
Libertarian Strategy Gazette

Volume 3 Number 10

Oc-

LNC/State Chairs Debate Spending

Bonnie Scott forwards to us:

----- Steve Givot writes: (regarding states) If you don't have money to fund all of these, then you don't have enough money:

- * At least one full time person on staff so that there is always someone there to answer inquiries from the media or voters.
- * A permanent office in one of the larger media markets in your state so that you look and feel like a serious political party.
- * A toll-free (e.g. "800") number which you can display prominently on literature and use in news releases
- * A program to send news releases to every television station, radio station, and newspaper (daily or weekly) in your state on a routine basis. These releases would be used to provide the party's viewpoint or reaction to the news that the media is already covering in your state as well as information on party and candidate activities (e.g. conventions, campaigns, public appearances).
- * A campus outreach program which seeks to establish a Libertarian Party organization at every significant college or university in your state.
- * A program to contact every new member by telephone within a month of joining to welcome that person into the LP.
- * A program to contact every non-new member by telephone at least once a year **without** asking for money.

There are a lot more things that require money to do well that I have not listed.

I scrupulously avoid making the (ludicrous, IMHO) claim that the party can bring us freedom. Instead, the party can provide a platform for activists to advance freedom in their own way. We do this by maintaining a ballot line for candidates to run on, being a point of contact for the public and the press, helping local groups organize, and acting as a means to challenge laws that require being a political party for standing.

Jason Auvenshine
Chair of the Arizona LP

I encourage every state to reduce the costs for our national office by promoting early renewal. It isn't the only thing we need to do....but it will help.

When UMP is completely paid to date.....we might, repeat might, have a few grains of credibility with activists who pay the way.

Bill Gelineau, Chair
Libertarian Party of Michigan----

State Chairs Meet

Part Seven

Bob Sullentrup, State Chair of Missouri, has again prepared an extended set of notes on the States Chairs meeting. This article began in the March 2003 **Let Freedom Ring!** and is available as a complete article in the *Electronic Supplement* to the March 2003 issue of **Libertarian Strategy Gazette** <http://www.cmlc.org/cmlc/pubs.htm>.

Sullentrup writes:

Memo 2, Definitions

From: "B. Dorsey" <viola4@earthlink.net>
To: "ecLPNC" <ecLPNC@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, October 21, 2002 4:26 PM
Subject: [ecLPNC] FECA and BCRA Definitions

Folks, here are some terms and their meanings as they apply in FECA and BCRA. This will help in understanding my recommendations (which will follow in another note) for ensuring that we are in compliance with these laws.

1) FECA: Federal Election Campaign Act (the "Act"). Currently in effect. Remains in effect after 11/6/02 but some parts are modified by BCRA.

2) BCRA: Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act. Becomes effective on 11/6/02 by modifying FECA.

3) Political Committee: A political organization that during a calendar year raises more than \$1000 in "contributions" OR spends more than \$1000 in "expenditures." "Contributions" and "expenditures" must be given/made for the purpose of influencing a federal election. When a political organization becomes a Political Committee, it must register and file reports with the FEC.

LPNC is not a Political Committee at this time.

4) Federal Funds: Funds that comply with the limitations, prohibitions and reporting requirement of the Act. Also known as "hard money".

LPNC does not currently [as of 10/21/02] have any Federal Funds.

5) Non-Federal Funds: Funds not subject to the Act. Also known as "soft money".

LPNC currently has exclusively Non-Federal Funds.

[State Chairs Meet] (Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1) [State Chairs Meet]

6) Levin Funds: A new type of funds creating under BCRA. Levin funds are subject to some requirement of the Act and some additional requirements in BCRA. Can be used to pay for certain type of FEA (see below). Named after the legislative sponsor of the amendment that created these funds. All contributions we receive from fundraising letters and pledges, except those amounts that exceed \$10,000 from any contributor in one year, are Levin funds. On 11/6/02 much of our funds will be considered Levin Funds. Under BCRA, we will have lots more Levin funds than we will need.

