

Libertarian Party of West Michigan



Affiliate of the Year Submission - 2000

**Libertarian Party of West Michigan
2000 In Retrospect**

Welcome to the submission of the Libertarian Party of West Michigan for the Affiliate of the Year contest.

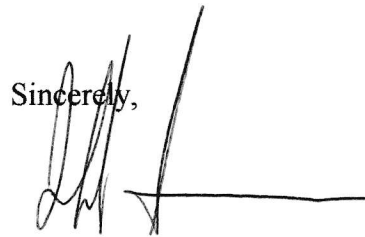
It is my pleasure to present this submission on behalf of the LPWM and its members. I am very proud of the progress of the LPWM in 2000. We have seen a near doubling of our membership, two new affiliates which have spawned off from our own previous territory, and many successful public outreach activities. We also ran a large number of candidates with increasing success.

We've tried to break down our summary into 3 parts.

1. Chapter Operations
Within this we include Meetings, Officers, Membership Efforts, and Treasury Functions
2. External Outreach
This involves all efforts to spread the message of the Libertarian Party, Issue Advocacy, and any other project or effort to expose the general public to libertarian ideas.
3. Campaigns
Including all the various efforts for the candidates from our affiliate, as well as those efforts for statewide office in which we played a role.

Thank you for your time and we hope that you are impressed as I am about the LPWM's phenomenal success in 2000.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Steinport', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jeff Steinport
Chair
LPWM

CHAPTER OPERATIONS

Chapter Operations

The year began with the resignation of the Chairman for 1999. Upon that event, Bill Gelineau, as Vice-Chairman, assumed the duties of Chair. Having come off a reasonably successful 1999, the first quarter focus was to lay the groundwork for a successful 2000 by building a strong Board of Directors. This challenge was large since Bonnie Bierma, previous Chair, resigned to family reasons; Erwin Haas, longtime local Secretary was retiring to Florida; and Bill Gelineau, previous 1998 Chair, was planning an active campaign.

First, we recruited **Joe Bommarito as Chairman**. Joe had only been attending local functions for 5 or 6 months, but clearly his passion for libertarian ideals, coupled with his leadership abilities, offered a great opportunity for our group. Joe, the Finance Director for the City of Wyoming (10th largest city in Michigan), offered his 25+ years of government experience as firsthand knowledge its excesses.

Joe, knowing he could only perform the duties until December 1, recognized the need for his leadership and agreed to fill the position to the best of his ability. This made the recruitment of a strong Vice-Chair that much more critical.

Upon assuming Chair duties in January, Bill Gelineau recruited **Derek Hollemans to fill the position of Vice-Chair**. A member of the party since he turned 14, this 19 year old showed experience and wisdom far beyond his years. Together with his youthful energy, Derek offered an enthusiastic complement to the steady leadership of Joe.

Dave Westerhoff had fulfilled the duties of Treasurer for several years. As an experienced officer, Bill asked him if he could continue to provide leadership in that area. He agreed - which made building the Board that much easier and successful.

The position of Secretary had been largely ceremonial in past years. There are many functions that were being ignored. Bill recruited **Jeff Steinport to fill the position of Secretary**.

At the April elections, several decisions were made to alter the make-up of the Board to provide stability and elevate some critical functions to Board level.

First, we created standing committees for Communications and Membership. According to our bylaws, the Chair of any standing committee becomes a member of the Board of Directors. The officers selected **Jason Miller to serve as Communications Director and David Good to head Membership**.

Last, we created the position of **Past Chair** -- thus to provide some continuity from year to year -- and offer a source for the new chair and board to draw upon. **Bill Gelineau**, as acting Chair, stepped into this new role.

Meetings:

All twelve months, meetings were held at the Brann's Restaurant, 401 Leonard Ave. NW, Grand Rapids, Michigan. In February, we started a new structure for our meetings. The Board of Directors Meeting was scheduled at 6:45 pm, with the General Membership Meeting at 7:30 pm. This allowed the Board time to debate and resolve issues prior to the regular meeting -- also prevented such discussion in the face of potential new members.

All the meetings were left open to anyone who wished to attend. The new structure did, in fact, prove helpful in running better, more fun meetings.



West Michigan Liberty Letter

www.lpwn.org

The West Michigan Liberty Letter is a public service of the Libertarian Party of Michigan, West Michigan District. Contact: Derek Hollemans (616)262-1008 derek@triton.net

Editor: Jason Miller • Layout: Krystal Dutkiewicz

West Michigan Wows State LP Convention

In a wonderful showing of support, affiliates from the west side of the state comprised 17% of the delegates at the LPM's convention; an unprecedented first for the west side of the state. Official recognition and congratulations were given to Jason Miller and Tim Miley, chairs of the newly formed Ottawa and Kalamazoo Affiliates.

The three major contenders for the Libertarian Presidential nomination, Don Gorman, Barry Hess, and Harry Browne, were all present at the convention. LPWM Vice Chair Derek Hollemans was given the privilege of being Don Gorman's personal escort throughout the convention, introducing him to individuals within the state party.

A great time was had by all attendees as they socialized and listened to speeches. But they also accomplished large amounts of Libertarian Party of Michigan business; nominating candidates for the November ballot, electing the LPM Executive Committee, and voting on Platform and Bylaws amendments.

West Michigan Libertarians "ruled" on the convention floor with a notable "motion to instruct" coming from Derek Hollemans that requires the LPM to report its budget to members. A "children's rights" platform amendment, drafted by Jason Miller, passed unanimously and called for the repeal of curfew laws. The LPWM was recognized for "Outstanding Achievements" in 1999 and presented with a certificate.

West Michigan's own Bill Gelineau, whose resume could hardly be broken down into one paragraph, was elected as an at-large director to the Executive Committee of the Libertarian Party of Michigan. The voting placed Gelineau's totals above all other candidates - including longtime incumbents and party favorites. Gelineau hopes to make the state committee more focused on local organizations and membership. --- **Congratulations Bill!**

Media Appearance Report

The Libertarian Party is taking great strides in its media outreach. AM Radio has traditionally been most receptive to Libertarians, and WOOD 1300 AM continued to provide access to Libertarians. Television is always harder to appear on, but Libertarians are gaining successes with more frequency than before. From Bill Bradley of Van Buren and Tim Miley of Kalamazoo on cable access to James Lopez on Fox News at Ten, the contacts currently being developed will allow more coverage in the future.

The Ottawa County Libertarian Party's big media boost sadly came from the controversy over James Lopez being too young to run for office. However, the controversy allowed a half dozen interviews and chances for other Libertarian candidates to get coverage. Libertarian Senate candidate Michael Corliss also visited Ottawa County and received quite a bit of media attention.

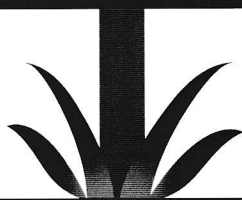
The big surprise, though, is the print media exposure in Ottawa and Kent County. Libertarians have expanded their influence in the letters to the editor pages, but are also receiving interviews and other print coverage. All of this is the direct result of more political activity.

Contents

LPM Convention	1
Media Report	1
Candidates 2000	2&3
LP Affiliates News	2&3
Upcoming Events	4
Contact Information	4



ENOUGH IS ENOUGH VOTE LIBERTARIAN



If you want a sign like this one for your front yard, Contact your County Affiliate. Quantities are limited, so please make sure each sign is put to optimum use. - Price: \$2.50 ea.
(Ask about Vote for Harry Browne signs, also)

Libertarian Party of Michigan, West Michigan District ! Calendar of Upcoming Events !

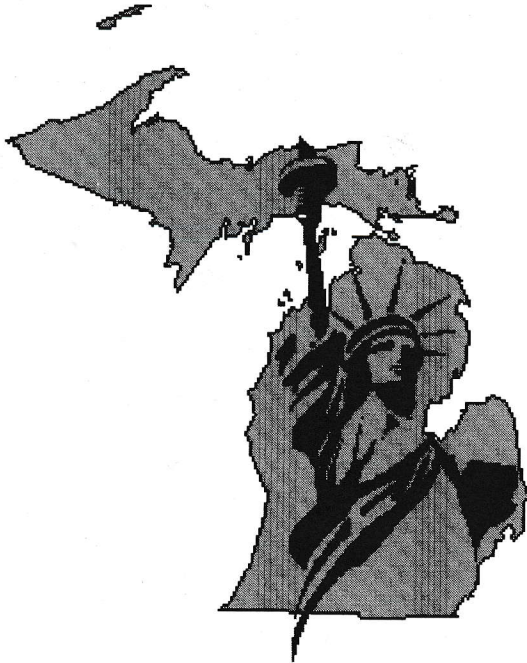
- | | | | |
|------------------|---|------------|---|
| Aug 27 - | Brass Roots Brass Cajones Awards Dinner, in Farmington Hills, with Harry Browne. Also Aaron Zelman of JPFO | Oct 17 - | 7:00 PM Monthly meeting, Libertarians of Allegan County at Blue Heron Coffeeshop, on the riverfront, downtown Allegan |
| Aug 28 - | Kalamazoo Libertarian Party will have an exhibit at Western Michigan University's Bronco Bash | Oct 19 - | 7:00 PM Monthly meeting of VanBuren County Libertarian Party, C.T.'s Restaurant on Blue Star Highway, South Haven |
| Sept 4 - | VanBuren County Libertatian Party's Lady Liberty float in Labor Day Parade - Lawrence | Oct 24 - | 7:00 PM Monthly Meeting of Ottawa County Libertarian Party at Yellow Jacket Inn 12011 Lake Michigan Drive at 120th |
| Sept 5 - | 7:00 PM Monthly meeting of the Kalamazoo Libertarian Party TGI Friday's Restaurant in Oshtemo | Oct 28,29- | LPWM Gun Show at the Deltaplex in Walker |
| Sept. 9 - | VanBuren County Libertatian Party's Lady Liberty float in Allegan County Fair Parade | Nov 7 - | Election Day - Don't forget to vote! |
| Sept 14 - | 7:00 PM The Libertarian Party of West Michigan hosts it's monthly meeting at Brann's on Leonard Street | Nov 7 - | 7:00 PM Monthly meeting of the Kalamazoo Libertarian Party TGI Friday's Restaurant in Oshtemo |
| Sept 16,17- | LPWM Gun Show at the Deltaplex in Walker | Nov 9 - | 7:00 PM The Libertarian Party of West Michigan hosts it's monthly meeting at Brann's on Leonard Street |
| Sept 19 - | 7:00 PM Monthly meeting, Libertarians of Allegan County at Blue Heron Coffeeshop, on the riverfront, downtown Allegan | Nov 11 - | Libertyfest Annual Celebration and Dinner in Detroit with Banquet Speaker: Jacob G. Hornberger |
| Sept 21 - | 7:00 PM Monthly meeting of VanBuren County Libertarian Party, C.T.'s Restaurant on Blue Star Highway, South Haven | Nov 16 - | 7:00 PM Monthly meeting of VanBuren County Libertarian Party, C.T.'s Restaurant on Blue Star Highway, South Haven |
| Sept 26 - | 7:00 PM Monthly Meeting of Ottawa County Libertarian Party at Yellow Jacket Inn 12011 Lake Michigan Drive at 120th | Nov 21 - | 7:00 PM Monthly meeting, Libertarians of Allegan County at Blue Heron Coffeeshop, on the riverfront, downtown Allegan |
| Sept 30, Oct 1 - | Kalamazoo Libertarian Party will be at the first gun and knife show in Kalamazoo. | Nov 28 - | 7:00 PM Monthly Meeting of Ottawa County Libertarian Party at Yellow Jacket Inn 12011 Lake Michigan Drive at 120th |
| Oct 3 - | 7:00 PM Monthly meeting of the Kalamazoo Libertarian Party TGI Friday's Restaurant in Oshtemo | Dec 2, 3 - | Kalamazoo Libertarian Party at Kalamazoo gun and knife show |
| Oct 12 - | 7:00 PM The Libertarian Party of West Michigan hosts it's monthly meeting at Brann's on Leonard Street | Dec 5 - | 7:00 PM Monthly meeting of the Kalamazoo Libertarian Party TGI Friday's Restaurant in Oshtemo |
| | | Dec 14 - | 7:00 PM The Libertarian Party of West Michigan hosts it's monthly meeting at Brann's on Leonard Street |



For Information / To Get Involved

Contact Information

ALLEGAN COUNTY -	Rick Dutkiewicz	(616)673-5503
	E-Mail -	rdoogie@datawise.net
IONIA COUNTY -	Dick Whitelock	(616)527-9263
	E-Mail -	richardw@ionia-mi.net
KALAMAZOO COUNTY -	Tim Miley	(616)668-3951
	E-Mail -	tmiley@yakko.cs.wmich.edu
KENT COUNTY (LPWM)-	Derek Hollemans	(616)262-1008
	E-Mail -	derek@triton.net
OTTAWA COUNTY -	Jason Miller	(616)669-2851
	E-Mail -	JCMiller@triton.net
VANBUREN COUNTY -	Bill Bradley	(616)637-4525
	E-Mail -	bbradley@cybersol.com



West Michigan Liberty Letter

www.lpwm.org

The West Michigan Liberty Letter is a public service of the Libertarian Party of Michigan, West Michigan District.
Contact: Bill Gelineau (616)249-9735 gelineau@iserv.net
Editor: Jason Miller • Layout: Krystal Dutkiewicz

Public Appearance Report: *by Joe Bomarito*

On January 20, Joe Bomarito presented "Why I Am a Libertarian" before the Board of Directors of the Wyoming Area Chamber of Commerce.

This speech grew out of a discussion I had last fall with John Crawford, the executive director of the Chamber, regarding the so-called "living wage" ordinances that some Michigan cities have passed. These laws give favorable vendor status to companies that comply with an arbitrary living wage and benefit level set by the local government involved. Mr. Crawford seemed interested in my views opposed to the living wage and invited me to speak.

I began my speech with a description of where libertarians fall on the political spectrum as shown on the Nolan chart. I followed that with central concepts of libertarianism, including the non-aggression axiom, what individual freedom means and its foundation in property rights, a free market, rule of law, and a limited government. I discussed the Founders and how they carefully crafted a constitution that housed these concepts and that was designed to protect liberty from an encroaching government. I then briefly pointed out how our freedoms have been steadily infringed since the War of 1812, mentioning government control of banks, the income tax, social programs, and the increasing violation of rights supposedly justified by the war on drugs. I finished up with a statement that the most important advance in liberty in the past two thousand years (the American Revolution) has been quietly and stealthily revoked.

Having been given twenty minutes, I carefully limited my speech to ten minutes in order to give time for questions and answers. There were several questions from the 22 members present and they covered a range of topics such as computers in schools, re-legalization of drugs, children having access to pornography on library computers, and government schools.

Surprisingly, there were no questions from this group of businessmen about libertarian viewpoints on business, free markets, and government regulation. This gave me no opportunity to use a few of my favorite "curse" words -- OSHA, EPA, FDA, and IRS.

When I finished, I passed out a fourteen page document that included the following: 1) the twenty-question version of the political quiz with the Nolan chart; 2) "Key Concepts of Libertarianism" by David Boaz of the Cato Institute; 3) "The Liberty Manifesto" by P. J. O'Rourke, and; 4) a commentary on the Signers of the Declaration of Independence. The document was sprinkled with four or five of my favorite liberty quotations and also included a contact list of phone numbers and web sites. I also provided a short reading list of libertarian books.

Since this was the first time I had spoken on this topic in public, it was an interesting and rather exhilarating experience. I spent some time speaking to two members after the luncheon and left a hard copy of my speech for one person who had arrived late. If nothing else, I'm sure that my presentation provoked some thought in at least a few people. As Michael Cloud has said, we sow as many seeds as possible and hope that a few fall on fertile ground.

Contents

Public Appearance Report . .	1
Candidates 2000 News	2&3
Liberty Banquet	4
LP Affiliates News	4
Upcoming Events	4

Liberty Banquet

The 1999 West Michigan Liberty Banquet was a great success. Libertarians from all over West Michigan gathered on Dec. 4 at the Highlander in Walker for a night of fun and inspiration. Bill Bradley of Van Buren acted as Master of Ceremonies.

Peter Armstrong, local chairman of the ACLU, was the keynote speaker. In his remarks, he cited several areas of common interest between our organizations. Stacy Van Oast, Chairman of the Michigan LP, encouraged the tremendous growth of the Libertarian movement in West Michigan. Fred Collins, Berkley City Councilman, offered remarks to help raise money for the 2000 membership effort – which resulted in the banquet becoming the best fund-raiser ever in West Michigan.

Most of the candidates for office in 2000 were in attendance. This year promises the largest number of office seekers ever in West Michigan. Rick and Krystal Dutkiewicz of the band "Tricks" topped off the evening with a great set including a stirring rendition of The Who's "Won't Get Fooled Again."

New Affiliates To Form

Kalamazoo County has many dues-paying Libertarian Party members, indeed it has more than some counties that already have a local affiliate. Sadly, the Libertarian Party has been unsuccessful at organizing an affiliate in that county. Things may be changing. Tim Miley (tmiley@yakko.cs.wmich.edu), recently elected Vice-Chair of the Libertarian Party of Van Buren County, and Patrick Morrissey (pcmorris@btc-bci.com) are both offering to help get a Kalamazoo affiliate rolling.

Ottawa County was once an active affiliate, but slowly died off due to lack of interest. A group of highly-motivated Libertarians in Ottawa County are preparing to jump-start the Ottawa County Libertarian Party as it heads into the 2000 election cycle.

Van Buren Chairman Receives Award

Bill Bradley, Chairman of the Van Buren County LP, received the first ever West Michigan Guardian of Liberty Award at the Liberty Banquet on Dec. 4.

Bill has long been active in the Libertarian movement, both as LP activist and as a candidate. He was the keynote speaker at the 1998 Liberty Banquet and was recently re-elected as chairman of the Van Buren County Libertarian Party.

LPWM Appoints New Positions

At the January meeting of the LPWM, David Good of Caledonia was appointed to the standing committee on membership. Also, Jason Miller of Hudsonville was appointed to the standing committee on communications. Both of them join the Executive Board of the LPWM.

LPWM Elections

The annual election of officers for the LPWM will be held at the meeting on April 13, 2000. This will be held at the Brann's Restaurant on Leonard in Grand Rapids at 7:30 p.m. Anyone interested in seeking a party position should contact Bill Gelineau: 616-249-9735.

LPWM Changes Time

The growth of the LPWM has necessitated a change in the meeting time. Executive Board meetings (all welcome) will begin at 6:45 p.m. The regular business meeting will follow at 7:30 p.m. We continue to meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month at the Brann's Restaurant on Leonard and I-131 in Grand Rapids.

Libertarian Party of Michigan, West Michigan District ! Calendar of Upcoming Events !

April 4 -Meeting of the Kalamazoo County Libertarian Party
(Call Tim Miley at 616-668-3951 for Location). 7PM

April 17 -Tax Day Protest!

At United States Post Office in Grand Rapids
For volunteer information contact Tax Day Chairman
David Good dgood@iserv.net

April 18 -Monthly meeting of the Libertarians of Allegan County
at Blue Heron Coffeeshop, on the riverfront, downtown
Allegan. 7:00 PM.

April 20 -Monthly meeting of the VanBuren County Libertarian Party
at C.T.'s Restaurant on the Blue Star Highway in
South Haven. 7:00 PM.

May 11 -Monthly meeting of the Libertarian Party of West Michigan
at Brann's on Leonard in Grand Rapids. 7:30 PM.

May 16 -Monthly meeting of the Libertarians of Allegan County
at Blue Heron Coffeeshop, on the riverfront, downtown
Allegan. 7:00 PM.

May 18 -Monthly meeting of the VanBuren County Libertarian Party
at C.T.'s Restaurant on the Blue Star Highway in
South Haven. 7:00 PM.

May 18 -Monthly meeting of the VanBuren County Libertarian Party
at C.T.'s Restaurant on the Blue Star Highway in
South Haven. 7:00 PM.

May 19-21 -Libertarian Party of Michigan, Convention 2000 at
Clarion Hotel Atrium & Convention Center, Ann Arbor, MI.
Contact State Convention Chair Emily Salvette 734-668-2607

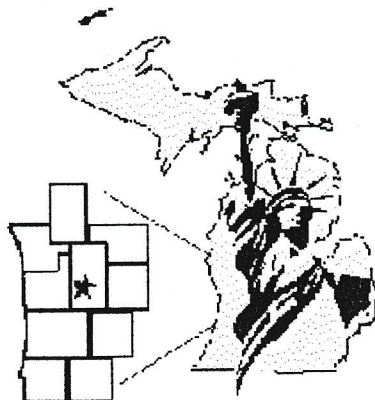
June 8 -Monthly meeting of the Libertarian Party of West Michigan
at Brann's on Leonard in Grand Rapids. 7:30 PM.

June 15 -Monthly meeting of the VanBuren County Libertarian Party
at C.T.'s Restaurant on the Blue Star Highway in
South Haven. 7:00 PM.

June 20 -Monthly meeting of the Libertarians of Allegan County
at Blue Heron Coffeeshop, on the riverfront, downtown
Allegan. 7:00 PM.

June 30 -National Convention of the Libertarian Party in
Thru July 4 Anaheim, California.

July 13 -Monthly meeting of the Libertarian Party of West Michigan
at Brann's on Leonard in Grand Rapids. 7:30 PM.



