

# Michigan Libertarian

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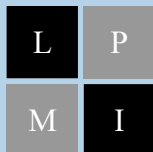
## Major Party Status Likely

by Greg Stempfle

Two of our most successful statewide candidates ever are both running for the State Board of Education, which will be our top-of-ticket race. Their vote returns will determine our ballot status for the 2004 Presidential election. LPM members Diane Barnes and Scotty Boman were nominated for the Board at the LPM Convention in Troy, May 18.

The threshold for major party status will be roughly 150,000 votes this year and both Diane and Scotty have approached this number in recent elections.

For Diane Barnes, this is her fourth run for the Board. In 1996, she received 150,869 votes. However since Harry Browne was our top of ticket candidate only his votes for President mattered. Diane has been active in the (cont'd on pg. 5)



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## Eisenbacher Elected in Troy!

by Fred Martin, LPOC Chair

Continuing a trend of recent successes in Oakland County, David Eisenbacher was elected to a 3-year term on the Troy city council. Eisenbacher finished first in a field of five candidates running for two seats, handily beating his nearest competitor and both incumbents.

Eisenbacher's political coattails were also a significant factor in the election of a political newcomer, Christina Broomfield, a Libertarian-friendly Republican who won the other seat.

The defeat of both incumbents also moved LPM member and sitting Troy councilman, Martin

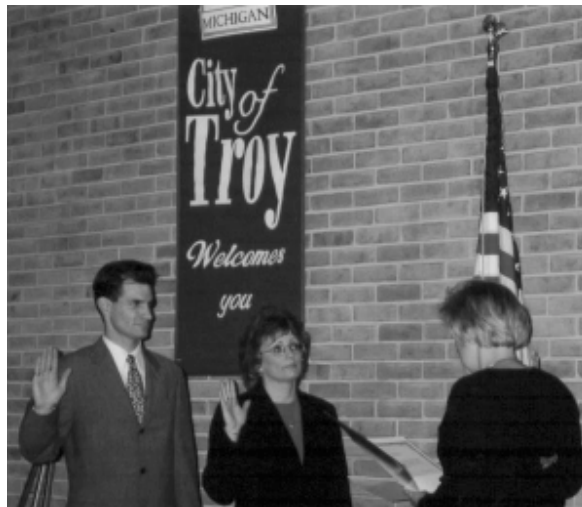
Howrylak, into the position of mayor pro tem.

Eisenbacher's win was not mere luck. During the last two years, the young engineer and father demonstrated a high-level of com-

munity involvement. In 2000, Eisenbacher was appointed to the Troy Historic District commission. This allowed him to not only do good work for the city, but also get to know his colleagues and let them

get to know him. An active member of his church and a member of the board of his homeowners association, Eisenbacher took every opportunity to raise his profile by participating in such civic events as "Taste of Troy."

In 2001, David made his first attempt at a city council seat, narrowly missing election, but still managing to beat the only incumbent in that race. Im - (cont'd on pg. 3)



David Eisenbacher and Cristina Broomfield get sworn in to serve on the Troy City Council.

## Melanie Performs at LPM Convention

by Nathan Allen

Popular singer and Libertarian Party member, Melanie (Safka) who happened to be in the area on a tour promoting her new CD *Victim of the Moon* the same weekend as the Libertarian Party of Michigan convention, performed at the Saturday evening banquet. The folk singer who rose to stardom when she performed at the original Woodstock in 1969 arrived after dinner and gave a performance that had all in attendance grinning from ear to ear.

Some of Melanie's more well-known songs include Lay Down

(Candles in the Rain), What Have They Done to My Song Ma?, Brand New Key, and Ring the Living Bell. She also won an Emmy award in 1989 for writing the lyrics to "The First Time I Loved Forever," for the television show *Beauty and The Beast*.

Melanie has long described herself as a libertarian, but at the 2000 national Libertarian Party convention in Anaheim, CA, she took the plunge and actually became a member.

Kudos go to Greg Dirasian for arranging this special treat. Dirasian, having heard that

Melanie was going to be in Ann Arbor for a performance Friday evening, asked if the convention planning committee wanted to bring her in for Saturday's banquet.

The committee was thrilled at the prospect, but nobody really believed it could be done. Dirasian got on the phone and started dialing. When he was finally able to talk to Melanie's manager, the arrangements were made within a matter of minutes.

Special thanks also go to LPM member Ray Kozora who arranged all of the sound (cont'd on pg. 5)

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## Message from the Chair

It's an honor again to be elected LPM Chair, particularly when I am accompanied by a talented group of new LPM officers and At-Large Executive Committee members, many of whom are offering their services for the first time in a state Party leadership role. It's a pleasure also to see hard-working Party regular Ben Bachrach return as LPM Treasurer.

As we begin the time of off-year elections in 2002, the Libertarian Party of Michigan needs to stay on-task and stay on-message. The inevitable personal differences that arise among us should be acknowledged, then left behind as we move together to accomplish our common task of building and restoring Liberty, social tolerance and free markets.

With the concurrence of other leadership and of the LPM in general, I would like us to wage a strong statewide election campaign, standing behind one or two strong candidates in a race where we have historically had our best success, such as state Board of Education. Print and radio advertising can push the Libertarian Party name before the voting public.

The LPM needs to keep developing new affiliates throughout the state. It's tough to start up a new Libertarian group, particularly in rural, lightly-populated areas, and our Libertarian colleagues need support in order to spread our LP banner throughout our state. I plan to push a really strong program for new affiliates.

Finally, to combine party-building with fun, I propose we hold a Libertarian Party of Michigan picnic this summer.

Yours In Liberty,  
James Hudler

## Eisenbacher Vote Results

On the right, you will find the vote results for David Eisenbacher's 2002 and 2001 campaigns.

For a detailed, precinct by precinct breakdown of the results, including absentee votes, visit the Eisenbacher web site at:

[www.Eisenbacher.org](http://www.Eisenbacher.org)  
Incumbents are marked with a "(I)" after their names.

In each of these elections, the top two vote-getters were elected - these names are marked in bold-face type.

