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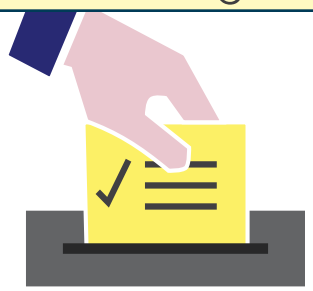

ELECTION RESULTS
SEE PAGE 10

Frontier Project candidate elected

Marshall Burt's historic statehouse win is first since 2002, fifth in party history

By Andy Craig
Maryland

For the first time in a generation, a Libertarian has been elected to a state legislature. Marshall Burt, a track inspector for the Union Pacific railroad and Marine Corps veteran, defeated a long-time Democratic incumbent to represent Wyoming's House District 39. Burt's campaign was spearheaded by Apollo Pazell, candidate support specialist for the Libertarian National Committee. Burt's win was no accident, but the result of a new focus by the LNC to target resources, assistance, and talent on winning state legislative seats and local offices through the Frontier Project.

Burt attended the Frontier Summit held in Cheyenne in 2019 after Pazell identified him from the party's membership list. His experience in the Marine Corps, where he served for nine years, and as a local leader in groups like the American Legion and the volunteer fire department in his hometown of Green River, made him an ideal pick.

Burt was not initially inclined to run for office. But after many hours of tough questions for Pazell and other Libertarian leaders, he was persuaded by the opportunity to represent his neighbors and friends in the state House of Representatives. Pazell recalls finally receiving the question most common from prospective candidates: "Why me?" to which the response was simply, "Why not you?" Convinced by the data showing a winnable race and the party's plan to support his campaign, he agreed to run.

State Representative-Elect Marshall Burt (L-WY)

Burt didn't find the Libertarian label to be a problem, either. Talking to voters, he describes his elevator pitch as simply "limited government, balanced budget, do what you want in your life without being infringed upon by anyone else." It was a message that resonated in District 39, delivering Burt a convincing victory: 54.4% to 44.6% over incumbent Stan Blake, who has held the seat for 14 years.

Teams of canvassers were deployed to assist the Frontier Project's targeted candidates, knocking the door of every registered voter in the district many times over, engaging in both persuasion and careful tracking of the state of the race. Pazell also worked closely in the community to secure key endorsements and support from local leaders.

LNC Chair Joe Bishop-Henchman sees Burt's victory as a vindication for the Frontier Project's model. "It's time for the Libertarian Party to get out of start-up mode. Winning elections for state legislature is a crucial step for the party's growth, and was one of my biggest motivations in running for chair," he said.

Bishop-Henchman joined the candidates in Wyoming for the final push and met with Burt the day after the election to discuss the future of the party and policy proposals for Burt's time in the legislature. "As a tax policy expert, I've gone to many state legislatures to work on crucial reforms, offering testimony and participating in negotiations. And I can't overstate how much of a difference it will make to have even one principled Libertarian at the table in those discussions," he said.

Burt's goals in the legislature include defending Second Amendment rights, working to expand educational opportunities and diversifying the state's economy at a time when the state's dependence on oil and mineral extraction has been hit hard by the recession. As he explained, "We must make Wyoming the most attractive state to do business in and innovate. We need to begin diversifying our economy so that crises like this do not have such a big impact on our families in the future."

Republican and Democratic members of the House also reached out to Burt, offering their congratulations and expressing their eagerness to work with Wyoming's first third-party legislator in more than a century.

Another of the Frontier Project's candidates, Bethany Baldes of Riverton, Wyo., came within just 32 votes of winning her election. Trisha Butler, running for Clarksville, Tenn., city council, also won her election after working closely with Pazell and the Frontier team, which invited candidates across the country to participate and receive strategic advice and assistance. Canvassers were also deployed to other states, including other near-wins such as Hanna Waugh for Lake County, Colo., Commissioner.

Pazell's goals for the next year include training up more canvassers, campaign managers, and candidate support specialists to replicate this success. "This was proof of concept that Libertarians can win these races," he says, "and now it's time to expand this model across the country. I'm excited about where this will go."

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FROM THE CHAIR

Schrödinger's Vote & Electing Libertarians

By Joe Bishop-Henchman
LNC Chair • chair@lp.org

Bishop-Henchman

I spent Election Day 2020 on Wyoming sidewalks in 30-degree weather, helping rally voters for Libertarian candidates. After a night fretting about election results, I spent the next day with State Rep.-elect Marshall Burt (L-WY) — I love writing that! — talking plans for the legislative session and how we can duplicate his success and get him reinforcements. I've been on the phone with our local officials in 36 states talking the same.

The national chair facilitates decisions, removes obstacles, and connects our candidates, activists, donors, and state and local party leaders with each other. I find there's no substitute to seeing first-hand what things are like on the ground, which is why I was in Wyoming for the final push. It's why I helped gather ballot access signatures in Pennsylvania and Rhode Island, was at Jo and Spike events in Texas and Ohio and Georgia and Virginia, joined the entire LNC in knocking doors in Minnesota, showed up for debate night in Indiana, and spent an evening with our text banking team reaching undecided voters.

It allows me to tell you without hesitation that if all it took to win elections were the right ideas and enthusiastic volunteers, we would win every election. Of course it takes more than that: fundraising, messaging and media training, door knocking, phone banking, and effective national and state party infrastructure to keep it all going.

The Libertarian Frontier Project, as described in more detail in the front page story, is essentially us building and deploying all that to elect Libertarians to public office to change public policy. It was a successful experiment that I want to expand for next time as fast as resources permit.

Some thoughts on the 2020 results:

• Jorgensen/Cohen '20 earned about 1.8 million votes (1.2%), second best in our history behind only 2016. One in 90 Americans voted for Jo and Spike, despite a fundraising and name recognition disadvantage, media blackout, and inability to campaign normally due to the pandemic. We "beat the spread" in key states like Nevada, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin, drawing old parties' anger. I love the image someone shared — Libertarians cast "Schrödinger's vote," simultaneously wasted while deciding the election.

• We had 50+DC ballot access for this election no small feat as we overcame gratuitous procedural obstacles, pandemic conditions, and a bidding war for paid petitioners caused by billionaire candidates. Everyone's hard work ensured Jo Jorgensen was one of the three choices in front of every American voter.

• Momentum. Registered Libertarian voters are up 7% since March to 652,000 (in the 32 states with partisan registration), and party membership is up 29% for the year to over 21,000. Campaigns brought in tens of thousands of new donors and thousands of first-time activists. The presidential campaign bus tour earned a ton of local press and we learned from polling that we have higher support with young people under age 30 (earning 7% support) and some other demographic tidbits.

• Local Libertarians won election and re-election. Turn to page 10 for a full list (as of press time). More Libertarians will be voices of common sense in city councils, school boards, and county governments. Other races solidified us as active competition, such as Ricky Harrington getting 34% for U.S. Senate in Arkansas, Don Rainwater getting 14% for Governor of Indiana, and others that beat the spread between the old parties. Brad Barron in Kentucky earned an attack ad from Mitch McConnell. And nearly all of these candidates achieved what they did with a fraction of the money their opponents had.

• The drug war lost. Arizona, Montana, New Jersey and South Dakota legalized marijuana. Mississippi legalized medical marijuana. D.C. decriminalized mushrooms. Oregon decriminalized hard drugs. I remember when ending the drug war and not viewing drug use as a criminal enforcement problem was a crazy Libertarian position in this country. Now it's winning every time everywhere.

To all of our candidates: thank you. Win or lose, the commitment is an enormous one and can be draining in so many ways. Our impact and our ballot access depend on you, and your often unsung efforts are appreciated by so many of us.

Onward. We are going to take on the duopoly until they change or we get our people elected. Seeing a routine election treated as a do or die moment by so many Americans reminds me that we need to rethink the power we give to government, and that only Libertarians will actually deliver on this.

In Liberty,

LP News

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The Libertarian Party (LP) and its state affiliates work to advance the right of individuals to be free, so long as they do not forcibly interfere with the equal rights of others.

The party runs candidates for public office, elects Libertarians, supports and opposes ballot measures, lobbies, and takes positions on public policy aimed at removing, reducing, and nullifying government laws, regulations, prohibitions, taxes, spending, debt, and foreign interventions.

NATIONAL CHAIR
Joe Bishop-Henchman

PUBLICATIONS EDITOR
Gideon Oakes

ADVERTISING & PUBLICATION REVIEW COMMITTEE
Whitney Bilyeu, David Sexton, Caryn Ann Harlos, Richard Longstreth, Steven Nekhaila

Send news, articles, essays, or photographs:
LPNews@LP.org

Address changes:
(202) 333-0008
Members@LP.org

1444 Duke St.
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Thank You!

Review: 2 Paragraphs 4 Liberty

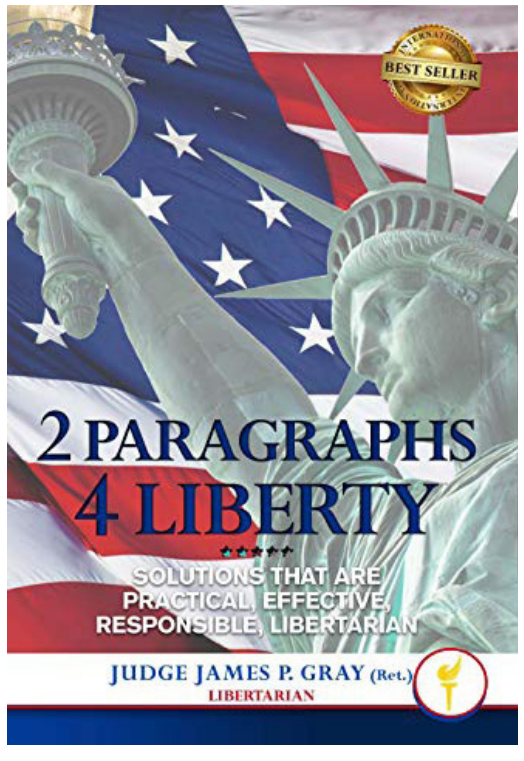
By Caryn Ann Harlos
LNC Secretary

Harlos

Would you like to spend a few minutes each day thinking about Libertarian political solutions in order to sharpen your own views on timely issues and be equipped for those water cooler discussions? Of course you do, and Gary Johnson's 2012 running mate and contender for the 2020 Libertarian presidential nomination, Judge Jim Gray has written the perfect book for you: 2 Paragraphs 4 Liberty. This book is a compilation of weekly columns authored by Gray beginning in 2015 and is set up in a way reminiscent of a daily meditation. Each page is home to one of these two-paragraph columns on a single subject ending with an inspirational or humorous quote.

The tone of the discussions and solutions is geared to the more moderate Libertarian, but even as someone more radical in my ideology, I thoroughly enjoyed it. This book is a great addition to any outreach toolbox and a great gift for the libertarian-curious family member. Judge Gray has generously agreed to donate any proceeds from its sale to the Libertarian Party, so please do consider picking up several copies. It is a win-win for everyone and for liberty.

Get yours today at:
JudgeJimGray.com/books



Bus life: The ladies behind Lady Liberty

By Kate Prather
LP Texas

Prather

2020 has been quite a year, especially for campaigning, with there being no exceptions for our presidential candidate's campaign. Conventions, petitioning, fundraising, event planning, and campaigning have all had to take very interesting and innovative approaches to achieve victory for our movement.