7) FEA: Federal Election Activities. This is a new class of activity defined in BCRA and means any of the following activities:

- a) Voter registration activity during the 120 day period prior to a federal election.
- b) Voter identification, generic campaign activities, and GOTV activities in connection with a federal election.
- c) A public communication that refers to a clearly-identified federal candidate and that promotes, supports, attacks or opposes any federal candidate.
- d) Service provided by an employee who spends more than 25% of his compensated time during a month on activities in connection with federal election.

Although a large part of BCRA deals with FEA and the new Levin funds, LPNC only engages in a very limited amount of FEA and we will have plenty of Levin funds to pay for these expenses. The primary impact of BCRA on us will be unrelated to these issues.

8) "In connection with a federal election" means that time period between the earliest filing deadline for the primary ballot for federal candidates to election day. In N.C. this is about 9 months out of the 2-year cycle.

9) "Voter registration activity" means contacting individuals by telephone, in person or by other individualized means to assist them in registering to vote. This includes simply sending them a voter registration form.

10) "Voter identification" means creating or enhancing voter lists by adding information about voters' likelihood of voting in a particular election or voting for a particular candidate.

11) "Generic Campaign Activities" means a public communication that promotes a political party and does not promote or oppose a clearly-identified federal or non-federal candidate.

12) "GOTV Activities" means contacting registered voters by telephone, in person or other individualized means in order to assist them in voting. This includes providing individual voters, within 72 hours of an election, with information about when and where polling places are open as well

as transporting or offering to transport voters to polling places.

13) A "public communication" means any communication by means of TV, cable, satellite, radio, newspaper, magazine, billboard, mass mailing, telephone bank of any other form of general public political advertising. Communications over the Internet are specifically NOT included in the definition of public communication.

Miscellaneous

A list of useful web sites for Libertarian Party information, compiled by Joe Dehn:

- General website www.lp.org
- LP archive site archive.lp.org
- LPUS Library www.dehnbase.org/lpus/library/
- LNC Meeting Summaries www.dehnbase.org/lpus/library/meetings.html
- LNC Official Minutes archive.lp.org/lnc/
- LNC Audio Recordings www.dehnbase.org/mav.cgi
- Strategic Planning [www.dehnbase.org/lpus/library/spt /](http://www.dehnbase.org/lpus/library/spt/)

Errors and Omissions

These are the notes as I took them at the Houston Libertarian Party State Chairs conference, embellished for readability.

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New Polling Technology

We do not usually run articles from third-party suppliers describing their products. On the other hand, the potential offer here is sufficiently novel, and sufficiently appealing to low-budget Libertarian operations, that it appeared worthwhile to give the supplier a chance to describe his product. The Editor emphasizes that he is not a technonerd and is not making claims for the efficacy of what is described here:

Technological Polling from the Scientific Research Group and Consumer Research Technologies

In 1935 a man named Gallup had a revolutionary idea that forever changed the face of political campaigning. This idea is a not new one; we have just taken it to the next level. We found a way to do it for less than 5% of their cost of doing business. No matter whether you are running for President or City Counsel, the math works out the same. Welcome to the future of political polling technology.

We have a technology that will allow you to:

- Test statements before a debate. Test speeches before they are delivered. Test your opponent's statements before a debate to prepare rebuttals.
- Notify party members of scheduled events or ask for volunteers with the ease of turning on your computer.
- Measure internal party confidence. Keep your finger on the pulse of your strongest supporters.
- Hear the voices of registered voters directly through .WAV file. (Recorded Voice, commonly referred to as WAVE files, can be delivered directly to an email address).
- Gather donations.
- Deliver a completely unbiased message directly to a registered voter. The undivided attention to your statement could change the opinion of one, who may have an effect on the environment around them.
- A perfectly delivered and duplicated interview allowing a better quality of research than has been delivered historically by manned call centers.
- Supplement the machine by allowing volunteers to log in and work from the comfort of their home. They simply log in and the dialer does the work. Connecting them to live people who they can speak to on any number of subjects.
- The number of people you can contact is limited only by how many ports (phone lines) you have, how long your message or poll is, and how much time you have to meet your deadline.
- Conduct polling in local events that are not usually tracked carefully by bigger polling agencies. Track every member of your party to help them better their position in government, and give them an edge the other candidates do not.
- Change public opinion.
- Encourage young people to vote through voter awareness campaigns.