**Libertarian Party
of
West Michigan**

**Membership Meeting
February 10, 2000**

Welcome -- Members and Guests

go1man2000.org

I. Officers Reports

Chair

Treasurer

Secretary

\$1445.90

II. Projects

A. Chapter Operations

West Michigan Liberty Letter
Kent County Membership
Phone-Tree
Website - www.lpwm.org

B. Community Projects

Tax Day Protest
Gun Show Booth
Letters to the Editor

- March 4th + 5th 8am - 4pm

C. Political Calendar

GRATA election
Kalamazoo Affiliate
Candidates
Michigan LP Convention

- April 11

II. New Business

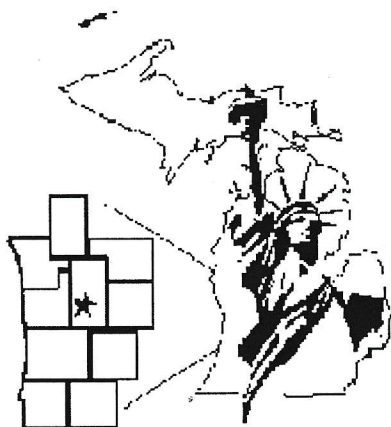
A. WGVU Night

10th March



B.

C.



***Libertarian Party
of
West Michigan***

**Annual Membership
Meeting**

April 13, 2000

Welcome -- Members and Guests

- I. Officers Reports**
 - Chair Treasurer Secretary
- II. Projects (announcements)**
 - A. Chapter Operations**
 - Website - www.lpwm.org
 - B. Community Projects**
 - Gun Show Booth
 - Letters to the Editor
 - C. Political Calendar**
 - GRATA election results
 - Kalamazoo Affiliate / Ottawa Affiliate
 - Michigan LP Convention
- II. Tax Day Protest - David Good**
- III. Chapter Elections**
- IV. Nominating Convention**
 - a. Chair
 - b. Secretary
 - c. Nominations for Office
- V. Other Business**



**Libertarian Party of West Michigan
Membership Meeting**

**May 11, 2000
7:30 PM**

Income:
(210) 310.00
Exp.
992 1042.26
\$722.17
+ 85.00

I) Reports from Officers

- A) Chair
- B) Treasurer
- C) Secretary

II) Projects

A) Chapter Operations

- 1) Website

B) Community Projects

- 1) Tax Day Protest Report- David Good (Wrapup)
- 2) Gun Show Report - Bill Wenzel
- 3) Highway Cleanup - Derek Hollemans
- 4) Letters to the Editor

All gun shows
this year.

III) Materials Inventory — Jeff S.

IV) Political Calendar

- A) Michigan LP Convention - May 19-21
- B) National Convention

V) Other Business

Jeff Steinport — Precinct Walking
10 - ?

Grand Rapids Press Database
— Kent District Library —
JK

Janie will
research

Pieces \$350?
2500 f
Moto Photo - \$35
Allegria - Plainfield

May 17th
Wed
7:00 PM
Board of Education



***Libertarian Party of West Michigan
Membership Meeting***

May 11, 2000

7:30 PM

7

- 1) Master Candidate List - Letter from LP of Michigan**
- 2) Advisory Committee - Past Officers**
- 3) Kent County Membership**
 - a) New Member Contacts - Report**
- 4) Budget 2000**
- 5) Materials/Supplies Inventory** — *Coordinated by Secretary*
- 6) State Convention - Committee Appointments**
- 7) Regular Meeting Format - Speakers**
- 8) Other items**
 - a) Items from April meeting**
 - b) Other business**

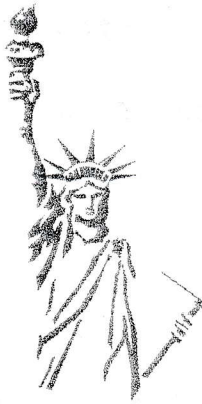


**Libertarian Party of West
Michigan
Board Meeting**

**June 8, 2000
7:00 PM**

- I) Minutes of Meeting of May 11, 2000 (attached)
- II) Kent County Membership
 - A) New Member Contacts - Report *none*
- III) State Convention - Reports & Discussion
 - A) Bylaws Committee - Joe Bommarito - *not much accomplished*
 - B) Platform Committee - Jason Miller *Chaotic - motion added to*
 - C) Affiliate recognition - *staffing* *state that youth are not*
inherently criminal
- IV) State Libertarian Executive Committee (LEC) Report
 - A) Report from Bill Gelineau - *Budget will be published in*
fundraising letter.
- V) Candidate Status
 - A) James Lopez - *ACLU?* *2 Fight*
 - B) Other - *Tim Campbell* *3 Concede defeat - campaign for 2002*
4 Quit
- VI) Other Business
 - A) Items from May meeting
 - 1) Speakers at meetings
 - B) Other items
 - 1) Affiliate book - Derek Hollemans - *presented at general membership*
 - 2) Local issues agenda ("Platform") - *local issues agenda meeting*
 - 3) Endorsement of Presidential Candidate - Discussion - *Dropped from agenda*

Closed at 7:35pm.



Libertarian Party of West Michigan Membership Meeting

June 8, 2000

~~7:30 PM~~

7:37

I) Reports from Officers

A) Chair - no report

B) Treasurer - \$787.17

income \$105 ex \$40

C) Secretary - no report

1) Minutes of meeting of May 11, 2000 (attached)

II) Projects

A) Chapter Operations

1) Web page updates - candidates listed - updated

B) Community Projects

1) Gun Show Report: June 10, 11 - Bill Wenzel - motion made to

2) Highway Cleanup: Past and future - Derek Hollemans pay \$25 to

- Preparation was lacking - 24th finish June 11am up bill wenzel for table cloth and tubing

III) Political Calendar

A) Grand Rapids School Board election - June 12

1) Steinport precinct walk - June 10

B) "Slash the Pork" - June 11, 3 PM

1) An Afternoon Garden Party, with Libertarian Presidential Candidates, Harry Browne, Don Gorman, and Barry Hess, Who Will "Slash the Pork" Of Government Spending. Hosted by the Libertarian Party of Michigan Ballot Access Retention Committee (BARC 2000). For additional information or tickets, Call Barb or Bruce at 248-355-5058

Location: Home of Barb Goushaw and Bruce Hoepner, 19514 W. Nine Mile Rd., Southfield. **Contact:** Barb Goushaw **Phone:** (248) 355-5058 **E-mail:** greg@newsnetpipeline.com

C) National Convention: June 30 - July 4, Anaheim, CA

D) Election 2000 - November 7

1) Election night party???

IV) Other Business

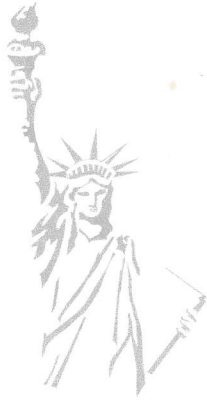
Liberty letter - articles by 21st
upcoming events calendar

Jason Miller resigning as communications
director - new director needed

June 27th
6pm

Walker parade
ran out of
candy 3/4 the
way through

Donation of \$1
to Libertarian
party.



**Libertarian Party of West
Michigan
Board Meeting**

**August 10, 2000
7:00 PM**

7:03pm

- I) Minutes of Meeting of July 13, 2000 (to be provided)
Left still sorting out new system
- II) Membership
 - A) New Member Contacts - Report
- III) State Libertarian Executive Committee (LEC) Report
 - A) Report from Bill Gelineau (as necessary) *meeting this weekend
no report*
- IV) Candidate Status
 - A) As necessary *- Derek - two independents on ballot*
- V) Other Business
 - A) Items from prior meetings *Wha2Y*
 - 1) Speakers at meetings *- ~~Mark~~ Aleck - Claire LP - next meeting*
 - B) Other items
 - 1) Local issues agenda ("Platform") - Derek Hollemans
*Bill had computer problems list is unavailable
Next meeting they'll be available, Derek*

closed @ 7:09



Libertarian Party of West Michigan Membership Meeting

August 10, 2000
7:30 PM

7:29pm

Introduction by
members and guests

I) Reports from Officers

A) Chair - Joe resigned from Walker financial directorship

1) Comment on commitment, communication - resigning as chair

B) Treasurer - Ex \$288.08 July In \$60.00 \$507.93

C) Secretary

1) Minutes of meeting of July 13, 2000 (to be provided)

Balance

Due to yard
sign purchase

lowest in a
year.

no report.

II) Projects

A) Chapter Operations

1) None

lpwm.org. local web site

signs are now
available.

B) Community Projects

1) Gun Show Reports - Bill Wenzel

Randy weaver - Sep 16+17

(a) Last show - August 5-6

(b) Next show - September 16-17

2) Highway Cleanup: Past and future - Aaron Sorenson

early sept.

3) Other

III) Political Calendar

A) August 8 Primary - Comments and observations

200 votes short

B) Candidate reports

New initiative to repeal curfew

1) Grand Rapids School Board election.

(a) Jeff Steinport will report on results and "lessons learned."

presentation made

2) Tim Campbell - presentation on candidacy

3) Bill Gelineau - campaign presentation @ 9:15

(a) The Press is expected to attend

C) Election 2000

1) Campaign materials to be gotten from State LP.

2) Local issues agenda - Derek Hollemans

3) Other issues

Notion to make
Jamie Lewis
communications
director -
declined

IV) Other Business

over

90th district

74th district presentation on candidacy



Libertarian Party of West
Michigan
Membership Meeting

September 14, 2000
7:30 PM

opened @ 7:31pm

I) Reports from Officers - introductions

A) Chair - no report

B) Treasurer - ex \$121.63 in \$420.00 - \$410.30

C) Secretary

1) Minutes of meeting of August 10, 2000 (to be provided)

II) Speakers:

A) Ghazey Aleck, an attorney from Clare Michigan, is the former Democratic elected Prosecutor of Clare County, former Clare County Democratic Party Chairman, and former 4th Congressional Democratic Party Vice Chair. He is now a staunch Libertarian and formed the Clare-Gladwin Libertarian Party Affiliate in April of this year. Topic--Contrasting the Democrats to the Libertarians and suggestions for more Libertarian success. - lawsuit offer - File to be a PAC

B) Kent County Commissioner Jack Horton, speaking on behalf of Kids First! Yes!

III) Projects

A) Community Projects

1) Gun Show Reports - Bill Wenzel

(a) Next show - September 16-17 - time slots filled

2) Future Highway Cleanup: Aaron Sorenson - not present

3) Other

IV) Political Calendar

A) Candidate reports

1) Bill Gelineau - Grandville Information Project - Bill discussed his campaign

2) Other

B) Election 2000

1) Slate Brochures

2) Local issues agenda - Derek Hollemans - Copies available from Derek

3) Election Returns Party - November 7

V) Other Business

A) Internship with LPWM - Jason Miller - Jason is the intern

carried - motion to pay for postage for Jason's mailings.

closed
at 20pm

OCLP 26th - sep - John Bry guest 7pm

Yellow Jacket Fun

LA MT
Drive



*Libertarian Party of West
Michigan
Board Meeting*

*September 14, 2000
7:00 PM*

- I) Minutes of Meeting of August 10, 2000 (to be provided)
- II) Membership
 - A) New Member Contacts - Report
- III) State Libertarian Executive Committee (LEC) Report
 - A) Report from Bill Gelineau (as necessary)
- IV) Candidate Status
 - A) As necessary
- V) Other Business
 - A) Speaker for next meeting
 - B) Other items
- VI) Local issues agenda ("Platform") - Derek Hollemans



**LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF WEST MICHIGAN
MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**DECEMBER 14, 2000
7:30 PM**

- I Reports from Officers
 - A) Chair
 - B) Treasurer
 - C) Secretary

- II Wrap Up of Candidates
 - A) Lessons Learned
 - B) Future Advice
 - C) Future Campaigns

- III Committees
 - A) Membership Committee
 - B) Gun Show Committee
 - C) Tax Day Protest

- IV Banquet Update
 - A) Reschedule
 February - Early March?

- V State LEC Meeting Report

- VI Web Site Update

- VIII Goals - 2001 and Beyond

- IX Other Business



**LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF WEST MICHIGAN
BOARD MEETING**

**DECEMBER 14, 2000
7:00 PM**

- I Board of Directors Regroup

- II Wrap Up of Candidates

- III Membership
 - A) State of Membership Campaign

- IV Banquet Update

- V State LEC Meeting Report

- VI Web Site Update

EXTERNAL OUTREACH

External Outreach

The LPWM participated in multiple outreach activities in the year 2000. The following activities are represented here.

- **Tax Day Protest** - The LPWM organized its annual Tax Day Protest to be held in Downtown Grand Rapids at the main post office. The Tax Day committee was chaired by David Good. Groups of protesters were stationed downtown at strategic locations to hand out our "Million Dollar Bills" with more information on the Libertarian Party. Once rush hour began, all of the LPWM protesters converged at the Post Office to distribute literature and hold up Libertarian signs. A total of 47 people showed up to help with the protest, which makes this event one of the largest Tax Day Protests held by the LPWM ever. A rally was held after the protest at the Days Inn in Grand Rapids which included Tim O'Brian as a speaker.
- **Adopt-a-Highway** - The LPWM sponsored a two-mile stretch of the I-196 highway, a section that is right in downtown Grand Rapids. Aaron Sorenson chaired the Adopt-a-Highway committee for the year 2000 and organized three cleanup sessions throughout the year. Our section of highway is probably the cleanest in West Michigan, if not Michigan.
- **Memorial Day Parade** - The LPWM participated in the Annual Memorial Day Parade in Standale. We borrowed the Lady Liberty float and received a large number of positive comments from the bystanders. Bill Gelineau organized our float's participation, and Jeff Steinport towed the float with his car. Approximately ten LPWM members participated by handing out candy and literature.
- **GRATA Area-Wide Millage** - Grand Rapids and its surrounding suburbs had a new "Interurban Transit Authority" imposed on them by those municipalities' councils. The initiative to raise taxes in those areas to create a larger transit authority went on the ballot on April 11th. LPWM members went door-to-door to distribute anti-tax literature. Grandville, which had the most LPWM members helping with the canvassing, did not pass the new transit law, but, unfortunately, it still was imposed on all of the voting cities with its passage in a majority of the municipalities.
- **Ongoing Letter to the Editor Campaign** - The LPWM also has an ongoing letter to the editor campaign to educate the public in Libertarian ideals. The LPWM had stunning success in getting its members to write letters and get them published in the Grand Rapids Press and surrounding publications. Most notably, Joe Bommarito, Jeff Steinport, Derek Hollemans, and Jason Miller all got guest essays published in the paper, in addition to traditional letters to the editor that many other LPWM members got published.
- **Gun Shows** - The LPWM sponsored a booth at all gun shows in Grand Rapids. We participated in gun shows on April 29-30, June 10-11, August 5-6, September 16-17, and October 28-29. We built a rapport with the local gun owners and as the year continued

on, we received more and more visitors to our booth asking questions and expressing interest in our local party. We even recruited several members this way.

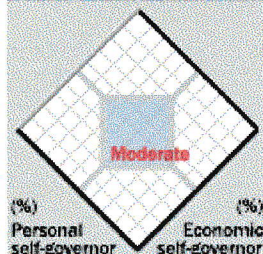
- **Annual Liberty Banquet** - The LPWM also held its annual Liberty Banquet for LP members all across West Michigan. This year's banquet had 42 attendees. We had Peter Armstrong of the ACLU as a speaker, as well as Fred Collins, Bill Bradley, and Stacy Van Oast. This banquet raised almost \$700 for the LPWM and was a fun evening with live entertainment.
- **New Affiliates** - The LPWM spawned off two new affiliates in 2000. Ottawa County and Kalamazoo County received enough organization attendance to separate from the LPWM and become independent affiliates. The two new affiliates continue to grow and make the LPWM proud.
- **Election Night Party** - The LPWM also hosted an election night party held in Downtown Grand Rapids at the Old Kent Bank Building's University Club. We had 50+ members and family members attend with free hours d'ouvres a cash bar. Members of the local media also attended. This event was a rousing success.



Libertarian Party of West Michigan

[[About Us](#) | [Affiliates](#) | [News](#) | [Contact](#) | [Events](#) | [Links](#)]

Are you
a Libertarian?



Take the [World's Smallest Political Quiz](#) and find out!

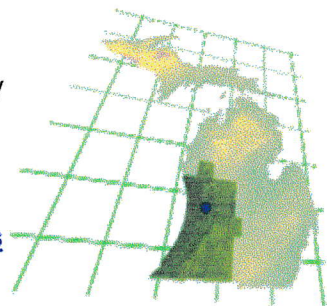
Register to Vote
Online.

Register To
Vote!

Welcome to the Libertarian Party of West Michigan. We, as Libertarians, believe that *you* have the right to choose what's best for you and your family. We believe in personal responsibility and individual freedom. We believe that free markets and limited government are the best way to secure a peaceful and free society.

If you are new to Libertarianism, we invite you to take the [World's Smallest Political Quiz](#) to find out where your beliefs are on the political spectrum. For a better understanding of Libertarian ideas, please learn more at www.Libertarian.org.

You can meet your local Libertarian Party by joining us at one of our monthly meetings, held in Grand Rapids at Brann's, on the corner of Leonard and US-131. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 7:30pm.



LP of West Michigan Candidates

Michigan House -

[Bill Gelineau](#) - District 74
[Paul Mastin](#) - District 76
[Tim Miley](#) - District 80
[Rick Dutkiewicz](#) - District 88
[Tim Campbell](#) - District 90

US House -

[Bruce Smith](#) - District 2
[Erwin Haas](#) - District 3

Allegan County -

Dennis Survilla - Sheriff
Jan Knibbe - 4th District
Comissioner

Kalamazoo County -

Carole Miley - 1st District
Comissioner

Ottawa County -

Donald McCaullum - Chester
Twp. Trustee

Kent County -

[Jamie Lewis](#) - Kent County
Clerk

[Derek Hollemans](#) - Plainfield
Twp.

 Trustee

[Bill Hall](#) - 4th District
Commissioner

LP State-Wide Candidates

United States President -

[Harry Browne](#)

United States Senate -

[Michael Corliss](#)

State Board of Ed -

[Diane Barnes](#)

[Jon Coon](#)

U of M Regent -

[Tim Maull](#)

[Marvin Surowitz](#)

MSU Trustee -

[Michael Miller](#)

[Violet Steele](#)

Wayne State U Trustee -

[Thomas Jones](#)

[Scott Boman](#)

[Justice of the Supreme Court](#)

-

[Jerry J Kaufman](#)

[David H Raaflaub](#)

[Robert W Roddis](#)

New LPWM web site www.lpwm.org

Tax Day Protest – 2000

To be held on April 14th, 2000

e-mail David about date (17th)

- I. Project Purpose
 - A. The project is being run to provide a highly visible public event, which carries forward the message of the Libertarian Party.
- II. Project Goals
 - A. Distribution of 5000 pieces of printed material conveying the anti-tax message.
 - B. Small groups of Libertarians will distribute materials around downtown Grand Rapids
 - C. Main group of Libertarians will be stationed at the Grand Rapids main post office.
 - D. Afterwards rally with Tim O' Brien
 - E. Coverage of event in newspaper, television, and radio.
- III. Steps Necessary to Complete Project
 - A. Presentation of project in February meeting.
 - B. Approval of project
 - C. Formation of tax protest committee and determination of heads of sub-committees
 - D. Approval of budget for all materials
 - E. Contact membership and affiliates for volunteers
 - F. Organization of after-protest rally point
 - G. Determine schedule for tax protest activities and manpower
 - H. Contact media, government, and police
 - I. Bi-weekly meetings of tax protest committee – starting after February meeting.
- IV. Sub-Committee Heads needed for project
 - A. Membership – will work with the membership to fill the tax-protest schedule
 - B. Equipment & Materials – will research and determine costs of materials
 - C. Media – will contact various media agencies
 - D. Post-Protest Rally – will organize post-protest rally

No Return?

Libertarians take taxes to task

Bill Gelineau lives in Grandville, but he works in the Waters Building in downtown GR. So when he gets his paycheck, he's hit with the city income tax.

On April 15, Gelineau will join with about 30 others in a tax day protest. Organized by the Libertarian Party of West Michigan, of which Gelineau is vice-chair, the protest will take place from 4-9 p.m. in front of the U.S. Post Office, 225 Michigan NW.

"The city income tax is particularly erroneous," says Gelineau. "It takes taxes from people who aren't represented and that's simply wrong."

Gelineau pays his taxes, as do other Libertarians, and the group isn't saying citizens should break the law.

Dr. Erwin Haas, a local Libertarian, says the demonstration will show "we are on the side of people who don't want an income tax. We represent people who see it as intrusive and undemocratic."

Along with signs and handouts, a Libertarian dressed as a revolutionary soldier will be on hand.

"He's a patriotic motif that our founding fathers would find an income tax yucky, at best," says Haas.

Gina Haisma, customer relations coordinator for the Grand Rapids post office says she's interested in what Libertarians have to say. But, because 25 percent of people in Michigan wait until April 15 to mail their tax forms, the demonstrators can cause traffic and confusion problems.

"Nobody likes paying taxes," says Haisma. "But in the past, some protesters have been in the way. They were so obnoxiously rude in their message that we locked horns."

Haisma says April 15 is bigger than Christmas for the post office, because of the number of people using the mail. Employees stand out at different spots north, south, east, and west, of the main drive to take mail directly from people's cars. Haisma doesn't want a demonstrator to be mistaken for a postal worker.

PROTEST, see page 12

WEST MICHIGAN'S

the

INDEPENDENT VOICE

Paper.

VOLUME 2, NO. 33

APRIL 15-21, 1999

PROTEST, from page 8

"They all have the right to be there," says Haisma. "We're just trying to make sure the day isn't even more stressful for the customers."

Gelineau says West Michigan has 300 dues-paying Libertarians, with 150 of those in Kent County. The monthly meetings are held the second Thursday of the month at Brann's steakhouse on Leonard St. and usually draw about 25 people.

Libertarians believe individuals should be free to do whatever they choose, as long as that freedom isn't harming anyone else.

Bonnie Biernia was elected chairperson of the West Michigan party branch last week.

"We want to see a drastically smaller federal government," says Biernia. "Bureaucracy isn't

helping anyone, least of all the poor."