Regardless of the struggles, Libertarians get it done. We persist, driven by the passion for liberty. A silver lining to COVID is the bus. Since musical groups aren't touring, the campaign got a great deal on Rumours, the name of the Jorgensen bus. When I was asked to write about life on the bus I jumped at the chance. I wanted everyone to get a glimpse of what it's like. Some of you follow our adventures on social media, seeing the fantastic places we visit, the incredible people we meet and the opportunities we find that help us advance liberty everywhere. It looks glamorous, and it absolutely can be. People can assume it is exhausting, and they would be absolutely right.

How did I find myself on the bus with this job?

Purely by happenstance. I never sought after this position or applied. I am the treasurer for LPTexas. The other officers and I were in the middle of transitioning into our offices since COVID delayed our convention process, pushing back our elections. Then I got a call from Kathleen Stokes, the project manager for many of the bus tour stops, about Jo needing a makeup artist for the Texas and Oklahoma stops in August. I accepted, with the help of my husband and family. It was a temporary volunteer gig, and I loved every minute. I gave a hand at the fundraising pitch, helped coordinate volunteers where I was needed, and of course, did makeup for Jo. I went home exhilarated with the job I did. A week later I get a call from Jess Mears about a permanent stylist, road fundraiser, and event assistant gig on the bus. I had shown that I could wear multiple hats. It also helped that I was a member of the party, as other stylists were not, which I was told was significant due to the nature of living on the road and why we do what we do. Having a love for liberty helps drive you through the hard times. After speaking with my husband, children and parents, we were confident I could take on this job. Three weeks later I was flying to Boise to join the bus and her crew.

Meet the bus crew

Jo's crew is an all-female staff, minus our bus driver Colby. The ringleader is Jess Mears. She is the LP's membership manager and the deputy campaign director. I'm pretty sure she is also SuperGirl in her spare time. I mean, I've never seen them in the same place at the same time. Her duties include being Jo's handler and directing every project while on the road. Her favorite thing is the "job fair", a list of duties each individual on the bus should perform at every event. The job fair is dreaded by the rest of us (Sorry, Jess).

Need the best at logistics and a pristine plan in place to pull off these events day after day? Look no further than Kenna Porter, the campaign's events director, one of the hardest working women I've ever known. These two ladies spend every second on calls and in meetings, when not directing the events and staff themselves, making sure this tour is successful. Neither of these women had a single moment to lay down in a bunk in 21 days, and if it hadn't been for Justin (Kenna's hunk) following us around for a few days, I'm certain Jess and Kenna would have eventually become joined at the hip.

This brings me to the only other lady on the crew, and isn't a member of the party, our audio tech, Kendall Allard. A young, strong, and vibrant personality, Kendall makes sure Jo sounds incredible at every event. She orchestrates a plan for the volunteers to follow and literally sets the stage for our Mama Jo. Her curiosity about liberty and our movement helps give an outsider's perspective to the message we deliver. Her questions and insights are refreshing and remind us why we push to educate the masses of an alternative to the duopoly.

Lastly, Colby, our bus driver, aka bus dad. He takes care of us and makes sure we get where we need to go, on time, and safe. This poor man must clean up after us and our late-night snacking. It is a treat to get some conversation time with Colby in the cockpit. His stories of life on the road with bands help pass time on the long drives (at least the ones he is allowed to tell).

Kathleen Stokes must be mentioned even though she is not a permanent member of the bus crew. This lady is a ball of fire and the project manager for many key events in the tour. I'm so glad we got a few days with her on the bus. Her presence was energizing and helpful through some of the most difficult events. I'm very fortunate to have the continued opportunity to work with her in LPTexas. It was clear on day one we had a special group of individuals together on the bus. It is hard to find this level of commitment in one individual, much less five. I have so much love and respect for these people.

Jo completes our little road family. The star of the show. Our very own Lady Liberty. Yes, she really is as incredible as you've heard. Since she is the candidate, a lot of what you assume is correct — no time for sleep and always having to smile and be ready to perform. I don't envy her role. It is the hardest job, above all. She handles the road with grace and grit, but remember, she is human. She misses her husband and daughters. She misses her students and her routine. She also thrives in the spotlight. She is one tough warrior woman. I'm so honored to call her a friend and have the opportunity to spend quality time with her. She is why we do what we do and she makes it all worth it!

Painting a picture

If every day were the same, I'd give you a walk-through of what a typical day looks like on the bus. Unfortunately, our lives are just not that structured. I can tell you, no matter what is on the schedule for the day, every minute is filled with every opportunity to advance the movement. Even with a full schedule, things come up that have the ability to throw us off, so we must adapt — and women are phenomenal at adapting quickly.

Now, I'll do my best to set the scene for our schedule. It's crazy on the bus, so buckle up (see what I did there?).

We arrive at our hotel in the new city between midnight and 3 am. Maybe we get to sleep for seven hours and maybe not. If we have studio time scheduled our day starts early, especially mine. I can typically be the first one up because I need to get myself ready and bags packed before I stroll on over to Jo's room to get her camera ready for the day and help her pack her things. This isn't an uninterrupted pampering. This time is usually filled with conference calls, radio interviews, meetings, or personal phone calls, as this may be the only time available for them. You won't believe how many times I've had to turn the hairdryer off when Jo needs to answer a question. Packed and polished, we head down to the lobby or bus, depending on the destination. The schedule has to be padded a bit, and when I say padded I mean we may have an extra five minutes to take care of any unexpected thing that arises before we must arrive to the scheduled event. We consider it an occasion to be celebrated if we arrive anywhere ten minutes early. And what about the ride to the destination? Yup, it's also scheduled with interviews & meetings, even in the Uber.

We complete the mid day's tasks and arrive at the bus rally location. Even though these events may have been planned weeks in advance, by incredible ground teams, there is no guarantee we won't run into as few unexpected issues. Every day and every location come with their own sets of challenges. We could have been given permission to gather at a particular location only to be told we had to either change locations or reduce the setup due to COVID restrictions. Terrain or weather could be a big factor in setup and bus parking. Texas was sweltering through a heatwave. In Idaho and Montana, we dealt with smoke during the wildfires. Detroit, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine had chilly and rainy weather, which increased setup and breakdown time. These stops were especially tricky as these were the locations for the micro rallies, consisting of going to three cities, hours apart, each day, and setting up for a smaller version of the usual set up. I honestly don't miss those days.

The government also made its inevitable appearance on the road several times. Cleveland was crazy, but I won't go into detail as Jordan, our videographer, released a documentary, called Longing for Liberty, covering that circus. D.C. started late due to Congressman Amash needing to complete a vote on the floor before arriving at the event. Even some locations did not allow for campaign materials to be distributed, like in New Jersey. Even though we ran into the typical problems Libertarians face when dealing with law enforcement, we were pleasantly surprised to have a few Jorgensen fans attend a few of the rallies in their law enforcement uniforms. No sarcasm, these gentlemen are libertarians in uniform, eager to meet her for a selfie, and had pledged to vote for her, wanting their job to return to what it was intended to be — to serve and protect their communities. You don't have to agree, it's just a surprising observation I made and felt it needed to be recorded to show just how influential Mama Jo is.

Human factors could affect the events, such as Jo nursing a hip injury and sinus infection at the same time through the middle of the tour. Speakers chosen for each event sometimes could go longer (in some cases we wish we had a stage hook... LOL). Things were forgotten, people late or moods not quite right, but despite the challenges, we adapted and powered through for a successfully completed event. And COVID, y'all can just imagine. It's dreadful having to deal with the different regulations that are ever-changing, city to city. As much as we wish we could defy these regulations, please keep in mind it's hard to campaign from a jail cell.

The event is over. The media, VIPs and attendees got their Jo time. We have packed up the bus and now we are back on the road to the next city. Driving through most of the night to do it all over again.

What is it like to live on a bus?

Rule number one on the bus, no "#2". I don't think I need to go into detail on this one, right? Right. For most of you who have not gotten to take a peek in the bus, there is a main living area, then the hall which leads to 12 bunks, most of which is full of campaign materials or luggage, then there is the back lounge where Jo has her luggage and private area for work or interviews. For the most part, there may be one or two bunks available for resting or to have semi-private conversations with family. Sleeping on the bus is exceedingly difficult. There is a lot to do in between stops to get ready for the next day. Sleep deprivation is the number one issue most of us deal with, including Jo. Life at home doesn't stop when you're on the road. Jo has continued to teach on the road which means she is recording lectures, taking student meetings, crafting tests, working on her corporate taxes, answering emails and calls, and finding time to stay in contact with her family.

What is it like to be experiencing everything traveling has to offer?

There is hardly a minute to breathe while on the road. Remember those social media posts and photos I mentioned at the beginning? Those were interesting moments of us getting maybe five to ten minutes literally running to a cute location at a rally and snapping a few photos before having to run back to the event. I'm sure some of the event volunteers or early attendees thought it was quite

(continued on page 7)

Historic LP Texas state convention meets online, names new all-female leadership

By Chris Clemence
LPHQ Stewardship Associate

Clemence

The Libertarian Party of Texas bore witness to profound change this convention season. After a 103-day delay, the state convention moved 500 miles across the state to host both in-person and online delegates as they elected the party's first-ever all-female team of executive officers.

LPTexas held its biennial convention in Big Spring, Texas, forced to relocate in both time and place from the party's initial plans to hold it in McAllen in mid-April. With only days to find a new venue and make arrangements for the gathering, Big Spring mayor Shannon Thomason stepped forward and arranged for his party to use the historic Big Spring Municipal Auditorium to carry out its convention.

With a venue identified, the convention committee went to work. The 87-year-old building presented unique challenges for the tech team, and several days of tests began almost immediately. Drawing upon the knowledge and experiences gained at the national convention a few weeks earlier, delegates who were unable to attend in person were linked to the venue via Zoom and managed on a Discord channel.

The work of the party began on Saturday morning, gaveled in by outgoing state chair John Wilford of Denton County. The first issue to decide was that of online participation. Though questions remained and doubts lingered, the delegates in the 1,412-seat auditorium allowed online participants to become credentialed and have input in the party's business by a comfortable margin.

LPTexas's rules were the scene of a great deal of activity and interest, as the delegates chose to return to amending them at the conclusion of all other business for the day. The rules committee submitted a report offering almost three dozen proposed changes, with all but ten of them entered into the rules in some form. Seven of the committee's recommendations were passed unamended, and four of those without objection.

Of the changes made to the bylaws, a sizable portion of them were done in an effort at distinguishing the party from the election code and to increase the avenues for electronic submissions. The highly-controversial process for filling vacant seats on the State Libertarian Executive Committee (SLEC) was again amended this year, striking most of the language added in 2018 in order to increase transparency and openness to the process.

Perhaps the most seismic shift to the state's rules was from first-past-the-post voting to approval voting. Citing complaints with the lengthiness of the process and the limiting nature of having to choose only one individual from among possibly several preferred candidates, the move to approval voting will eliminate the spoiler effect from party elections that will now be decided likely in only one round. Additionally, the perennial Libertarian candidate NOTA has now gained a significantly stronger place in the process, as s/he now runs head-to-head against every candidate and not as but one entrant in the melee.

Delegates broke for the evening on Saturday to attend a 1920's-themed gala at the nearby Hotel Settles, the historic 15-floor, 150-room hotel built in 1930 by local ranchers Will R. and Lillian Settles. Long the tallest building from El Paso to Fort Worth, the edifice barely contained the free-spirited delegates as they recreated the spifflicated flappers and ossified Gatsbys of a century past, donning gladrags and putting on a sockdollager the likes of which haven't been seen in those parts since the repeal of the Volstead Act.