Troy 2002 City Council Election	
<b>Eisenbacher</b>	<b>5146</b>
<b>Broomfield</b>	<b>4194</b>
Kazubski(I)	3810
Schilling(I)	3217
Elenbaum	997

Troy 2001 City Council Election	
<b>Lambert</b>	<b>5089</b>
<b>Beltramini</b>	<b>3633</b>
Eisenbacher	3242
Stevens(I)	3134
Rocchio	1560
Green	1140
Hughes	1084
Delaforterie	403
Bertin	326

# Eisenbacher Wins!

(cont'd from pg. 1) pressed by his strong showing and sincerity, newly elected mayor Matt Pryor made a point of getting to know Eisenbacher better. So did others

As winter approached and people began thinking about running in the 2002 Troy city council election, the mayor, Rep. Bob Gosselin (R-Troy), and fellow Libertarians all urged Eisenbacher to run again. This broad base of support inspired Eisenbacher and he took up the challenge.

He began by re-assembling his campaign team - co-campaign managers Fred Collins, Greg Dirasian, and Barb Goushaw (dubbed "the Troika"). The first order of business for the new campaign team was to recruit a treasurer. That duty went to LPM member and LPOC vice chair Keith Wesselmann.

With the team assembled, they began by reviewing last year's campaign for areas that might be improved. It was clear that Eisenbacher was popular, but a relatively weak showing in the absentee vote was sufficient to make the difference. Also, although Eisenbacher won in 16 of the 34 precincts in Troy and tied in another 3, most of his losing precincts were in the more affluent northern part of the city. It was decided that this year's campaign needed to put more focus on those two areas.

The absentee strategy was simple - more mailings. The team mailed a holiday greeting card to all of the previous year's absentee voters. Enclosed in each card was a refrigerator magnet with emergency and city office phone numbers on it, as well as the "Eisenbacher for Council" logo. When absentee voter applications were mailed from the city clerk's office, the team sent the list the first campaign brochure, "Meet David Eisenbacher." When the absentee ballots themselves were mailed, a third piece went out, this one a simple, straight-forward letter from the candidate stating his position on the issues.

The initial plan was for all of the pieces to be hand-addressed, but the sheer number of absentee voters proved to be too large — a fact the team realized after hand-addressing over 2000 holiday greeting cards. Subsequent mailings were addressed with a computer printer using a cursive script-type font.

Garnering support in the northern part of Troy was more difficult. It was decided that the candidate should concentrate more of his door-to-door work in that area. Since he was also being endorsed by State Rep. Bob Gosselin (who

represents the same area in the state legislature), the Troika decided that they needed to publicize Gosselin's endorsement as much as possible. This was done by including the Gosselin endorsement in the absentee voter letter, on the third brochure, and in newspaper ads.

In spite of becoming a new father on December 1, 2001, Eisenbacher campaigned hard, going door-to-door to get the necessary signatures to run for office, then continuing the door-to-door campaigning throughout the race — especially in the north part of the city.

Even the *Troy Eccentric*, after endorsing the two incumbents, added, "Voters who are convinced a new face is needed on council sooner rather than later can feel confident casting a ballot for Eisenbacher."

Throughout the campaign, the newspapers frequently mentioned that Eisenbacher was a Libertarian. They also noted that some of his funds came from the Libertarian Victory Fund and from other Libertarians outside of the city. This apparently didn't matter to the voters who seem to have made their decision based on Eisenbacher's positions on the issues.

As election day approached, Eisenbacher was delighted to also receive the support of an independent committee that did a mailing urging voters to elect both him and Christina Broomfield.

Finally, election day arrived. LPOC volunteers as well as some cooperating Republicans came out to work the polls for both Eisenbacher and Broomfield. Poll workers spent 13 hours at the polls that day, with other volunteers driving around to all the polls with coffee, donuts and sandwiches.

Once the polls closed, volunteers went inside the precincts that they had been working the entire day for the numbers, bringing these with them to the election night party. But communicating via cell phones, the trend was obvious within 5 minutes of the polls closing — Eisenbacher would surely win and Broomfield would likely come in second. And that is in fact exactly how the election turned out.

With the election of David Eisenbacher the seven member Troy city council now has two Libertarians — including new mayor pro tem, Martin Howrylak — and a very libertarian Republican. One more election, two more replaced incumbents, and one of Michigan's largest and most wealthy cities will have a Libertarian government.

## Working the Polls

by Greg Dirasian

Working a poll is not a lot of fun, but this was the last step in the Eisenbacher campaign. 402 people voted at the location I was working. And an April 1<sup>st</sup> election in Michigan is as likely to see snow as it is warm, sunny weather. This year, they predicted snow. What in the world could get me to commit to standing outside in freezing weather for 13 hours to get a few extra votes? Well, at least it's not winter in Valley Forge.

So, I arrived at my poll promptly at 7:00am and scoped out the location. This was a pretty good one. It was a church with the entrance in front and the parking lot on the side. I could stay 100 feet from the entrance and still pretty much have free reign over the parking lot. I also noticed one other thing — there was an emergency exit (glass doors) on the side of the church with one of those little polling tables set up in front of it just inside. This arrangement suggested that voters would be able to look out the doors while filling out ballot forms and see me with my Eisenbacher sign.

But I wasn't sure if that was considered an entrance or not, so I made it a point to keep a respectable distance away. As a matter of fact, I went to the extreme end of the parking lot and just kept walking back and forth with my sign.

The election officials kept going up to the glass doors and staring out at me, giving me dirty looks. But as long as they didn't say anything, I just kept doing my campaigning.

Eventually, the election officials came out with a 100-foot piece of string and some chalk and started marking off the pavement. That offended me somewhat, since I was being very scrupulous about my legal obligations. But this little attempted intimidation tactic back-fired on them. The chalk line turned out to be 35 feet closer in than where I had been! So, I moved closer.

While marking the chalk line, one of the election officials said to me, "I thought you were okay where you were, but some of the others insisted we come out and measure."

I responded, "I know you are just trying to make sure the election is (cont'd on pg. 4)

# Working the Polls for Eisenbacher

(cont'd from pg. 3) fair, and I don't have a problem with that, but I don't think this line is correct. You measured 100 feet from the emergency exit, but the law says that I only need to stay 100 feet from the entrance to the building. Since nobody can use the emergency exit, you should only measure 100 feet from the entrance in the front of the building."