One recent victory the Libertarians claim ownership of, is the defeat of the FDIC's "Know Your Customer" act. Using the internet to rally support, Libertarians set up www.defendyourprivacy.com, resulting in 257,000 comments from the public regarding the banking industry's attempt to weaken privacy controls. The "Know Your Customer" attempt failed last month.

David Westerhof, treasurer for the West Michigan Libertarians says he's hoping for a large turnout at the tax rally. April 15 has long been a big day for Libertarians.

"Everyone is a Libertarian on April 15," says Westerhof.

— Maris Brancheau



It's Almost too big to believe.

Every 5 seconds, the government in Wash. DC spends \$1 Million. And who pays for this?

You do. Whether through the income tax or a wide range of business taxes.

Here's an idea:

People making choices

Do you think the bureaucrats in Lansing and Washington make better choices?

How much would you spend for troops in Kosovo or Bosnia? Would you place your child in a learning rich environment or their current school? When will you be able to retire?

It's Time for another direction.

People all over Michigan and across the country are joining to make a change. They are joining the Libertarian Party. We have a plan to slash income taxes. This can be done without compromising essential services.

Libertarians want a government that is **MUCH SMALLER!**

We believe that you know better how to support your family than government does. And only you should decide how your child is educated.

Take the next step:

Get involved with tax cutting efforts in West Michigan area.

Act Now!! Every 5 seconds another \$1 Million of your money is wasted. Send us the attached post card to find out more of the tax cutting effort in West Michigan.

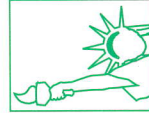
**Contact: Phone (616) 249-9735
or (800) 682-1776**

On the Web: www.lpwm.org

Yes! I'm interested in helping to slash our taxes. Send your free no-obligation package.

Name _____
Street _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please send along any message, comment, or info you would like us to have:



Deliver to:

**Libertarian Party of Michigan –
West Michigan District**

3827 Navaho St. SW
Grandville, MI 49418

Postcard
Postage

Post Card

Cut along here to help slash taxes

town volume of about 16,000 cars each

accurately, that say that kind of traffic volume is not helpful," Sturdevant said.

Dennis Sturdevant, president of Dwelling Place Inc., a non-profit devel-

arts in
field or
h supply of
o board
the entry
t you come
our seat
tes."
it sleep
se faces the

s.
ems as they
into the
number of
u name it.

s she writes
ink. "If for
I will white-
in blue."

Erma
may have the

Erma, "that
our homes is
y time I come
ick on the
m off with
ts as black
that dirt on

enough to
incing us in
ll kinds.

at:

POLPOURRI '99

By Ed Golder

Come April 15, everyone's a Libertarian.

At least that's what the Libertarian Party of West Michigan hopes.

Some 30 members of the local organization crowded tax drop-off points Thursday night in downtown Grand Rapids as weary procrastinators wheeled up to do Uncle Sam's dreaded bidding.

The local Libs want you to know there's a viable alternative: Eliminate the income tax.

With some of their number dressed as Revolutionary-era minutemen, the protesters disbursed faux \$1 million bills. The hook: That is how much the federal government spends every 5 seconds.

"If we were really true to our 1776 brethren, we would be throwing tea in the river over here," said Bill Gelineau of Grandville, vice chairman of the West Michigan party and an ebullient pitchman for the party's small-government, tax-slashing message. "Philosophically, we really believe taxes are theft."

This is the sixth-annual local protest,

and the party's size always swells, Gelineau claimed.

After all, people dropping off tax forms near midnight on April 15 probably aren't getting good news from the IRS.

"These people aren't getting refunds," Gelineau said as the cars streamed past.

GAMING

What if they changed millenniums and nobody threw a party?

Fear not, citizens of Grand Rapids and Kent County. Your city and county

governments have enlisted former U.S. Ambassador to Italy Peter Secchia to head a local Millennium Commission.

Whether we will be Y2K-party ready when the big clock rolls over remains to be seen.

Secchia, who was asked to head the commission by Mayor John Logie and County Commission Chairman Patrick Malone, said he has his first meeting on the project this



Secchia: Party boss



STILL WORLD

Talk about your school of hard knocks.

City Commissioner Scott

Bowen, who moonlights teaching a political science class at

Grand Rapids Community College, saw one of his students get a first-hand civics lesson Tuesday.

Kevin Green, who works as the real estate manager for Outdoor Systems Inc., appeared before the commission to plead for the life

of two billboards —

on the south edge of the city's new Canal Street Park. Noting Outdoor Systems has not paid the city rent for billboards for the past six years, City Commissioner Linda Samuelson likened Green's employers to "embezzlers and chiselers" before he stood before the



Bowen: Making the grade

commission.

"Do I get extra credit for this?" a red-faced Green asked Bowen as he walked to the podium to address the commission.

"He will if he turns in a report," Bowen said afterwards.



TRUSTS UP

State Sen. Glenn Stell, who grew up dirt poor in Grand Rapids, claims his first

degree was from the school of hard knocks. His second came from Aquinas College, where he scratched his way to a business degree. He went on to start his own company, Compatico, which

grosses \$15 million a year. Thursday night, the Republican lawmaker received an award from Aquinas College trustees for "his service to his community and to the state," according to a release from his office.

Just to prove he had come a long way from his humble beginnings: It was a black tie affair.

Contributor: Jim Harger

Contact Ed Golder at: egolder@gr-press.com





The LPWM with the Lady Liberty float in the Memorial Day parade in Standale.

The Citizens for
Tax Freedom

NoNewTax@triton.net

Be sure to vote "NO" on April 11. Tell your friends and neighbors. In irregular elections like this, every vote counts. By spreading the message, you can help ensure that Grandville's tax dollars are not used to further outside special interests.

If you'd like to find out how you can help keep Grandville's tax money under Grandville's control, contact:

Bill Gelineau
3827 Navaho St. SW
Grandville, MI 49418 -1982
(616) 249-9735

Does Grandville
Really Need



MORE
TAXES???

The Citizens for
Tax Freedom
NoNewTax@triton.net



Asking for your "NO" vote
on
April 11

© 2000 Paid for by the Citizens for Tax Freedom
3827 Navaho • Grandville MI 49418

Why You should vote NO

on
April 11

A "NO" vote on April 11 would be a loud voice in favor of tax freedom, and retain local tax autonomy to the citizens of Grandville, instead of a tax district dominated by larger cities.

By sacrificing tax rights to a regional authority, Grandville would no longer have a voice to effectively serve the community from within, but instead the city would give up financial authority to an outside influence.

If you support local management over outside control, then a NO vote is the only reasonable choice.

This tax represents a tripling of the support Grandville already provides to GRATA.

Does Grandville Need More Taxes and "Services"

Before anyone even considers creating a new tax authority, they need to decide whether the service itself is needed.

The GRATA buses that run through Grandville provide at best a poor service and at worst actually harms the environment.

GRATA buses are slow and their routes discourage most residents from using them. Often these large buses, meant to protect the environment by limiting the number of cars on the road and consequently pollution, travel with only one or two passengers. Do we really need to permit a new authority to raise money?

GRATA hasn't worked. Do we want to reward their performance by giving them more authority and funding?

Your vote can make a difference

The Kent District Library millage was recently voted down by a margin of less than one vote per precinct.

Your vote could help send a message to the Grand Rapids Metro area that Grandville will not allow it's tax dollars to be manipulated by outside forces.

One vote can make a difference, and The Citizens for Tax Freedom want to make sure that you send a strong message at the polls on April 11 against this new, intrusive tax.

6 Percent Sales Tax AND High Property Taxes – NO WAY!

Founders would find government revolting

Reading John Douglas' fantasy ("Jefferson, Washington meet modern America," July 2) about a visit from the founders was like biting into a rice cake: finding form without substance or flavor.

As a libertarian, instead of introducing Washington and Jefferson to "modern America," I would have shown them "modern government."

Can you imagine Washington recalling his own admonition about government being a dangerous servant and a fearsome master and being appalled when confronted with the list of federal agencies that regulate, tax and otherwise control practically every daily act of citizens?

Or Jefferson's indignation at how earnings are taken and squandered on myriad ever-failing programs, and remembering his statement that it is tyranny to compel an individual to furnish money to support what he disbelieves?

Or their sadness that most schools, once funded and operated by parents and communities, are now doctrinal arms of government with distant policy makers deciding what and how to teach students?

Or their belief that citizens' property is confiscated without them being found guilty, tried or even charged with a crime?

That, contrary to the founders' intent, small arms common to infantryman are no longer available to law-abiding citizens who are being systematically stripped of their means of defense against aggression from criminals or a coercive government?

Or their outrage that a man's son and his nursing wife can be killed by government agents over a questionable \$200 firearms tax? Or that nearly 90 innocent men, women, and children can be shot, gassed and burned to death (on national television) for the very same insane justification?

On second thought, maybe it's a good thing that Douglas didn't show them our government. They would certainly have stayed to foment a Second Revolution to restore their lost legacy of liberty — and we like our government the way it is.

Don't we?

JOSEPH S. BOMMARITO, Chair
Libertarian Party of West Michigan
Wyoming

Third-party candidates getting ignored

As the 2000 election cycle begins to heat up, some readers may notice that The Press' campaign stories tend to include only candidates from the two major parties. With few exceptions, such as your recent coverage of Jaime Lopez's candidacy for the Michigan House in the 89th district, declared candidates who are not in one of the two major parties get little mention.

Your readers should be made aware of all candidates whose names they will see on the November ballot, not only in an election-week voters guide, but also in your coverage during the weeks and months before we go to the polls. You should note that the Libertarian Party is running candidates at all levels, more than in any previous election year, from president to township trustee.

Libertarians and other third parties face the challenge of overcoming the major parties' barriers to entry into the political process. We lack the financial resources for campaigning from which the major parties draw, due to their ability to cater to special interests. And our campaigns typically receive minimal coverage in the media.

I am not counting on the federal government bringing an anti-trust suit against the political duopoly of the major parties, as much as it may be deserved. But as legitimate third-party candidates struggle to gain exposure, we trust that our friends in the media will do their part to inform voters of all their ballot options.

PAUL MASTIN, candidate
Michigan House, District 76
Grand Rapids

Libertarian speaks for lower taxes

It seems that there is money, money everywhere, and government wants to spend it.

Democratic Vice President Gore wants the federal government to spend considerably more. He must be for big government. Republican Gov. Bush also wants the federal government to spend more, just not as much as Mr. Gore. Mr. Bush must be for increased government.

Kent County has a surplus of \$92 million, projects significant increases in spending, and votes to generously give taxpayers a whopping \$1 tax break ("Kent budget saves taxpayers a buck," Press, Oct. 13)!

At the public hearing on the county budget, one lone person spoke out against the county's big money ways. Bill Hall, a Libertarian candidate running for a county Board of Commissioners seat, invested the time and effort to speak out for lower taxes in this time of ever increasing government spending. A solitary voice at the hearing but a voice nonetheless.

Mr. Hall will get my vote. And his Libertarian colleagues elsewhere on the ballot will get it, too.

Everyone else in government seems to be of the tax-and-spend types that my pocketbook doesn't care for. They do not represent my views.

BILL WENZEL
Kentwood

Abuse of power is a two-way street

DISSENT!

The Press encourages readers to respond to events as reflected in the news and editorial page columns of this newspaper. In addition to the Public Pulse, we offer this Dissent! space to readers who offer significant, signed opinions contrary to Press policies or to views expressed in Press news articles, opinion columns and editorials.

Any attempt to amend the state constitution deserves much consideration and debate. Peter Luke ("Cities fight to keep their legal clout", July 16) apparently supports cities in the ballot proposal. He uses terms like "egregious examples of meddling," "stripped cities . . . of the right to sue," and "cynically packaged" to describe state actions, but he completely ignores local abuses of power.

Power is the issue because neither cities nor states have rights; they have power. Individuals have rights. As a libertarian I firmly believe ". . . that to secure (our) Rights, Governments are instituted among Men." The question is what level of government better protects individual rights.

The proposal ignores the fact that local governments are not sovereign entities. They are created under state statute, from which they derive their "legal clout." Because a government is smaller — closer to the people — doesn't make it any less meddling or self-serving. Local governments can be just as arbitrary as state government in restricting liberty. Speech is frequently regulated by sign ordinances, and zoning is often used for retroactive pre-emption of property rights.

Amendment supporters wrongly point to the state's recent prohibition against city residency requirements as an intrusion on

local power. It actually is a violation of the right to contract, one of the most sacrosanct of property rights. In a free market, an employer proposes terms and a prospective employee accepts those terms or seeks work elsewhere. The state has no moral right to interfere with employers, governmental or private, in bargaining non-coercive contracts.

Local government is just as guilty in its interference with the market. Several municipalities have adopted "living wage" ordinances favoring businesses that provide city-established minimum wage and benefit packages. Central economic planning does not work. It violates free market principles, is the root of monopoly power, and has unintended consequences, among which are laid-off workers and higher cost of government. The state is obligated to prohibit such intrusions into private contract rights.

When the state prohibited cities from suing gun manufacturers, it correctly denied them the power to confiscate money from private enterprise to fill municipal coffers. Suing gun manufacturers for criminal acts makes as much sense as suing car manufacturers for "road rage," fast food purveyors for heart disease, or cell phone makers for auto accidents.

In our modern cult of victimization, in a society that prides itself on divorcing reason from emotion, the self-anointed arbiters of "social justice" blame the object and its maker for the individual's freely chosen actions, thus encouraging lawsuits against "big tobacco," "big guns," and, soon to come, "big burgers." But social engineering through litigation will be totally ineffective, just as attempts to legislate morality are.

Mr. Luke's anti-gun diatribe —

notably not anti-criminal — ignores another rights issue. Article I, Section 6 of the Michigan Constitution states in whole, "Every person has a right to keep and bear arms for the defense of himself and the state." A Grand Rapids Press series demonstrated how local gun boards ignore the constitution and deny law-abiding citizens the means to defend themselves. The proposed amendment will likely prevent the state from carrying out its duty to safeguard the human right of self-defense.

There is a concern about minority rule since it would take only 13 senatorial votes from a total of 148 state legislators in both houses to kill any pertinent bill. Mr. Luke cynically hints at corruption in low places, noting that minority rule already exists in the form of lobbyists. Actually, corruption in government is not due to special interest groups giving money to legislators in return for favors; it is due to legislators promising favors in the form of entitlements and special exemptions to voters in order to get elected. The problem isn't campaign finance, it is vote-buying on a grand scale with taxpayer dollars.

It is regrettable that the proposal has more to do with the struggle for power among politicians than with the people reclaiming power and responsibility.

I suggest an amendment requiring a super majority — better yet, a unanimous vote on local councils and commissions as well as in the legislature when rights and freedom are threatened. As Lord Acton said, "Liberty is not a means to a political end. It is itself the highest political end."

■
JOSEPH S. BOMMARITO
Chair, Libertarian Party
of West Michigan

Country should be neutral in Mideast

The Oct. 20 Press contained an editorial entitled, "Government's role: neutrality," which dealt with the use of taxpayer dollars to influence voters for or against an issue. This principle of government neutrality should also be applied to international matters, such as we have now in the conflict in the Middle East.

The United States has had a very lopsided involvement in Middle Eastern affairs, far from being neutral or fair. Two glaring examples of our extremely biased activities:

- While we have lavishly given the nation of Israel more than \$100 billion over the last 40 years, it has only been relatively recently that we have tried to work constructively with the Palestinian Arabs.

- Compare the unfortunate recent attack on the USS Cole with the attack in 1967 on the USS Liberty in the Mediterranean. It is suspected that the Cole was attacked by Arab extremists, and we hear cries that it is an act of war against the United

States. But when the Liberty was deliberately attacked by Israel (which knew it was an American ship) details were kept from the public. The event was hushed up, and most Americans still do not know of the 34 crewmen who were killed and 171 who were wounded.

There is no good reason for our extreme lack of neutrality in the Middle East. Our government's bias is an affront to American taxpayers and others. When we blindly support one country over its neighbors, we make enemies of those neighbors who learn to see Uncle Sam as an unfair meddler — one to strike out against with acts of terrorism.

TOM QUINN
Algoma Township

End prohibition in Hudsonville

As a resident of Hudsonville, I'd like to thank local entrepreneur Bill Bolt for his efforts to end prohibition in Hudsonville (an ordinance will be on the August 8 ballot).

When our nation prohibited alcohol, it failed miserably and people broke the law to acquire drinks. Hudsonville's ban on retail sale doesn't force people to break the law; it simply forces them out of Hudsonville.

Opponents claim legalizing alcohol sales would send Hudsonville in the wrong direction. However, the increased revenue in property taxes would improve schools, police, roads, etc. Bill Bolt is not looking to build a seedy bar or a strip club — I doubt such businesses would find success in Hudsonville — rather, he wants to build a fine dining establishment. Hudsonville has everything to gain and nothing to lose.

Though economics and common sense would certainly support this initiative, it is also a moral matter — whether a small group of people can ban a business owner and his patrons from conducting the business they want, on their own property, on their own time, and without putting anybody else at risk. Giving local government extreme regulatory authority, and allowing it to manipulate a resident's businesses and property rights, brings up a question: Who owns the land? Mr. Bolt or the government?

Libertarians like me believe that individuals have the rights to their property and laws should reflect this. I encourage everyone in Hudsonville to oppose big government solutions and vote to legalize alcohol sales.

JASON MILLER

Hudsonville

Let the citizens tote guns

To the Paper:

Most states have laws that permit their citizens to carry concealed weapons, but Michigan does not. Our governor (who may have larger dreams for Washington, D.C.) and the Republican legislature have done everything they can to avoid confronting the issue. The last proposal was halted out of respect for the deaths at Columbine. The tragedy there was not caused by honest law abiding citizens carrying arms, (though some would argue it was caused by the lack thereof), rather, it was the act of criminals possessing

illegal weapons they obtained on the black market. The gutless politicians of the two-party system still used the tragedy as an excuse to step away from concealed carry.

I, however, feel it is time for our state to enforce the bill of rights and allow its citizens to bear arms. The constitution, and the framer's intent, is extremely clear: they believed that an armed populace was the greatest defense for society. It is no great surprise that the established political parties have abandoned the will of the founders and the text of the constitution.

Thankfully, some people still support the right of the people to keep and bear arms. The Libertarian Party of Michigan has launched a letter writing campaign that I whole-heartedly support. They intend to persuade our state legislature to pass concealed carry legislation. In fact, the Libertarian Party has even setup a website which serves as an online petition and a place to get more information: www.speakoutmichigan.org

Jason Miller
Hudsonville

School board in denial about enrollment drop

GUEST COMMENTARY

This commentary is by Jeff Steinport of Grand Rapids. He made an unsuccessful bid for the Grand Rapids Board of Education in June.

The Grand Rapids Board of Education is at it again. The Press ran an article July 27 about the declining enrollment in Grand Rapids Public Schools (GRPS) and one board member's reasoning for the decline ("GR enrollment drops to third among Michigan's school districts").

The excuses for declining enrollment continue, all the while the board ignores the real reasons: a lack of principals' autonomy, the strangle hold of the teacher's unions on education, and a lack of accountability on the part of the administration.

Board Member Curt Benson blamed the "perception" of low achievement on the fact that the GRPS is made up of more low-income children. He states "affluence is tied to academics," and that when you "pick up a large group of poor kids from the single-parent households and you drop them in Rockford schools. . . They're going to bring their low scores with them."

When will the school board stop the denial about the reason students are leaving GRPS? Now they're blaming it on low scores because somehow, according to Benson, poor children are dumber than the rest of the general population. That's this year's excuse. It is clear to me, being a recent student in GRPS, that the excuses are just that: excuses. I had the privilege of passing one of my classes simply by showing up. I failed the exam miserably, yet somehow got a B+. As a famous saying goes, "I never let my education get in the way of learning."

A recent Heritage Foundation study called No Excuses concluded there really are no excuses for poor achievement in an urban school district, such as Grand Rapids. No Excuses surveyed 21 high-poverty, high-performing schools. The primary trait of those schools is that the principals are given a significant amount of autonomy to hire and fire teachers as needed, set the curriculum and spend the money as they see fit.

As with any bureaucracy, the further the decision-

makers get from the issues at hand, the poorer those decisions will be. With the current board's top-down approach, there's little hope for effective change.

Additionally, the teachers' unions really do have a strangle hold on education. There simply needs to be teacher accountability. Teacher testing, merit-based pay, and the elimination of tenure would be the first steps in that process, but the unions seem more interested in maintaining mediocre education over truly improving teacher quality and competence. When the administration can't reward a teacher for good performance, or get rid of a teacher who does a poor job, quality can't be maintained.

If voters approve the voucher proposal in November, it will be the unions' own fault that public school teachers will be out of jobs after enrollment drops drastically. It is possible for the unions to work with the administration in bettering education; they just need to face the reality of the situation.

Finally, the administration simply isn't accountable to the parents and children of the district. When fewer and fewer people make the decisions affecting more and more people, those few will be unable to respond to the needs of each diverse group. The rash of centralization of school districts over the last 30 or so years is a prime example. The GRPS board is simply unable to control effectively, due to the number of competing interests.

If the power were relegated to the local school level, administration would be much more responsive to the community. But, in an age of increased centralization, it seems unlikely that the power holders would ever consider relinquishing control.

The hemorrhage of students to parochial, charter and home schools will continue unless the board is willing to recognize that the problem is internal, not some bogeyman sucking students out of the public schools — be it racism, poverty or green men from Mars.

Only when the board is ready to tackle the underlying issues will GRPS improve academically, and only then will they improve the public perception.

Tax dollars shouldn't cover primaries

GUEST COMMENTARY

This commentary is by Derek E. Hollemans, a member of the Libertarian Party. He lives in Plainfield Township.

When reading the Aug. 8 Press editorial concerning low voter turnout ("Another win for apathy?"), I found myself enthusiastically agreeing with Ottawa County Clerk Dan Krueger, who said:

"That's a lot of money for such a small turnout. Somebody down the line is going to ask if that is a good use of tax dollars."