The delegates reconvened on Sunday to make some of the most momentous changes the party has seen in decades. Largely on the strength of the very personal testimony of Chairman Wilford, the body adopted a new plank staking out the party's position that personal relationships among consenting adults of any plurality as being decidedly outside of the purview of the state. Delegates also chose to add to the platform a plank supporting medical freedom and recognizing the liberty each person should have to direct the care of his or her own health without the interference of the government.

With the Trump Administration's crackdown on the free migration across the Rio Grande in front of mind, LPTexas planted its flag firmly in the territory of liberty with its passage of an all-new plank on immigration. The "Liberty to Immigrate and Freely Trade" (LIFT) plank replaced in its entirety the existing "Free Trade and Migration" plank, cementing the party's belief in the clearest language yet that individuals have the right to live and work wherever they choose so long as they recognize the individual rights of others. Rather than leaving the most basic of choices to politicians and bureaucrats, the new language entrusts the decision to the responsibility of each person as they make their own decisions on how best to participate in the free market.

"Texas made a statement about treating people equally instead of like second-class human beings," explained convention secretary and Bexar County delegate Arthur M. Thomas IV. Though a token objection was made to the addition, the new LIFT plank sailed through the delegation on its way into the 2020 platform.

Caucusing of the party's 31 state senate districts took place over lunch. Fifty-six Texans were chosen to represent their districts for the upcoming term on SLEC, which will run until the party's next convention in 2022.

LPTexas saved its most historic gesture for last as it chose its new executive officers for the coming two-year term. In a moment almost a century in the making, LPTexas honored the recognition of a woman's right to vote in perhaps the best way it could, by selecting four imminently-qualified candidates to positions in state leadership who also happen to be female. Franklin County's Kate Prather followed up her role as interim treasurer by running unopposed for the position in the new term, while Bexar County's Stephanie Berlin replaced outgoing LPTexas secretary and former LNC secretary Gary E. Johnson of Travis County in similar fashion.

The lone contested election was that of vice chair, held among Harris County's Scott Ford, Bexar County's outgoing chair Bekah Congdon, and NOTA, hailing from parts unknown. Accomplished entirely via email ballot, the 30-year-old LNC staffer won the day, replacing Williamson County's Steven R. Harris.

LPTexas completed the filling of state officer positions by naming Harris County real estate agent and LNC Region 7 representative Whitney C. Bilyeu to the party's highest office by acclimation. Upon a stage that once held Wayne Newton, Hank Williams, Jr., and Elvis Presley, Bilyeu tearfully joined Congdon, Berlin and Prather as the women who will navigate LPTexas into its 50th year and the challenges that the next two years will present.

Bus Life (from page 5)

a sight to see crazy women running an eighth of a mile back and forth to take a picture of something they may see every day. There is rarely any sight-seeing, as we do most of our driving at night. Free time is a treat, lasting about three to four hours and only came three times out of the 21 days. There are times of glamour as well. The opportunity to meet and mingle with big names like Matt Kibbe, Elizabeth Nolan Brown, Justin Amash, Peter Schiff, Glenn Beck and Dave Rubin

For me, though, the true inspiration came from friends I have made in my time with the party that I got to meet face to face for the very first time like Dan Fishman, Ken Moellman, Amanda Parsons, Myra Matejka and Ashley Shade. Their pep talks and hugs rejuvenated me, and they made me feel like they came to see me — true friends that asked how I or the crew were managing. Hugs and having those personal conversations really helped. Those moments were also needed regularly on the bus with the crew. Not having your family for hugs or cuddles for weeks at a time can wear on a person. This was recognized early on as something that we may face while on the road and was talked about on day one. We made a pact of sorts, to be open about how we are feeling, to each other, but not to Jo or to others outside the bus, family members excluded, of course. Jo deals with the struggles as we do, but it's our job to protect her and not weigh her down with our own issues.

Open communication is key when living in close quarters and in a chaotic environment. The crew does an amazing job at this. Recognizing when someone needs some alone time or when someone needs some physical contact, like a long embrace or back scratches. It does feel like a slumber party from time to time, but it's always being interrupted. There were only two times where we felt we could all sit in the living area and turn on the first debate or a movie, only to get maybe fifteen minutes in before Jess, Kenna and Jo get called into emergency meetings to discuss yet another hiccup in an event or a new project altogether. One thing I can say for certain, I have been continuously impressed by these incredible women.

I hope this gives you an idea of what it is like working on the bus, but that isn't what I want you to know. Doing this job, or being the candidate, on a tour like this is draining and hard. Imagine being away from your daily routine and family for weeks at a time. Choosing this chaos seems mad.

Why would anyone do this?

Liberty. Pure and simple. No one on this bus would choose this for themselves if liberty was present in our lives or the lives of our loved ones. We are called into this. A battleground of sorts. That is what fuels our efforts. Sleep deprivation, stress and sickness be damned! And it isn't just our passion for liberty that drives us forward, it's every single person that comes out to these events. It's the campaign staff, volunteers and families that come see our very own Lady Liberty, to hear our message through her. The people that give their time and money for the cause.

We could arrive in a city feeling defeated from a difficult event the day before, but when we drive up to a rally and see the grins on people's faces as they wave in anticipation when they see the big bus, we become reinvigorated. That passion reignites and reminds us why we put ourselves through the rigors of the road. A real cause to follow, and it is all about you!! Real people demanding real change. We do this because we love you!

Two great ways to promote liberty:

1 Grab a selfie in your gear

Put on your best LP swag and post a selfie to **#ProudlyLP**. And if you need more official gear, you can shop day or night at **LPStore.org**.

2 Buy your friends a membership

Give the Gift of Liberty! Head over to **LP.org/gift** and purchase a membership. Just give us their contact info and we'll take care of the rest!

'First they came for the Greens': Duopoly attacks Texas Libertarians

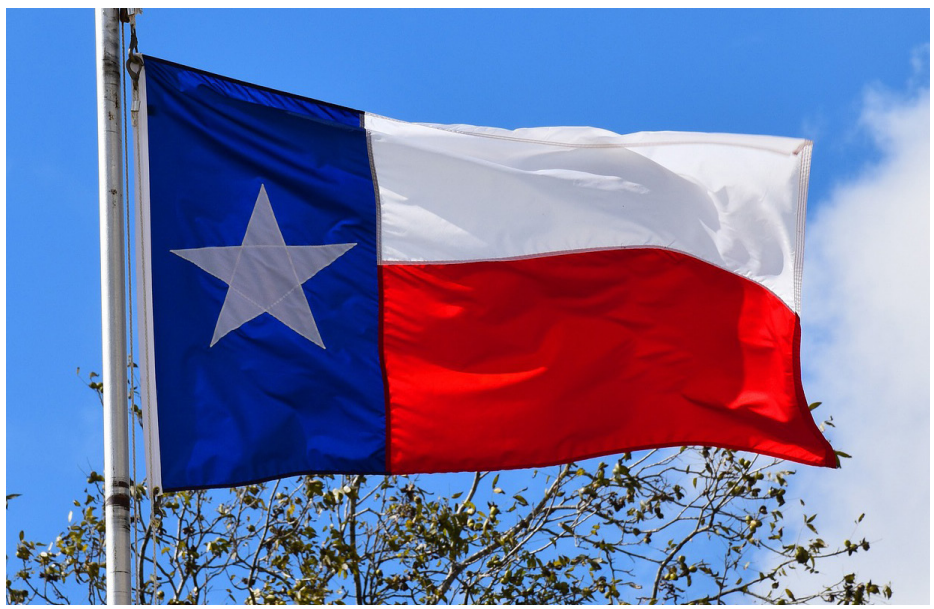
By Bekah Congdon
LPHQ Development Associate

Congdon

For anyone who has been around the Libertarian Party for more than one election cycle, you will be familiar with the fights — plural — we endure to be placed on the ballot. Long before we can start advertising on the radio or television, putting up signs and billboards, or reaching constituents directly, all of our resources and energy go into obtaining ballot access, and even after it is confirmed, we have to be ready to fight to keep it that way. The Libertarian Party of Texas has lived through this very recently.

In Texas, there is a deadline a certain number of days before a general election by which date political parties must submit their list of nominees to be placed on the ballot to the Secretary of State (SOS). In 2020, that date was August 21. The Libertarian Party and the Green Party are currently the only two alternatives to the Republicans and the Democrats to have ballot access in Texas. The Libertarian Party of Texas (LPTexas) submitted the majority of their candidates to the SOS's office back in the spring, and the remaining candidates who were nominated at their early August state convention were submitted immediately following. With only a couple weeks before the ballots would be confirmed and printed, everything seemed on track, and candidates were busy campaigning and winning over voters.

On August 18, word came to certain LPTexas candidates from Green Party allies that a lawsuit had been filed against three Green Party candidates, demanding that they be removed from the ballot. The parties bringing this lawsuit were a collection of Democratic PACs, organizations and candidates, and they claimed that the named nominees should be removed because they had not paid a fee (more on that later). Those served with the lawsuit were informed that a response from them was due less than 24-hours later, and without hesitation, a hearing was scheduled. It took not even 10 minutes for the panel of three judges to grant the Democrats their request, and rule that those three candidates would no longer be listed on the November ballot. That one of the panel judges used to be the chair of the local Democratic Party was evidently not considered a conflict of interests.



In the 2019 legislative session in Texas, there were two major attempts to limit voter choice and hinder third-party ballot access. The first attempt failed, largely due to the efforts of Libertarian activists who testified, called, wrote letters, and caused the proposed bill to die on the House floor. The second attempt is where those fees come into the picture. A bill was passed by the Texas legislature with bipartisan support that imposed filing fees on third-party candidates. They argued that this was fair, as Republicans and Democrats have to pay fees. What they didn't feel was worth clarifying is that their "fees" go into a special account for Democrats and Republicans to use to pay for their primaries. Every cent the old parties have to spend for their primary elections will be refunded to them, either from these fees, or by taxpayers once their fund is dry. For Libertarians and Greens though, these new fees would never be used for their benefit, but are instead paid directly to the SOS General Fund. Effectively, the Texas Legislature passed a poll tax on anyone but themselves. This move was swiftly challenged in court, and to this day the only ruling on that suit has been from a Harris County judge who granted a temporary injunction, removing the filing fees until the full argument is heard in court.

The ruling against the Green Party candidates showed that the temporary injunction was not guaranteed, and clearly signalled to Republicans that there may be another opportunity to remove Libertarians who they see as a threat to their monopoly in Texas. On Friday, August 21 (the deadline for parties to submit their nominees), a suit was filed against the Libertarian Party of Texas naming select Libertarian nominees that a group of Republican organizations sought to remove from the ballot. A response was demanded by Monday, August 24, and the writing seemed to be on the wall for this to go the same way as the Greens.

On August 2 at our state convention, I was elected as vice chair of the Libertarian Party of Texas. My dear friend and the Libertarian National Committee Region 7 representative, Whitney Bilyeu, was elected as the chair. The two of us have been involved at all levels of the party for many years. We have watched LPTexas go from an unknown entity to a swelling political wave filling the old parties with discomfort, frustration, and fear. We are very proud of that, and we were not about to roll over and give up this fight.

