 24 Libertarian candidates in Iowa won a record 174,866 votes. The following 5 candidates broke Iowa party records for both number of votes received and percent of votes:

Johnson/Weld, President (top of ticket) – 58,893 votes for 3.8%

Charles Aldrich, U.S. Senate – 41,608 votes for 2.7%

Bryan Holder, U.S. Rep (#3) – 15,337 votes for 3.9%

John George, State Senate (#38) – 1,806 votes for 5.9% (record for a 3-way race)

Rick Stewart, County Office (Linn County Sheriff) – 25,567 votes for 26.1%

WE HAD A SUCCESSFUL 2016 ELECTION IN IOWA! Thanks to everyone for your work this year and in past years.

Analyzing several 2016 election results indicate where voters are at regarding casting a vote for a 3rd party or an independent candidate.

General observations: For State House and Senate there were 8 candidates who ran as an independent. 3 of these were in seats where there was a Libertarian candidate and the Libertarian beat the Independent. In the other 5 races without a Libertarian, 2 candidates were in a 2-way race and received 25 and 37% of the vote; and the other 3 candidates were in a 3-way race and received 7 to 15% of the vote. This is basically identical to the results for Libertarian candidate.

State House District 59, Nick Taiber, Libertarian and sitting at-large City Council member for Cedar Falls, ran as an independent received 14.7%.

Story County Supervisor Wayne Clinton (Democrat and sitting supervisor for a few terms) during the primaries decided not to run for re-election, later decided to run as an independent, received 20.9% in a 3-way race

Jasper County:

State House District 29 where Dan Kelley (a 3-term incumbent) did not win the Democratic nomination and ran as a 3rd party called Stand up to Bullies, received 11.3% of vote in a 3-way race.

Keith Laube ran for County Supervisor as a Libertarian and was way more qualified than the 2 opponents, received 8.9% of the vote. The Republican won with 59% of the vote in a previously Democrat county.

Chris Peters a Libertarian who decided to run as a Republican won Jasper County, a previously strong Democrat county.

In 2-way races:

Prior to 2008 we got 10-20% of the vote. Since 2008 we got 20-26% of the vote

In 3-way or more races:

Prior to 2012 we got 1-3.5% of the vote. Since 2012 we got 3.5% to 11%

Conclusions:

The glass ceiling for 3rd party candidates in Iowa is currently about 10 to 15% for a 3-way race and 26% for a 2-way race. We have come a long way and another 10% of the vote will place us in a great position.

If the economy is not good or voters believe they should be doing better, they vote the party in control out of office, regardless of the voter's party affiliation. I believe that 70% of the voters still have a problem voting anything but D or R. This is our current problem. The 70% do not want to chance, risk etc. or throw their vote to an unknown. The first examples above prove this. We also have straight party ticket voting, which is how about 15% Dem and 15% Rep voted in the past.

Goals:

We are very close to 10,000 registered Libertarians in Iowa, up from 2,500 in Jan 2014. The goal we set 2 years ago was to be at 10,000 by Dec 2016. Our goal will be to reach 20,000 registered Libertarians by November 2018.

With Gary Johnson getting more than 2% in Iowa, LPIA will be filing the necessary paperwork so we will be able to participate in the 2018 primaries. One of our goals in the next 18 months should be to focus on increasing the number of registered Libertarians so we have strong numbers going into the 2018 primaries.

Another goal is to get lots of good candidates running, and with a competitor, for the 2018 primaries. This will give registered Libertarians a reason to vote in the primary. We need to use the primary election to get the media more focused on us which will show the 70% of the voters that we are a party and casting a vote for us is OK.

4 MINNESOTA

Chris Dock
Chair LPMN

As 2016 draws to a close, the Libertarian Party of Minnesota looks back on a year of tremendous progress, incredible effort by our members and volunteers, and an unprecedented level of interest in our party and platform, as people continue to search for a sane alternative to the outdated two-party system.

Cara Schulz, a long-time leader within the LPMN and the chairperson of our annual convention, was elected to Burnsville City Council! We look forward to the great work she will do for her constituents.

All five of our candidates for Minnesota House and Senate received more than 5% of the vote, and our non-partisan candidates all received at least 25% of the vote in their races. While the Johnson/Weld ticket fell short of the 5% we needed to achieve Major Party status in Minnesota, the 3.8% they received represents a significant milestone for us.

We now have a tremendous opportunity to leverage the progress of 2016 into further growth and success. We have begun our 2017 membership, fundraising, and candidate recruitment planning process. In addition to our annual rotation of outreach events, we have two internal events on the calendar for the end of 2016 and early 2017:

LPMN Holiday party – Saturday, December 17, 2016 LPMN 2017 Annual Convention
– Saturday, April 22, 2017

As we turn the page on 2016, we look forward to 2017 as the opportunity to continue with our growth as we bring sensible solutions to the issues faced by all Minnesotans.