As a member of the Libertarian Party, I believe Mr. Krueger is correct when questioning the use of tax dollars to fund political primaries. Before people accuse me of being undemocratic, I would like to clarify exactly what function primaries serve.

A political primary is nothing more than the party's selection process for their candidates. Therefore, it would seem extremely undemocratic to force taxpayers to fund the nomination process of a party they may not necessarily be members of, or even support.

Why, then, do we not have taxpayers fund the election of any civic organization's board of directors or endorsements? For example, the National Rifle Association endorses candidates every election cycle. Imagine the public reaction if everyone was forced to pay, through tax dollars for a public vote as to who the NRA should endorse for a given election. Of course, the suggestion is unacceptable.

There are many people who

closely watch the endorsements of the NRA to see who they should support, but there are also many individuals who disagree with the NRA. To ask the public to financially subsidize the process is absurd. Not only does it violate the rights of the taxpayers and their pocketbooks, but it also tears at the sovereignty of the NRA itself.

It should be left up to the NRA and its members to fund and decide which candidates it chooses to support. It should be no different for political parties.

Primaries can also be used to sabotage elections, such as voters who cross party lines in order to vote for who they perceive to be the weaker opposing candidate.

This was seen in the Republican presidential primary in Michigan. John McCain won, with the heavy help of Democrats and Independents. Although doing such a thing may not be considered honorable, I cannot blame those who choose to make such a statement at the ballot box. As long as taxes are funding the primary process, a Democrat has just as much right to vote in the Republican primary as anyone else, and the same is true for the opposite.

In Kent County, the process has been taken advantage of, as voters have been expected to turn out for an election approximately every two months. This year

alone, voters throughout Kent County have faced a presidential primary, the Grand Rapids Area Transit Authority initiative, a school board election, the August primary and one final vote in November.

With a special election every two to three months, it is not unreasonable to expect such a low voter turnout. More importantly, what message does this send the public about the fiscal responsibility of the process?

If a political party wishes to open its nominating process to the public, the burden should be

placed upon the party, not the public, to finance the process.

The Libertarian Party, taking a stand against such irresponsible financial management,

will always defend its right to caucus in order to nominate its candidates. Not only is this the principled thing to do, it is also the taxpayer friendly thing to do. A democracy in which less than half of the people participate is no democracy at all. With marginal voter turnout, I cannot imagine most taxpayers feeling much differently on the matter.

Unfortunately, we cannot expect this problem to be solved overnight. With disenchanting voters becoming more and more prevalent, maybe Mr. Krueger was indeed right. Although I beg to be proved wrong, this election season might just be another win for apathy.

A democracy in which less than half of the people participate is no democracy at all.

Press ignores Libertarians

Is The Press afraid of including the entire slate of candidates for state House?

In the list of endorsements (Oct. 22), The Press was more than happy to mention their endorsee's opposition, as long as he/she was a Democrat or Republican. Although there are more than two candidates in many of the state House races, I failed to see equal coverage given to third party candidates.

As a first time voter, I have carefully studied the issues, and will be voting for several third party candidates, including many Libertarians. More importantly, the only knocking I have received on my door during this campaign season has been that of Libertarian Derek Hollemans, who is running for Plainfield Township trustee.

When I watched the local

forums on public access, Bill Gelineau, a Libertarian, was the only candidate to attend the debate for the 74th state House District. Unfortunately, the time and dedication these gentlemen have put in seems to be for naught, as The Grand Rapids Press continues to ignore a political party that has been working seriously and professionally at the local level.

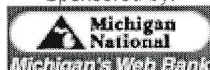
DEAN JONES
Rockford

Grand Rapids Press: Wednesday, Nov. 1

Grand Rapids Press - Thursday March 2.


**GRAND RAPIDS
EDITION**

Sponsored by:



- Michigan Live
- Pick An Edition
- Forums+Chat
- Local
- News
- Sports
- Prep Sports
- Cams/Radio/TV
- Entertainment
- Business
- Living+Travel
- Marketplace
- Find Jobs, Cars, Homes + More!

**About
Michigan Live**

Contact Us
Advertising
Search the Site
Work Here
User Agreement
Privacy Policy

© 2000 Michigan Live
All rights reserved.

Money for marrow: Legalize organ sales

Thursday, March 2, 2000

In "Life-saving donations," the Feb. 17 editorial, The Press endorsed legislation proposed by state Rep. Martinez, D-Lansing, that "gives final say on an organ donation to the donor." The Press is wrong to back this bill.

Though the proposed legislation does a good thing by placing final say in the hands of the individual -- not their next of kin -- and it will most likely increase donations, it does not go far enough to combat the dilemma of a nationwide organ shortage.

What the medical and organ donation system needs is less government regulation, not more. The government created the organ shortage and it is a tremendous problem.

Medical experts claim there are roughly 55,500 people on various lists waiting for organ transplants. Worse yet, 4,000 of these people will die before receiving a transplant. The problem stems largely from the fact that organ allocation is controlled by the government-contracted United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS).

While no one would argue for the living to give up indispensable organs, such as the heart, many Americans are in desperate need of kidneys and bone marrow. A few months ago the online auctioneer eBay took bids that hit \$5.7 million dollars for a human kidney. The offer and bids were most likely pranks, but the issue of whether people have the right to sell their own organs is no joke.

eBay certainly has a right to support a no-body-parts policy, but if someone sold an organ he would be

INSIDE
News

- » [News Home](#)
- » [Kent County](#)
- » [Ottawa County](#)
- » [Outlying counties](#)
- » [Lakeshore](#)
- » [Streetwatch](#)
- » [CommunityJournal](#)
- » [Columns+Editorials](#)
- » [Photo Gallery](#)
- » [Obituaries](#)
- » [News Flash](#)
- » [Weather](#)

**Consolidate
your bills.**
COLUMNISTS

- » [Ruth Butler](#)
- » [Pete DeMaagd](#)
- » [John Douglas](#)
- » [Charles Honey](#)
- » [Julie Hoogland](#)
- » [Mike Lloyd](#)
- » [Chris Meehan](#)
- » [Tom Rademacher](#)
- » [Submissions](#)

MARKETPLACE

- » [Auctions](#)
- » [e-stores](#)
- » [Gift Guide](#)
- » [Weddings](#)
- » [Yellow Pages](#)

MUST CLICKS

- » [News Flash](#)
- » [Strange News](#)
- » [Election 2000](#)
- » [Campaign Cash](#)
- » [School Closings](#)

committing a federal felony punishable by up to five years in prison and a \$50,000 fine. Consequently, organs are not available. The shortage puts the lives of thousands of Americans at risk. Luckily, there is a moral alternative.

No force has been more successful at meeting demand with supply than the free market. Wouldn't a free market in organs save thousands of lives? Free market forces also tend to drive prices down and could make life-saving organ transplant procedures available to more Americans. A free market, regulated and kept to high standards by the American Medical Association or another such group, would save more lives at less cost than UNOS.

Many people will no doubt object to the sale of human organs on religious or moral grounds and claim it is inhumane. But what is the alternative?

"The whole concept does have futuristic overtones, and it does make a lifesaving procedure sound somewhat mercenary," Libertarian Party National Director Steve Dasbach admitted. "But if the alternative is letting people die, or spending years on waiting lists, then the free market is actually the more humane approach."

While Rep. Martinez means well, people in Michigan may die because organs are still unavailable. Our legislature should work to open up the convoluted organ allocation system.

Whether or not selling organs is right or moral, it is a person's own body. The pro-life arguments over abortion do not apply to this because few people consider an organ to be a sacred, living and independent entity endowed with its own rights. In fact, repealing laws that prohibit this type of commerce is the pro-life position. The government should adopt a laissez faire policy and allow individuals to take responsibility for their own actions.

Even if the government does legalize organ sales, there will still be many moral issues to address. Luckily, these issues would coincide with thousands of additional lives being saved. I may choose not to offer my organs, but it is my decision. I might not even agree with my neighbors doing it, but I will not

attempt to jail them to fall in line with my beliefs.

Politicians from both major parties feel that Americans are not smart enough to make their own decisions and face the consequences, but Libertarians have faith in the average American. Our position is simple: your body, your choice.

... JASON C. MILLER

... Communications Director

... Libertarian Party of West Michigan

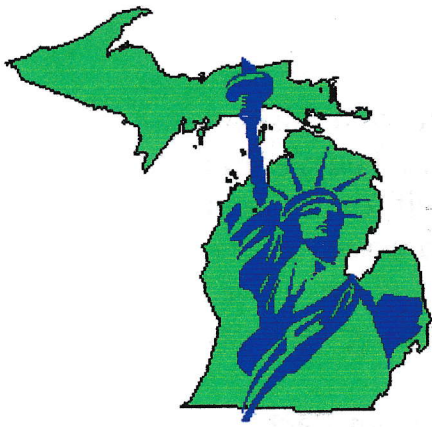
... Hudsonville

[Send this page to a friend](#)



Copyright 2000 Michigan Live Inc.

Michigan Live is a Registered Trademark of Advance Internet, Inc.



Barry County Libertarians,

Right Now would be a great time for you to start up your own

Libertarian Party of Barry County

Dear Bill, *SAMPLE COPY*

As another Independence Day celebration fades into memory, do you feel like you want to do something meaningful for America the Beautiful? . . . Do you want to stop wringing your hands about the lost American Dream, and instead, start rolling up your sleeves to take action in the name of Freedom and Responsibility? . . . Are you tired of that helpless feeling when you hear the evening news and it contains nothing but stories of new regulations, new laws, new taxes, and new intrusions on your Liberty? . . . Well, we have some good news for you!

We, the Libertarians of Allegan County (along with the Libertarian Party of West Michigan in Grand Rapids and the Kalamazoo LP) are here to encourage and assist you in forming a local, Barry County affiliate of the Libertarian Party of Michigan.

Your group's goals will look something like this: •to promote Libertarian philosophy; •to be politically active within your community; •to elect Libertarian candidates to office; •to uphold rights of individuals; •to educate the public and yourselves about libertarianism; •to encourage new membership in the Libertarian Party.

The Libertarians of Allegan County started their own Libertarian Party affiliate last October. As a fledgling group of only eight members, we have been working on a few small projects already. We have passed out libertarian literature while walking in two parades with our float, we have a rudimentary web site, we help publish the West Michigan *Liberty Letter* newsletter, we will have a presence at the Allegan County fair in September, we have four Allegan County candidates on the ballot in November, and we have assisted our neighboring affiliates with several parades and other events.

This last point is one we would like to emphasize: we are taking positive steps to increase cooperation and communication between neighboring LP affiliates. This is the whole reason we're searching for two or three libertarians in Barry County who want to start an LP affiliate. We're here to tell you that you don't need dozens of people to start an affiliate and start being effective as a libertarian organization. We're here to pledge support from your neighbors in Allegan, Kalamazoo, and Grand Rapids. We will be there to help you get started and to help with your projects in the future.

If you'd like to share some time with people who share your interest in the ideas of Liberty, let's get started. Give me a call at 616-673-5503. Or call Bill Gelineau in Grand Rapids at 616-249-9735.

The only requirement is a concern for the Fate of Freedom.

For Liberty,

Rick Dutkiewicz (Chair, Libertarians of Allegan County)

Call me at: 616-673-5503

E-mail: rdoogie@datawise.net

P.S., I became active in the Libertarian Party because I believe that history has shown us that people have an innate will toward freedom. I believe that when government gets too big, our spirit of freedom shows itself, one way or another. History tells the tale. We will be free! I only see two ways for this to happen; either by violence or by vote. Before signing up for an armed revolution, I want to give a good, hard try at voting and educating our way to freedom.

That's why I think it is so urgent that we support the Libertarian Party in 2000. I want you folks in Barry County to know how uplifting, and invigorating it is to be part of a local county affiliate. We only had 3 active libertarians in Allegan to help start things going, but we managed to get seven people to sign up at our first meeting.

I think the time is ripe.

Now is the time to push for freedom with all our might.

We have a great Presidential Candidate in Harry Browne. We can all feel proud to have such a dynamic and articulate spokesman presenting our libertarian message to the public. We have over 100 libertarians running for local offices in Michigan and we have a very active statewide campaign to place "Vote Libertarian" billboards in some high profile areas like Detroit, Lansing, and Grand Rapids

Here in Allegan, we don't plan on changing the world overnight, but we refuse to sit on the sidelines and let the socialist utopians dance on freedom's grave. - The love and respect for Freedom and Personal Responsibility are not dead. We plan on helping the movement for freedom show some *signs of life* here in Western Michigan. We are going to fight the good fight against the pervasive attitude that an all-powerful nanny-state can be a cure-all for every social ill.

We want to make the Libertarian Option a little more visible to voters here, in Western Michigan. You can do the same thing in Barry County.

It's easy and fun! It doesn't take a lot of work, but the rewards are many.

It's time for every liberty-loving person to increase their political activity: Non-members, please join with us in the Libertarian Party. LP members, please support a brand new, Barry County LP affiliate. We can do this!

Interested? Call us, we're very friendly,... because "It's a great time to be a libertarian!" Thanks for listening! I'm looking forward to meeting you.

Rick

Hey Bill, This is a sample for you of what I mailed to Barry County. I know it's a little long, but I designed it with the gist of the letter at the very beginning, if interested, they read on for the motivational part. I will follow with e-mails, a Liberty Letter in the mail, and phone calls to the most recent names.

66 Names Total: including 4 current members, 1 just expired, 45 interested within the past two years, remaining 16 were interested more than 2 years.

CAMPAIGNS

Campaigns

The LPWM ran candidates in both the Grand Rapids School Board election in June of 2000 and in the General election of November, 2000. Candidates Include:

- **Jeff Steinport, Grand Rapids Board of Education** - Jeff ran the most successful campaign this year with 86% of the required vote total to win. Jeff has pledged to run again next year, being the only candidate of the LPWM for 2001.
- **Bill Gelineau, 74th District, MI House** - Bill ran an extremely active campaign for Michigan State House and was the third-highest percentage vote total of all state house LP candidates. Bill got 3.2%
- **Jamie Lewis, Kent County Clerk** - Jamie also ran an active campaign for the County's open Clerk seat. Jamie was covered by the Grand Rapids Press and received 3.1% of the vote total.
- **Erwin Haas, US House, District 3** - Erwin, our longtime US House Candidate, ran again this year and received 0.8% of the vote total.
- **Bill Hall for Kent County Commissioner, District 4** - Bill Hall also ran an extremely active campaign with several direct mailings, yard signs, and coverage by the Grand Rapids Press. A more detailed examination of Bill's campaign is included in this submission. Bill received 6.3% of the vote total.
- **Paul Mastin, 76th District, MI House** - Paul's campaign was also extensively covered by the Grand Rapids Press and Paul made a very articulate and effective candidate. Paul received 2.5% of the vote total.
- **Derek Hollemans, Plainfield Township Trustee** - Derek also ran an active campaign with yard signs and direct mailing. Derek received 4.7% of the vote total.

Jeff Steinport for Grand Rapids Board of Education June, 2000

The Jeff Steinport for GR Board of Education campaign was largely self-funded by Jeff Steinport and his immediate family. The amount of funds raised was approximately \$4,500. Campaigning was broken down into three parts; Public forums, precinct walking, and direct mailing.

Jeff attended about four public forums held by such groups as the Greater Grand Rapids PTA, the Coalition for Representative Government, the Basai Community Organization, and the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce. Although Jeff was not endorsed by the Coalition for Representative government, his message of cutting costs and improving education standards was well received by the other organizations involved. Jeff received a significant amount of positive exposure from these forums.

Precinct walking was also a major part of the Steinport campaign. Groups of volunteers each took one precinct for themselves and dropped off literature to each home of a regular school board voter, only around 3% of the population. The city of Grand Rapids is composed of 100 precincts. Jeff, before the campaign began, identified the precincts with the highest percentage and real numbers of voters. About 25 precincts were identified that would provide the largest bang for the amount of time that goes in to precinct walking. All of the precincts were covered, which resulted in a higher percentage, on average, of those precinct voters voting for Jeff Steinport. Significant results were also achieved with the strategic placement of yard signs near precinct voting locations.

The third aspect of the Steinport campaign was direct mail. Personalized letters were mailed to all absentee voters one month before the elections, as they were receiving their ballots. Jeff received several phone calls from absentee voters asking questions and then deciding to vote for him during the conversation. A postcard was also sent to each regular voter about one week before the election.

The results of the election, although not a win, are encouraging. Jeff received 2471 votes, which is 86% of the votes required to win. Post-election analysis also shows that the precinct walking, along with additional yard signs and direct mail, will put Jeff over the top, providing a win for 2001. A win for Jeff in 2001 would mean a major victory for the LPWM, but also for the LPM and the LPUSA, since Jeff would be the highest elected libertarian in terms of number of constituents, as Grand Rapids is a city of 180,000 people.

My goals, if elected to the board, are twofold:

- Ensure that the children attending the Grand Rapids Public Schools get the best possible education they can.
- Ensure the people of the City of Grand Rapids get the best, most efficient, and most successful public school system for their tax dollars.

If elected to the Board of Education, I intend to carefully scrutinize how our tax dollars are being spent and make sure those dollars go to actually educating children. I plan to place a greater emphasis on civics as well as opportunities for students to better prepare themselves for the real world. I intend to be accountable to the people of the city, keeping citizens informed of and involved with education.

VOTE
JEFF STEINPORT
School Board
June 12th, 2000

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Jeff Steinport



Committee to Elect Jeff Steinport
2915 Colt Ave NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49505



JEFF
STEINPORT

For Board of Education
City of Grand Rapids

A fresh perspective for our schools

www.ElectJeff.com

616-447-0721
www.ElectJeff.com

Jeff Steinport For Board of Education

2915 Coit Ave NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49505

Dear concerned voter,

My name is Jeff Steinport and I am a candidate for the Grand Rapids Board of Education. I would like to take a moment of your time to ask for your vote and to tell you a little about myself.

I have lived in Grand Rapids my whole life and I graduated from the Grand Rapids Public Schools. I am not a politician, but a private sector worker who sees a need for change in our educational system.

I am running for the Board of Education because I believe that education is an extremely vital part of a child's life. Some of the important points of my platform are as follows:

- All too often public education is used as political football, educational methods are chosen simply because they are a fad or a new idea. I promise to judge educational methods based solely on hard data and proven results.
- I will make every effort to improve the academic achievement of the students of GRPS. This can only be accomplished through increasing parental involvement. The We should expect an improvement in community involvement in education. I board of education has been making decisions with little or no community input. I want to change that.
- I would like to introduce a voluntary internship program to allow high school students to get real-world experience before moving on to college or a career.
- Our children need an increase on the emphasis on civics so all students understand our form of government, as well as the rights and responsibilities of all citizens.

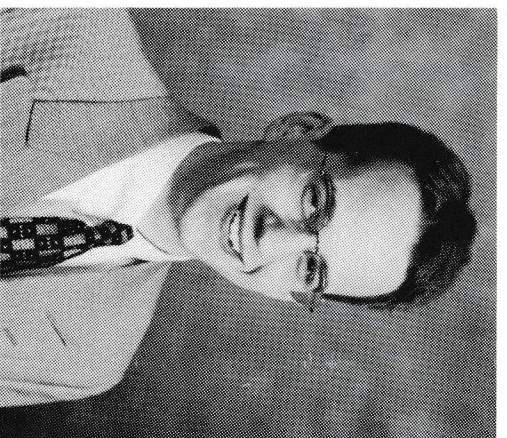
If you have any questions on my campaign, please feel free to call me at home at 447-0721, or you can reach me via my web page at www.ElectJeff.com.

Thank you for your time. I hope you will vote Jeff Steinport for Board of Education on June 12th.

Sincerely,

Jeff Steinport

Jeff Steinport



Personal:

Jeff is a life-long resident of Grand Rapids and a graduate of the Grand Rapids Public Schools.

Professional:

Computer Network Engineer at Advantage Sales and Marketing of Grand Rapids.
Vice President of Holland-based J&B Marine Products.

Community:

Member of the Michigan Emergency Volunteers, the State of Michigan's official emergency management force.
Member of the North End Neighborhood Association.

Dear concerned voter;

My name is Jeff Steinport and I am a candidate for the Grand Rapids Board of Education. I would like to take a moment of your time to ask for your vote and to tell you a little about myself.

I have lived in Grand Rapids my whole life and I graduated from the Grand Rapids Public Schools. I am not a politician, but a private sector worker who sees a need for change in our educational system.

I am running for the Board of Education because I believe that education is an extremely vital part of a child's life. Some of the important points of my platform are as follows:

- In order to improve the efficiency of the GRPS, I want to investigate contracting out non-educational services of the district, such as food service, maintenance, and payroll. This will improve those services, as well and decrease the cost, allowing the board to dedicate the money to actually educating children. This means fewer millages and no more tax increases.
- All too often public education is used as political football, educational methods are chosen simply because they are a fad or a new idea. I promise to judge educational methods based solely on hard data and proven results.
- We should expect an improvement in community involvement in education. The board of education has been making decisions with little or no community input. I want to change that.
- We need to introduce a voluntary internship program to allow high school students to get real-world experience before moving on to college or a career.
- Students would greatly benefit by the improved and efficient use of technology so teachers can customize curricula for individual students.
- Our children need an increase on the emphasis on civics so all students understand our form of government, as well as the rights and responsibilities of all citizens.

If you have any questions on my campaign, please feel free to call me at home at 447-0721, or you can reach me via my web page at www.ElectJeff.com.

Thank you for your time. I hope you will vote Jeff Steinport for Board of Education.

Sincerely,

Jeff Steinport

PS: Don't forget to vote for **Jeff Steinport for Board of Education** on June 12th, or if you are an absentee voter, you should be receiving your ballot in the mail soon.