Every waking moment from Friday afternoon to Monday morning, Whitney and I were on the phone with legal professionals hoping to find someone familiar enough with Texas election code to be able to help us. More than a few times we began to feel hopeless. Someone was suggested, but they weren't confident enough to sign on. Another lawyer agreed to help us, but almost immediately that offer was rescinded and we were ghosted. We went into the morning of our response deadline armed with nothing more than a request for more time (we only had four business hours to contact lawyers after receiving the notice of the lawsuit). One more attorney's name was suggested to us, and I believe we both went into the conversation prepared to be let down once more. However, it was immediately evident that there was something different about this

one. Before we had to retell the story of how this all came about for the umpteenth time, he told us he had already reviewed the lawsuit, and the other two lawsuits currently involving LPTexas. He also pointed out several errors made by our Republican foes and confirmed suspicions we had that they were hoping to bully us to act before the court even got involved. The more we spoke, the more we knew we had found an ally. With legal counsel secured, we were granted a one day extension, and our attorney filed our response Tuesday at 9 am.

About nine and a half hours later, we received a message. "We won!"

Anyone who has been around a while also knows that winning isn't the most common outcome for Libertarians — but when we are victorious there is simply nothing sweeter.

Of course, victories don't last forever, and our attorney quickly prepared us for the likely next attempt of the Republicans which came the following morning — filing the same suit with the Supreme Court of Texas. Republicans have held all state-wide positions in the state for a quarter century, so all of the Texas Supreme Court justices are Republicans. We prepared our response, and again, we waited. I kept myself as busy as I could to prevent the pessimistic thought that we had used up our good fortune from creeping into my mind. I was sitting in my car in the driveway when the news broke, and I must have read the headline 50 times before believing it:

Texas Supreme Court rejects Republicans' attempt to remove 44 Libertarians from the November ballot

My heart still skips when I read those words, and I am so thrilled and grateful to be fighting alongside liberty warriors who made this victory possible. Now I know that the duopoly will not stop here and that we have really only angered them — but even in this we can celebrate. If the Libertarian Party had not successfully navigated past requirements to stay on the ballot in Texas, the Republicans and Democrats wouldn't have passed a law to make that even harder. If we weren't gaining support and increasing our vote count year after year, we wouldn't have old party candidates wanting to keep us out of "their" races. If we weren't something to fear, they wouldn't have taken us to the highest court in the state as a last attempt to keep Texans choosing between two failed options. We aren't at the downhill slope yet, but for 49 years we have been pushing this boulder up the hill, strengthening our will and our resolve with every setback — no matter what, we have persevered. The Republicans in Texas have had their wins handed to them for about 30 years. If I was betting on which party was more prepared for a fight to the finish, my money is on the LP.

LPTexas has heart and willpower in spades. The duopoly has cash. Unfortunately, we need that too. You can support LPTexas in our ongoing legal battle (and the many more we know will follow).

Go to **www.lptexas.org/legal-fund** to support us directly, or donate to all Libertarian Party legal battles at **www.lp.org/legal**.

$30,000 building fund match announced

When David Nolan convened the first meeting of the Committee to Form a Libertarian Party, he likely couldn't envision the world we live in now. Over the past half century the government has pushed its nose into every aspect of American life, penetrating to unfathomable depths into our private, consensual interactions and rolling over our freedoms along the way.

But just as the state has grown, so too has the Libertarian Party, from a group of five friends to becoming the first third party in American history to achieve back-to-back ballot access in all 50 states and D.C.

Six years ago the Party's headquarters moved into the first building it has ever owned. Today we've paid 85 percent of the mortgage on the David F. Nolan Building, including over 91 percent of the principal.

We now have a unique opportunity to meet the remaining $75,300 thanks to the very benevolent offer by an anonymous donor to match up to $30,000 of the donations raised for the David F. Nolan Memorial Acquisition Fund. Please help us in the important task of establishing a permanent home for your Libertarian Party by chipping in with your most generous donation today.

Unofficial 2020 election results

★ **Starred/Emboldened** = Winner

Alabama

Frank Dillman, Macon Co. Comm. Chair, 14.0%, 2-Way

Alaska

Scott Kohlhaas, State House 16, 7.9%, 3-Way
Carolyn Clift, State Senate N, 4.2%, 3-Way

Arkansas

Brian Leach, Sebastian Co. Justice of the Peace Dist. 13, 26.4%, 2-Way
Bryan Aguiar, Benton Co. Constable Twnshp. 1, 35.5%, 2-Way
David Humphrey, Benton Co. Constable Twnshp. 5, 22.7%, 2-Way
Frank Gilbert, US House 4, 2.8%, 3-Way
Judy Bowers, State House 22, 25.0%, 2-Way
Kevin Vornheder, State House 100, 21.0%, 2-Way
Lee Evans, Crawford Co. Justice of the Peace Dist. 1, 17.7%, 2-Way
Michael Kalagias, US House 3, 3.9%, 3-Way
Ricky Dale Harrington Jr, US Senate, 33.4%, 2-Way
Stephen Edwards, State House 77, 32.4%, 2-Way
Wayne Willems, State House 15, 15.1%, 2-Way
William Whitfield Hyman, Sebastian Co. Justice of the Peace D7, 34.7%, 3-Way
Zach Mulson, Sebastian Co. Justice of the Peace Dist. 11, 40.6%, 2-Way

California

★ **Brian Holtz, Purissima Hills Water Dist. Board President, Unknown**
Jamie Dluzak, State Senate 9, 10.7%, 2-Way
Azadeh Weber, Saratoga Union School Dist. Board of Trustees, 15.9%, 5-Way
★ **Bob Karwin, Menifee City Council Dist. 1, 58.9%, 2-Way**
★ **Kalish Morrow, Hanford City Council, 43.8%, 3-Way**
★ **Kate O'Brien, Rancho Simi Rec. and Park Dist. Board, 21.1%, 4-Way**
Michael Noguera, Atwater City Council, 42.6%, 2-Way
Ricky Estrada, Menifee Mayor, 27.4%, 3-Way
Samuel Ulloa, Rancho Santiago Comm. College Dist. Trustee Area 5, 15.1%, 3-Way
Scott Schmidt, Los Rios Comm. College Dist. Trustee Area 7, 35.8%, 2-Way
★ **Wendy Hewitt, Calimesa City Council, 27.3%, 4-Way**

Colorado

Adam Shuknecht, State House 53, 24.6%, 2-Way
Amara Hildebrand, State House 28, 5.5%, 3-Way
Bonnie Davis, Chaffee Co. Comm. Dist. 1, 3.5%, 3-Way
Bonnie Pyle, State House 39, 3.0%, 3-Way
Brian Meyer, State House 44, 2.9%, 3-Way
Bruce Griffith, US House 4, 0.5%, 4-Way
Caryn Ann Harlos, State House 45, 2.8%, 3-Way
Cory Schaeffer, State House 27, 5.7%, 3-Way
David P. Jurist, State House 03, 2.9%, 3-Way
David Thompson, State House 14, 3.4%, 3-Way
Douglas Anderson, State House 23, 4.9%, 3-Way
Ed Duffett, US House 5, 2.9%, 5-Way
Hanna Waugh, Lake Co. Comm. Dist. 3, 44.7%, 2-Way
Hans Romer, Jefferson Co. Comm. Dist. 1, 4.6%, 3-Way
Heather Johnson, State Senate 10, 5.2%, 3-Way
James E. "Jed" Gilman, State House 13, 3.2%, 3-Way
Jason Chapman, State House 32, 5.9%, 3-Way
Jeffrey Kennedy Crowe, State House 6, 2.5%, 3-Way
John Hjersman, State House 16, 3.6%, 3-Way
John Keil, US House 3, 2.3%, 4-Way
John Pickerill, State House 46, 3.7%, 3-Way
Joseph Johnson, State House 63, 4.6%, 3-Way
Joshua P Lallement, Arapahoe Co. Comm. Dist. 1, 3.2%, 3-Way
Judy Darcy, State House 20, 2.6%, 3-Way
Kathryn Jane Martin, Arapahoe Co. Comm. Dist. 5, 7.5%, 3-Way
Ken Biles, US House 7, 2.7%, 4-Way
Kevin Gulbranson, State House 56, 4.0%, 4-Way
Kyle Furey, US House 1, 1.6%, 5-Way
M Victoria Reynolds, Douglas Co. Comm. Dist. 2, 3.5%, 3-Way
Marc Montoni, Mesa Co. Comm. Dist. 3, 3.7%, 4-Way
Marc Solomon, State Senate 26, 2.6%, 3-Way
Margot Herzl, State House 22, 3.2%, 3-Way
Matthew Hess, Weld Co. Comm. Dist. 3, 4.8%, 3-Way
Michael McRedmond, State House 15, 4.6%, 3-Way
Michael Seebeck, State House 21, 4.5%, 3-Way
Michele Poague, State Senate 29, 31.2%, 2-Way
Nathan Foutch, State House 18, 3.5%, 3-Way
Norm Olsen, US House 6, 1.8%, 4-Way
Raymon Doane, US Senate, 1.6%, 5-Way
Richie Frangiosa, Park Co. Comm. Dist. 2, 34.7%, 2-Way
Rob Stutz, State House 34, 1.1%, 4-Way
Robert Berg, El Paso Co. Comm. Dist. 2, 4.0%, 3-Way
Robert Harrison, State House 40, 1.0%, 3-Way
Ryan van Gundy, State House 29, 5.5%, 3-Way
Sean Short, State House 50, 37.9%, 3-Way
Susan Quilleash-Nelson, State House 17, 4.8%, 3-Way
Thomas Atkinson, US House 2, 2.3%, 4-Way
Timothy Campbell, El Paso Co. Comm. Dist. 3, 4.0%, 3-Way
Victoria Ciraolo, El Paso Co. Comm. Dist. 4, 6.5%, 3-Way
Wayne Harlos, State Senate 4, 2.6%, 3-Way
Wes Pinchot, State House 9, 2.5%, 3-Way
William Robinson, Dist. Atty. Judicial Dist. 2, 15.9%, 2-Way
Zechariah Harris, State Senate 12, 3.3%, 3-Way
Alan Hayman, State Board of Education Dist. 1, 2.6%, 4-Way
Christian Vernaza, CU Regent Dist. 2, 4.0%, 3-Way

Delaware

Amy Merlino, State House 15, 1.7%, 3-Way
Bill Hinds, State House 27, 1.8%, 3-Way
David Rogers, US House, 0.8%, 4-Way
Dayl Thomas, Wilmington Council Dist. 7, 6.6%, 2-Way
John Machurek, Governor, 0.5%, 4-Way
Nadine Frost, US Senate, 1.1%, 4-Way
Scott Gesty, State House 7, 1.5%, 3-Way
Will McVay, Kent Co. Clerk, 1.8%, 3-Way

District of Columbia

Joe Bishop-Henchman, At-Large Council Member, 0.9%, 24-Way
Patrick Hynes, US House Delegate, 2.9%, 9-Way

Florida

Andre Klass, Seminole Co. Comm. Dist. 5, 4.3%, 3-Way
Davie Parrish, Columbia Co. Tax Collector, 17.5%, 2-Way
Joe Hannoush, State House 25, 2.3%, 3-Way
Marcos Diego Marrero, Osceola Co. Comm. Dist. 3, 5.7%, 4-Way
Austin Lee Lanteigne, St. Johns Co. Airport Authority Board Group 4, 14.7%, 4-Way
★ **Jim Turney, Altamonte Springs City Comm., Unopposed**
Kenneth Willey, State House 18, 3.2%, 3-Way
★ **Tony Busby, Osceola Co. Soil and Water Conservation Dist. Seat 2, Unopposed**
Wesley Wilson, Volusia Co. Soil and Water Conservation Dist. Seat 2, 27.4%, 2-Way