5 MISSOURI

Bill Slantz
Chair LPMO

LPMO report provided courtesy of Sean O'Toole, LNC Region 6 Alternate:

Missouri Libertarians were represented in 39 political contests this year including races for four of five statewide offices, US Senate and all eight congressional districts. Libertarians retained ballot access by posting better than 2% in numerous statewide races.

An interesting note from the election is that Johnson/Weld's vote totals exceeded all but those for Secretary of State Candidate Chris Morrill. In 2012, Johnson/Gray trailed all statewide LP candidates by a wide margin. Percentage-wise, the presidential ticket increased its votes from 2012 while the majority of statewide candidates saw lower vote totals this time around.

Kansas City area Libertarians have begun the process of petitioning the Missouri State Auditor to audit the Kansas City Water Services Department. The basis for the petition is increasing prices, declining service and crumbling infrastructure. The group formed a political action committee called AuditKC and began the formal petitioning procedures on Election Day. Signatures will be collected through October 31, 2017.

AuditKC Treasurer and spokesman, Sean O'Toole, reports that interest in the petition is growing as media attention increases. "We are about 6% of the way to our requirement of 10,497 validated signatures. Our focus is now shifting to raising money and soliciting endorsements from community organizations. We plan to put paid petitioners on the street this coming spring and summer," said O'Toole. While the effort has support from voters throughout the political spectrum, the Libertarian Parties of the four counties that are included within Kansas City are prominently listed as the initiators of the petition.

6 NEBRASKA

Scott Zimmerman
State Chair LPNE

LPNE Region 6 Update

The Johnson/Weld Presidential ticket earned 4.9% of the votes in Nebraska. Although we did not reach the 5% needed to extend ballot access for another 4 years, the LPNE is still guaranteed ballot access through the 2018 election cycle. We are celebrating a campaign victory by Ben Backus who was elected to the Gering City Council. Ben ran such a sound campaign that his opponent strategically withdrew from the race. Dave Hunt received 42% of the vote for Washington County supervisor and set the example for future Nebraska campaign strategies.

There was an explosion of growth for the Libertarian Party of Nebraska, with a 65.5% increase over 2015's registered Libertarians. We currently have over 11,000 registered Libertarians in Nebraska and those numbers continue to swell. Part of this growth includes the addition of 8 additional County Affiliates in 2016. There are now Libertarian Party County Affiliates in 10% of Nebraska Counties. The LPNE was required to file with the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission this year. The party raised over \$5000.00, which shattered previous fundraising results.

Over the next year, the Libertarian Party of Nebraska will continue to recruit county leaders and candidates for the critical 2018 Election Cycle. The LPNE will continue to accelerate our outstanding voter registration gains. Our 2018 goals will focus on maintaining ballot access, pushing a legislative bill for permanent ballot access sponsored by State Senator Laura Ebke, and getting Laura reelected under the LP banner so she can continue building the Great Plains Liberty grassroots farm team.

7 NORTH DAKOTA

Tony Mangnall
North Dakota Libertarian Party Chair

Additional North Dakota information provided by Roland Riemers, Immediate Past Region 6 Representative from North Dakota:

2016 NORTH DAKOTA LIBERTARIAN VOTE

Gary Johnson /Jim Weld for President	6.22% (retained ballot access)
Robert Marquette for US Senate	3.08%
Jack Seaman for US Congress	6.95%
Marty Riske/Joshua Voytek for Governor	3.90%
Eric Olson for Treasurer	7.63%
Tom Skadeland - ND Public Service Commissioner	8.45%
Nick Bata for ND Insurance Commissioner	8.64%
Roland Riemers for State Auditor	22.92%

2014 average ND Libertarian vote	5.84%
2016 average ND Libertarian vote	6.4% (without Riemers factored in, and 8.76% with)
2016 average ND Democratic vote	24%
Johnson for President: 2012 vote	1.62%
2016 vote	6.22% (retained ballot status)

In my own race for Auditor I had run a carefully thought out statewide campaign. My theory was I would get most of the Libertarian votes. Most of the Democratic votes (because no Democrat in the race), and I would get some Republican votes. To me, that made it a very close race between me and the Republican candidate. But, the theory feel apart when Trump and governor candidate Burgum did an outstanding job of getting out the Republican vote and thus swept all opposition aside. None of us really thought that was possible. With the split in the Republican party, it seemed more likely the Republican vote would be way down, not up! Well, so much for careful planning.

I just finished reviewing the county by county votes, and found them interesting. My 23% of the vote in a statewide race as a Libertarian is a record in itself, and shows a Libertarian can be a major contender in North Dakota. This in spite of the fact the news media deliberately went out of their way not to even mention the Auditor race, and when they did they would give glowing remarks about my opponent, and then if I was lucky, they might add in that I was also running.