A discussion followed, and finally I asked if we could call the city clerk's office and get it straightened out. We called and the city clerk confirmed that I was correct. I now started moving around the parking lot much more freely. The election workers should have left well enough alone.

In spite of all of this, I still didn't get very close to the glass doors. I felt it was more effective to just keep talking to the people in the parking lot. So I was staying at least 100 feet from the glass doors for the simple reason that I was approaching people as soon as they got out of their cars.

Still, the election workers were not happy. They must have called the city clerk and asked her to come out and look at the location (this

was the first time that it had been used for the polls). The clerk came out in the afternoon, checked out the location, and then walked over to me in the parking lot and told me I had to stay at least 100 feet away from the emergency exit also. I pointed out to the clerk what she herself had told election workers on the phone earlier in the day — the law said 100 feet from the entrance. She said yes, that's true, but people can see me through the glass doors of the emergency exit and that this was unfair influence.

I suggested that if her concern was that people could see me while they were voting, she could tape paper over the glass doors, but to force me to stay even further away was not reasonable since I needed a fair amount of access to potential voters. She said that they might consider putting paper up next year, but she insisted that I stay 100 feet away from the glass doors that day.

Although the point was clearly arguable, since I did not see this as a real disadvantage, I did not fight it. After all, I was the only person working the poll anyhow. And my going to jail would disadvantage my candidate. I decided to

continue working the poll throughout the day, abiding by the unfair (and probably illegal) restrictions, and file a complaint afterwards.

After that the election officials were very nice, and I tried to be pleasant and respectful in return.

As everyone now knows we won the election. Eisenbacher got 235 votes at my polling location, with the next closest candidate getting 208 votes, and the one after that 133. I'd like to think that my candidate's 27 vote lead over his nearest competitor is the result of me sticking it out at the polls - basically convincing two people per hour to vote for him.

Now that we won, I am not nearly so inclined to file a complaint. But I do think a letter is still in order to make certain that this doesn't happen again. I certainly don't want to endure frozen body parts again next year while some bureaucrat leaves her warm, cozy environment just long enough to tell me I'm campaigning too prominently. (It should be noted that it snowed briefly while I was working the poll, and was snowing steadily when I left the election night victory party).

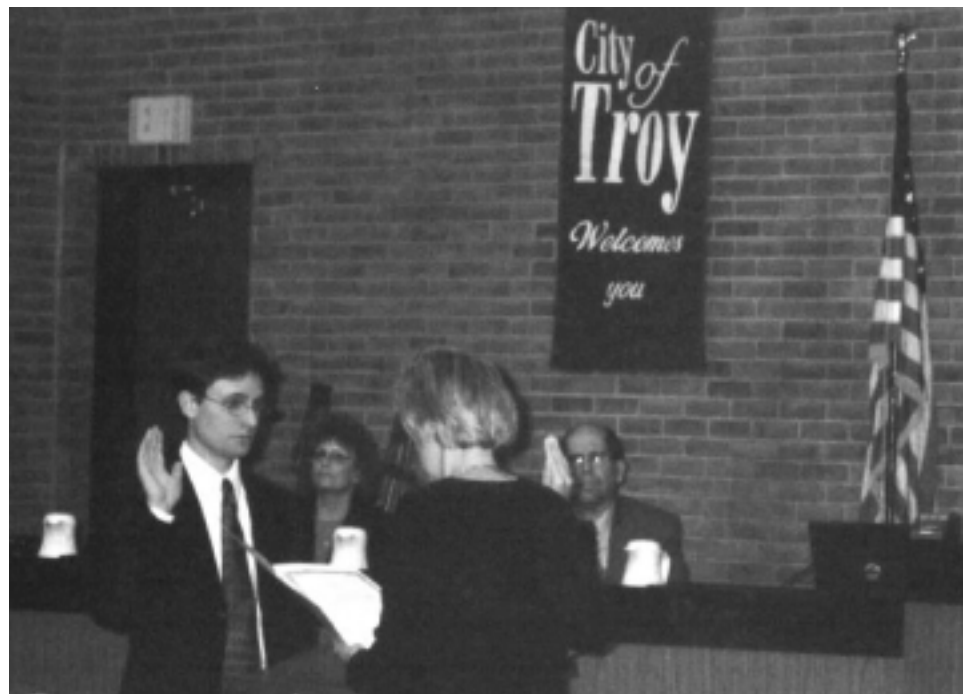
# Howrylak Becomes Mayor Pro Tem

by Greg Dirasian

One of the side-effects of David Eisenbacher defeating two incumbents in Troy is that Libertarian Troy City Councilman Martin Howrylak has become Mayor Pro Tem.

In some cities, the honor of Mayor Pro Tem goes to the councilman with the highest vote total. In Troy, they establish a rotating schedule. When the incumbents were defeated, Howrylak moved to the top of the list. Even though he was at the top of the list, the position is not automatic. He still needed to be nominated for the position and then voted on by the rest of council.

The nomination and vote are generally considered to be just a formality, however, when the position is supposed to go to a Libertarian, there is always some concern that tradition and formality will give way to petty animosity. Fortunately, this was not the case in Troy. Councilman Howrylak was nominated and unanimously approved for the position. He was sworn in to his new position the same evening as David Eisenbacher.



Martin Howrylak is sworn in as Mayor Pro Tem of Troy

# Melanie Performs at LPM Convention

equipment for Melanie at the banquet. (Melanie's son, Beau-Jarred, who performs with her, noted that they no longer travel with their own equipment due to the heightened restrictions since 9/11.)

After the performance, banquet guests were treated to even more Melanie. Melanie's manager (and husband) sold pre-release autographed copies of her new CD, while Melanie sat and socialized with members. Many people also had their picture taken with the star.

The convention event, billed as the "No Boring Speakers Banquet," was a departure from the

LPM's usual format. Convention organizers decided that after a long day of meetings and speakers, members might prefer the opportunity to enjoy a little entertainment and have time to socialize. The late addition of Melanie

to the banquet schedule was an unexpected surprise and brought out members that we hadn't seen in years.