Georgia

Brian Slowinski, US Senate, 0.7%, 20-Way
Elizabeth Melton, Public Service Comm. Dist. 1, 3.7%, 3-Way
Nathan Wilson, Public Service Comm. Dist. 4, 3.1%, 3-Way
Shane Hazel, US Senate, 2.3%, 3-Way
Danny Dolan, Tyrone Town Council Post 3, 20.8%, 4-Way

Hawaii

Feena Bonoan, State Senate Dist. 20, 30.6%, 2-Way
Michelle Tippens, US House 2, 2.8%, 6-Way

Idaho

Dan Karlan, State Senate 28, 22.4%, 2-Way
Jennifer Luoma, Legislative Dist. 2, 16.5%, 2-Way
Jess Smith, State House 13, 22.3%, 2-Way
Joe Evans, US House 1, 3.6%, 3-Way
Justin Nagle, Kootenai Co. Sheriff, 9.6%, 3-Way
Lisa Adams, State House 21, 28.5%, 2-Way

Illinois

Bill Redpath, US House 6, 1.7%, 3-Way
Brad Bielert, State House 103, 21.5%, 2-Way
Brian Dennehy, Cook Co. Atty., 6.4%, 3-Way
Chad Grimm, State House 92, 25.6%, 2-Way
Clayton Cleveland, State House 80, 22.3%, 2-Way
Danny Malouf, US Senate, 1.9%, 5-Way
Glenn Olofson, State House 55, 31.6%, 2-Way
Ian Peak, State House 115, 8.1%, 3-Way
Jake Leonard, Montgomery Co. Board Dist. 2, 5.7%, 3-Way
Jim Byrne, Kankakee Co. Board Dist. 23, 40.9%, 2-Way
Jim Young, McHenry Co. Auditor, 25.7%, 2-Way
Joseph Schreiner, State House 19, 3.4%, 3-Way
Joshua Flynn, State House 78, 18.8%, 2-Way
Kelly Liebmann, McHenry Co. Coroner, 29.3%, 2-Way
Ken Allison, State House 88, 4.4%, 3-Way

Kevin Woodard, McLean Co. Auditor, 6.3%, 3-Way
Mark Elmore, State House 113, 13.3%, 3-Way
Nathan Florey, DeWitt Co. Circuit Clerk, 16.0%, 2-Way
Preston Nelson, US House 8, 29.1%, 2-Way
Sasha Cohen, Dekalb Co. Board Dist. 5, 24.1%, 2-Way

Indiana

Crystal Henry, State House 91, 6.2%, 3-Way
Donald Rainwater, Governor, 14.0%, 3-Way
James Rodenberger, US House 8, 3.3%, 3-Way
Jason Eicholtz, State House 83, 4.4%, 3-Way
Ken Tucker, US House 5, 4.1%, 3-Way
Mark Renholzberger, State House 97, 4.7%, 3-Way
Michael Strauss, US House 1, 2.8%, 3-Way
Morgan Rigg, State House 52, 3.8%, 3-Way
Russell Brooksbank, State House 71, 22.4%, 2-Way
Tom Ferfinhoff, US House 6, 3.6%, 3-Way
Tonya Millis, US House 9, 4.3%, 3-Way

Iowa

Blake Johannes, State House 12, 2.8%, 3-Way
Bryan Holder, US House 3, 3.4%, 3-Way
Eric Cooper, State House 45, 26.5%, 2-Way
Myra Matejka, State House 70, 25.3%, 2-Way
Rick Stewart, US Senate, 2.2%, 4-Way
Robert Fairchild, State House 16, 4.1%, 3-Way
Toya Johnson, State Senate 16, 23.6%, 2-Way

Kansas

Dante Javaheri, State House 46, 13.8%, 2-Way
Jason Buckley, US Senate, 4.9%, 3-Way
LJ Hermreck, State House 103, 7.0%, 3-Way
Matthew Clark, State House 23, 5.3%, 3-Way
Michael Kerner, State House 17, 3.2%, 3-Way
Rick Parsons, State House 33, 9.7%, 3-Way
Robert Garrard, US House 2, 4.2%, 3-Way
Roman Van Nahmen, Gray Co. Magistrate, 20.6%, 2-Way
Ross Wahl, Riley Co. Comm. Dist. 2, 6.2%, 3-Way
Steve Hohe, US House 3, 2.8%, 3-Way

Kentucky

Amanda Billings, State Senate 3, 21.6%, 2-Way
Bill Mitchell, State House 69, 4.5%, 3-Way
Brad Barron, US Senate, 4.0%, 3-Way
Bryan Short, State Senate 27, 19.0%, 2-Way
Cristi Kendrick, State House 66, 5.0%, 3-Way
Frank Harris, US House 6, 1.7%, 3-Way
Guy Miller, State Senate 5, 7.0%, 2-Way
Jacob Clark, State House 18, 16.9%, 3-Way
James Toller, State House 78, 16.9%, 2-Way
Joshua Gilpin, State House 2, 16.7%, 2-Way
Mitch Rushing, State House 49, 2.9%, 3-Way
Randall Daniel, State House 26, 19.3%, 2-Way
Robert Perry, US House 2, 2.1%, 4-Way
Timothy Filback Sr., State House 23, 1.8%, 3-Way
Brandon Wright, City Council of Cave City, 6.8%, 13-Way

Louisiana

Aaron Sigler, US Senate, 5.5%, 15-Way
Andrew Poland, St Bernard Parish Constable Ward B, 16.9%, 3-Way
Brandon Leleux, US House 3, 2.8%, 4-Way
Everett Baudean, Baton Rouge Metro Council Dist. 7, 10.3%, 6-Way
Howard Kearney, US House 1, 2.5%, 3-Way
★ **Jacquelin "Jackie" Hankins, Board of Aldermen 5 Town of Newellton (Tensas Parish), 58.3%, 3-Way**
Patrick Redmon, Judge City of Bunkie, 40.9%, 2-Way

Maine

★ **Shawn Levasseur, Knox Co. Budget Comm. Dist. 3, Unopposed**

Michigan

Alex Avery, Kent Co. Drain Comm., 3.9%, 3-Way
Andrew Chadderdon, Wayne Co. Comm. Dist. 12, 16.1%, 2-Way
Andrew Wrenbeck, Grass Lake Twnshp. Trustee, 7.4%, 5-Way
Andy Evans, Cheboygan Co. Comm. Dist. 3, 16.6%, 3-Way
Anthony Croff, State House 39, 1.6%, 3-Way
Benjamin Boren, US House 1, 1.5%, 3-Way
Bill Hall, State Board of Education, 1.2%, 11-Way
Bruce Jaquays, Commerce Twnshp. Supervisor, 2.6%, 3-Way
Connor Nepomuceno, Oakland Co. Executive, 1.6%, 3-Way
Cory Dean, Blair Twnshp. Trustee, 8.5%, 5-Way
Dana Carver, Cheboygan Co. Comm. Dist. 7, 17.2%, 2-Way
Daniel Ziemba PE, Wayne Co. Prosecuting Atty., 17.3%, 2-Way
David Canny, US House 4, 1.4%, 4-Way
David Holmer, Manistee Co. Comm. Dist. 7, 25.2%, 2-Way
Deidre Griffith, Macomb Co. Comm. Dist. 4, 2.6%, 3-Way
★ **Donna Gundle-Kreig, Mancelona Twnshp. Trustee , 22.4%, 3-Way**
Eric Larson, University of Michigan Board of Regents, 1.1%, 10-Way
Frederick Horndt, State House 28, 2.1%, 3-Way
Gregory Creswell, State House 1, 2.0%, 3-Way
Gregory Stempfle, State House 27, 1.6%, 4-Way
James Harris, US House 5, 1.6%, 4-Way
James Hudler, University of Michigan Board of Regents, 1.0%, 10-Way
James Johnson, Cheboygan Co. Treasurer, 15.1%, 2-Way
James Young, State House 37, 2.0%, 3-Way
Jami Van Alstine, Wayne Co. Comm. Dist. 11, 21.6%, 2-Way
Jamie Lewis, Kent Co. Clerk, 4.0%, 3-Way
Jason Crum, State House 104, 2.0%, 3-Way
Jeffrey Depoy, US House 6, 2.8%, 4-Way
Jim Fulner, Armada Twnshp. Trustee, 9.1%, 3-Way
John Stedman, Kent Co. Sheriff, 3.5%, 3-Way
Jonathan Elgas, Wayne State University Board of Governors, 1.3%, 7-Way
Joseph Charles, Otsego Co. Sheriff, 12.1%, 2-Way
Joseph Hartman, US House 8, 1.8%, 3-Way
Joseph LeBlanc, Plymouth Twnshp. Trustee, 3.1%, 8-Way
Katherine Nepton, Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court, 3.9%, 7-Way
Kerry Morgan, Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court, 3.9%, 7-Way
Leonard Schwartz, US House 11, 2.0%, 3-Way
Lisa Lane Gioia, US House 14, 1.1%, 5-Way
Loel Gnadt, Wayne Co. Comm. Dist. 4, 11.8%, 2-Way
Mary Buzuma, Ottawa Co. Clerk, 21.0%, 2-Way
Matt Saliba, Macomb Co. Comm. Dist. 13, 2.5%, 3-Way
Max Riekse, US House 2, 1.3%, 5-Way
Michael Saliba, US House 9, 1.6%, 4-Way
Norman Peterson, State House 64, 2.6%, 3-Way
Rafael Wolf, State House 63, 2.2%, 4-Way
Richard Hewer, State Board of Education, 0.9%, 11-Way
Richard Secula, Wayne Co. Register of Deeds, 2.9%, 3-Way
★ **Scotty Boman, Detroit Community Advisory Council Dist. 4, 100.0%, Unopposed**
Thomas Bosch, Long Lake Twnshp. Trustee, 1.5%, 9-Way
Tim Yow, State House 35, 1.2%, 3-Way
Wesley Crouse, Wayne Co. Comm. Dist. 14, 13.2%, 3-Way
Will Tyler White, Michigan State University Board of Trustees, 1.3%, 10-Way

Minnesota

★ **Cara Schulz, Burnsville City Council At Large, 49.1%, 2-Way**
Christopher Klavetter, Burnsville Mayor, 35.9%, 2-Way

Mississippi

Lesley Smith, Election Comm., Unknown, 2-Way

Missouri

Andrew Bolin, State House 83, 20.5%, 2-Way
Andrew Miller, State House 24, 11.0%, 2-Way
Bill Slantz, Lieutenant Governor, 1.8%, 4-Way
Cameron Pack, State House 53, 1.7%, 4-Way
Carl Herman Freese, Secretary of State, 1.9%, 5-Way
Jeff Coleman, State Senate 13, 12.5%, 2-Way
Jim Higgins, US House 6, 2.1%, 3-Way
Kevin Babcock, Atty. General, 2.8%, 3-Way
Kevin Craig, US House 7, 4.2%, 3-Way
Leonard J Steinman II, US House 3, 2.0%, 3-Way
Mark Bliss, State Senate 21, 20.2%, 2-Way
Martin Schulte, US House 2, 2.6%, 3-Way
Mike Copeland, State House 107, 3.7%, 3-Way
Nick Kasoff, State Treasurer, 2.2%, 4-Way
Rik Combs, Governor, 1.6%, 4-Way
Robin Dominick, US House 5, 2.6%, 3-Way
Stephen R. Johnson, State House 88, 1.8%, 3-Way
Steven K. Koonse, US House 4, 2.7%, 3-Way
Tom Schmitz, US House 8, 1.8%, 3-Way
William Truman (Bill) Wayne, State House 51, 24.7%, 2-Way

