

Let Freedom Ring!

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Horton in Near-Miss

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 cal newsletters articles and complete sections from the *Libertarian Strategy Gazette*.

WALP Wins!

The Washington Libertarian Party elected 9, including a Mayor and three city councilmen, and collected 135,134 votes for state Libertarians. Libertarian Winners included:
 Mayor, Sumas Bob Bromley 59.91%
 Kent City Council Bruce White 58.03%
 Granite Falls City Council Ray E. Huff, Jr. R 61%
 South Elum Town Council Scott MacQuarrie 52%
In Other Races:
 Virginia Governor William Redpath 14,591 0.8%
 New Jersey Governor Mark Edgerton 4,307 0.2%
 Mayor of New York Kenny Kramer 2,033 0.1%
 NJ Senate Thomas D. Abrams 539 1.2%
 NJ State Assembly
 Robert Hull 673 0.57%
 John M. Taylor 657 0.56%
 Diane Hittner 867 0.74%
 Christopher C. Toto 586 0.67%
 W. T. Peabody 191 0.94%
 C. E. Austin 522 2.63%
 J. E. Simpson 353 2.35%
 J. H. Girardeau III 498 1.98%
 Michael Enquist 360 1.59%

Libertarian Jerry Horton of Worcester, Massachusetts, ran a close race for City Council against five-term incumbent Steve Patten. Horton narrowly missed victory, losing by about 300 votes of just under 7000 cast. This was their second race; in 1999 Horton lost by about 500 votes. Unlike two years ago, Horton's opponent pulled out all the stops, with a heavy get out the vote drive by local unions, sign-holders, lawn signs, and a letter signed by the local Congressman, State Legislators,... Despite the effort, Patten gained only about 100 new voters relative to 1999, while Horton gained 300.

Horton's campaign, which was supported by the Liberty Tree Small Government PAC, the Libertarian Victory fund, and several Republican groups, raised close to \$15,000. His campaign efforts included mailings, sign holdouts, and automated telephone drives. Horton walked the district extensively, personally approaching thousands of voters. He also successfully mobilized Libertarian and Republican political activists from Worcester and environs. Worcester, the third largest city in New England, has five City Council Districts, each with about 35,000 residents. The city has a half-billion dollars in debt and the worst schools in the county.

LP Candidates at PVLA

November 14, 2001. Libertarian candidates for partisan office assembled today at the Pioneer Valley Libertarian Association monthly meeting. State Rep candidate Al Wilcox, State Senate candidates Carol McMahon and Kamal Jain, probable Governor's Council candidate Charles Separk, and three Congressional candidates (Ilana Freedman, David Euchner, George Phillies) appeared. Attendance, boosted by a postcard sent to 1200 local party members, set a recent PVLA record. First time attendees included a Party member who joined back as far as 1972. Many eastern Massachusetts Libertarians never got an invitation. In 2000, the Massachusetts state group disaffiliated the PVLA. Since then, the LPMA led by Eli Israel refuses to let PVLA events to be announced on its email list—even this one, with LPMA candidates the prime attraction and announcements sent listwards by members of the LPMA board.

LNC Financials Continue Poor

Public and other sources in the National Committee confirm that National Committee finances remain challenging. After remaining quiescent since September 11, the LNC Executive Committee met twice in November. Reports indicate that the National party was barely able to make its payroll, and barely missed making UMP payments to member states.

The last of the certificates of deposit is gone; the LNC has absolutely no remaining financial reserves. Emergency electronic appeals for additional cash netted thousands and thousands of dollars, but at one point LNC, Inc., still had under \$10 in the bank. Critics note that before the LNC voted to approve selling the CDs to treat the then-current fiscal crisis, the LNC did not ask in detail about working plans for covering known near-future bills. USPS statements that mail has been delivered lead one to ask how much longer 9/11 will be scapegoated for financial failings apparently beginning before 9/11.

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Funding the National Party

My preference for funding LPUS is that we insist on practicing what we preach, that our organization of the LPUS in relation to State LPs be instituted how we would want Federal government toward the states and the people.