Other banquet highlights included Nancy Neale (wife of national chair candidate Geoff Neale) costumed as the Statue of Liberty and reciting poetry. Elias Israel (also a national chair candidate), Ken Bisson (national vice chair candidate), Mark Rutherford (region 3 LNC representative), and Republican State Representatives Leon Drolet and Bob Gosselin also attended.

Special thanks to everybody who helped make this a very special and memorable evening.



Melanie poses with banquet guests after giving her performance and autographing CDs.



Left: Nancy Neale, dressed as the Statue of Liberty, joins the Saturday evening banquet at convention and recites "The New Colossus" by Emma Lazarus.

Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,  
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;  
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand  
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame  
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name  
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand  
Glows world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command  
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.

"Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she  
With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,  
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,  
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.  
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me.  
I lift my lamp beside the golden door."

## Major Party Status Likely

(cont'd from pg. 1) parental rights movement for many years and has been a candidate for the East Detroit School Board.

In 1998 and 2000, Scotty Boman ran for a seat on the Wayne State Board of Governors, each time earning 130,000 votes, higher than all other third party candidates for those two years. Scotty works as a public school teacher and is a former member of Wayne State's Student Council. Boman plans on running an informational candidacy with campaign manager Greg Stempfle.

With the combination of both Barnes and Boman on the ballot, especially if Detroit Red Wings win another Stanley Cup, the Libertarian Party of Michigan has one of its best opportunities in history to become a major party in this state.

# On the Right Track

Libertarians have recently seen a number of successes. In the past 6 months, the number of elected city councilmen has climbed from two to six.

This number may not seem very large, but it is marking the start of a new trend. To the right, is a graph showing the increase in the number of city councilmen. (no disrespect intended to our other public officials).

I have asked former chairs and campaign managers to comment on this trend. This page includes the responses that I received.

## Individuals Are Key

by Stacy Van Oast, former LPM Chair

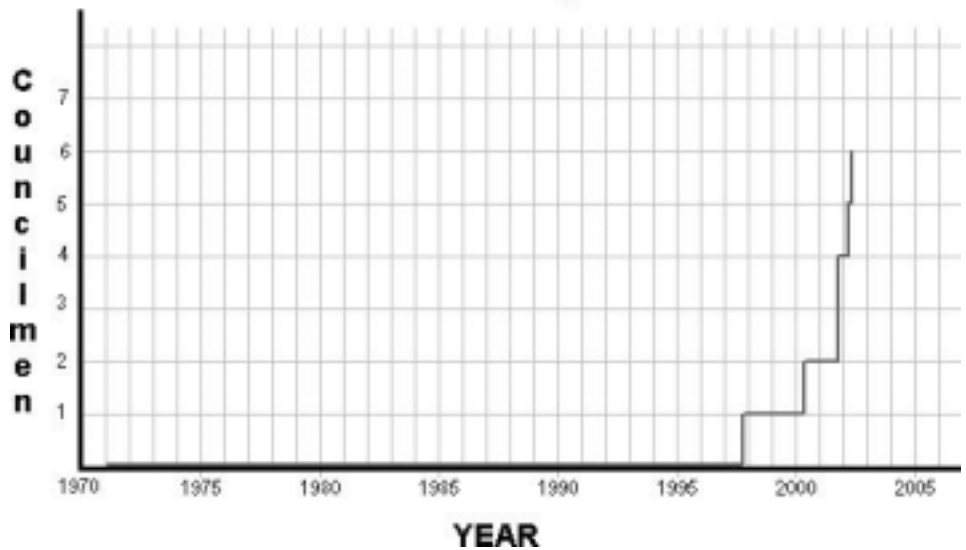
We all know that the LP's fundamental reason for existence is to move society in a libertarian direction by participating in the political process. Our officeholders, and the volunteers and donors who helped get them there, are truly fulfilling our mission. Thank you!

I think the reason for "our" recent electoral success has nothing to do with "us" — the LPM as an organization, that is. From the days of the terrific Jon Coon for US Senate race of 1994, campaign committees have generally been organized and operated independent of the state Party. Their electoral successes are due to the hard work, organizing skills, and money of the Libertarian candidates, activists, and donors involved in the separate campaigns. True, without the LPM there wouldn't be the opportunity for candidates to run as Libertarians, but this decentralized model that has evolved over the last decade for our campaigns has been a good one. In fact, this model has been so successful that I believe it should be extended to other endeavors of the state Libertarian organization.

It has always been the LPM's individual members, candidates, and affiliates that have had the greatest libertarian impact in their communities. Therefore, it seems vital that the state organization support and empower them as they seek to inform and influence others about Libertarian politics. Individuals can be most effective at their local levels of government and different methods of provid-

*(cont'd on next pg.)*

LP of Michigan



## Beyond Good Intentions

by Tim O'Brien, former LPM Chair

Three factors, inextricably intertwined and equally important, have contributed to the recent success of the LPM as a force to be reckoned with in Michigan politics.

### Electoral victories.

A political party is, first and foremost, organized to elect its candidates to public office. There is no more immediate way to control the "levers of power" in order to enact a libertarian agenda than to put those levers in the hands of Libertarians.

In the last few years we have stopped insisting on making every election a prohibitively expensive referendum on "the two party system" and instead begun focusing on local elections. At this level we need not overcome the "You mean you aren't a Republican or a Democrat?" hurdle. Further, we are capable of marshalling the resources — both financial and volunteer — to be competitive.

As a result in just a couple of election cycles we have actually elected LP members to:

- Grand Rapids school board
- Berkley city council (and then re-elected as an incumbent without opposition)
- Owosso city council
- Hazel Park city council
- Troy city council (two!)

In addition we have had more members appointed to local office (South Haven city

council, and various commissions in Troy, Hazel Park, and Berkley), and run two more very close city council races (Troy, Harper Woods).

We have also had other local activism have a measurable affect.