Public blast roils race for school board

► *Some candidates say board member Jim Rinck may have a point, but few support the glaring way he blamed the superintendent.*

**By Ted Roelofs
and LZ Granderson**
The Grand Rapids Press

Barely a week before the Grand Rapids school board election, dissident member Jim Rinck has injected a volatile issue — the performance of Superintendent Patricia Newby — into the race.

Rinck startled candidates and school officials alike with a harshly worded statement Thursday, blaming Newby's leadership and a passive board for a "pro-

found crisis." He also likened the Grand Rapids system to the troubled Detroit schools, which were placed under state control last year.

The board is to issue a written evaluation of Newby in its meeting Monday.

Newby declined comment on Rinck's statement.

"It is a board issue and I will work with the board to resolve it," she said.

One of three candidates who has Rinck's support said his statement could turn the June 12 school election into a referendum on Newby.

"It is now, isn't it?" said Amy McGlynn, a legislative representative for the Greater Grand Rapids PTA Council and one of seven candidates for two seats.

She nonetheless faulted Rinck's

see SCHOOL, A4

© SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 2000

The Grand Rapids Press

SCHOOL *Few agree with board member's tactics*

CONTINUED FROM A1

decision to air his dissent in public.

"It's an extremely strong statement. I am not comfortable with the truth of it," McGlynn said.

Rinck also has said he supports LaDeidra Brown-Gais, president of the Southeast Community Association and Mitchell Neeley, a customer support analysis for a Cascade Township software firm.

Neeley said he backs much of what Rinck said.

"I believe the board has acted in the capacity of a rubber stamp," he said. "Basically what the administration wants, the administration gets."

Like Rinck, Neeley denounced Newby's decision to divide the district into four areas under four assistant superintendents. He called it "a waste of money."

"There is a \$7 million deficit in the budget," Neeley said. "If we're going to cut back, it should be the layers of bureaucracy."

He stopped short, however, of saying he would push for Newby's ouster if he is elected.

"I do believe she is a highly intelligent woman. Her problems might be a situation where she is

getting bad advice," Neeley said.

Brown-Gais did not return phone calls to her work or her home.

The district has been forced to take \$7.7 million from its savings account to balance its \$230 million proposed budget, bringing its fund balance to a five-year low.

School officials have struggled to sell the public a controversial plan to close 12 schools, prelude to a likely bond issue in the fall that would ask voters for money to upgrade crumbling buildings in the district.

In 1998, voters rejected a \$396 million school fix-up plan by 62 percent to 38 percent.

Newby, hired three years ago while elements of that bond proposal were already in the works, may well be judged by the success or failure of the next bond issue.

Other candidates were not so quick to fault Newby for the district's struggles.

"I think Dr. Newby came into a district that was not by any means perfect," said Derrick Martin, 18, a Central High graduate and student representative for the Grand Rapids Board of Education.

"We have given her not many resources or time to put this sys-

tem back together and she is doing the best she can."

Jerome Dixon, a 30-year-old commercial loan officer for Old Kent Bank, said he needs to "do some more investigation" of Rinck's criticisms.

"He has some very poignant views and I agreed we need to improve our schools . . . If the superintendent has surrounded herself with people that cannot advise her then that's a problem."

Incumbent Brian Craig — running for re-election — criticized Rinck for speaking out on what had been a closed evaluation process, and maintained that Rinck's criticisms of Newby are ill-founded.

"I think Dr. Newby's strengths far outweigh any issues or weaknesses or concerns," he said.

Jeffrey Steinport, a 20-year-old computer engineer, said Rinck "raises some valid points."

He agreed with Rinck's contention that the district has mishandled plans to close 12 schools.

"We'll probably have some animosity if the board closes 12 schools in June," he said.

Steinport said Newby is "partially at fault but it's never one person's fault in a situation like this. The board is partially at fault as well."

Steinport leading fund-raiser in Grand Rapids school board race

By Fred Woodhams
The Grand Rapids Press

Campaign finance records show four Grand Rapids School Board candidates have raised between \$1,200 and \$4,700 to advertise themselves to voters.

Jeffrey Steinport leads the pack with more than \$4,700 raised as of May 27, nearly all of it coming from himself and family members, statements filed with the Kent County Clerk's Office show. In addition, he and relatives have loaned his campaign about \$3,200.

Jerome Dixon follows with about \$2,000, incumbent Brian Craig with \$1,800 and loans totaling \$1,600, and La-Deidra Brown-Gais with \$1,270 raised.

Steinport said he has spent money on yard signs, mailings and other campaign advertisements, as other candidates have done. He said he researched past school board elections and found that the winning candidates spent about \$5,000.

"I didn't want to be influenced by other people's money," he said. "That's why I decided to contribute my own money."

Jerome Dixon had the most contributors with more than 30. Craig and Brown-Gais had about 15 contributors.

Dixon said his campaign advisers estimated he would need about \$3,500 to win at first, but because of the relatively large field of candidates, they have increased that to about \$5,500.

"We have contributions come in on a regular basis," he said. "Hopefully, we can get to that."

Despite being outspent by most other candidates, Mitchell Neeley said he didn't think that money would be an issue in the race. He said he has raised about \$50 and spent \$350 out of his own pocket.

"I chose to do it this way," he said. "I do not like begging for money. And coming in as a parent who's concerned enough to run, I want to be known as a parent who is concerned enough to run."

Candidates Derrick Martin and Amy McGlynn could not be reached for comment Thursday.

For school board races in the rest of Kent County, only two East Grand Rapids candidates have filed campaign finance statements.

Gregg Hughes reported receiving \$815, and Beth Lent reported about \$3,300 in donations. Lent has spent about half of that, mostly on pamphlets, mailings and yard signs.

June 9, 2000

VOTE

VOTE

JEFF

STEINPORT

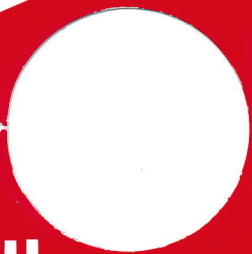
SCHOOL BOARD - GRAND RAPIDS

June 12, 2000

www.ElectJeff.com

VOTE

**SIGN
YOUR
NAME
LOCAL 820**



VOTE

**JEFF
STEINPORT**
for **SCHOOL BOARD**

**GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC
SCHOOLS**

JUNE 12, 2000

www.ElectJeff.com

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Jeff Steinport

Grand Rapids Board of Education

Seven candidates are seeking three seats on the Grand Rapids Board of Education. Those most qualified for the job are BRIAN CRAIG, who is seeking his second term, and newcomers JEROME DIXON and JEFFREY STEINPORT. They have the best combinations of experience, insights and firmness needed to contend with the schools' expanding financial problems as well as to improve learning, rebuild community and staff confidence in the schools, and to address the multiple challenges brought on by the schools' diminishing enrollment.

Mr. Craig grows more valuable as a bond election, involving a millage increase, grows nearer. An architect whose firm specializes in schools, he has a knowledge of school construction and design that will be important as board members ponder which neighborhood schools to close. He also realizes the hard work ahead in improving curriculum and working with administrators to better manage the district and respond to parent concerns.

Mr. Dixon, director of the Michigan Minority Business Development Council of West Michigan and father of two pre-schoolers, has a banking background that should aid the cash-strapped district. His goals of lowering the drop-out rate and duplicating successful charter school programs are sound. He should steer away, however, from a view he has expressed that the city schools' failings are due largely to marketing inadequacies. They aren't. The quality of curriculum, lack of parent involvement, teacher performance and poor condition of buildings are more important factors.

Mr. Steinport, only three years out of City High School, could lend a unique and refreshing perspective to the board. He has his focus in the right place: a concern about declining enrollment and the quality of curriculum in schools. A computer network engineer for Advantage Sales and Marketing, he's knowledgeable, concise and not afraid to ask questions or talk about issues like privatizing services to save money and rewarding teachers with merit pay.

Mr. Steinport takes a wrong turn, however, in opposing any tax increase for the schools. The plain fact is that many school buildings need repair and improvement. The only way to pay for that is with some sort of added millage. Mr. Steinport's refusal, so far, to acknowledge that reality is a significant mark against him. We recommend him for the board out of respect for his other qualities and with the hope that greater wisdom will come with experience on the board.

Four other candidates also could serve well. As president of the Southeast Community Association, LaDeidra Brown-Gais would like to build better relations between schools and neighborhoods. It's a good idea but not a cure-all. She should help make that happen in her current job. Derrick Martin, who graduated from Central High School last week and was the board's student representative for the past year, has a working knowledge of board functions. He will be living, however, in Kalamazoo this fall while he attends Western Michigan University. Residence in the school district is a minimum qualification for service on the school board.

COMMENT

The Grand Rapids Press

108th YEAR • NUMBER 265

Dan Gaydou PUBLISHER 222-5818

Michael Lloyd EDITOR 222-5508

Joseph Crawford EDITORIAL PAGE EDITOR 222-5483

IN OUR OPINION

Amy McGlynn has been attending board meetings for five years and is a board member in both the Grand Rapids and Michigan Parent Teacher Associations. Her knowledge of school issues is vast, but she's unwilling to admit the serious problems confronting the urban district. Mitchell Neeley has a genuine interest in making the schools better and could be an effective board member after learning more about school funding and operations.

The Gelineau Campaign:

State House - District 74

1. Goals
2. Execution
3. Conclusions
4. Humor – food for the soul!

Goals

The premise of the campaign was simple. Run a partisan campaign that touched all the basic elements necessary for a “real” effort. From the outset, this was to be a learning effort for the candidate and the local party. This was part 1 of a 2-part effort to offer this district a small government alternative to the conservative – Republican’s which have dominated it for literally 100 years.

The elements of this were simple.

- Raise over \$1000. The point of this is to force us to file the Michigan campaign forms – and therefore learn the process.
- Engage the press persistently
- Show up for every opportunity to debate the incumbent
- Circulate 5000 flyers
- Distribute 100 yard signs
- Put up a first class website for the campaign

Execution

- My first budget called for spending about \$1200. I was quite willing to spend this much myself on the campaign – and given the financial pressures on the relatively small number of regular donors, I felt it unwise to make a broad push for support. This was especially true when it became apparent that a large number of candidates would be coming out of our chapter.

Nonetheless, I made several appeals at meetings. Also, I sent a personal letter to each of the members living in my district (11). The result of all this was modest, raising \$495. I also contributed \$1055 to the effort.

My first move was to recruit Joe Bommarito as my campaign Treasurer. As Finance Director for the City of Wyoming, Michigan, Joe was familiar with government forms and demands. Also, by asking him to ONLY do my paperwork, it freed me from having to worry about it.

- The process of turning an educational effort into a serious campaign, one that appeals to the news media – proved a daunting task. First, the libertarian ideas that I find important to discuss do not resonate with most reporters. Second, it is difficult for reporters to put your statements into a context of an unbiased article. Despite this, we had a measure of success getting the Grand Rapids Press and the Grand Valley Advance to publish candidate profiles. In both papers, we received more coverage than either the Republican incumbent or the paper Democratic challenger. See Articles...

- Perhaps the biggest disappointment of the campaign was the inability to engage Jim Koetje (the incumbent Republican). Most of the debates that were held involved the primary season. Mr. Koetje had a considerable challenge from a previously uninvolved person. Tom Karol exposed many of the issues that I would later discuss. He received 38% in the primary. In October, Tom endorsed me.

There were two debates held in October. The first sponsored by the Kent County Intermediate School District. Vouchers were the main topic. Neither the D or the R bothered to show up. Both had endorsed Proposal 1, which I opposed – so this was a wedge issue. I was very well received by the largely government school crowd. Almost universally opposed to vouchers, they cheered me despite completely different philosophies on education. SHEEP!

The second opportunity to debate was the Citizens Research cable access debate at the Grand Rapids library. Again, the D and R simply didn't show up. This happened so close to Election Day that it was impossible to capitalize on it.

Our effort to reach out to voters involved about 15 people. The Grandville Information Project was a centerpiece of the campaign. For 2 weeks in early September, we distributed over 2000 pieces of literature throughout the City of Grandville (which holds about 40% of the voters in the district). This proved a time consuming, difficult, and thoroughly joyous event for the candidate. Each home and each voter was a learning experience. **This project alone made the campaign worthwhile.**

We did print 250 yard signs. It proved difficult to distribute more than 50 into yards of homes. On the weekend before the election, we placed about 100 more in the public easements adjacent to other political signs. The incumbent was the only other with signs.

- The best execution in the campaign was the website. I recruited Jeff Steinport to build a really sharp website. I provided the content, with Tom Quinn providing

editorial critique – Jeff organized and material and presented it on the site. The best way to evaluate it is to look at it. www.lpwm.org/votebill

Conclusions

The lessons of the campaign are many. Here are a few:

The most important part of the process is the recruitment of people willing to fill important roles. The most effective parts of the campaign were tasks fulfilled by Joe Bommarito (paperwork) and Jeff Steinport (website). Next time around, I want to find 10 or 15 people to take on specific tasks.

Next, it is important to identify early which issues to emphasize. Literature, thought, and supporting information **MUST** be ready long before Labor Day.

The money needed to run the kind of campaign necessary to get attention is probably 4 – 5K. I seriously underestimated the need for cash – for signs, newspaper ads, and other basics.

Don't be a wimp. In the desire to be a "respectable" candidate, I didn't adequately expose issues that might have helped identify me as a candidate. My personality prevents me from being a bomb-thrower, but a louder effort would have won more votes.

The 1399 votes I received were one of the largest in the state. Given the weak overall support for the LP in West Michigan. The 3.15% , representing the 3rd highest* among our State Representative candidates was very satisfying. All the State Rep. candidates that performed as well worked hard as well. The lesson there is – recruit more people willing to make the effort. * In 3-way races.

Undoubtedly, the most important part for me is the hope that my campaign inspired at least one person to investigate libertarian ideas. I learn a great deal, and the support I received drives me to be an even better candidate in 2002.

Now for some humor:

Spell check the name of the incumbent – Representative James Koetje

(it spells "Kotex" -- I couldn't have said it better)

My goals, if elected to the State Legislature, are:

- Shine a bright light on the waste of public money in Lansing. Work with the courageous few Republicans and Democrats willing to oppose the bureaucratic interests.
- Lead the fight to restore the rightful place of responsibility of the Michigan family. Reduce tax burdens, allowing families to choose their child's education.
- Protect the environment by allowing individuals to sue polluters. Encourage rebuilding of our core cities through broad tax reductions for working residents.

The current state of affairs didn't start yesterday and it won't be solved by tomorrow. But the time is now to tell Republicans and Democrats alike that a new force for freedom is awakening the spirit of Michigan. No vote for freedom is wasted! Send a message that'll be heard around the state.

Vote!

Bill Gelineau
✓ **Libertarian**

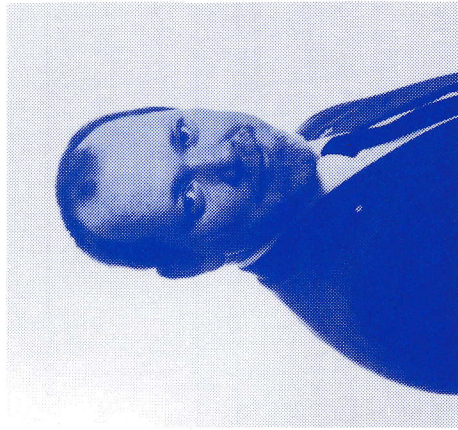
State Representative – District 74

November 7, 2000

Paid for by
Bill Gelineau for State Representative Committee

Postage

Bill Gelineau for State Representative Committee
3827 Navaho
Grandville, MI 49418



**Bill
Gelineau**

Libertarian

**State Representative
District 74**

Grandville * Walker * Cedar Springs
Sparta * Tyrone * Solon * Nelson
Oakfield * Courtland * Alpine
Grattan * Spencer * Tallmadge

* "It's time to bring government
back to the people" *

Get Involved!
gelineau @iserv.net
249-9735

616 - 249 - 9735

www.lpwmm.org/votebill

Bill Gelineau
For State Representative
District 74 - Libertarian

3827 Navaho
Grandville, MI 49418

Fellow Citizens:

Chances are that you've never heard of me – and maybe never voted for a Libertarian candidate. I'd like a moment of your time to tell you why I'm running for State Representative and the importance of the Libertarian Party in today's politics.

Like many people, I've noted the growing involvement of the public in our private lives. Government is the expression of public will. For some time now we've allowed ourselves to take too lightly the freedom for which our parents and grandparents fought and died. Cynicism has replaced public involvement – and a professional class of politicians has taken control of our government. And who is to blame?

We are! You, me, and everyone... For a little temporary security and convenience, we've given up our rights and our responsibilities to interest group politics and financial interests. The time has come to take our freedom back. Here is a small part of the Freedom-based plan of the Libertarian Party:

- A 10 year plan to eliminate the Michigan personal income tax.
PAID FOR: By eliminating property tax subsidies to C-Corporations and adopting the Fair-tax initiative for property assessments.
- Protecting the rights of Michigan citizens to protect themselves.
VOTING: To permit conceal-carrying of handguns. Increased penalties for felony use of firearms.
- Restoring the responsibility of parents to educate children in the manner they choose.
EXPANDED HOMESTEAD CREDIT: Paid for by reducing and eventually eliminating higher education subsidies. Also allowing the creation of new, smaller school districts.
- Supporting the integrity of the Michigan family.
ADOPTION OF COVENANT MARRIAGE LAWS: Including Presumptive Joint-Custody arrangements and the dismantling of the Friend-of-the-Court.

If you have any questions or would like to get involved in the campaign, feel free to call me at home at 249-9735, or e-mail gelineau@iserv.net. Its time to bring responsibility back for ourselves and our children. Vote for Bill Gelineau for State Representative on November 7, 2000.

Sincerely,

Bill Gelineau



Personal:

Born and raised in Michigan
Wife – Tracey of 16 years
Attended: Riverview H.S.
University of Michigan
Wayne State University
Children: Grandville Schools

Professional:

Unit Manager – VICORP
Restaurants, Inc.
President - Apple Blossom
Restaurants, Inc.
Title Examiner – First
American Title Company.

Community:

Coach: A.Y.S.O. Soccer
Group Organiser: Grand
Valley Blood Program
Chair: Citizens for Tax
Freedom

Letters to the Editor

Keeping alcohol ban will not make Hudsonville better

I would like to say that the vote on Proposal A and B shows me that the people of Hudsonville do not like to make their town better.

They think that it is better to put the tax dollar that would have been generated by the new restaurant that was going to go up on the south side of town. And they promote drinking and driving as for those who do drink still have to drive out

Libertarian Party also has candidate in state House race

Please be aware not all of the candidates for state representative in the 74th District were mentioned in your Aug. 15 article following the primary. The Libertarian Party, clearly the third force in Michigan politics, has nominated me for the general election.

I hope that the Advance will fairly and completely cover the choices available to voters in November.

Those interested in the complete list of candidates should check the Michigan Elections candidate list at www.sos.state.mi.us/election/candlist/00gen/00gen-cl.htm. Voters all over the state will find an extensive number of qualified Libertarian candidates (more than all the "third parties" combined) who will offer important choices for voters to the traditional two-party lock.

Bill Gelineau
Libertarian candidate,
74th District
Grandville

GRAND VALLEY ADVANCE AUGUST 29, 2000 PAGE 7

**Are you tired of Republican Promises of
smaller government that never happen?**



They haven't led -- I will

Gelineau

Libertarian

Paid for by the Bill Gelineau
for State Representative Committee
4355 Timber Ridge
Wyoming, MI 49509

**74th District
State Representative**

**Get Involved 616-249-9735
Check it out www.lpwm.org/votebill**

mbg10.26

MICHIGAN

State House candidates spar over vouchers, education issues

► *Three Republicans, five Democrats and two Libertarians who hope to represent Kent County are divided over Proposal 1.*

By Barton Deiters
The Grand Rapids Press

Sometimes to the dismay of their hosts, candidates for the State House of Representatives agreed almost as much as they disagreed at a forum Thursday night sponsored by Kent Intermediate School District.

Three Republicans, five Democrats and two Libertarian candidates who hope to represent Kent County following the Nov. 7 election talked about education issues before the crowd made up mostly of school board members and district administrators.

The first question asked of the candidates concerned Proposal 1, which would allow vouchers for private schools. There the candidates split along party lines, with Democrats opposed and Republicans supporting. The lone exception was GOP candidate Jerry Kooiman, who said he supports the voucher concept, but he isn't sure that Proposal 1 is the best way to do it.

His opponent in the race for the 75th District, which covers South-

east Grand Rapids, Democrat Janice Hanley, said the grant of about \$3,300 to attend private schools was not sufficient.

"Who are we kidding to even say that?" she said.

Christopher Vogt, a Kentwood Democrat in the 72nd District, said he believes the proposal is dangerous.

"It will dismantle the school system and they will have to close schools down," Vogt said.

His opponent, two-term incumbent Mark Jansen, said the proposal will mean opportunity for the poorest of Michigan's students.

"This is an issue to carry on welfare reform," Jansen said. "We have a moral obligation to provide an education for these people."

One of the more fiery exchanges was between Wyoming candidates for the 77th District, one-term incumbent Republican Joanne Voorhees and her Democratic opponent, Levi Rickert.

Responding to a question about taking away the power from an elected school board, Voorhees said she voted to do so in Detroit because of the widespread corruption and incompetence on the Detroit Board of Education.

"I believe in local controls and I believe in school boards," Voorhees said. "It was one of the most difficult decisions I ever had to make."

Rickert, an American Indian, said he and his people had seen this type of patronizing behavior on the part of whites and he believed that was what was at work in the Detroit school takeover by the state.

He asked Voorhees what caused her to adopt her point of view about the Detroit schools.

"Was it the color of their skin or their socioeconomic status?" Rickert said. Voorhees shook her head and repeated "no" as Rickert made his accusations.