Most of LPUS funding should come from the state LPs as the Federals should apply to the state governments for revenue, with Federal to individual interaction kept to a minimum.

Control and power is where the wealth comes from and is held. Most funding appeals should be made on behalf of state LPs, who would then tell LPUS what they want. Authority and responsibility must be reintegrated as close to local control as possible.

This past election our NJ gubernatorial candidate (Mark Edgerton) was told he had to pay for the LPUS mailing list. I don't know all the particulars of this situation, but it seems to me that our own "bureau-geoisie" in LPUS DC should be there to serve local electoral candidates, not to set up gate tolls to make it more expensive than need be. We are all supposedly working toward some common goals of getting libertarians elected, we all pay dues to get access to LPUS resources, yet LPUS sets toll-rending barriers between our candidates to access libertarian contributors? Was this mailing list fee supposed to be a "traffic congestion user fee" or what? Was there an excessive demand for this same list by too many Libertarian candidates at once this past election, or what? Are we trying to encourage LP candidates or are we trying to *limit* them by internally imposed LPUS fees?

How ignorant is this? Can anyone spell "entrenchment?" How about "special privilege" or "license" that is extracted at the expense of equal liberty? How about only libertarianism for the "well heeled?"

The "royal libertarian" mindset at National seems endemic. National needs to stop running LPUS as if it were a private colonial fiefdom, as a close corporation for a favored select few. All the "finger-pointing" would disappear overnight if there was a tidal change in LPUS mindset. I'm not concerned with the nitty-gritty particulars so much but with into what the overall pattern is integrating.

Libertarians at National need to realize that the heart of libertarianism is a coalition to replace political power & privilege with equal liberty. We can't replace the establishment's politics if our own LPUS "bureau-geoisie" routinely mimics the same habits and metaphors as our alleged political enemies.

Libertarianism should not be about neo-feudalism. Equal Liberty is the heart of Civil Society. Until LPUS starts learning to be "civil" to all libertarians equally, we aren't going to convince many new people, nor encourage our existing members much.. Chris Toto Mercer County Chair LPNJ

After-Action Report — Springfield

I recently attempted to run for mayor of Springfield. 500 signatures are required to get on the ballot. One must have a depository account. [GP: Despite the similarity of names, this is a unique sort of account specified by Massachusetts State Law for certain candidates.] The first bank cancelled my depository account because they did not want to work with the Office of Campaign Finance Management. The second bank said that I needed a business certificate to get the depository account. One word these red tape requirements, they are a killer to a small campaign without professional staff to handle the red tape. I think PACS, or some other way to handle this is best. We need to allow the candidate to be a candidate. I am sure the goal is to keep minor party candidates off the ballot.

My daughter and I collected signatures in front of Stop and Shop on Liberty Street. Most people were retired and would not sign the petition. Many people appeared to be afraid to put their name on something.

In the Spanish speaking precincts on lower Carew Street, where there were about 40 write-in votes the last time I was well received. When they found that I was against the incumbent they were ready to sign. They were actually reading the pamphlets. But, there were not enough of them to make a dent in the 500 signature requirement.

I found that the voting list in Springfield is about 40% accurate. When I went door to door I found that the people on the list were not there. Other people that told me that they were registered at that address were not on the list. On my street some who had moved away years ago are listed as active voters. This means that a well funded campaign that keeps its own records has an advantage over a small one that uses the official voting lists. Not to whine, but the official voting lists made it impossible for a small campaign to get 500 valid signatures fast enough. I even found vacant lot registered to vote.

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Alternative Campaign Paths

I have read the LPMA news about the Mathias campaign. He seemed to be a little defensive about getting 10% of the vote. In some ways he did what many libertarians do.

His volunteers canvassed people who voted every election. In a city the people who vote in every election are usually connected to the police, court system, jail, constables, city employees, people connected to the patronage system. When there is a low turnout, this group runs the election, along with retirees and welfare people on subsidized housing. Election day in a city is the day stealing is legal. Those who do not work band together to plunder those who do. I think Mathias did himself a disservice in going after the habitual voters.