Montana

Andrew Schaefer, State House 67, 5.2%, 3-Way
Cade Stiles, State House 13, 7.4%, 3-Way
Devin Braaten, State Senate 47, 5.1%, 3-Way
Doug Campbell, State House 64, 5.2%, 3-Way
Francis Wendt, State House 62, 26.2%, 2-Way
George Anthony Schultz, State House 19, 15.1%, 2-Way
Jacob Kitson, State House 37, 10.0%, 2-Way
John Lamb, State Senate 36, 20.5%, 2-Way
Kevin Leatherbarrow, Superintendent of Public Instruction, 4.2%, 3-Way
Lyman Bishop & John Nesper, Governor & Lt. Governor, 3.8%, 3-Way
Melody Benes, State House 43, 29.5%, 2-Way
Nicholas Ramlow, State House 07, 5.4%, 3-Way
Nolen W Skime, State Senate 45, 3.8%, 3-Way
Richard L Armerding, State House 98, 4.9%, 3-Way
Roger Roots, State Auditor, 5.3%, 3-Way
Ron Vandevender, State House 80, 11.1%, 2-Way

(continued on page 12)

Election Results (from page 11)

Nebraska

Dennis Grace, US House 1, 2.8%, 3-Way
Dustin Hobbs, US House 3, 3.8%, 3-Way
Gene Siadek, US Senate, 6.3%, 3-Way
Mercadies Damratowksi, State House 37, 24.3%, 2-Way
Gerald Henthorn, Seward Council Ward 3, 38.9%, 2-Way
Mike Knebel, Bellevue City Council, 31.1%, 2-Way
Tyler Schaeffer, US House 2, 3.0%, 5-Way

Nevada

Charles Holt, Douglas Co. Comm. Dist. 3, 30.1%, 2-Way
Dave Jones, State House 39, 2.9%, 3-Way
Jonathan Esteban, US House 4, 2.0%, 4-Way
Liz DelSignore, State House 42, 21.3%, 3-Way
Natasha Bousley, State House 28, 23.4%, 2-Way
Robert Strawder Jr., US House 1, 1.9%, 4-Way
Sam Toll, Storey Co. Comm. Dist. 1, 32.1%, 2-Way
Steve Brown, US House 3, 2.6%, 4-Way
Timothy Hagan, State Senate 5, 2.7%, 3-Way

New Hampshire

AJ Olding, US House 2, 2.4%, 3-Way
Darryl Perry, Governor, 1.4%, 3-Way
Justin O'Donnell, US Senate, 2.4%, 3-Way
Nicholas Sarwark, Hillsborough Co. Atty., 5.6%, 3-Way
Richard Manzo, Hillsborough Co. Treasurer, 5.6%, 3-Way
Zach Dumont, US House 1, 2.4%, 3-Way

New Jersey

Dan Delaney, US House 8, 1.4%, 3-Way
Dan Valentine, Ocean Co. Freeholder, 1.1%, 3-Way
Jesse Ehrnstrom, US House 2, 0.7%, 4-Way
John Mirrione, US House 10, 0.7%, 5-Way
Michael Rufo, US House 4, 0.5%, 5-Way

New Mexico

Bob Walsh, US Senate, 2.6%, 3-Way
Buck Bonner, Dona Ana Co. Comm. 4, 5.5%, 3-Way
Chris Luchini, Public Regulation Comm. 3, 28.4%, 2-Way
Frederick Snoy, State Senate 13, 3.3%, 3-Way
Helen Milenski, State House 45, 17.2%, 2-Way
James Rickman, Los Alamos Co. Comm., 14.5%, 6-Way
Jason Vaillancourt, State House 28, 4.6%, 3-Way
Jeremy Myers, State House 44, 3.7%, 3-Way
Jerry Gage, State House 50, 3.6%, 3-Way
John McDivitt, State Senate 19, 4.3%, 3-Way
Krik Myers, Education Comm. 9, 4.7%, 3-Way
Laura Burrows, Education Comm. 4, 39.4%, 2-Way
Lee Weinland, State Senate 5, 4.7%, 3-Way
Mark Curtis, State House 19, 5.5%, 3-Way
Oscar Astorga, Lea Co. Comm. Dist. 4, 16.5%, 2-Way
Paul McKenney, State House 21, 30.2%, 2-Way
Randall Sobien, State House 30, 3.7%, 3-Way
Ranota Banks, State House 15, 4.2%, 3-Way
Scott Goodman, State House 17, 4.9%, 3-Way
Scott Milenski, State Senate 24, 3.2%, 3-Way
Stephen P. Curtis, Court of Appeals 2, 7.1%, 3-Way
Steven Penhall, State House 31, 2.9%, 3-Way
Will Kinney, State House 38, 2.8%, 3-Way

New York

Adam Fischer-Gledhill, State House 4, 0.7%, 3-Way
Duane Whitmer, US House 27, 1.2%, 3-Way
Howard Rabin, US House 3, 0.5%, 3-Way
Jay Carr, Saugerties Town Justice, 3.7%, 3-Way
Kevin Wilson, US House 25, 1.6%, 3-Way
Michael Madrid, US House 10, 1.2%, 3-Way
Steven Kölln, US House 12, 1.4%, 3-Way
Thomas Quiter, State Senate 52, 10.8%, 2-Way
Victoria Alexander, US House 19, 1.2%, 4-Way
William Van Helmond, State House 2, 1.3%, 3-Way

North Carolina

Adrian Lee Travers, State House 11, 5.5%, 3-Way
Anthony Mascolo, State Senate 8, 3.1%, 3-Way
Bruce Basson, State House 36, 3.6%, 3-Way
D. Reid Deal Sr., Davidson Co. Board Of Comms., 3.0%, 7-Way
Dee Watson, State House 49, 4.7%, 3-Way
Gavin Bell, State House 30, 18.3%, 2-Way
Guy Meilleur, State House 41, 3.1%, 3-Way
Jason Loeback, State Senate 18, 3.5%, 3-Way
Jeff Matemu, US House 2, 2.2%, 3-Way
Jeffrey Scott, State Senate 37, 3.7%, 3-Way
Justin Walczak, State Senate 14, 4.5%, 3-Way
Kat McDonald, State Senate 15, 5.2%, 3-Way
Liam Leaver, State House 37, 3.1%, 3-Way
Lyndon John Smith, State House 114, 3.4%, 3-Way
Michael C. Munger, State House 34, 4.3%, 3-Way
Michael Nelson, State House 35, 3.6%, 3-Way
Nick Taylor, State House 25, 3.6%, 3-Way
Ray Ubinger, State Senate 22, 3.0%, 3-Way
Sammie Brooks, State House 33, 4.3%, 3-Way
Sean Haugh, State House 31, 14.4%, 2-Way
Shannon Bray, US Senate, 3.1%, 4-Way
Steven DiFiore, Governor, 1.1%, 4-Way
Thomas B. Hill, Cabarrus Co. Board of Comms., 3.5%, 5-Way
Tim Harris, State Senate 2, 3.9%, 3-Way
Tracey Debruhl, US House 11, 1.9%, 4-Way
Travis Groo, State Senate 17, 3.8%, 3-Way
Wesley Longsdorf, Winston-Salem Council Southeast Ward, 15.1%, 2-Way
Zach Berly, State House 53, 3.8%, 3-Way

North Dakota

DuWayne Hendrickson, Governor, 3.9%, 3-Way
Steven James Peterson, US Congress, 3.4%, 3-Way

Ohio

Brandon Lape, US House 7, 3.3%, 3-Way
Dyrone Smith, Cuyahoga Co. Council Dist. 8, 11.6%, 2-Way
John Stewart, US House 12, 2.9%, 3-Way
Kevin Kahn, US House 1, 3.5%, 3-Way
Oscar Herrera, State House 96th, 3.2%, 3-Way
Steve Perkins, US House 4, 2.8%, 3-Way

Oklahoma

A.J. Bailey, State House 101, 2.4%, 3-Way
Bob White, US House 4, 3.4%, 3-Way
Greg Sadler, State Senate 17, 23.5%, 2-Way
Richie Castaldo, US House 2, 3.0%, 3-Way
Robert Murphy, US Senate, 2.2%, 5-Way
Todd Hagopian, Oklahoma Corporation Comm., 23.9%, 2-Way

Oregon

Gary Dye, US Senate, 1.7%, 4-Way
Kyle Markley, Secretary of State, 2.7%, 4-Way
Lars D H Hedbor, Atty. General, 2.3%, 3-Way
Matthew James Rix, US House 5, 2.4%, 3-Way
William H Johnson Jr., Marion Co. Comm., 3.2%, 3-Way

Pennsylvania

Daniel Wassmer, Atty. General, 1.7%, 4-Way
Jared Martin, State House 147, 3.1%, 3-Way
Jennifer Moore, Auditor General, 3.0%, 4-Way
Joseph Soloski, State Treasurer, 2.2%, 4-Way
Larry Frey, State House 110, 13.3%, 2-Way
Marc Bozzacco, State House 153, 23.0%, 2-Way
Matt Baltsar, State House 194, 0.3%, 3-Way
Noyes Lawton, State House 68, 8.6%, 2-Way
Ryan Bourinski, State House 107, 17.9%, 2-Way

Rhode Island

William Hunt, State House 68, 40.5%, 2-Way

South Carolina

Dan Gregory, Clerk of Court Charleston Co., 45.4%, 2-Way
Alex Thornton, State House 119, 30.0%, 2-Way
Justin Bishop, State House 77, 13.9%, 2-Way
Lawrence Lee, State House 71, 2.9%, 3-Way
Melissa Couture, Charleston Co. Council Dist. 6, 5.3%, 3-Way
Rodney Travis, State House 109, 18.9%, 2-Way
Sean Thornton, Charleston Co. Council Dist. 7, 36.6%, 2-Way
Victor Kocher, State House 79, 12.7%, 2-Way
William Dettmering III, State House 107, 1.8%, 3-Way

South Dakota

Adam Jewell, State Senate 5, 21.0%, 2-Way
Alexander Martin, State Senate 20, 14.9%, 2-Way
CJ Abernathey, State Senate 23, 10.4%, 2-Way
Daryl Root, State Senate 4, 17.4%, 2-Way
Devin Saxon, Public Utilities Comm., 5.1%, 3-Way
Gideon Oakes, State Senate 30, 28.7%, 2-Way
Gregory Baldwin, State Senate 17, 4.4%, 3-Way
Kent Wilsey, State Senate 29, 22.1%, 2-Way
Randy "Uriah" Luallin, US House, 19.0%, 2-Way

Tennessee

Cassie Cummings, Hendersonville Ward 6 Alderman, 17.0%, 3-Way
David Tyler, East Ridge City Council, 9.1%, 6-Way
Joey Dasinger, Clarksville City Council Ward 5, 12.6%, 3-Way
★ **Trisha Butler, Clarksville City Council Ward 12, 32.6%, 6-Way**