- Use it to increase voter awareness across income levels, geographic areas, and ethnic groups.
- Conduct voter research all the time for the cost of your flat rate phone bill. Run research year round, gathering data for the next election or big event. Would you walk into a battle unarmed if you had the means to arm yourself?

This is a chance to level the playing field. The two big ones have learned the value of these projects, and that is why they spend millions. You now have the unique opportunity of getting a better quality of research at less than 5% of the cost that the top pollsters put forth.

Here is your new political weapon:

- -4 port system capable more than 9,000 interviews a month at 5 minutes length. If you run across all 6 time zones that number goes up to 22,500. The length of the interview is unlimited. Complete with full IVR (Interactive Voice Response) voice broadcasting system.
- -100 million number DNC compliant residential database, updated as necessary.
- -Free lifetime tech support and free upgrades.
- -An assigned tech support person. This person will handle all of your tech support so you don't have to waste time repeating yourself.
- -Intralada (in State long distance) at a rate of \$29.95 per line per month. That is \$120 for unlimited in-state calling per 4 ports.
- -Free business fax database, over 1 million numbers. Faxes can be sent at a rate of 2,000 in a night. There is a fax blasting system available that would bring it up to between 3,000-5,000 a night per 4 port system.
- -Free email harvester and HTML editor that allows you to create professional looking emails. The installed email broadcaster can send out up to 100k an hour per 4 port system
- -Free script consultation.
- -Complete control of your Polling or Voter Awareness Project.
- -Additional ports are available in sets of 4 for \$1,400. Server handles a total of 240 ports per machine. To increase your volume, simply add more ports.

All this for \$2,995 plus the \$120 a month phone bill for a 4 port system. You could talk to over 9,000 registered voters a month for the cost of the phone bill. That works out to less than 2 cents per contacted registered voter. On average the big polling houses charge between \$20-\$50 dollars for the same thing. You buy it, you own it, and we support it.

I hope to be hearing from you soon.

Abe Hagenston

Director of Marketing

Scientific Research Group

Consumer Research Technologies

www.turbo-tel.com ahagenston@tampabay.rr.com

ahagenston@aol.com 727-847-7427

Data Base Management

As some of you may know, for the last few years I have been working on putting the LP of Michigan database system on-line. We have been using my system for quite some time now in Michigan. When the national LP began talking about getting a new database system, I continued working on my system for Michigan, but didn't take it any further. It now appears that the national LP will not be obtaining a new database any time soon, so I am going to offer my on-line database system to any LP affiliate that is interested.

Here are the terms...

I am offering the software free of charge to all LP affiliates for their exclusive, yet unlimited use. Source code is included and the affiliate is free to modify the source code. However, nobody may resell or give away the software, nor may they resell or give away any derivative work. LP affiliates are free to exchange any enhancements and derivative work among themselves. The affiliates are responsible for providing their own server for hosting this system. I have found a company that provides a suitable web service for \$5/month -- this system could support 10 affiliates simultaneously.

I will now take some space to describe the system... The system uses MySQL, a free SQL database. The web scripts are written in PHP which is also a free web scripting language. There is a small amount of code written in C.

When the system is set up, the set up includes a special email address. The national party will send the weekly database updates to that address. Every day at around 3am a program runs, checks the email, and if an update is present, if merges the data into the database. Upon completion, the program emails the database manager a brief note saying that the database has been updated.

The database manager is responsible for giving user ids to people who need it -- usually county chairs. A user id either has permission to access the entire state or permission for a particular county (or group of counties). Individual records may be accessed by anybody, but when it comes to generating lists, each user is limited to generating lists for his/her own county.