Incumbent Democrat Steve Pestka, who represents urban Grand Rapids in the 76th District, disagreed with his fellow party member, saying he reluctantly voted for state takeover in Detroit because of the vast problems there.

"I was wavering until the last minute," said Pestka, whose opponent, Barb Vander Veen, did not come to the forum.

Members of the audience were unhappy when all the candidates said they would not support requiring that Michigan superintendents be certified.

KISD Superintendent George Woons tried to persuade candidates, saying that Michigan is the only state that does not require certification for superintendents. But he said the state does require certification of lawyers, plumbers and barbers.

However, candidates said that school boards should have the latitude to make their best judgment about candidates.

All candidates from the 72nd through the 77th districts were invited to attend the forum.



SETTING THE RECORD ✓ STRAIGHT

■ The Press sometimes makes mistakes, and we want to correct them promptly. If you find an error of fact, please let us know: Call 222-5481 or fax us at 222-5409. We publish corrections regularly in this space.

The Region Janice Hanley is opposed by Jerry Kooiman for the 75th District state House seat. A story in Sunday's Press gave incorrect information.

Business An automotive testing facility in Allen Park is managed and operated by Sverdrup Technology Inc. and maintained by Siemens Corp. The ownership of the building was incorrect in Thursday's Press.

Comment Four Libertarian candidates and one Green Party candidate are on local general election ballots for the Michigan House of Representatives. They are Bill Gelineau in the 74th District (west and north Kent County), Paul Mastin in the 76th District (west and north Grand Rapids), Rick Dutkiewicz in the 88th District (Allegan County) and Tim Campbell in the 90th District (south Ottawa County). Also, Green Party candidate Jon Den Herder is running in the 90th District. The candidates were not mentioned Sunday in a Press editorial on state House races.

Back page For information about Vicky's Pet Connection's spaghetti dinner on Friday, call 363-4128. An incorrect phone number appeared in Monday's Press.

Grand Rapids Press: Page A2
Tuesday, October 24

6151 28th Street S.E.
957-7815

In Memory of c
and l

Lyle J

All Carpet On

Will Be C

10:00 am

Thursday, Oc

Home delivery. Call 222-5411 8:30am
or 8:30am-noon Saturday, Sunday and h
155 Michigan N.W., Grand

By Steven Harmon

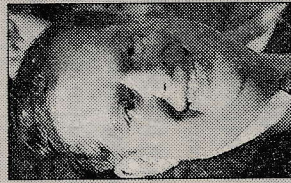
U.S. Sen. Spencer Abraham isn't running for Kent County commissioner, but a new radio spot sure makes it appear so.

Abraham, R-Auburn Hills, has an ad running on Grand Rapid radio stations that portray him as the protector of Medicare funds for Spectrum Health, Pell Grant funds for Calvin College students, federal dollars for the Kent County Sheriff's Department and the South Beltline freeway.

It's enough to make Kent County voters feel special. Except the Abraham campaign is running exactly the same tailored messages to four other communities.

"Yes, we've got the same thing up in Lansing, Kalamazoo, Battle Creek and Marquette," said spokesman Joe Davis. "But this is to show people we haven't forgotten West Michigan."

The ad slams Abraham's opponent, U.S. Rep. Debbie Stabenow, D-Lansing, saying she "just doesn't care about West Michigan."



Abraham: Custom ads

Stabenow's campaign says the ad distorts Abraham's record — which shows he voted several times against more police, against Pell Grants and against Medicare funding for hospitals.

But Stabenow's campaign has no plans to respond on air in West Michigan.

"The campaign has not made a decision in terms of the nature of its response, but this is somebody trying desperately to cover up his record," said Robert Gibbs, Stabenow's spokesman.

CANDIDATE WATCH



Bill Gelineau, a Libertarian vying for the state House seat held by Rep. James Koetje, R-Grandville, has no delusions about winning on Nov. 7.

In fact, he has more interest in another Libertarian's race than his own: Paul Mastin's in the 76th House district, where Rep. Steve Pestka, D-Grand Rapids, is being challenged by Republican Patrick Miller.

He thinks Mastin can help bring credibility to the Libertarian Party by pulling some votes from Pestka.

"The measure of our success is if we can keep somebody below 50 percent — that's part of the Libertarian strategy," Gelineau said. "The point at which we become relevant is when we start to tip the election and deny someone a majority."

Gelineau believes Mastin can capture some Democratic Catholic votes with his pro-voucher stance. Pestka has not taken a position on vouchers; Miller is in favor.

"Steve is waffling on vouchers," Gelineau said. "Ba-

sically, we hope this forces Pestka out on the issue." Pestka said the likelihood of Libertarians wielding much influence in his race is slim.

"Historically, the Libertarian vote is not particularly high, even when they advocated a position with widespread support in the community," Pestka said.



SMALL WORLD

Grand Valley State University President Arend Lubbers hasn't lost his sense of humor.

Alluding to the controversy over his reversal on offering benefits for homosexual partners of employees, Lubbers told an audience at the Richard M. DeVos Center it reminded him of a remark attributed to Abraham Lincoln.



Lubbers: Sense of humor

The 16th president had been going through a rough time and a friend asked him how he was doing.

Lubbers said Lincoln said he felt like he had been tarred-and-feathered and run out of town on a rail.

Lincoln told the acquaintance that he would rather skip the experience, "except for the honor of the thing."

Contributor: Ted Roelofs

Contact Steven Harmon at 222-5352 or sharmon@gr-press.com

Grand Rapids Press: Sunday, Oct. 1, 2000

Three contenders vie for 74th District House seat

Incumbent James Koetje (R-Grandville) will face a challenge from two other Grandville residents on Nov. 7 for his 74th District state representative seat.

The 74th District includes the cities of Grandville, Walker, and Cedar Springs; parts of 10 townships, including Sparta and Alpine townships; and a portion of the west side of Grand Rapids.

James Koetje, 45, was elected two years ago to fill the seat vacated by Kenneth Sikkema, who was retiring from that seat due to term limits. Previously, Koetje served on the Grandville City Council, from 1993 to 1998.

He and his wife, Cathy, have four children. Their home is in Grandville, at 3346 Whispering Springs Court.

Koetje attended Calvin Christian High School, Calvin College, and Valparaiso School of Law. His experience includes his career as a business attorney; past presidency of the American Business Clubs (AMBUCS); membership of the Christian Reformed Church Classis Committee and the Board of Directors of Grandville Friendship Homes; and foundation president for Grandville Christian School.

Currently, Koetje serves on several committees in the state house, including those dealing with tax policy, family and civil law, and agriculture and conservation. He is the chairman of the Gaming and Casino Oversight committee.

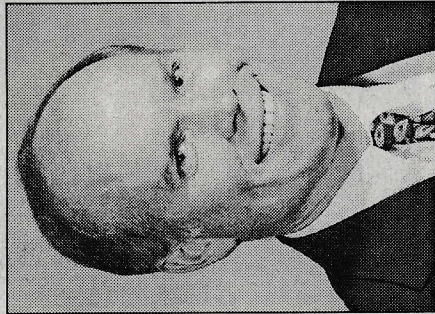
"I think I'm somewhat of a known quantity," Koetje said. "I'm someone for whom there is a record that people can look at." He said he also has developed valuable working relationships with members of the state House and other groups.

He has voted to ban partial-birth abortions; increase funding for public schools; cut the single-business tax; increase funding for public libraries; encourage use of trigger locks on firearms; and restrict Internet access for minors at libraries.

Koetje said he supports the school voucher initiative proposal in Michigan. "I think that's healthy for public education," he said, adding that, if the proposal passes, legislators would need to sort out all the practical ramifications during the implementation phase.

"If you are going to take the state's money ... there's going to be some rules," said Koetje.

Alton R. Nielsen, 56, a Democrat, lives at 4071 Ponca



JAMES KOETJE



BILL GELINEAU

Drive, Grandville, with his wife, Sharon. The couple has two grown sons.

Nielsen graduated from Lee High School in Wyoming and attended Grand Rapids Junior College. He is a tool and die worker at General Motors Plant No. 1 on 36th Street in Grand Rapids. For about 10 years, he has served as a precinct delegate for his party. He is also active in community-service activities sponsored by the United Auto Workers.

He has directed the publication of the Youth Yellow Pages in Kent County, helped with local food and clothing drives, and has assisted with the United Way campaign.

Nielsen said he is running for the 74th District seat "to give the people a choice, and to get the Democratic views out there."

Universal health-care and education are two of the most important issues right now, he said. Although he initially supported Michigan's voucher initiative, he has since changed his position.

"The more I learn of it, the more I think it's going to take too much money away from the public schools," he said.

Nielsen said he holds a pro-life position, and thinks abortion should be illegal unless it endangers the life of the mother, or in cases of incest. He would not make an exception for rape, as he said it might lead to false charges.

"Who's the jury going to believe? Nine out of ten times, they're going to believe the woman," Nielsen said. "I just

can't see sending innocent people to prison."

But he said his positions could be flexible, if it was necessary in order to represent his constituents.

"If they vote me into office, the way the majority of the people want, that's the way I would vote," he said.

Nielsen declined to provide a photograph for this campaign sketch.

Bill Gelineau, the candidate for the Libertarian Party, lives at 3827 Navaho St. with his wife, Tracey. His children attend school in Grandville.

He attended Riverview High School, the University of Michigan, and Wayne State University. He has served in several business positions, including unit manager of VICORP Restaurants; president of Apple Blossom Restaurants; and title manager for First America Title Company.

Gelineau's community involvement includes coaching for AYSO soccer, being an organizer for the Grand Valley Blood Program, and chairing the group, Citizens for Tax Freedom.

Gelineau's platform calls for the elimination of the Michigan personal income tax over 10 years. He also supports the right of citizens to carry concealed handguns, but also favors increased penalties for felony use of firearms.

He supports an expanded homestead tax credit and the creation of new, smaller school districts, and said he wants to restore "the responsibility of parents to educate children in the manner they choose."

Gelineau supports a reduction in taxes for working residents, stating that this would encourage the rebuilding of core cities.

His goals also include the enactment of "covenant marriage" laws, including presumptive joint-custody arrangements and the dismantling of the Friend of the Court system.

"Like many people, I've noticed the growing involvement of the public in our private lives," he states on his web site. "For some time now we've allowed ourselves to take too lightly the freedom for which our parents and grandparents fought and died ... the time has come to take our freedom back."

Gelineau did not respond to a request for comment for this campaign sketch.

74TH DISTRICT

BILL GELINEAU

Libertarian

■ Age: 41

■ Address: 3827 Navaho, Grandville

■ Occupation: Title examiner, First American Title Insurance

■ Previous public office:

Community Development Commission, Riverview

■ Credentials: AYSO soccer coach; business blood drive organizer — Grand Valley Blood Program; founder of Table Mesa Community Blood drive, Boulder, Colo.; Business: title examiner and former tax specialist; president, Apple Blossom, Inc.; unit manager, VICORP Restaurants, Inc. based in Denver; education: University of Michigan, Wayne State University; major in history and English

JAMES L. KOETJE

Republican

■ Age: 45

■ Address: 3346 Whispering Court, Grandville

■ Occupation: State legislator

■ Previous public office:

Grandville City Council, 1993-1998; Member, Michigan House of Representatives, 1999-present.

■ Credentials: Business attorney since 1980; graduated Valparaiso University School of Law, 1980; Calvin College, BA 1976; member, Kent County Republican Party; state representative since 1999, serving on tax policy, agriculture and natural resources, family and civil law committees; chairman, Gaming and Casino Oversight Committee; co-chairman, Joint Legislative Committee on Wayne County Detroit Metropolitan Airport.

Alton Nielsen (declined photo)

Democrat

■ Age: 56

■ Address: 4071 Ponca, Grandville

■ Occupation: Tool and die

■ Previous public office: None

■ Credentials: Grand Rapids Junior College; precinct delegate for past 12 or more years.

ESSAY

✓List your top three legislative concerns, briefly listing specific solutions for each:

Gelineau: 1. Stabilizing public education. 2. Support family growth and development. Many of the stresses on families are government caused. My tax plan,



James L. Koetje



Bill Gelineau

the Gelineau Fair-Tax Initiative, offers a broad list of changes in tax policy that will help young, low-income families. 3. Rebuild the social service infrastructure. I believe that in our rush to dismantle the welfare state (which I support), we've unwittingly undercut necessary social programs aimed at the mentally ill, those with drug addictions, and residential care services.

Koetje: Taxation: the reduction of tax burden on families and businesses; education: both K-12 and higher education; health care, although significant tax cuts have been passed, more can be done.

Nielsen: Education, aging, tax policy.

ISSUES

✓A November ballot proposal would provide parents in public school districts about \$3,300 in state-paid vouchers to send their students to private or parochial schools. Do you support school vouchers?

Gelineau: Unequivocally opposed. This is a financial boondoggle of enormous magnitude. It also portends the imposing of state standards into the private school system.

Koetje: Support. Many students are stuck in failing school systems. I believe vouchers would provide an opportunity for an education that we expect and take for granted by and large in West Michigan.

Nielsen: Yes.

✓Gov. John Engler has proposed increasing the number of university authorized charter schools. Do you support or oppose adding more charter schools?

Koetje: Support. Choice in public education is appropriate, not only for the benefit of students, but I also believe competition is healthy and can act as a catalyst for improvement in the traditional public schools.

Nielsen: Oppose.

✓Should gun owners be required to buy trigger locks? Are there other gun-control measures you would support?

Gelineau: No, and no. I believe the Second Amendment is absolute. Law abiding citizens should be left alone. Our energy should be focused on prosecuting criminal behavior.

Koetje: Oppose. Gun owners certainly can buy trigger locks if they choose. I supported civil immunity for gun owners if they purchased a trigger lock.

Nielsen: Support.

✓Do you think state legislative term limits have worked so far? Do you support increasing the number of two-year terms for House representatives from the current three-term limit?

Koetje: Support. Term limits have worked because they have to. It is the law. However, ideally, I believe term limits should be expanded. State government is a very large operation and more experience would be helpful to the process.

Nielsen: Support.

✓Gov. Engler is pressing for legislation to capture taxes on retail commerce on the Internet. On the other hand, all members of the Michigan congressional delegation favor a moratorium on Internet taxes. Which approach do you support?

Gelineau: We should not keep government as far away from the Internet as possible. Our long-term strategy ought to be to reduce the tax burden on storefront businesses. Besides, this is a nearly impossible task for the State of Michigan to organize.

Koetje: I do not believe we need new tax laws. However, a means to enforce current tax laws should be studied.

Nielsen: I support a moratorium.


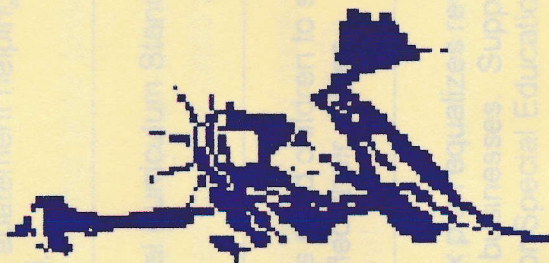

✓Are there instances in which a woman has a right to an abortion? If yes, specify.

Gelineau: We spend a lot of political time arguing about what is currently a legal procedure. I defend the privacy right of a woman during the first trimester. Forcing juveniles, rape and incest victims to bear a child is awful social policy. However, I oppose all government spending for abortion services.

Koetje: Yes. Rape, incest, to save the life of the mother.

Nielsen: Woman's choice.

Which plan do you really support most?

		
<p>Republican</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High Taxes Vouchers demand that the majority of funding comes from the State. State money means state standards in our private schools. 	<p>Libertarian</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low Taxes A greater amount of the cost is paid by parents. Tax abatement protects low-income households 	<p>Democrat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High taxes Solutions always require more money. Education spending now exceeds all other state programs.

Jamie Lewis for Couty Clerk

KENT COUNTY CLERK

MARY BETH HOLLINRAKE

Republican

- Age: 47
- Address: 1586 Innes St. NE, Grand Rapids
- Occupation: Kent County chief deputy clerk
- Previous elected public office: None

■ **Credentials:** Chief deputy county clerk; paraprofessional in Grand Rapids for 18 years; graduated from Marywood Academy, Michigan State University, and the Institute for Paralegal Training in Philadelphia; completed some course work on a master's in public administration; enrolled in the Fellows Program of the Institute for State Courts.



Mary Beth Hollinrake



Jim Talen

County commissioner, 1993-2000

- **Credentials:** BA in philosophy and elementary education from Calvin College; private school teacher for three years; assistant director of Baxter Community Center for 15 years; technology training coordinator at Blodgett Hospital for two years; small-business owner for 10 years (JT Software); rental property owner for six years; longtime involvement in various neighborhood associations; appointed member of numerous Kent County Commission ad hoc committees, chairman of several local, regional and national organizations, active member of First Christian



Jamie Lewis

Reformed Church in Grand Rapids.

JAMIE LEWIS

Libertarian

- Age: 34
- Address: 46 Fontenelle St. SE, Cutlerville
- Occupation: Printer

- Previous elected public office: None

■ **Credentials:** Political science major, Grand Rapids Junior College and Western Michigan University; leadership awards in both civic and youth organizations; involved in church and charity organizations; delegate to state and national Libertarian conventions; Libertarian nominee for electoral college.

✓ What, if any, services in the county clerks offices should be streamlined, added or changed to

see CLERK, B30

Three running for open Kent County clerk's post

With Terri Land's upcoming retirement, a newcomer will hold the Kent County clerk's seat for the first time in eight years. Three candidates are on the Nov. 7 ballot for the position.

Republican **Mary Hollinrake**, 47, resides at 1586 Innes NE. She is currently deputy county clerk. Growing up in Grand Rapids, Hollinrake graduated from Marywood Academy and Michigan State University. She has also completed post-graduate course work in public administration and attended the Institute for Paralegal Training.

Hired by the county five years ago to head up Circuit Court records, Hollinrake oversaw 24 county employees. She worked previously as a paralegal and as an administrative assistant to the city attorney.

Hollinrake helped to design the new justice center slated to open later this year. Part of that effort included choosing new software and the computer system that will be used by the new court system. Hollinrake also worked on the construction of a Community Archives and Research Center. Having served on the project's original committee, Hollinrake believes her continued involvement is essential to the center, which is slated to open in the spring of 2002.

"It will make public records more easily accessible to the people to whom they belong, the citizens of Kent County," said Hollinrake.

Another important issue to Hollinrake is improving access to land records. "When I came here the deed process was 60 days behind, by July it was down to 2½ days," she said.



MARY HOLLINRAKE

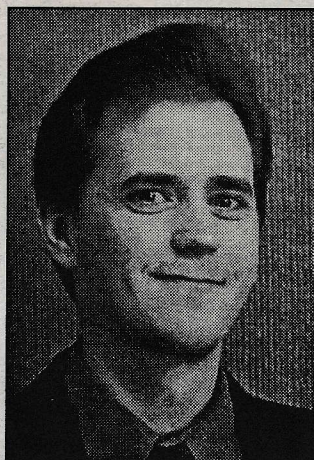
construction of the Archives and Research Center, and updating the accessibility of land records.

"I have already started these four projects. I know what's on the clerk's plate for the next two to four years. Also I will encourage the county commissioners to commit funds to creating an interactive web site, so that vital statistics and records can be retrieved on line," said Hollinrake.

Libertarian **Jamie Lewis**, 34, of 46 Fontenelle Ave., Cutlerville, is also running for the county clerk's position. He is currently employed as production supervisor for Cascade Printing and Graphics. He graduated from Catholic Central High School and attended Grand Rapids Community College and Western Michigan University. His two children attend Kentwood Public Schools.

Lewis has been active in community service and has received awards for leadership in Knights of Columbus and as a cub master for the Cub Scouts.

His reason for running for election: "Libertarians are known for wanting to reduce the size and scope of government. The Kent County clerk is an administrative, rather than a legislative position. As such there



JAMIE LEWIS

between the legislators (who keep imposing legal encumbrances on our personal affairs) and the people who are subject to their endless meddlings."

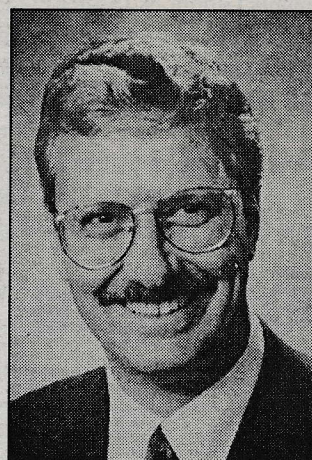
The most important issue to Lewis is privatization. He promises to submit recommendations to the county board to contract out some of the duties of the clerk's office to private firms.

Lewis also plans, if elected, to make as many services as permitted by law available on-line, through the mail, or by fax. The Web will also be utilized to create written guidelines for recall petitions and other initiative to encourage community activism.

Lewis said he is committed to make the clerk's office as easy, inexpensive, and convenient as possible for area residents.

Democrat **Jim Talen**, 47, resides at 323 Paris Ave. SE. Born and raised in Highland, Ind., Talen graduated from Calvin College with a major in elementary education, and has completed graduate studies in computer technology and management.

A former elementary teacher at Jenison Christian Schools, Talen served for 15 years as assistant director of Baxter Community Center and as technology training



JIM TALEN

tice, Grand Rapids Chapter, chairman of Madison Target Area Council, co-chair Community Division, Wealthy Theatre Capital Campaign, board member for Seed Inc., and a member of Our Children, Our Future steering committee.

Currently Talen holds positions as a Kent County commissioner, a member of the Heritage Hill Association Finance Committee, and a member of the Kent County ChildCare Team.

Talen said he is running for county clerk's position on his extensive training and experience in both management and technology.

"Years of community and public service have enabled me to establish positive relationships with a wide variety of community leaders," said Talen. "Eight years as an elected official have given me the ability to work effectively with the public. I'll use this varied background to provide leadership to the clerk's office that will result in efficient and convenient services for the citizens of Kent County."