Texas

Andrew Jewell, Dallas Co. Comm. Pct. 3, 5.5%, 3-Way
Anthony Cristo, US House 34, 1.6%, 4-Way
Arthur DiBianca, US House 21, 1.9%, 4-Way
Arthur Thomas, State House 119, 2.2%, 4-Way
Audra Berry, State Board of Education Dist. 8, 26.5%, 2-Way
Bekah Congdon, US House 28, 2.7%, 3-Way
Ben Easton, Austin City Council Dist. 10, 1.9%, 7-Way
Beto Villela, US House 23, 2.8%, 3-Way
Bill Kelsey, US House 25, 2.0%, 3-Way
Billy Pierce, Harris Co. Tax Assessor/Collector and Voter Registrar, 3.3%, 3-Way
Bret Bolton, State House 105, 5.9%, 2-Way
Brian Elliott, State House 136, 3.6%, 3-Way

Cameron Brock, State Senate 4, 2.5%, 3-Way
Chad Abbey, US House 36, 1.6%, 3-Way
Chris Duncan, US House 8, 2.0%, 3-Way
Christopher J. Claytor, US House 3, 2.1%, 3-Way
Christy Peterson-Mowrey, US House 32, 1.4%, 4-Way
Clark Patterson, US House 31, 2.2%, 3-Way
Clyde Garland, Brazos Co. Sheriff, 4.7%, 3-Way
Darren Hamilton, US House 24, 1.6%, 5-Way
Dick Llyes, State House 24, 2.5%, 3-Way
Ed Kless, State House 89, 2.5%, 3-Way
Ed Rankin, State House 108, 2.3%, 3-Way
Elliott Scheirman, US House 2, 1.6%, 3-Way
Eric Velasquez, State House 118, 3.3%, 3-Way
Erica Lockwood, Travis Co. Tax Assessor-Collector, 5.3%, 3-Way
Ivan Foster, Comal Co. Comm. Pct. 1, 3.2%, 3-Way
J.K. Stephenson, State House 61, 2.9%, 3-Way
Jack B. Westbrook, US House 13, 2.2%, 3-Way
James Harren, State House 133, 1.7%, 3-Way
Jared Wissel, State Senate 11, 2.5%, 3-Way
Jason Reeves, US House 33, 1.6%, 5-Way
Jeffrey Blunt, US House 20, 2.2%, 3-Way
Jesse Herrera, State House 150, 3.3%, 3-Way
Jessica Pallett, State House 94, 3.2%, 3-Way
JJ Campbell, State House 146, 13.0%, 2-Way
JoAnne Valdivia, State Senate 19, 3.6%, 3-Way
Joe Burnes, US House 19, 2.4%, 3-Way
Jose R. Sosa, US House 9, 2.9%, 3-Way
Joseph LeBlanc Jr., US House 22, 3.9%, 3-Way
Julian MarDock, State House 44, 3.1%, 3-Way
Kenneth Moore, State House 49, 3.2%, 3-Way
Kerry McKennon, US Senate, 1.9%, 4-Way
Kevin Hale, US House 5, 2.1%, 3-Way
Lee Sharp, State House 137, 18.5%, 2-Way
Lou Antonelli, US House 4, 1.6%, 3-Way
Luke Spencer, US House 18, 1.8%, 4-Way
Mark Ash, Supreme Court Place 1, 2.5%, 3-Way
Mark Boler, US House 26, 2.1%, 3-Way
Mark Savino, State House 10, 24.2%, 2-Way
Matthew Sterett, Railroad Comm., 2.2%, 4-Way
Melanie A. Black, US House 6, 3.1%, 3-Way
Michael Clark, State House 47, 2.4%, 2-Way
Michael Miller, State House 85, 2.4%, 3-Way
Neko Antoniou, State House 127, 28.9%, 2-Way
Nelson Range, State House 96, 2.7%, 3-Way
Nicole Sprabary, State House 4, 20.9%, 2-Way
Paul Bilyeu, State House 135, 2.3%, 3-Way
Phil Gray, US House 27, 2.0%, 3-Way
Phil Kurtz, US House 29, 1.5%, 3-Way
R. Edwin Adams, State House 8, 14.1%, 2-Way
R. Grizzle Trojacek, State House 139, 14.1%, 2-Way
Rhett Smith, Bexar Co. Justice of the Peace Pct. 2, 19.9%, 2-Way
Rod Wingo, State House 97, 2.3%, 2-Way
Ross Lynn Leone, US House 15, 1.9%, 3-Way
Roy Eriksen, US House 10, 2.2%, 3-Way
Russell E. Hess, Parker Co. Sheriff, 15.9%, 2-Way
Shane D. Newsom, State House 112, 2.5%, 3-Way
Shawn Huckabay, State House 120, 3.2%, 3-Way
Shawn Jones, State House 66, 1.9%, 3-Way
Shawn Kelly, US House 7, 1.8%, 3-Way
Stephanie Berlin, Texas State Board of Education Dist. 5, 3.9%, 3-Way
Steven Broussard, Jefferson Co. Sheriff, 1.7%, 2-Way
Ted Brown, US House 17, 3.2%, 3-Way
Timothy Duffield, State Senate 6, 16.0%, 2-Way
Tom Oxford, Texas Supreme Court Place 8, 2.5%, 3-Way
Tony Quinones, State House 117, 3.8%, 3-Way
Tony Valdivia, State House 125, 20.1%, 2-Way
Trey Holcomb, US House 12, 3.3%, 3-Way
Trip Seibold, Texas State Board of Education Dist. 10, 3.3%, 3-Way
Wacey Alpha Cody, US House 11, 2.0%, 3-Way
Warren Funk, Kerr Co. Sheriff, 5.3%, 2-Way
Whitney Bilyeu, Texas State Board of Education Dist. 6, 2.9%, 3-Way
William Strange III, Texas Supreme Court Place 7, 2.3%, 3-Way

Utah

Brent Zimmerman, State House 16, 7.0%, 3-Way
Daniel Cottam, Governor, 3.1%, 4-Way
John Molnar, US House 4, 3.0%, 4-Way
Joseph Speciale, Treasurer, 14.3%, 3-Way
Lee Anne Walker, State House 46, 4.0%, 3-Way
Rob Latham, US House 2, 4.1%, 3-Way
Rudy Bautista, Atty. General, 5.1%, 3-Way

Virginia

Stevan Porter, Herndon VA Town Council, 10.7%, 8-Way
Cesar Alberto, Roanoke VA City Council, 4.2%, 8-Way
★ **Jessica Abbott, Virginia Beach City Council, 62.3%, 2-Way**

Washington

Brett Borden, State House 9 Pos 1, 23.8%, 2-Way
Dan Driscoll, Pacific Co. Comm. 2, 47.3%, 2-Way
David Wiley, State House 38 Pos 2, 32.2%, 2-Way
Marliza Melzer, State House 33 Pos 2, 26.0%, 2-Way

West Virginia

Brett Lee Sullins, Parkersburg City Council, 5.7%, 3-Way
Brett Rogers, State House 63, 6.4%, 3-Way
David Moran, US House 1, 2.7%, 3-Way
Erika Kolenich, Governor, 2.9%, 4-Way
Michael Allen Young, State House 15, 5.9%, 3-Way
Mike Lockard, State House 46, 5.8%, 3-Way
Rex Starkey, Harrison Co. Comm., 5.4%, 3-Way
Travis Shultz, State Senate 3, 7.5%, 3-Way

Wyoming

Bethany Baldes, State House 55, 49.6%, 2-Way
Lela Konecny, State House 47, 21.3%, 2-Way
★ **Marshall Burt, State House 39, 54.4%, 2-Way**
Richard Brubaker, US House, 3.7%, 4-Way
Shawn Johnson, State House 38, 24.6%, 2-Way

Results were current as of press time. They are neither certified as final nor official. We apologize for any typographical, transpositional or mathematical errors that are nearly inevitable in a list of more than 500 races.

LETTER

An object lesson in voter suppression

I recently experienced a telling object lesson in what a Libertarian has to go through to vote. (Do the traditional parties consider us that dangerous?)

My state of Alabama held primary elections on "Super Tuesday". I considered myself ethically, if not legally, obliged not to vote for either party's candidates. However, there was an amendment to the state constitution up for a vote and important. In essence, the amendment would make the state school superintendent an appointee of the governor rather than an official elected by the people. Thus, the governor would run the schools, not the people. Now there's something a Libertarian can sink teeth into! I went to the polls, explained the situation to a poll-worker who is a personal friend, and asked if I could vote on the amendment without voting on candidates or identifying with either traditional party.

I finally succeeded, but I had to jump through a lot of hoops on the way. The inspector commented, "This has never happened before." I had to vote a provisional ballot, and, for that, I had to fill out an extensive form which asked my sex and race among other things. I have no idea whether the provisional ballot will be honored or not.

I have almost no experience in journalism, but I have twenty-two novels on Amazon Kindle. One deals strongly with propaganda, spin doctoring, and character assassination. Surprise! It's on Alexander's conquest of Persia, but it's relevant to our time and place! People don't change, only the names and dates. Do you have any use for a person with my writing experience? I go to great effort to get my work scientifically or historically accurate, although I reserve the right to select and interpret. That's why it's called fiction.

P.S. The amendment was voted down.

MARJORIE A. WALZ
Alabama

What's on your mind?

Send letters to the editor to **lpnews@lp.org**.

Crossing the Rubicon: Why it's so hard to be a Libertarian

By John Mills
Washington

In 1776, Thomas Jefferson penned these famous and radical words: "Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."

King George III, and indeed his entire court, lawyers all over the United Kingdom, and most people around the world must have read that with puzzled bemusement. Consent of the governed? Absurd. For nearly all of recorded history, there was no "consent of the governed." The King was appointed by God to rule over and direct his subjects who were generally acknowledged as too stupid to actually order their own lives appropriately. So, the King, along with the Clergy, directed people by force, thus demanding behavior essential to promoting peace, harmony and productive activity, all so essential to civil society. People's obedience was commanded, or heads literally rolled. Government had zero to do with consent of the governed.

Government by consent of the governed was not an idea generally accepted or followed anywhere in the world until it was sprung on an unsuspecting populace by people like Tom Jefferson.

Now, 200 years after Jefferson penned his famous words, given its wide embrace around the world, democracy seems not only an ordinary idea, but an obviously superior theory of political organization. Only "backward" countries like, say, Saudi Arabia or North Korea have top-down, authoritarian governments which are unrelated at all to consent of the governed. Two hundred years of politics has created a paradigm shift in thinking. Jefferson's "consent of the governed," viewed at the time as absurd and heretical, now seems an obviously superior way to order society.

In 1848 a group of kooks and political crazies convened at Seneca Falls, New York, to promote the bizarre idea that women should be allowed to vote. Although experimented with in a few states, the ideas generally was viewed, of course, as a complete absurdity when announced. Fringe political activists like Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and other women's rights pioneers — the suffragists — circulated petitions and lobbied Congress to pass a constitutional amendment to enfranchise women. No doubt, regular law-abiding people looked on at this heresy with the kind of puzzled bemusement which King George III himself would have assigned to the absurd notion that just government existed by consent of the governed.

Seventy years after the crazies convened at Seneca Falls, and countless hours of discussions across the dinner tables of America, and at cocktail parties across the nation, arguments for why women should be allowed to vote had changed people minds. And, thus the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified.

Today, the notion that women should be disenfranchised seems queer. And so, a whole new political paradigm is spreading around the world. Women voting is still viewed as ridiculous in places like the Vatican. Saudi Arabia and some other authoritarian countries have recently removed legal restrictions on women voting, but there remain enormous political and social pressures preventing free voting by women because so many people in these places just can't embrace even the idea of women voting. Political paradigm shifts occur at a glacial pace.