One of our members (in Allen Park) started a chorus of complaints about a 39-acre federal property once used as a veteran's hospital, but virtually abandoned several years ago, that eventually grew loud enough to actually be heard in Washington DC. The 23 buildings on the site are now scheduled for demolition this summer, and the whole property returned to local control before the end of the year.

Another of our members (in Owosso) organized a referendum against a local "Historic District" ordinance the success of which ultimately propelled him onto the city council.

Yet another of our members (in Detroit) organized a petition drive that gathered sufficient signatures for an initiative to make enforcement of marijuana laws against those with a medical need for the drug the city's lowest law enforcement priority. The Detroit law department is now fighting in court to keep the initiative off the ballot.

### Professionalism.

In recent years we have dramatically raised the profile and improved the image of the LP and its candidates.

We have studied *(cont'd on next pg.)*

# Beyond Good Intentions

(cont'd from prev. pg.) with experts and learned how to go about actually winning election to public office — acquiring absentee voter mailing lists, presenting our message in an effective way, developing walking lists, creating attractive lawn signs and quality literature, etc.

We also opened an office, began issuing regular press releases and opinion articles, produced professional advertising for both our high-profile candidates and our full slate, even created the position of executive director (though it is currently vacant), etc.

## Engagement.

We have become involved in the process of politics as it exists, instead of simply railing against the unfairness of it all from the top of our ivory

tower.

We have formed alliances of mutual interest with:

- Republican legislators like Leon Drolet (Clinton Township) and Bob Gosselin (Troy) to fight the Internet tax and change the “Top-of-ticket” ballot access rule
- Democrat legislators like Dave Woodward (Royal Oak) and William O’Neil (Allen Park) to advance an anti-SLAPP suit bill and to allow cities to secede from the Wayne County Community College district.
- The ACLU to exchange mailing lists for a membership drive and get their help in support of a law suit over the City of Detroit’s effort to stop our initiative.
- The Green Party and Greg Schmid’s

PRA group to promote the drive to amend our state constitution by eliminating prison sentences for drug possession.

There are many more examples of each of these three factors that have helped build our recent success.

The crucial point is that a mutually reinforcing synergism has emerged since we started:

1.) Running candidates and initiatives/ref-erenda at a level where we could be genuinely competitive

2.) Building a more professional image for both our candidates and our party

3.) Engaging in politics as it is today rather than remaining reluctant virgins who refuse to be sullied by actual contact with the grubby real world

Staying on the road to success will be difficult, requiring hard work and perseverance, but we have already demonstrated that we can do it.

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## Individuals Are Key

(cont'd from prev. pg.) ing information and influence will work for different activists in different communities. As the state party recognizes that all of “our” success in achieving the libertarian society we want is accomplished by individuals, the party will grow and Libertarians everywhere will realize the dream.

However, there are services the state party should provide, and there have been successes in those areas that deserve notice as well. Con-

gratulations to Tim O’Brien, Fred Collins, Bill Shotey and others on the lobbying effort to repeal the “top-of-ticket” rule. The proposal has made it to the governor’s desk. Wouldn’t it be terrific if we never again had to worry about our “top-of-ticket” candidate costing us ballot status? I sincerely hope that this effort succeeds. Good work and congratulations to those individuals who are working to preserve ballot status on behalf of the LPM.

So, in conclusion, I do think that “we” are on the right track. The LPM itself headed towards a more supportive, service-oriented organizational structure that facilitates the activities of individual members, candidates, and affiliates while providing basic services of the highest quality; and, thanks to continually expanding and thriving local activism, all of us continue to head down the track towards that ever freer and ever more libertarian society. Keep up the great work everyone!

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## Fueling the Fire

by The Troika

Many elements have combined to provide a foundation for our recent successes. The national Libertarian Party began an intensive membership recruitment drive in 1995. The new members are the resources that are fueling our success.

We have more members and that means more money, more manpower, and more of the people that make great candidates.

On top of that, we have increasingly moved towards professionalizing the party and our image.

More and more of our people are taking campaign training classes so they can be better campaigners. Martin Howrylak ran for city council twice before getting elected. On his third try, Fred Collins, assisted by Greg Dirasian, ran his campaign and the electoral success that eluded him for so long finally materialized.

In previous years, we focused on big races.

Jon Coon’s 1994 senate race, although high-profile and successful in many regards, did not produce the electoral victory we sought. Likewise with his 1996 state representative race.

The election of Fred Collins to the Berkley City Council in 1997, started a trend of focusing on local winnable elections and building a farm team of credible Libertarian candidates.

All of our successful candidates have one thing in common - they knew their communities well. A city council election is no place to talk about the drug war, the federal income tax, social security, or foreign policy. Successful candidates talked about local issues that their local papers discussed every day.

The Democrats and Republicans have been more help than they realize. Their continued intrusive policies have made more and more voters seek out an alternative. And when we present them with real alternatives - well-dressed

articulate people who demonstrate a genuine concern for their communities - they vote Libertarian.

The LPM has recognized this. The idea of LPM affiliates focusing their resources on “Just One” local campaign for success, has identified the opportunity and set the direction. Can we rise to the challenge? We hope so. Whether it be mailing lists, campaign training, or outright campaign consultation from experienced campaigners, the affiliates now have the resources to win.

The well run campaigns and this recent trend of successes has not escaped the notice of the Democrats, Republicans, and media. This serves our other endeavors also. When the lobbying committee speaks, the unspoken message is clear - we have the resources, skills, and ability to mount a challenge. Maybe we won’t win, but we have proven that we have the capability of affecting the electoral process.

Where will we focus next? Perhaps YOU will be the next candidate elected to city council!

# Campaign Finance Information for Candidates for State or Local Office

by Leonard Schwartz, LPM campaign finance law adviser

## A. Introduction

The penalty for violating Michigan's campaign finance laws can be one year in jail and a \$20,000 fine.

To get campaign finance information and forms, contact:

Bureau of Elections  
208 North Capitol  
Lansing MI 48933  
Phone: 517-373-2540

Ask the Bureau to send you:

- *Michigan Campaign Finance Candidate Committee Manual.*
- *Campaign Statement Instructions for Candidate Committees.*
- *Candidate Committee Campaign Statement Forms.*

Make copies of the blank forms, fill in the copies, and make copies of the completed forms.