A variety of reports are available to the county chairs. For example, Lapsed Member reports, New Member reports, New Inquiry reports, etc. The report may be viewed on the screen, or, a file (in comma separated format) can be emailed. For example, in the case of a lapsed member report, the data can be viewed on the screen and comments added (this is convenient for phone calling) or if the user will be sending out a renewal letter, a CSV file will be emailed for use in a mail merge or for preparing labels.

Occasionally people move. When a change of address is received, it can be entered into the system. Once a week, address changes are collected and emailed to the national party for incorporation into their database via their automated system.

I hope to continue enhancing the system as time goes on. If somebody decided that there is some new report they would like to see, it would probably be of use to everybody, so I would write the report and add it to the system. If there are other people out there who have the skills to help maintain the software, their assistance would be welcome.

This system has essentially allowed us to get rid of the data base manager position. Now, the only thing the database manager does is give county chairs user ids, and occasionally generate a mail list if somebody at the county level wants to do a state wide mailing (in Michigan this happens if a serious candidate wants to do a statewide fundraising letter).

If anybody is interested, please feel free to email me at this address. I also have a demo site set up for people who are serious about this.

Yours In Liberty,
Greg Dirasian

A Rational View on Homosexual Marriage

The bottom line regarding the issue of homosexual marriage is that government, in reality, has no Constitutional authority to validate or deny marriages of any kind-homosexual or otherwise.

That having been said, since the practice of marrying couples "before God and the State" has been taking place since the beginning of the Republic, we must admit that state-recognized marriages are above all legal arrangements. Marriage affords couples certain legal rights-for example, the right to make medical decisions (up to and including decisions about death), and the right not to be forced to testify against one's spouse in a court of law. The fact that homosexual marriages are not recognized by any state, in full equality with those rights afforded to heterosexual couples, is blatant discrimination of the highest magnitude, on par with slavery and non-suffrage for women.

Beliefs in God, family composition, and sexual preferences are completely irrelevant to the establishment of effective government and society, and must be left out of the picture. These issues are subjective values that cannot be addressed by government without infringing on the rights of others, who may have different values. One can't assert that a family should be comprised of a man and a woman, to the exclusion of all other possible marriage structures-and then certify it with government sanction-without violating the

In the print Edition, this page featured the front page of the current issue of the LPNH Newsletter, showing how a well-run state party works to build local organization and serious candidates.

rights of those who do not share these views, anymore than homosexual people would be justified in imposing their personal ideas of marriage onto others. Once government is selectively used to benefit some individuals more than others, then the decline of free society is highly predictable. All attempts by government to legislate morality, piety, sin, selflessness, or goodness, are unacceptable. The fact that the Roman Catholic Church is now expressing its own disapproving opinion about laws on homosexual marriage (which no doubt will bear some influence, as a matter of expediency for politicians) is an example of the unconstitutional fusion of Church and State that this issue engenders.

Let's get government out of the marriage and religion business; those who desire to make their marriages official can meet with an attorney and sign a contract. Those who feel they need the Catholic Church's approval can do so on their own valuable time, and those who disagree with the Church's positions can find another religion.

...Bill Bryant

What a Good State Party Does

Sometimes acts are more demonstrative than words. We reproduce as page 5 the front page of the most recent LPNH newsletter, discussing the New Hampshire party's objectives in building a stronger party. As you see, the LPNH is targeting doing politics, running people for office, and giving them the best support for better or worse that it is able. Their goals are sensible, measurable, refer to a sensible plan for the future, and have a timetable on which they are to be accomplished. They may or may not be reached, but readers see clearly what is intended.

Also, as a communication from a state party to its members, there is a clear sense that the elected leaders actually have looked at numbers, and evaluated if the objectives can be attained.

Stand Up for Liberty!

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Worcester County

Libertarian Association

Founded 1996.

Meetings the Third Sunday At Tweed's, Grove Street, Worcester. Contact George Phillies, 508 754 1859
phillies@4liberty.net for future meeting plans

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