The most important issue in the race, said Talen, is qualifications. "I have more successful experience leading a large, service-delivery organization, more experience with technology, which is critical for a

THE REGION

THE GRAND RAPIDS PRESS

Land accused of 'buying office for successor'

Editor's note: This is one of a series of stories The Press will run examining local races before the Nov. 7 election.

By Kyla King

The Grand Rapids Press

Kent County Clerk Terri Land's discreet financial backing of one candidate in the race that will decide her replacement is generating controversy that has some elected officials vowing to cross party lines.

The contest pits four-term Democratic County Commissioner Jim Talen against Republican Mary Beth Hollinrake, Land's chief deputy clerk. Libertarian Jamie Lewis, a production supervisor for Cascade Printing and Graphics, is also running.

Both Talen and Hollinrake are well known within the county and their par-

ties and have received high-profile endorsements.

Hollinrake is facing criticism from Talen and some fellow Republicans over the role Land played in her defeat of primary challenger Audrey Nevins.

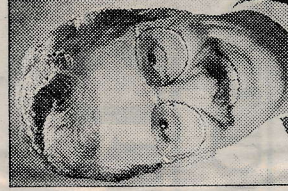
Hollinrake outspent Nevins by \$5,000 — with nearly half of her \$36,000 war chest coming from donations from Land and Land's political action committee and family members.

Most of those contributions were given just after a campaign-finance deadline, keeping the money from being publicly disclosed before the election.

The deadline for closing the books on pre-primary contributions was July 28, 12 days before the Aug. 8 election. Records of those contributions are available to

see LAND, A26

KENT COUNTY CLERK



Term: four years
Salary: \$74,000
Jim Talen
Age: 47
Address: 323 Paris SE, Grand Rapids
Occupation: Computer systems administrator, Grand Rapids Christian Schools
Previous elected public office: 18th District county commissioner
Party: Democrat



Address: 1586 Innes NE, Grand Rapids
Occupation: Chief deputy county clerk
Previous elected public office: None
Party: Republican



Jamie Lewis
Age: 34
Address: 46 Fontenelle SE, Cutlerville
Occupation: Printer
Previous elected public office: None
Party: Libertarian



LAND

Some Republicans rally behind Democrat

CONTINUED FROM A25

the public.

Donations received after that date can still be submitted before the primary election, but are not reported to the public until afterward.

Records filed after the elections show Land gave \$1,000, her husband Dan Hibma gave \$1,000, and her PAC — which receives the bulk of its money from Land and Hibma — gave slightly more than \$15,000.

"I don't think it's right for the clerk, who is responsible for overseeing the integrity of elections in this county, to buy an office of her successor," Talen said.

Hollinrake also recently asked that a billboard paid for by Land's PAC be removed because it was put up after she and Talen agreed not to pursue that type of advertisement.

Hollinrake brushed off criticism of Land's contributions.

"She has something vested in this job. She wants to know that the person who's been there right with her is going to back what she invested in this office," Hollinrake said.

Land said she is surprised by the criticism, noting that her PAC has supported candidates since 1993.

"I've been doing this for the whole eight years I've been here," Land said. "When I support somebody, I don't just support them with my time, I support them with my financial resources."

"I find it very interesting (these critics) are saying this now when the money isn't for one of their candidates."

Land said her contributions were given late in the campaign to give Hollinrake a last-minute boost.

Land's involvement in Hollinrake's campaign has prompted some Republicans to jump ship when it comes to voting for county clerk.

Algoma Township Clerk Laural Walkons and Cannon Township Clerk Bonnie Shupe say they intend to vote for Talen and are encouraging other Republicans to do so. Talen also has received support from Republican Ada Township Supervisor George



"I find it very interesting (these critics) are saying this now when the money isn't for one of their candidates."

”

TERRI
LAND

All three say they believe Talen's 12 years of management experience make him more qualified than Hollinrake or Lewis.

"Mary coming in at eight months and being totally supported by Terri Land was not qualifications enough for me," Walkons said.

Because of the backlash, Talen said he is counting on township support and a strong showing in the city of Grand Rapids to boost his chances.

"I've had calls from numerous people that have said I've never voted for a Democrat in my life, but you can put a sign in my yard," Talen said.

Lewis said the controversy has prompted several Republicans to promise him their vote.

"I've presented myself as the al-

ternative by saying, 'Hey, now you don't have to vote for a Republican or a Democrat.'"

Hollinrake, 47, who was promoted to her position eight months ago after four years of supervising the circuit court clerk's office, said several factors give her an edge in the race: her inside track, established relationships with the 11 Circuit Court judges and involvement in on-going projects.

"I know what happens in this office and what's coming up because I've been involved with this office for six years," Hollinrake said. "It would be a smooth transition for the public."

Talen said he would offer a fresh approach, noting his 15 years of management experience, his community connections and years spent working with the clerk's office as an elected county official.

"I'm not sure it's best to have someone who has done part of the job, because sometimes you can't see the forest for the trees," said Talen, 47.

Lewis, 34, said he as a political newcomer he offers the public someone who is not part of "the system."

"I consider it more of an advantage that I'm not entrenched in the county. I offer something different," Lewis said. "I want to make it as easy, convenient and inexpensive as I possibly can for everyone who does business with the clerk's office."

All three candidates agreed the clerk should work to encourage higher voter turnout, improve the county's

Web site, consolidate local elections, boost media coverage of local races and make county governmental more accessible to the public.

The group also agrees the new clerk should take steps to ensure there is not a repeat of last year's backlog of nearly 50,000 documents in the Register of Deeds office.

But each differs in the approach they would take in managing the office.

Hollinrake says she has no plans to shake-up the office's structure, noting that "things work well."

Talen said he would let staff provide direction on what, if any, changes should be made.

Lewis said he believes the office would run more efficiently if the county contracted more work.

The clerk's job is to oversee all election activities, record all circuit court and county records and receive and record all documents affecting property ownership. That includes preparing a \$2.7 million budget, supervising more than 50 employees, handling 15,000 court cases a year, filing 178,000 deeds and processing all birth, death, marriage, business and professional registrations.

In addition, the incoming clerk will be responsible for completing the circuit court move to the new downtown courthouse, moving most vital records to the new city-county archive facility and implementing software and computer systems in various departments.

Erwin Haas for US House District 3

Ehlers faces four rivals for U.S. Congressional seat

Voters heading to the polls next Tuesday will have six candidates to choose from for the 3rd District United States House of Representatives seat currently held by Republican Vern Ehlers.

Ehlers, 66, of 1848 Morningside Drive SE in Grand Rapids, is running for re-election to the seat he has held for the past seven years as the district's representative in Washington, D.C.

The former Calvin College professor holds a Ph.D. in nuclear physics from the University of California at Berkeley. He is one of a handful of scientists on Capitol Hill.

He has a long record of public service, including eight years as a county commissioner, two years in the State House of Representatives, and nine years as a state senator prior to his current position.

"I am running on my record, which I believe justifies my continuation in Congress," Ehlers said.

Ehlers pointed to his extensive workload as a representative, which includes serving the Science Committee, the Education and the Workforce Committee, the House Administration Committee, and the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

"I have many issues in all

these areas which are important," he said. "The highest priority issue for me in the past two years has been to improve math and science education in the United States."

Ehlers said that America's job force does not have enough qualified workers to fill the increasingly technical employment opportunities.

"At graduate schools of science and engineering across the country, most of the students are from other countries, and our students cannot compete on the same playing field," he said. "International tests comparing the United States to other developed countries shows that students perform at or near the bottom when it comes to math and science. And we have 365,000 jobs open that cannot be filled because we do not have enough qualified people."



VERN EHLERS



TIMOTHY W. STEELE

Ehlers said that he works an average of 80 to 90 hours a week in his capacity as a congressman.

"I don't get wrapped up in D.C.," he said. "My wife still lives in Michigan and I come home every weekend, and every recess. I've tried to remain a citizen of my district while doing a good job here in Washington."

"I have shown good judgment in my decisions and people seem pleased with what I have done."

Timothy W. Steele, of 2706 Albert St. SE in East Grand Rapids, is the Democratic challenger.

Steele grew up in the city of Detroit and moved to the Grand Rapids area in 1973 to be an arts and media major at Grand Valley State College.

He is the owner of Norton Fixx Productions, a radio-film-video production company that produces image, training and promo-



ERWIN HAAS

tional films for a variety of West Michigan corporations. Before founding the firm in 1991, Steele spent nearly 20 years as a disc jockey for WLAV-FM.

Steele puts education at the top of his issues list.

"I think American democracy flourishes through a free and quality public education system, and we have a legitimate responsibility to make it fair and available for everyone," he said.

Steele said that he is "adamantly opposed" to vouchers.

"I think it is a bad idea that will cause more problems that it will solve, and this is a fundamental difference between Mr. Ehlers and myself."

On the issue of gun control, Steele said, "I do not think guns should be taken away, but I do think there should be picture ID required upon purchase, gun



JERRY BERTA

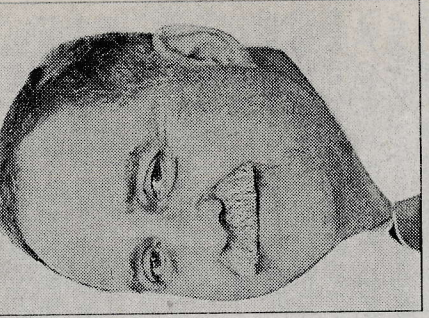
safety classes required for first-time gun buyers, a three-day waiting period to purchase a gun, and all new guns should come with trigger locks.

Steele also said that he is in favor of a major overhaul in the areas of campaign finance reform and prescriptions for seniors.

"Sometimes for seniors it becomes a choice between buying medication and paying the rent or buying food," he said. "I am in favor of the plan put out by (presidential candidate) Al Gore that offers seniors a sliding scale on premiums based on income."

Libertarian candidate **Erwin Haas**, 57, of 2150 East Beltline Ave. SE in Grand Rapids, is a physician specializing in internal medicine and infectious diseases.

He has a bachelor's degree in biology-chemistry, and in philosophy from Can-



TOM GREGO

isus College, and received his medical degree from State University of New York at Buffalo. He also holds a master's degree in business administration from Grand Valley State University.

Haas was a major in the United States Army and served as a flight surgeon in Vietnam. He is the published author of numerous medical articles and studies. He was also a member of the Grand Rapids Mayor's Drug Task Force.

He said that his major priority is the creation of a predatory bureau. Just as a cheetah stalks its prey, the agency would seek out the government programs that are weak and sick, yet have been over-funded for too long, and trim the herd, he said.

"Huge chunks of government would easily be eradicated," Haas said, adding

Please see 34D next page

Democrat scoffs at Ehlers' boast of runaway election

► *The Republican faces five challengers in his bid for a fourth term in the U.S. House.*



By Steven Harmon
The Grand Rapids Press

U.S. Rep. Vernon Ehlers doesn't usually come off as self-confident, so maybe it was the energy raging through Texas Gov. George W. Bush's rally in Grand Rapids that led Ehlers to a rare moment of braggadocio.

He predicted flatly that he would get 70 percent of the vote, and called for an even higher percentage in his 3rd Congressional District to go for Bush.

But as Will Rogers once said, "if you done it, it ain't braggin'." Ehlers, R-Grand Rapids, running for his fourth full term, has averaged more than 72 percent of the vote for the last three elections.

"I want George Bush and Spence Abraham to get a higher percentage of the vote than I do because if they do, there's a very good chance that both will carry the state," Ehlers said.

His Democratic opponent, Tim Steele, laughed at Ehlers' prediction. "He said that? He's not going to get 70 percent. He's not even going to get 50 percent," Steele said.

Steele said voters in the 3rd Congressional District will turn Ehlers out if they look closely at his voting record.

"We've tapped into something, I really believe it," he said. "If we can get enough people to focus on how he votes and how I believe he's not representing the area, I can win."

He was hoping to highlight differences with Ehlers in a series of three debates, but two were canceled last week because Congress still was in session.

The two have rescheduled one debate,

to focus on foreign affairs, for Wednesday at Gerald R. Ford Museum, 303 Pearl St., NW.

Steele faces tremendous odds. The only Democrat to win the 3rd Congressional district since 1914 was Richard VanderVeen, who rode the crest of the Watergate backlash to a win in 1974. He served two years before Republicans retook the district and have held it since.

Despite his underdog status, Steele thinks there has been a sea change in the look of the 3rd District.

"People moving here are not of the same ideological persuasion as stereotypical West Michigan voters anymore,"

Steele said. "The change wants to come out. People are ready to vote and say we're not the same as we once were. It's there, it's an attitude I'm feeling out there."

The closeness of the presidential and U.S. Senate races bodes well for him, Steele said.

"It's definitely going to help, because the closeness will fuel people to the polls, and the higher turnout, the better for us," he said.

Ehlers has heard that other Democratic Congressional candidates are making similar claims about changing demographics.

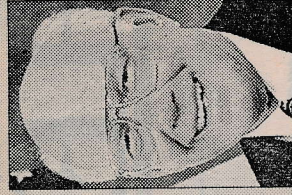
"I admit the area has changed in increased population, but I really don't think the demographics have changed," he said. "A lot of new residents I've met appreciate our values, our community spirit and are not interested in changing the community."

The 3rd District is home to a large contingency of minor-party candidates: Tom Grego, of the U.S. Taxpayers/Constitution Party, Kenneth Lowndes of the Reform Party, Erwin Haas of the Libertarian Party and Jerry Berta of the Natural Law Party.

Grego, a manufacturers representative, said his top legislative concern is to "enforce constitutional protection to unborn

THE CANDIDATES AT A GLANCE

U.S. House Term: Two years
Salary: \$141,300

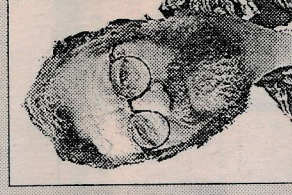


Vernon J. Ehlers

Republican
Age: 66
Address: 1848 Morningside Drive SE, Grand Rapids
Occupation: U.S. congressman

Tim Steele
Democrat

Age: 44
Address: 2706 Albert Drive SE, East Grand Rapids
Occupation: Owner of Fixx Productions



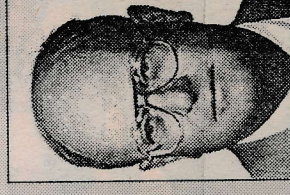
Jerry Berta

Natural Law Party
Age: 49
Address: 11050 Summit Ave., Rockford

Thomas C. Grego
U.S. Taxpayer Party

Age: 63

Address: 2037 Kenning Drive NW, Grand Rapids
Occupation: Manufacturer's representative

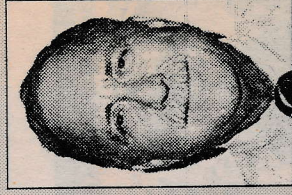


Erwin J. Haas

Libertarian
Age: 57
Address: 2150 East Beltline Ave. SE, Grand Rapids
Occupation: Physician

Kenneth L. Lowndes
Reform Party
Age: 47

Address: 621 Three Mile Road NE, Grand Rapids
Occupation: Sales



Thomas C. Grego

lives, which we already have." He also calls for improving educational standards by insisting on "better moral teaching."

Lowndes, a salesman, said he wants to change the tax collection date from April 15 to the day before all federal elections.

Kaas, a physician, said the federal gov-

ernment should abolish the income tax, and the energy, commerce and education departments.

Berta, an artist, called for universal health coverage and giving equal penalties for possession and/or sale of crack and powder cocaine.

Bill Hall for County Commissioner

- **Background**

- Bill Hall has lived in Plainfield Township for 13 years. Plainfield Township elects one member of the Kent County Board of Commissioners. It has a population of roughly 30,000, with approximately 20,000 registered voters in 11,000 households.
- Plainfield Township is practically a one-party, Republican district. No Democrat has dared run for Township office for many years. Usually a Democrat does run for County Commission, in a two-way race with the Republican, but generally receives less than 35% of the vote. In 2000, the incumbent Republican County Commissioner retired, and her anointed successor, current Plainfield Township Supervisor Ted Vonk, was nominated unopposed in the Republican primary. Democratic candidate Ann Rice, who had run in the past, was nominated unopposed in the Democratic primary. Hence, Bill Hall ran in a three-way race. Incidentally, Derek Hollemans ran a race for Plainfield Township Trustee as a Libertarian in the same district as Bill Hall.
- The Republicans have always controlled the Kent County Board of Commissioners. In 2000, there were 19 members, 17 Republicans and 2 Democrats. It had accumulated a surplus of approximately \$92 million. Yet it had kept the property tax millage steady, in the face of continuing annual surpluses. Over the past few years it escalated spending dramatically, primarily for new facilities such as a courthouse, arena, convention center upgrade, records center, jail, zoo upgrade, parks, etc.
- Bill Hall's campaign was short of candidate time and volunteer assistance, so it relied largely on Bill Hall's wallet to publicize his campaign. However, volunteer assistance was provided in the layout of brochures and ads, yard sign placement and maintenance, the provision of some mailing services, and a small amount of door-to-door distribution of brochures.
- Bill Hall's campaign focussed on a theme of "Give it back!" with respect to the County's surplus, carried through its brochures and ads. It also attacked the County's increased spending and the Republican opponent's vote for a Township tax increase.

- **Advertising Activities**

- Yard sign campaign
 - Placed and maintained approximately 150 red white and blue "Elect Bill Hall County Commissioner" yard signs throughout district.
 - Night before Election Day placed 3 or 4 yard signs in close proximity to each of the 13 polling places.

- Retrieved all yard signs the day after the election.
- Brochures
 - Joint brochure with Derek Hollemans for Plainfield Township Trustee campaign: “Frustrated – You will have a choice in November” distributed by Derek Hollemans to voters as they left the polls at the August primary. Contained photos and bios of Bill Hall and Derek Hollemans.
 - Standard trifold brochure with 2 candidate photos, bio, and emphasizing 2 issues – eliminating County property tax by using large County surplus; and reigning in County spending on dozens of new County buildings. Mailed to all absentee voters in late September, and the balance of registered voters in mid-October.
 - Modified trifold brochure, focussing on specifics of recent County Commission vote to continue to levy property tax in face of enormous surplus, and Bill Hall’s vocal opposition to that, as described below. Mailed to all non-absentee registered voters in late October.
 - “Wanted Poster” of Republican, front-runner opponent, Ted Vonk. Publicizing recent vote (as Plainfield Township Supervisor) to increase Township property tax rate 16%. Mailed to all non-absentee registered voters in late October.
 - A couple of volunteers – notably Dave Westerhof and Jamie Lewis, distributed some trifold brochures door-to-door.
- Newspaper Advertising
 - One one-eighth-page ad in *The Grand Rapids Press* voter’s guide distributed the third week of October.
 - Two one-quarter page ads in each of *The Grand Rapids Press* community news sections for Plainfield Township distributed to subscribers the two Thursdays preceding the election.
 - One one-eighth-page ad in each of *The Advance* (a weekly newspaper) editions covering Plainfield Township distributed to all households the two Thursdays preceding the election.
 - One one-quarter page ad in each edition of *The Rockford Squire* (a weekly newspaper covering a portion of the district) distributed to all households the two Tuesdays preceding the election.
- **Campaign Appearances/Media**

- Cable Television Candidate Forum in Mid-October: of three candidates, only Bill Hall participated. Thirty minute live broadcast of campaign speech/question and answer format. Rebroadcast twice prior to the election.
- County Commission Hearing on Property Tax Rate in Mid-October: Bill Hall was only person to speak in opposition to continuing County property tax millage in face of \$92 million surplus. Reported and quoted the next day in *The Grand Rapids Press*.
- *The Advance* (a weekly newspaper) editions covering Plainfield Township ran an article on the race, featuring all three candidates the week before or day of the election.
- **Get out the vote**
 - The day prior to the election Bill and Vicki Hall called approximately 200 voters they know and reminded them to get out and vote.
 - The day prior to the election Bill Hall e-mailed approximately 50 voters he knows and reminded them to get out and vote.
- **Results**
 - Bill Hall received 899 votes, or 6.3% of the vote in a three-way race. His percentages ranged from about 13% in his home precinct to 4% in remote precincts where he was virtually unknown. This compares with past Libertarian vote totals, which never exceeded approximately 1.5%. The absentee vote total percentage was virtually the same as his overall percentage.

4TH DISTRICT

WILLIAM W. HALL
Libertarian

- Age: 44
- Address: 6027 Meadowlark Drive NE, Plainfield Township
- Occupation: Real estate attorney
- Previous public office: None.
- Credentials: Plainfield Township Manager Study Committee, Blytheville Homeowners Association and Northville Park Association.

ANN M. RICE
Democrat

- Age: 48
- Address: 4238 Summerwind Ave. NE, Plainfield Township

- Occupation: Human resources representative
- Previous public office: Precinct delegate.
- Credentials: 4C's board of directors, former chairwoman Kent County Democratic Party, past president UAW Local 2145.

TED VONK
Republican

- Age: 53
- Address: 4122 Boulder



William W.
Hall



Ann
Rice



Ted
Vonk

- Meadow St., Plainfield Township
- Occupation: Retired account manager with Proctor and Gamble Corporation.
 - Previous public office: Plainfield Township trustee and

see 4TH, B26

The Republican-controlled Kent County Commission has a \$92 million surplus, and no plans to return it to taxpayers. Send them a message.



Vote Bill Hall
Libertarian
For Kent County Commissioner

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Bill Hall
Bill Hall, Treasurer, 6027 Meadowlark, NE, Rockford, MI 49341

Kent budget saves taxpayers a buck

► *That's about how much the owner of a \$100,000 home will save on property taxes. The county still has millions in surplus.*

By Kyla King
The Grand Rapids Press

Most Kent County homeowners will save about one dollar in taxes next year because of a slight rollback in the county's millage rate.

County commissioners adopted the new rate of 5.3340 mills Thursday after giving the public its first look at the proposed 2001 budget.