## B. Highlights from *Michigan Campaign Finance Candidate Committee Manual.*

### 1. Candidate Committee

You become a candidate under the Campaign Finance Act as soon as you:

- (a) file a nominating petition or a filing fee, or
- (b) receive a contribution or make an expenditure, or
- (c) are nominated by a political party caucus or convention.

Within 10 days of becoming a candidate, you must form a candidate committee (even if you don't plan to solicit contributions or spend any of your own money). You can be the treasurer of your own committee (unless you are running for a judgeship).

Give it a name like "Friends of [your name]" or "Citizens for [your name]." The committee's name must include your first and last names.

Within another 10 days, you must file two copies of "Statement of Organization for Candidate Committees."

### 2. Contributions

If you accept any contributions (even \$1), your committee must open an account at a bank or credit union. All contributions must be deposited in the committee's account.

Before you can open an account, your committee usually needs an IRS taxpayer identification number. Call 1-800-829-3676 and ask for Form SS-4 or download this form from [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

You must keep (for 5 years) a record of all contributions. You must record the name and street address (not a P.O. Box address) of each contributor. If someone contributes more than \$100 in one year, you must also record the person's occupation, employer, and principal place of business. Do not deposit a check until you get this information. If someone makes a credit card contribution greater than \$100 without providing the employment information, you can reduce the amount to \$100 and process the contribution.

You can accept contributions from any U.S. citizen. But you usually cannot accept contributions from political committees that are not registered in Michigan; for exceptions, see the Manual (pages 30 & 68 of the June 2001 edition).

You cannot accept more than \$20 in cash from anyone. You cannot accept contributions from corporations and labor unions; but you can accept contributions from their political committees.

### 3. Expenditures

You must keep (for 5 years) a record of all expenditures, even if you paid them out of your own pocket.

Your committee must not make any cash expenditure greater than \$50.

Your committee must get a receipt for any expenditure greater than \$50; a canceled check is acceptable.

### 4. Campaign Finance Reports

You must file periodic campaign finance statements if you received more than \$1000 in contributions or if you spent more than \$1000 (even if all campaign expenditures were paid out of your own pocket.)

### 5. Campaign Material

Fundraising letters and most campaign material must state: "Paid for by [name and address of your committee]."

# Troy Cuts Taxes

by Jerry Bloom

Two Libertarians out of the seven members of the Troy city council does not seem like much, but their influence is already being felt. Shortly after Eisenbacher was elected to the council, the two Libertarians, Eisenbacher and Howrylak, proposed a tax cut of 0.05 mils.

The pro-spending forces on the council did not agree. When it was only Howrylak proposing a tax cut, one councilman was easy to dismiss, but it is harder to dismiss two councilmen. Eventually a compromise was reached and taxes were cut by 0.03 mils.

The Troy tax rate has been constant for years at 9.48 mils, but a good economy has increased property values, and in spite of Headlee limitations, the city's income has increased faster than inflation. The spendaholics in Troy have found creative ways of spending this booty - until the Libertarians came along.

What did they cut from the budget? Basically two electronic signs to put in front of city buildings.

What other cuts did they seek? The Libertarians wanted to shut down the Troy Aquatic Center which loses about \$250,000 per year. They opposed giving \$50,000 to neighboring Clawson for a law suit that Clawson cannot afford to defend itself against, and they opposed giving an additional \$50,000 to the Troy Community Coalition - an anti-drug educational organization that also lobbies local governments.

Also surviving the fiscally responsible Libertarians were 12 new positions that the city had filled within the last year. One wonders how Troy managed to function all these years without those 12 employees.

Eisenbacher noted that he opposed layoffs, but thought the positions should be eliminated through normal attrition.



# Future of the LPM

by Fred Collins

The future of the LPM depends on our ability to communicate our message, and to persuade the masses. To accomplish this goal we must improve our own skills. These skills include sales, marketing, writing, computer skills, and project management. These are all highly marketable skills and you can use them not only to help advance the LPM, but to help advance your career. It's not nearly as hard as it sounds. Many people have already learned new skills to help advance our cause. Some examples come immediately to mind...



**Leonard Schwartz.** Although he is a lawyer, he knew nothing about campaign finance law until he joined the Ballot Access Retention Committee. Now he knows more about campaign finance law than people employed full time in the business.

**Greg Dirasian.** Even though he is a computer geek, he knew nothing about web design and the Internet until he wanted to do something for the LP. His skills in design, layout, data analysis and programming are now legend in the party. (You can even see some of Greg's work in the Smithsonian Institute).

**Tim O'Brien.** Even though he is a professional writer, knew nothing about designing and layout of brochures until he found that he needed to do it for the candidates of the LPM. His layout work now instills fear and anger in our opponents, and motivates people to pull the lever next to our candidates names.

**Barb Goushaw.** Even though she is a sales professional, knew nothing about running a campaign until Jon Coon asked he to manage his campaign for US Senate. Between practical experience, and formal training, she learned to become an effective campaign manager. Now she is sought after by campaigns and local parties across the country to run their candidates, consult on their campaigns or teach them how to run.

After an unsuccessful run as a Republican for State Rep, I discovered that the LP was my true political home. With the support of the LP, I ran for and was elected to Berkley City Council. As a seated City Councilman I applied for and was accepted to the Michigan Political Leadership Program — a year long course of study — so that I could better understand the workings of the different governmental authorities that we have to deal with. Not bad for a man who earns his living as a general contractor!

**Jon Coon.** Could not get in front of a group without having what he was going to say written out word for word and clutched in his trembling hands. Yet because he wanted to be a successful candidate, he learned to be one of the most polished, passionate and moving speakers ever.

These people are some of our finest activists, but they did not spring from the ocean fully formed. They realized that even though they were passionate about our cause, they needed to improve their own personal skills so that we could be successful. Passion alone is not sufficient.

What will you do to improve your skills so you can be a more effective activist?

Are you passionate enough about our cause to improve yourself? Take a public speaking class. Learn how to do brochure design and layout on a computer. Apply for the Michigan Political Leadership Program. Become active in your community and develop the skills and the contacts you need to make your community a bit less intrusive and a bit more free.