There are many examples of such political paradigm shifts that occur when enough people's thinking on political policy changes. The 18th Amendment, repealed by the 21st Amendment to the US Constitution, codified two important paradigm shifts in political thinking across America respecting consumption of alcoholic beverages. Today, more than eighty years after the repeal of prohibition, the idea of the government's banning alcohol possession and consumption seems a totally discredited concept, but clearly, there was a time when most thoughtful people found that idea to be well-reasoned and obviously a very good idea — enough to amend our Constitution at least for a while.

In February of 1942, the U.S. started rounding up and incarcerating 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry, most of whom lived on the Pacific coast. Today, that's unthinkable for most Americans — so unthinkable that it's hard to even fathom why it was embraced as an essential safety measure by vast swaths of America. And, yet, at the time, the policy was widely accepted by Americans who thought it an important safety measure.

In 1971, President Richard Nixon declared drug abuse "public enemy number one." About that time, the War on Drugs was launched to rid America of that problem. I opposed that idea rather vehemently in discussions with family and friends at cocktail parties, asserting that it was a bad idea and would lead inexorably to misery and counterproductive behaviors. I argued that the War on Drugs should be immediately ended. And, those of us promoting and end to the drug war were met by the kind of puzzled bemusement that no doubt mirrored the way people first treated the women's suffrage nuts, and the way King George and his fellow courtesans responded to the idea of government by "consent of the governed." That is to say, opposition to the Drug War was viewed as evidence of, if not full mental derangement, at least gross ignorance and stupidity.

Yet, today, in Washington State, people can walk into a store and easily buy edible marijuana products and also buy "bud" off the shelf. Society hasn't crumbled. What's happened is a political paradigm shift in the thinking of most Americans on the subject of dope. It's no longer proof of idiocy to discuss simply legalizing all drug possession and use. Instead of puzzled bemusement, the exact same drug policy conversations dismissed decades ago as "nutty" are now seen as politically enlightened by many, and at least worthy of serious discussion by most all Americans. Things have changed, but its taken almost 50 years, and still wide swaths of America embrace the Drug War with zeal because, again, these paradigm shifts take a long, long time — what's heresy one day is often adopted as normal, obvious and correct much later.

Being libertarian is hard because it requires a radical paradigm shift in one's thinking about society and the state. Even discussing the vision means mostly being dismissed as nutty or deranged in much the same way advocates of consent of the governed were dismissed or the way advocates of women's suffrage were dismissed, opponents of the drug war were dismissed or those opposed to rounding up Japanese-Americans were dismissed as idiotic and unworthy of serious discussion.

When the state goes into the community and forcibly collects up tax money, it's involuntarily taking the property of peaceful people. That is, in fact, simply theft. We all know this intellectually but like the internment of Japanese-Americans, prohibition, the war on drugs, excluding women from voting, slavery and all manner of errors — all wrongs committed by government — taxation occurs today with the widespread consent of Americans. In fact, even asserting publicly the idea that we should abandon taxation as a method for funding government most always generates the kind of puzzled bemusement that no doubt King George III felt on reading Tom Jefferson's assertion that government derives its just authority from consent of the governed. It generates the same incredulity faced by people who asserted, at the time it was happening, that it was wrong to intern Japanese-Americans, wrong to preclude women from voting and wrong to outlaw possession of alcohol or pot. The idea that we should end the practice of taxation is not debated and rejected, it's rather dismissed out-of-hand as silly, impossible, or unworkable. And, after all, no society anywhere exists, or ever existed, without taxation. It's impossible. It's absurd.

We all know that taxation is theft and it's wrong. However, most everyone knows that there's a real role for government in society – even libertarians. And therein lies a conundrum: How to fund an important and necessary institution without breaching the central tenant of libertarian philosophy — the nonaggression principle, which prohibits theft? Is it possible or realistic to even have a libertarian government?

Many Americans accept uncritically the entire notion of taxation because, as outlined above, they can't really fathom a community without taxation. Such a society has never existed anywhere. But, mostly, the practice of taxation is accepted because the government provides so many important services — things that most people find too important to let disappear. How would interstate highways be built without taxes? How would fire and emergency services be provided? How can we even have a police force without taxation? Without taxes, wouldn't many of the poor starve? How can we be sure that won't be the result?

Libertarians are often asked those questions. And, imaginative libertarians have all manner of answers for how these important activities would be funded in the absence of taxation. But, the truth of is this: Although there are ways to fund everything without taxation, no one knows exactly how these activities would be funded absent taxation. Much more importantly, no one knows if these important activities would be funded without taxation.

To be libertarian and to fully embrace the philosophy, one must allow a paradigm shift in thinking to take place. What's needed is the ability to accept the idea that it's OK if money is spent on things other than what's now deemed "essential services." If, in fact, people chose to rely on insurance and abandon fire departments, that's OK. Weird to be sure. Unlikely to happen in reality, but OK. Nothing is so important we need to steal money from our neighbors to fund. Libertarians know that even if they largely agree that some things are really, really important and even if there's no certainty about how these really, really important things would be funded absent the tax-and-spend model.

Libertarians understand that most of what most people do is a voluntary transaction. I invite you to dinner, you bring the wine. I give you $6 million, you research cancer cures. You pay me $5,000, I paint your house. It's how most of us live our lives most or all of the time. It's all a negotiated deal — a trade. It's voluntary exchange and its all voluntary interaction with others.

However, when someone goes around hitting others or stealing things, we stop negotiating about that behavior, and instead, people rise up, grab the offender, and toss him into the pit. This is not a negotiated outcome, it's an exercise of pure power. In uncivilized society, that's called a "lynch mob." In civilized society, the power of the lynch mob is organized and institutionalized and called "government." To minimize errors, the rules by which a person can be seized and thrown into the pit are figured out in advance and the process by which power is exercised is prescribed in advance. This minimizes the erroneous deployment of the power of the lynch mob.

Libertarians understand this and embrace the idea of a state designed to carry out the essential and important job of defending citizens from those who go around hitting others or stealing things.

Libertarians quibble about what exactly is hitting others or stealing things and so embracing the core philosophy doesn't end discussion about what it means. Is abortion murder or is a fertilized egg simply not a human life? When does life end, and is it hitting others to engage in assisted suicide? Is discrimination against a lesbian couple in business a form of bulling or hitting others that properly should be prevented by state action? Is the copying and resale of a musical MP3 or a movie on DVD theft? These are all complicated and difficult questions and libertarians discuss such things in an effort to reach understanding, but libertarians don't argue about the idea that it's appropriate for the state to defend its citizens from violence or theft.

Libertarian political philosophy is often characterized as a philosophy of "smaller government." However the shear size of government, it's expense, and its intrusiveness are not things about which the philosophy of the liberty movement really says anything of importance. Even the most radical of libertarians doesn't believe that people should be allowed to go around hitting others or stealing their things with impunity. Libertarians aren't anarchists, and even the most radical of libertarians envisions a government assigned the job of addressing thieves, cut-throats, rapists and con-men. Given that, whether the government is large or small depends on how much thievery, assault, murder and the like exists. If a lot of that existed, then libertarians would expect a large government designed to address that expansive problem — if the problem were small, then only small government would be needed. Whatever the absolute size of government, libertarians think it should exist, implying it must be funded.

Some Libertarians have recently started circulating the logo "Taxation is Theft!" After nearly 50 years of more modest characterizations of the Libertarian Party's political philosophy, I've come to understand that, irrespective of the political effectiveness of the phrase, it's perhaps the most concise statement of the philosophy of libertarianism.

Julius Caesar's crossing of the Rubicon River with his army was an event in January 49 B.C. that precipitated the Roman Civil War and ultimately led to Caesar becoming dictator. It led to the rise of the imperial era of Rome and changed the world. Today, the phrase "crossing the Rubicon" is a metaphor that means to pass a point of no return — a point at which the world changes fundamentally.

If libertarians can persuade the world that taxation is theft — no small or simple task — we will have finally crossed the Rubicon and the libertarian future will arrive if not fast and furiously, inevitably. We will have destroyed the underpinnings of what we know now as the modern state.

John Mills, a lawyer from Tacoma, Wash., is a 40-year libertarian activist, former chair of LPWA and a previous candidate for multiple state and federal offices.

LP CONTACTS

HEADQUARTERS
1444 Duke St.
Alexandria, VA 22314
Phone: (202) 333-0008
Fax: (202) 333-0072

NATIONAL CHAIR
Joe Bishop-Henchman

STAFF
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Dan Fishman

OPERATIONS DIRECTOR
Robert Kraus

DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR
Tara DeSisto

PUBLICATIONS EDITOR
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CANDIDATE RECRUITMENT
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DEVELOPMENT
Bekah Congdon

EXTERNAL RELATIONS
Matthew Thexton

EXTERNAL RELATIONS
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MEMBERSHIP MANAGER
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Go to **LP.org/run** and send us your inquiry. You'll receive information from your state LP affiliate or from the national LP headquarters that you need to get started on your campaign.

Court: 1A makes OKC ROW A-OK

By Cherise Norton
OKLP Secretary

On Aug. 31, the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in favor of the plaintiffs in McCraw et al v. City of Oklahoma City, upholding free speech by overturning a city ordinance banning people from standing in public roadway medians. Plaintiffs included the Oklahoma Libertarian Party, specifically representing the right to political speech in public thoroughfare right-of-ways.

Originally proposed in an effort to restrict the rights of panhandlers, the ordinance was quickly amended to disguise that purpose by cloaking it in manufactured public safety concerns. Former OKLP Chair Tina Kelly, a witness in the district court trial, testified to the use of medians for political activity including petitioning for ballot access and campaigning for candidates. Although the federal district court upheld the ordinance, on appeal, the 10th Circuit noted that the city could not produce any data evidencing that being in medians is dangerous and, comparing the work of OKC Beautiful volunteers to what the city sought to prohibit, saying, "[s]urely if it is safe for volunteers to be on the medians long enough to beautify them, it is also safe for plaintiffs to be on the medians for similar periods of time."

The victory is reminiscent of a 1984 case when the district court overturned trespassing charges by the city against Annie Wampler, Neil Wright and D. Frank Robinson for petitioning for ballot access on public property outside a gun show at the state fairgrounds.

Tina Kelly campaigns in an Oklahoma City median on June 26th, 2018 in violation of city ordinance. That ordinance was struck down by the 10th Circuit on Aug. 31, 2020.
(Photo courtesy of Cherise Norton)

Media Buzz

From FOXNews.com:

Libertarian candidate Jo Jorgensen declares 'worst' president in US history – and it may surprise you

Jo Jorgensen weighed in Monday on her pick for the "worst" president in the U.S. ever – and it wasn't a commander-in-chief from recent history.

"It's not Donald Trump. It's not Barack Obama. Neither of them even come close," the Libertarian Party's 2020 presidential nominee, tweeted. "In fact, it's not any modern President."

She said it was former President Woodrow Wilson, who she blamed for "two great financial evils."

Those were the 16th Amendment, which established the federal income tax, and the Federal Reserve Act, which created the nation's central bank.

Those two moves, she argued, allowed the federal government to "spend ourselves into financial ruin at taxpayer expense."

"Without these we likely would not be able to 'afford' our endless wars or the broken welfare system," she wrote.

She instead argued in favor of "abolishing" the income tax, revived the argument for auditing the Federal Reserve and also said she would switch the country to a "commodity backed currency."

The Libertarian is on the ballot in all 50 states and is the first woman to be selected to top the party's ticket. She has bemoaned being left out of the presidential debates and criticized the two-party system in addition to the foreign and economic policies of both Democrats and Republicans.

Read the rest at:
tinyurl.com/y4mlyb4p