The new rate is a decrease of 0.0211 mills from the current 5.3551 mills, and would save the owner of a \$100,000 market-value home about \$1.05 in next year.

"It's a small savings, but a savings nonetheless," said County Administrator Daryl Delabbio.

Before the vote, the commission held its annual public hearing on the proposed budget.

Calling the proposed \$386 million 2001 budget "fairly conservative," Delabbio said the document represents about a 10 percent increase in operations and a 34 percent increase in new projects and general improvements.

Only one Kent County resident attended the public hearing on the proposed budget, which is set to be adopted later this month.

Bill Hall, a Libertarian candidate who is running for a county commission seat in the 4th District, used the opportunity to chastise board members for not using its \$92 mil-

see KENT, C2

Grand Rapids Press; Friday, Oct. 13

KENT Budget includes increases for personnel

CONTINUED FROM C1

lion surplus to further reduce the millage rate.

"You could easily set the millage rate at zero for next year and give a good chunk of that money back," Hall said. "Give something back to the taxpayers."

Delabbio noted that half of the county's surplus is reserved for specified projects and departments, making it illegal to use it for other purposes — meaning the county technically has \$37 million to use as it wishes. Delabbio added that the county's surpluses have helped Kent maintain its AAA bond rating.

The proposed budget includes \$107.8 million for personnel costs, a 7.5 percent increase from this year. County officials plan to add 72 new positions in the following year, 30 of which are for increased service needs associated with the opening of the new \$60 million downtown courthouse under construction.

The courthouse project also increased the facilities management budget to \$5.6 million from this year's \$2.8 million, a 56 percent difference.

About \$59 million is included in the document for new projects and improvements. The bulk of the money is being used for \$37

million in improvements at Gerald R. Ford International Airport, including rebuilding the main east/west runway.

The budget also calls for increasing the animal shelter's funds to \$876,000 from \$531,000 — a 31 percent increase — for additional personnel and improvements. Earlier this year, county commissioners approved additional staffing at the center because of new state regulations and public complaints.

"Some significant changes are taking place this next year compared to the way we've done business in the past," said Fiscal Services Director David Waichum.

**The Paul Mastin Campaign
State House - District 76**

I entered the campaign for the 76th district seat in the state house of representatives knowing that it was a long shot. After a brief thought that it would be a two-man race, I learned that the Republicans did decide, at the last minute, to field a candidate, a young party activist. What I didn't know was that he would put scarcely more effort into the campaign than I did.

I dutifully answered all questionnaires (with the exception of the Detroit Free Press', I think) and attended candidate forums when possible. One interesting exchange occurred when I was at a meeting for work, and Joanne Vorhees sat down next to me. She apologized for being late, that she was at a candidate forum. I inquired as to who was there, and learned that the other two candidates from my race were there. That was the first I had heard of it, so I sent an e-mail to several Chamber of Commerce officials, inquiring as to why I was left out. They were very nice and apologetic, citing the limited coverage of my candidacy in the press, and their reliance on election data from the primaries.

This exchange illustrates the difficulty of being in a third party. The press can overlook us, without lots of pressure from us, and election officials can neglect records of our candidacy when dealing with the press and other organizations.

I did participate in a Kent County School Boards forum and a televised debate with the incumbent. The Republican candidate did not show up at either one of these.

By the last week or two before the election, the Grand Rapids Press was generous in their coverage of my candidacy in some articles about the race and in the voter guide.

I ended up receiving about 2.5% of votes cast, and the incumbent democrat defeated the republican challenger by a 2-1 margin. While I made a little noise, my candidacy did not impact the outcome of the election in the least. I only hope that the message of libertarianism fell on a few ears that otherwise may have not heard it.

Incumbent says his appeal is not just partisan

► *Democrat Steve Pestka says he has backing from Republicans and independents. That means an uphill battle for his two opponents.*

By Ed White

The Grand Rapids Press

Left-leaning labor unions like him. So do conservative business groups, such as the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce.

State Rep. Steve Pestka, D-Grand Rapids, figures he has voted about half the time with his party and half with Republicans during his first term in the Michigan House.

That bipartisan streak apparently appeals to his constituents as he seeks re-election in the 76th District, on the city's West and Northeast sides. Some lawns have Pestka campaign signs next to Republican Bush/Cheney signs.

"I have the ability to obtain the support of independents and Republicans," Pestka said. "I try to build consensus with people. My voting record would reflect that."

Pestka is being challenged by Republican Patrick Miller and Libertarian candidate Paul Mastin. Mastin's platform: lower taxes and smaller government.

He wants to eliminate the state income tax and expand educational opportunities through new charter schools and tax credits for private school expenses. Mastin supports Proposal 1, the Nov. 7 ballot question, which would



Steve Pestka
Term: Two years
Salary: \$56,981
Age: 49
Address: 1830 Ranch Drive NW, Grand Rapids
Occupation: State lawmaker
Party: Democrat



Patrick Miller
Age: 29
Address: 410 College Avenue SE, Grand Rapids
Occupation: Sales representative, property owner
Party: Republican



Paul Mastin
Age: 31
Address: 732 College Avenue NE, Grand Rapids
Occupation: Program director for a nonprofit group
Party: Libertarian

76TH DISTRICT STATE HOUSE

taxes and education reform, including a "core computer curriculum" starting at sixth grade. He wants more charter schools and supports Proposal 1.

All three candidates oppose abortion except to save a woman's life. Mastin and Miller would oppose new taxes on retail sales over the Internet. Pestka is open to an Internet tax if technology is available for an accurate accounting.

"I do not know how it is fair that the same product is either taxed or not taxed depending on where it is purchased," he said.

In 1998, longtime incumbent Tom Mathieu was forced out by term limits, and both parties threw campaign cash and other resources at the race between Pestka and Kozak. Pestka spent \$67,000 of his own money.

He's having an easier time this year but insists he's running just as hard.

Like his challengers, Pestka puts education among his top issues. He also wants to increase spending on health, particularly mental health, and want to help seniors with prescription drugs.

He will not, however, take sides on the school-voucher question.

"I have strong supporters who are for it and against it," Pestka said. "I'm not telling people how to vote. There are people of good will on both sides."

Pestka could have more clout on the Appropriations Committee regardless of which party gets control of the House. Leadership of that powerful panel is not far-fetched if Democrats outnumber Republicans after the election.

"I think I'm pretty well-respected on both sides of the aisle," Pestka said.

wants voters to have a "genuine alternative" to the traditional two-party system.

Miller, too, is not predicting a victory over the incumbent. He expects to spend about \$15,000, just a fraction of what Republican Jim Kozak spent two years ago when the 76th District seat was wide open.

"West Side voters are very cautious and want to know who you are," Miller said. "If it takes not winning this time and running in two years, I'll run in two years. It might be two or three times before you actually make it."

Miller's priorities include lower

eliminate the constitutional ban on aid to private schools.

Mastin is out to eliminate "corporate welfare," and he has the new Grand Rapids convention center in his sights. It is a project that Pestka points to when he talks about his work on the House Appropriations Committee, the panel that decides how public money is spent.

"It has some civic benefit," Mastin said. "But it's primarily a business interest where business people have an opportunity to benefit."

Mastin says he does not believe he can defeat Pestka. But he

76TH DISTRICT

PAUL MASTIN

Libertarian

■ **Age:** 31

■ **Address:** 732 College Ave. NE, Grand Rapids

■ **Occupation:** Program director for nonprofit organization

■ **Credentials:** BA, philosophy; master of divinity; Ph.D., church-state studies

PATRICK J. MILLER

Republican

■ **Age:** 29

■ **Address:** 410 College Ave. SE, Grand Rapids

■ **Occupation:** Rental property owner and Gerring Center coordinator

■ **Credentials:** Precinct delegate; Kent County Republican executive committee; Grand Rapids Jaycees; Right to Life of Michigan; B.S. in business administration.

STEVEN PESTKA

Democrat

■ **Age:** 49

■ **Address:** 1830 Ranch Drive NW, Grand Rapids

■ **Occupation:** State representative, 76th District

■ **Credentials:** District 11 Kent County commissioner; 1993-1998; Kent County assistant prosecuting attorney, 1978-1980; private law practice 1980-1988; real estate broker since 1984; member of Grand Rapids Bar Association and Grand Rapids Association of Realtors.

ESSAY

✓*List your top three legislative concerns, briefly listing specific solutions for each:*

Mastin: Tax reduction, corporate welfare and educational choice. Taxes in Michigan are too high. I will work to eliminate the state income tax. I will eliminate direct public funding of private business ventures. I want families to have educational choices, and to promote educational excellence through competition. I will permit more charter schools, offer tax credits for private school expenses and encourage the use of public and private scholarships.

Miller: Tax reduction, education reform and ensuring Michigan as a pro-life state. Education needs to be reformed from the state level down to the classroom level, starting with a core computer curriculum for grades 6-12, lifting the cap on charter schools and providing continuing education for our public school teachers.



Patrick J. Miller



Steven Pestka



Paul Mastin

Pestka: Educational opportunities, increased state funding for health programs and health assistance for senior citizens. Creating educational opportunities in a changing economy means increased emphasis on both higher education and K-12 programs. Increasing state funding for health programs would involve prevention measures and mental health. Provide greater assistance, particularly with prescriptions, for senior citizens of modest means.

ISSUES

✓*A November ballot proposal would provide parents in public school districts about \$3,300 in state-paid vouchers to send their students to private or parochial schools. Do you support school vouchers?*

Mastin: I support any method that gives parents more choices for their children's education and increasing competition among schools. School vouchers do both.

Miller: Support.

Pestka: Although under certain circumstances vouchers may be appropriate, I continue to have serious concerns about the current proposal and have not endorsed it.

✓*Gov. John Engler has proposed increasing the number of university-authorized charter schools. Do you support or oppose adding more charter schools?*

Mastin: I support the establishment of as many charter schools as are needed to meet the demand, but I do not support federal funding of charter schools.

Miller: Support.

Pestka: I will consider legislation to lift the cap so long as it provides for greater accountability, open records and provides increased access to special education students. Legislation offered thus far has not

met those standards.

✓*Should gun owners be required to buy trigger locks? Are there other gun-control measures you would support?*

Mastin:

Oppose.

Miller: Oppose.

Pestka: Support for new gun sales.

✓*Do you think state legislative term limits have worked so far? Do you support increasing the number of two-year terms for House representatives from the current three-term limit?*

Mastin: Did not respond.

Miller: Support term limits.

Pestka: Support term limits.

✓*Gov. Engler is pressing for legislation to capture taxes on retail commerce on the Internet. On the other hand, all member of the Michigan Congressional delegation favor a moratorium on Internet taxes. Which approach do you support?*

Mastin: I do not support taxing retail commerce on the Internet.

Miller: I support the current moratorium on Internet taxes.

Pestka: I have supported every tax cut enacted by the Legislature and prefer to cut taxes rather than enact new ones. However, I don't know if it's fair that the same product is either taxed or not taxed depending on where it is purchased. I am not yet convinced technology exists to accurately capture sales tax on Internet transactions. Until that technology can be perfected, the moratorium should remain in effect.

✓*Are there instances in which a woman has a right to an abortion? If yes, specify.*

Mastin: Abortions should not be permitted except when absolutely necessary to save the mother's life.

Miller: Abortions should not be permitted except when absolutely necessary to save the mother's life.

Pestka: Abortions should not be permitted except when absolutely necessary to save the mother's life.

MICHIGAN

ELECTION 2000



Democrats = Big Government
Republicans = Big Government

Libertarians = Smaller Government

Stop Voting for the Status Quo . . .

VOTE FOR: LIBERTY / RESPONSIBILITY

**WESTERN MICHIGAN
LIBERTARIAN PARTY
CANDIDATES:**

U.S. Congress

Bruce A. Smith - 2nd Dist.
Erwin J. Haas - 3rd Dist.

Michigan House of Representatives

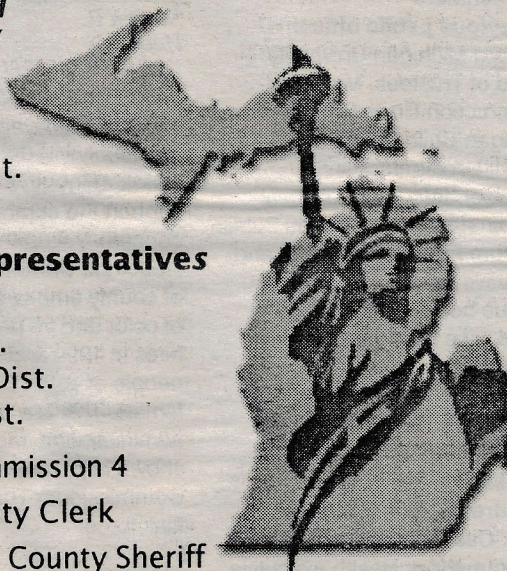
Bill Gelineau - 74th Dist.
Paul Mastin - 76th - Dist.
Rick Dutkiewicz - 88th Dist.
Tim Campbell - 90th Dist.

Bill Hall - Kent County Commission 4

Jamie Lewis - Kent County Clerk

Dennis Survilla - Allegan County Sheriff

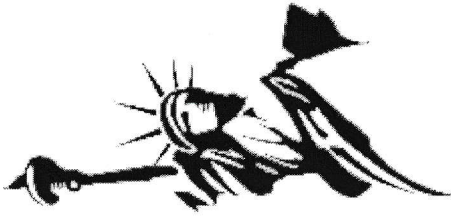
Derek E. Hollemans - Plainfield Township Trustee



PAID FOR BY THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF MICHIGAN CAMPAIGN FUND

mlp10.25

Libertarians take a principled stand in support of smaller government. Government that stays out of your life and pocketbook. Government that protects you from violent criminals. Government that gives you the freedom, and responsibility to live your life the way you choose, so long as you don't violate the rights of others.



For more information, or to volunteer to help Bill Hall's campaign for Kent County Commissioner, District 4, contact:

Bill Hall
6027 Meadowlark, N. E.
Rockford, MI 49341
752-2143
ElectBillHall@cs.com

For More information or to volunteer to help Derek Hollemans' campaign for Plainfield Township Trustee, contact:

Derek Hollemans
4279 Bell NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49525
262-1008
VoteDerek@triton.net

This brochure was paid for by the Committee to Elect Bill Hall, and the Committee to Elect Derek E. Hollemans to Plainfield Township Trustee.

FRUSTRATED?

YOU

WILL

HAVE A CHOICE IN

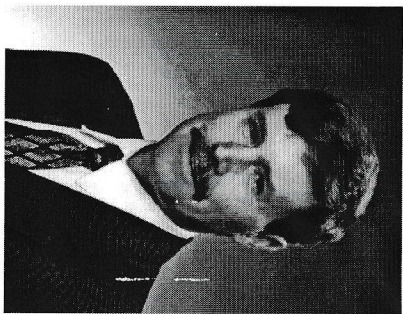
NOVEMBER

LIBERTARIAN CANDIDATES

Bill Hall

For

County Commissioner



Businessman – Bill Hall is a partner in one of Michigan's largest law firms, Warner Norcross & Judd LLP. He manages his firm's real estate services group, a team of dozens of lawyers, legal assistants, and support staff who help businesses and individuals with their real estate needs. Bill is committed to quality customer service, and handles multimillion-dollar deals on a daily basis.

Family Man – Bill Hall and his wife Vicki have been happily married for 15 years, and have two sons, Andrew, 12, and Griffin, 4. For the past six years, Bill has served Andrew and his friends as a Scout leader, first with a Cub Scout Pack sponsored by the Roguewood Elementary PTA, and now with a Boy Scout Troop sponsored by North Kent Presbyterian Church. On a typical Summer weekend, you'll find Bill and Andrew camping out with their Boy Scout Troop.

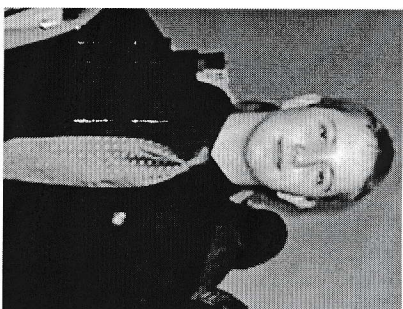
Active Community Participant – Bill and Vicki Hall have lived in Plainfield Township for 13 years. They are members of the Blythfield Homeowners Association, Northville Park Association, Second Congregational Church and Riverview Athletic Club. Bill served on the Plainfield Township Manager Study Committee.

WILL PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS

Derek Hollemans

For

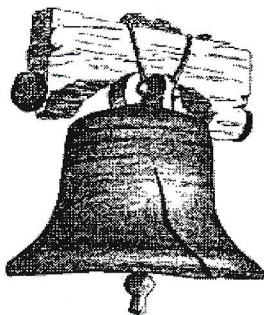
Township Trustee



A Proud Resident – Derek Hollemans has lived in Plainfield Township a majority of his life, attending Northview Public Schools and St. Jude Catholic Church. A dedicated attendant of Northview High School, Derek graduated with high honors and pursued independent journalistic endeavors. Derek is now continuing his studies at Grand Valley State University.

Advancing Technology – Derek is a 'level two' technician and shift supervisor at Triton Technologies, Inc. Triton Technologies was recently voted the area's number one internet service provider by The Grand Rapids Business Journal. As a technician, Derek is required to use his knowledge to assist and guide individuals through the intricacies of the computers and the internet. Derek is dedicated to making new technologies manageable and understandable to his customers.

Focused Citizen – Derek Hollemans is a contributing member of the Civil War Trust, an organization dedicated to preserving historically significant landmarks throughout the country. Locally Derek has been involved in a variety of issues, recently including the GRATA transit proposal, as well as an active role with the Committee to Elect Jeff Steinport to the Grand Rapids School Board.



Committee to Elect Derek E. Hollemans
Plainfield Township Trustee
4279 Bell NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49525
(616) 364-7200
VoteDerek@triton.net

*An Electable
Libertarian Seeking
Partisan Office*

My Fellow Libertarian,

As the 2000 election cycle approaches, I am sure you will be receiving several requests to help in the various campaigns designed to build the Libertarian Party or set the groundwork for a strong bid in 2002. This is different. Many good Libertarians will be running noble campaigns filled with long term goals. This is different.

Derek Hollemans is running for one of four positions on the Plainfield Township Board of Trustees. Plainfield Charter Township is a suburb of Grand Rapids, and those elected trustees will be serving a term on the partisan board. Derek is not running to break 5% or be "the balance of power". He is not running as an "educational candidate" or to build a campaign machine so that he can do better in the next election cycle. **Derek is running to win!** It is time for Libertarians to see a partisan victory in Michigan. With your help we can win in Plainfield Township.

Generally, the Plainfield Township Republicans in office have faced no Democratic opposition in the general election. This year will be different. They have yet to realize that their four candidates in the Trustee race will not be coasting to victory unopposed in the general election. Consequently, the Republican candidates will exhaust a vast majority of their resources during the primary season securing their party's nomination. With your support, they will be challenged in 2000, and we may even outspend the exhausted and overconfident Republicans in the general election.

The Republicans are extremely vulnerable in this race. Board policies are catching up with the sitting Trustees. They have enacted a civil infraction ordinance without respect to due process rights, participated in frivolous spending methods, and have betrayed local property rights. With the possible retirement of two Incumbent Trustees, the doors have been left wide open for a fresh face on the Board. If the Libertarian message -- with your financial support -- is carried to the residents of Plainfield Township, Derek will be that fresh face. The residents have shown interest, and now it is time for the Libertarian Party to deliver them a viable candidate. That candidate is Derek Hollemans.

I understand that many good causes will be asking you for support this year, but I can honestly say that the Hollemans campaign will be one of the wisest donations you could possibly make. By donating a few dollars to the Derek Hollemans campaign, you can contribute to what will be West Michigan's first and greatest Libertarian partisan victory.

Jason C. Miller
Campaign Chair,
Committee to Elect Derek E. Hollemans, Plainfield Township Trustee

Who is Derek E. Hollemans?

Libertarian Party Member since 1996.

EDUCATION

Graduated with high honors from Northview High School.

Currently maintaining a 3.4 GPA at Grand Valley State University.

EMPLOYMENT

Employed full time at Triton Technologies, Inc., 1997-Present. Triton Technologies was recently voted the area's top internet service provider by the Grand Rapids Business Journal.

Northview Baseball Softball League, 1995-1997.

EXTRA CURRICULAR

Member of the National Rifle Association.

Member of Gun Owners of America.

Event Activities Coordinator of the 9th Kentucky Citizen's Guard, Inc., a living history organization dedicated to the memory of the men and women who gave their lives in the War Between the States.

Contributing member of the Civil War Trust, an organization obligated to the PRIVATE purchase and preservation of historically significant land.

Active contributor to several local media outlets, including The-Paper, The Grand Rapids Press, and the Big Broadcast with Phil Tower.

In December of 1999, Derek personally announced his campaign at the West Michigan Liberty Banquet. Among those in attendance were:

Stacy Van Oast, Chair, Libertarian Party of Michigan
Fred Collins, Michigan's Highest Elected Libertarian
Emily Salvette, Former State Chair and LPM Convention Chair
Bill Bradley, Chair, Libertarian Party of Van Buren County
Bonnie Bierma, Chair, Libertarian Party of West Michigan
Bill Gelineau, Vice Chairman, Libertarian party of West Michigan

The announcement was met with an outpouring of enthusiasm and support from those attending.

The Hollemans campaign will be an extremely active one, including a vigorous door to door strategy, as well as several planned speaking engagements at Northview High School. Derek will also be appearing in Plainfield Townships largest 4th of July Parade, and plans on distributing massive amounts of literature to those present. With your help, we will be able to obtain the resources necessary to have strategic visual displays throughout the Township, literature mailings, and **with your help**, we will be sending every registered voter in Plainfield Township a mailing informing them why they should vote for a Libertarian change in 2000.