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# LPM 2002 Convention



*During Saturday's lunch, two of the candidates for national chair told us about their qualifications for the job and their vision for the LP. Here, Barb Goushaw is introducing one of the candidates. At the head table, from left to right, are Ken Bisson, national vice chair, Eli Israel, candidate for national chair, Councilman Andy LeCureaux of Hazel Park, Barb Goushaw, Geoff Neale, candidate for national chair, and his wife, Nancy Neale.*

## Affiliate Contest Winner

This year's affiliate contest required that each affiliate set goals and each affiliate that achieved their goals would be eligible for a drawing for a prize to win the Best Affiliate contest. Only two affiliates met their goals and were eligible for the prize. They were the Clare-Gladwin affiliate and the Wayne County affiliate. The drawing was held at the Saturday evening banquet and Wayne County won the prize, a \$100 gift certificate to the Advocates for Self-Government.

Bill Shotey accepted the award for the Wayne County affiliate.

Congratulations to all who participated and especially to the winning affiliate, the LP of Wayne County.



*Four of our elected officials hold a breakout session. This was a panel discussion for members to ask questions of the elected officials. The other elected officials were unable to attend. From left to right, Councilman Andy LeCureaux of Hazel Park, Councilman David Eisenbacher of Troy, Councilman Fred Collins of Berkeley, and Councilman Martin Howrylak of Troy.*



*Mayor of Troy, Matt Pryor, welcomes Libertarians to the city at the Friday evening reception. We were pleasantly surprised to see that he stayed for the entire evening, socializing and joining in the karaoke.*



*The business session was crowded as members listened intently to nomination speeches during the election of officers.*

# LPM 2002 Convention



George Getz, the national Libertarian Party's Press Secretary, spoke eloquently on the do's and don'ts of dealing with the media during the Sunday Brunch. He also offered new ideas on the logistics of distributing press releases -- which the LPM is already investigating.



LP of Oakland County convention planning committee meets and works out the final details. Committee chair, Nathan Allen (back center), did an excellent job of pulling everything together. The late addition of Melanie to the schedule earned the convention additional coverage by at least two papers - *The Detroit News* and the *Daily Tribune*.

Convention minutes are on page 13. The post-convention LEC meeting minutes will be published in the next issue due to space considerations.

## New Executive Committee Elected

by Greg Dirasian

Among the usual convention business, a new executive committee was elected. The convention also took the opportunity to officially change the name of the committee to LEC (Libertarian Executive Committee). Although it had been informally referred to as LEC for many years, the name change was only made official this year.

James Hudler was elected chair. Hudler is one of the founding members of the party and has served as chair multiple times in the past. Jerry Bloom was elected vice chair. Bloom was an integral

part of the petition drive to restore our ballot access, gathering 1110 signatures and preparing the committee's budget reports. Long-time activist Ben Bachrach was elected treasurer. Bachrach has maintained the membership database for countless years and served as finance director in the past. Keith Wesslemann was elected secretary. Wesslemann is vice chair of

the LP of Oakland County and was treasurer for the successful Eisenbacher campaign.

The 5 At-Large Director positions went to Diane Barnes, former and current State Board of Education candidate, Dave Collver, campaign manager for the successful LeCureaux campaign, Paul Hitch, chair of the LP of Lapeer/Genesee, Sara Sjoberg, who is the LP of Oakland County's fundraising director, and Erin Stahl, who ran for St. Clair Shores city council and served on BARC.

Paul Hitch noted that the new LEC is an excellent blend of seasoned activists and young, enthusiastic volunteers.



James Hudler  
Chair



Jerry Bloom  
Vice Chair



Ben Bachrach  
Treasurer



Keith Wesslemann  
Secretary



Diane Barnes  
At-Large Director



Dave Collver  
At-Large Director



Paul Hitch  
At-Large Director



Sara Sjoberg  
At-Large Director



Erin Stahl  
At-Large Director

# Schwartz Declares for District Court Judge

by Keith Wesselmann

Leonard Schwartz is a candidate for judge of District Court 45B in Oakland County. The district covers Royal Oak Township, Pleasant Ridge, Oak Park, and Huntington Woods.

He has been a member of the Libertarian Party since 1980. He served on the Libertarian Party of Michigan Executive Committee. He is the LPM's campaign finance law adviser and election law adviser.

In 2000, Leonard was the Libertarian Party candidate for Oakland County prosecutor.



In 2001, Leonard served on the Ballot Access Restoration Committee. He collected 2295 signatures for the LPM petition drive, more than anyone else in the party.

If elected -- whoops, when elected, Leonard will be the first Libertarian Party member elected to a judgeship. (There are two LP members who were appointed to judgeships, one in Arizona and one in

Texas.)

This is a winnable nonpartisan election.

Nine persons are running for two judgeships. None are incumbents. The top four in the August primary will go on the November ballot.

Although it is admirable that several Libertarians have been elected to other local nonpartisan offices, a judge has greater opportunities to spread libertarianism: A judge has more prestige than does a member of a city council or board of education. A judge has more opportunities to give speeches. A judge can easily get op-ed articles and letters published in newspapers. Legislators and administrators give greater weight to advice from a judge.

A judgeship provides a great stepping stone to the quasi-partisan state supreme court. Previous LPM supreme court candidates received 5-10 percent of the vote although they were merely nominal candidates. With a well-run campaign to "Promote Judge Schwartz to the Supreme Court," Leonard will be a major contender. This will increase news media coverage of other Libertarian candidates.

A district court judge also is well paid: \$138,000 a year. Although state law prohibits Leonard from promising to contribute money to the Libertarian Party, its candidates, and even his own future supreme court campaign committee, everyone who knows him knows how dedicated he is to the Libertarian Party.

His web site is [www.schwartz22.com](http://www.schwartz22.com).

To volunteer, contact Leonard at 248-546-3569 or [schw22@aaahawk.com](mailto:schw22@aaahawk.com).