I actually won in two counties. In Rolette I got 55% of the vote, and in Sioux I made it up to 63.7%. I also beat the Democratic vote for Senator and Governor. And true to my theory, I did win most of the Libertarian and Democratic votes, as

well as a small percentage of Republican votes. But there were just too darn many Republicans and they all seemed to have voted.

I also thought I would do great in the Western part of the state, but to my surprise this turned out not to be true. Probably because a lot of the Libertarian oil workers in the oil patch have moved on? So another theory shot down. I would have done better concentrating on the major cities where we tend to do well and get more bang for our advertising buck. Still, I ran a statewide campaign on just \$30,000 which comes out to about 50 cents a vote. But I targeted and timed my efforts and did not waste time traveling the state and not a single yard sign. In fact, I had a small amount of literature made up before the primary and I had zero literature made up for the general election. So, I did everything opposite of the other candidates.

I was somewhat shocked to see Marty (gov) and Robert (US Sen) both below 4% as they were both good candidates, but they were also head to head with the strongest Republican opponents. And in general I think we all did an excellent job this election.

Roland Riemers, former candidate for State Auditor

PS. I will see you at the LNC meeting and party in December.

8 SOUTH DAKOTA

Sean Metz

LPSOUTHDAKOTA West River At Large

Summary of the election results and recent party events in South Dakota:

The 2016 Libertarian ticket for president earned 5.6% of the vote in South Dakota with a total of 20,845 votes. In the three high-population western counties, Libertarian vote percentages equaled or exceeded 7%, Lawrence (7.9%), Meade (7.2%) and Pennington (7.0%). Strong support was also registered in the high population eastern counties of Brookings (6.9%) and Minnehaha (6.1%).

The Libertarian Party of South Dakota has been working to set up county affiliates in each of South Dakota's 66 counties. Work since the election has included continuing to encourage volunteers who participated in the presidential campaign to continue their work for the Libertarian cause. Facebook pages are being set up for each of the counties to provide South Dakotans with an online option where they can stay updated on local news and upcoming Libertarian events in their area.

The Libertarian Party of South Dakota looks forward to continuing to grow its grassroots efforts while also working with surrounding states to build a strong Libertarian coalition across the Mountains, Plains, and Midwest!

9 WISCONSIN

Joe Kexel
Chair LPWI

Information gleaned from LPWI website:

"FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, November 18, 2016
Contact: Libertarian Party of Wisconsin
800-236-9236 | info@lpwi.org

For the Libertarian Party of Wisconsin (LPWI) election expectations were high. Politics in this state, in the whole country, have been dominated by these two old parties for a century and a half.

On Tuesday, November 8, 2016, Wisconsinites showed they are ready for a younger party with roots in the Declaration of Independence that works for a future with more personal liberties and greater economic freedom, secured with a strong national defense.

Libertarian presidential candidate Gary Johnson earned 106,442 votes in Wisconsin, or 3.6 percent of the state's total vote.

State results show that Libertarian candidates in Wisconsin earned a combined 154,383 votes, a significant increase compared with 83,705 in 2012.

Chairman Joseph Kexel stated, "Libertarians did great this year in Wisconsin, look at the results compared to 2012. We will continue to work for a limited federal government. Real change begins in households and individuals. Educate yourselves and be the change you want to see in the world."

Phil Anderson, Libertarian candidate for Senate, garnered 87,291 or 3 percent of the state's votes Tuesday night, the second highest vote total for a Libertarian in Wisconsin.

Anderson stated, "...I extend my deepest admiration and thanks to those thousands of Wisconsinites who helped, in ways large and small, over the last year. You are too many to thank individually, which is good news! Together we have grown the movement, and the party. Thanks so much, and let's keep up the fight!"

The highest percentage of Libertarian votes were cast for Jordan Hansen, candidate for state Assembly district 54. Running solely versus the Democrat incumbent Gordon Hintz, Hansen pulled 30 percent, with 7,682 votes.

"This is a libertarian party of Wisconsin record, but well short of victory. I want to thank everyone who helped out on the campaign in some way or supported me during this race. I'm disappointed with the result, but proud of the work we did and introducing Oshkosh to libertarian principles," said Hansen.

House of Representatives congressional candidates received the following votes:

Jason Lebeck vs. incumbent Speaker Paul Ryan in District 1- 7,493 votes- 2.1%

Andy Craig vs. incumbent Gwen Moore in District 4- 32,184 votes- 11.3%

John Arndt vs. incumbent Jim Sensenbrenner in District 5- 15,324 votes- 3.9%

State Assembly candidates received the following votes:

Matthew Bughman vs. incumbent Daniel Reimer- 1,303 votes- 5.4%

George Meyers vs. incumbent Cory Mason- 3,106 votes- 18.7%

LPWI thanks voters, members, financial contributors, affiliates, news media, and those who campaigned for more self-reliance, prosperity, and peace in 2016. We look forward to building a stronger Libertarian presence in 2017."