I think most of us grossly over estimate the influence of issues on determining how a person votes. In the cities people vote like the Afghans, on tribal affiliation and payoffs. They vote because of family connections, connections to the patronage system, etc. It is not unusual to find people working for candidates whose philosophy is the opposite of the campaign worker. They payoffs usually are fairly cheap, a municipal job for a relative, help in getting a subsidized apartment, etc. Essentially Mathias was telling this group that they would have to go to work and pay for their own apartment.

...Bob Underwood

Campaigning to Win ...More Than Once

After Jerry Horton's near-miss election, I sent a note to the elist of his supporters, proposing several things that he could do. This message is an expansion on that note:

Let me first congratulate Jerry on an extremely hard-fought campaign. He put everything he had into it, generated a super group of volunteers, and closed on his opponent. Mr. Patten had to call in all his chips and line up his political friends -- and he still lost ground on Jerry.

What could be done better in 2003? Let me suggest a few themes:

Worcester needs change badly. The City is a half-billion in debt. If we pay for sidewalk repair with bonds, that means we pay the contractor once. And then we pay the banker friends of the city council twice more. We need a team on the Council, not one voice, to bring that change. And we need to educate people about how foolish going into debt is, except possibly for the largest of capital projects. The school department has a larger salary for administrators than for teachers. The school maintenance budget for its 100 buildings is \$150,000 — that's total, not per building. That amount per building won't maintain a house, let alone a schoolful of children. I could go on, but the theme is that Worcester City government is grossly incompetent.

To win elections we need to bring out volunteers and encourage activism. How do we get this?

1) Line up a more or less full team of candidates. Mr. Mur-

ray cannot spend his time campaigning for Mr. Patten if he is busy covering his own turf. The statement that Worcester races are non-partisan only means that the party label does not appear on the ballot. The Worcester Renaissance (or whatever) group can still do group standouts, use common colors in their ads, and make clear that they have common goals in running for all the City Council and School Committee seats. For 2002 we need to recruit nine city council candidates and additional school committee candidates.

2) Resort to private free enterprise. Worcester is perfectly able to support a weekly newspaper. Consider another newspaper, one dedicated to the idea that the future is "Get Rich" not "Collect another miserable welfare check". A newspaper that stands up for the Bill of Rights that stands up for the Bill of Rights, rather than claiming that the Second Amendment refers to the National Guard. A newspaper that stands up for economic rights of the poor, by attacking city licensing requirements that reserve jobs for white italo-irish catholics. A part of that theme is 'lower taxes, so businesses flee to Worcester'. To do this, you need an editor, a printer, and a team to remind Worcester businessmen that advertising in a low-tax newspaper is a good investment.

3) You need more bodies, for voter base, volunteers, and donors. Staffers and volunteers breed themselves, if they see you are doing things. They do nothing if they see nothing to do. We have never had a Libertarian state legislator on the ballot here in Worcester. We should get SEVEN next year—up to redistricting.

Once people get involved, they will stay involved, if you give them something to do. Next Spring, put a full slate of candidates on the 2002 ballot. And then remember the public policy questions, which you can petition for *after* state rep candidates are on the ballot, but *before* the fall campaign starts. Public policy questions mobilize people on our side. All the volunteers and supporters you develop with the 2002 candidates are potentially available in 2003.

Remember, you want a voter base. The voter base is the people who will Vote Libertarian! without asking complicated policy questions, like the names of the candidates. The Democrats and Republicans are ahead of us because they both have big voter bases.

Many people will support you because of your one issue, the one issue that they care about. You don;t need their agreement on everything: You need their agreement that you are supporting their one issue, and therefore that they will vote for you.

Finally, on partisan elections the message *must* be **VOTE LIBERTARIAN** Elect Phillies, and not **ELECT PHILLIES**
Vote Libertarian Campaigns must be seen as developing our voter base, not as isolated forays into the wilderness [this is not the same as running educational campaign] or they will vanish like the snows of yesteryear.

Protecting Our Rights

This announcement goes to my freedom-loving friends, many of whom have expressed concern over the accelerated loss of civil rights in the wake of Sept. 11.

How can we prevent America from following the path of Germany in 1938? How can we make sure this doesn't become the Land of "Papers, Please," and the Home of Staying Home?

