

Libertarians pick leader

By KAREN EMERSON
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A former mayoral candidate in Ann Arbor has been elected chairwoman of the Libertarian Party of Michigan.

Emily Hopp Salvette, 39, was elected to the post for 1995 by delegates to the State Party Convention in Grand Rapids in late April.

Salvette, who was vice chair last year, has been instrumental in the formation of local Libertarian groups around the state.

"The Libertarian Party has had regular ballot status in Ann Arbor for years," Salvette said. "And because of last November's highest ever vote totals, we will now have statewide ballot access."

In her 1993 mayoral campaign, Salvette said she hoped to cut city property taxes 15 percent, legalize marijuana, promote deregulation of housing and business and privatize

some city services.

It was during that race that Salvette tried to show Libertarian status doesn't mean something unusual.



SALVETTE

"Not all Libertarians are dope-smoking, free-loving, ex-hippie radical freaks," she said at the time. In 1991, Salvette ran an unsuccessful bid for city council in the 2nd Ward. Recent popularity of "libertarian" ideas has helped fuel unprecedented growth for the Libertarian Party of Michigan, she said. The best is yet to come, she added.

She has a master's degree from the University of Michigan and is an independent video producer.

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