Maybe we can; maybe not. The good news is that concern over this trend comes from both the political left and the right as well as the steadfast libertarian commitment to liberty. More people are ready to listen to questions about the propriety of government actions in this arena than perhaps for any other issue in recent memory.

The bad news is that most of America appears to be caught up in the swell of mindless nationalism that naturally produces support for almost anything Our Government does. How can we get their attention and show them the threat to the future of freedom in America?

In the various online discussion groups I belong to I've laid low for a couple of weeks as this discussion has developed. Why? Because I was feverishly working on a solution.

A 'Cookie-Cutter' Program for Activists

What I've developed is a simple way for people to get the message out, primarily using quality posters they can reproduce inexpensively on their own (and in whatever quantity they like). I provide the artwork on a new web site, "Welcome to Homeland Security," at the simple "redirect" URL <http://welcome.to/HomelandSecurity> (or, if you'd prefer to avoid a few pop-up ad windows, the direct URL <http://www.geocities.com/azliberty/HomelandSecurity/home-sec.htm>).

There, I encourage people to download, reproduce, and use the designs (intact) however they see fit -- even for a profit if they wish. The point, after all, is to spread a message -- not to make a buck... History buffs may recognize a design resemblance to Nazi propaganda posters -- quite intentional, I assure you.

So ... I now have an answer to the "What should we do?" questions I've been hearing. At least ONE thing to do is ready and waiting for you. One more thing should be obvious: Spread the word. Tell your friends about how they can use this simple, inexpensive "cookie-cutter" program to start sewing the seeds of doubt among those who trust too easily.

For those of you who'd like to look at an expanded array of freedom-oriented designs that are now available on shirts, mugs, tote bags, mouse pads, and other products you can use to grab attention in public, visit my other recently created site, <http://welcome.to/LibertariAntics>.
Let's roll. ...Kent Van Cleave

Columnists Condemn Bush

New York Times' right-wing columnist William Safire, in a column available at <http://www.nytimes.com/2001/11/15/opinion/15SAFI.html> says in part...

"...a President of the United States has just assumed what amounts to dictatorial power to jail or execute aliens... we are letting George W. Bush get away with the replacement of the American rule of law with military kangaroo courts...In his infamous emergency order, Bush....seizes the power to circumvent the courts and set up his own drumhead tribunals..."

News

Libertarians Carol Hill and Joe Swyers were elected to the city council seat in Leadville, Colorado. Two additional Councilors, Ken Cary and Lisa Dowdney, switched their registrations soon after election day. It now appears that four of seven Leadville City Council members, come January, 2002, will be Libertarians. Leadville appears to be the second town in the history of the Party to have a Libertarian majority on its city council. The San Miguel County Sheriff is a Libertarian. San Miguel County Coroner Robert Dempsey re-registered Libertarian and resigned as Secretary of the San Miguel County Republican Party, which he has been since 1980. Dempsey changed parties in protest over Attorney General Ashcroft's efforts to suppress the Oregon law permitting assisted suicide for the mortally ill.

Dan Wisnosky, LNC Alternate Member from Nevada, has announced his resignation from all of his Libertarian Party posts.

LNC Secretary Steve Givot has reopened his attacks on LNC At-Large Member Lois Kaneshiki. Givot concluded a huge, widely-circulated missive:

"I have served on many boards of directors, however I have never seen a more egregious act by a fellow board member than Ms. Kaneshiki has demonstrated in authoring this article [Kaneshiki's article in Liberty magazine.]

In the best of cases, Ms. Kaneshiki is not capable of accurately recalling and accurately referencing matters of fact. If this is the case, we have a director on our board who is a loose cannon -- someone willing to make public statements which have no relation to reality and which potentially can damage the organization.

In the worst of cases, Ms. Kaneshiki is deliberately dishonest and willfully attempting to harm the organization.

So, I pose the question, can the LNC afford to continue to have a board member who -- through either incompetent or malice -- poses a threat to the health of the organization?

I don't think so.

If any of you is interested in pursuing this discussion, please contact me privately."