Mail contributions to:

Friends of Leonard Schwartz  
13711 Victoria;  
Oak Park, MI 48237

## LPM Committee Meeting Minutes

*These minutes have not yet been approved by the Committee. It is possible that there will be additions or corrections at the next Committee meeting. If so, they will be published here*

Committee Meeting Minutes for April 7, 2002.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ghazey Aleck at 1:03 P.M. at Headquarters. Present were: Committee - Ghazey Aleck, Diane Barnes, Keith Edwards, Trafton Jean, Ben Bachrach, Bill Gelineau, Leonard Schwartz and Ben Steele III. Absent: Greg Dirasian. Also present: Marnie Edwards, Steve Townsend, Greg Stempfle, Jerry Bloom, Lloyd Sherman, Paul Hitch, Elisabeth Larsen, Tom Jones, David Raaflaub, and later, Art Gulick and James Hudler.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report by Trafton Jean was approved as submitted.

Discussion of whether to comply with IRS 527 was held. Motion to file the necessary forms to comply was made by Diane Barnes, Seconded by Bill Gelineau. Motion passed 5-3. Voting for were Bachrach, Barnes, Edwards, Gelineau, and Schwartz. Opposed were Aleck, Jean and Steele. Jean will prepare the forms for Aleck's signature.

Aleck reported on his presentation in the Jon Coon lawsuit. The Judges were interested in his points. Decision expected before the Convention.

Bill Gelineau reported on the West Michigan LP plan to gain memberships from inquirers and expired members via phone calls and personal visits. LPM is mailing a renewal letter to expired members. Gelineau was appointed Membership Chair by Chair Aleck.

The Convention Agenda was approved based on the 2000 agenda. No Convention report was available.

The Organization Plan discussion was tabled until the new Committee is elected, as few Committee members had attended the working meeting on the subject.

Diane Barnes reported that the Liberty Fest has been scheduled for Saturday, November 9, at Mac and Ray's in Clinton Township, a beautiful facility. Deposit has been paid. Wendy McElroy, long-time libertarian author and feminist will be the speaker.

Keith Edwards reported that our Post Office permit 160 expires in May. Unless directed otherwise, he will renew it at that time.

Darryl Schmitz wants to be replaced as Director of News Releases. Ben Bachrach will contact Rose Wright to see if she would be interested.

Top of Ticket problem was discussed and progress of HB 5237. Ben Steele moved that if the Principle Candidate Rule is not changed prior to our Convention, that we not run any candidate above State Board of Education. Seconded by Ben Bachrach. It was argued by Keith Edwards that the Committee has no authority to make that decision. Ben Bachrach moved that the motion be amended to state that the Convention Agenda be written to reflect that nominations shall be made only for positions from Board of Education and below. Seconded by Diane Barnes. This would be a recommendation only and the Convention could move to change the agenda if it so wishes. Passed 7-1

Ben Bachrach and Trafton Jean will prepare a proposed budget for the next Committee.

Adjournment motion made by Leonard Schwartz, seconded by Ben Steele and passed at 3:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Keith Edwards, Secretary

# LPM Committee Meeting Minutes

*These minutes have not yet been approved by the Committee. It is possible that there will be additions or corrections at the next Committee meeting. If so, they will be published here*

State Convention Minutes: May 18, 2002

Convention was called to order by Chair Ghazey Aleck at 11:00 A.M. at the Troy Marriott.

The Credentials Report was given by Ben Bachrach. There were 75 registered delegates; quorum was 38.

Convention Rules were adopted by voice vote.

Agenda was adopted by voice vote.

Bylaws Report given by Bylaws Chair Bill Gelineau. The committee consisted of Brett Cashman, Washtenaw; Keith Edwards, Macomb; Jamie Lewis, West Michigan alternate, then Ron Heeren; Leonard Schwartz, Oakland; and Greg Stempfle, Wayne. The following motions were considered.

"Change the name of the Committee to the Executive Committee throughout the by-laws." Passed the bylaws committee 5-0, passed convention by voice vote.

Article XI. "These bylaws may be amended by a two thirds vote of the delegates present at a convention [occurring in an odd-numbered year only. This rule may be waived in an even-numbered year convention by a two-thirds vote ]. Passed committee 5-0, failed convention 28-17. Did not get two-thirds. Wording in brackets rejected.

Article III, new section. "All officers of the Party must be current members of the Party. An officer whose membership lapses must renew at the next meeting after written notice or be replaced at that meeting." Passed committee 4-1. Passed convention by voice vote.

A lengthy amendment to Article VII Membership relating to expulsion from the Party passed committee 3-1-1. Failed convention by voice vote.

Time expired before other amendments could be considered.

Platform Committee Report was given by Dick Jozwiak.

Article I, Section 12 (new). "We call for the repeal of all so-called immunities for any type of public officers and employees for their unconstitutional or illegal acts or omissions. If public officers commit unconstitutional or illegal acts or omissions, they should be criminally prosecuted and should also be civilly liable for any resulting civil injuries." Passed convention by voice vote.

Article II, section 6 (new). "We call for the

voters to have the power of referendum on all existing or new legislation." Passed convention by voice vote.

Article II, Section 7 (new). "We call for having elections on all new or existing taxes. Any approved tax shall expire after not more than six (6) years." Passed convention by voice vote.

Article III, Section 8 (new). "We call for the abolition of so-called "administrative law" with its mixture of legislative, executive and judicial powers." Passed by voice vote.

Nominations were held for:

**US Representatives, District:**

- 1 John Loosemore
- 2 Laurie Aleck
- 3 Thomas Quinn
- 4 Al Chia
- 5 Clint Foster
- 6 Trina Moss
- 7 Kenneth Proctor
- 8 Thomas Yeutter
- 9 Robert Schubring
- 10 Renae Coon
- 11 Richard Jozwiak
- 12 Richard Gach
- 13 Ray Warner
- 14 Francis Shore
- 15 Gregory Stempfle

**State Board of Education:**

Diane Barnes and Scotty Boman

**University of Michigan Board of Regents:**

William Hall and Daniel Shiell

**Michigan State University Board of Trustees:**

Eric Larsen and Michael Miller

**Wayne State University Board of Governors:**

Thomas Jones and Stacy Van Oast.

No one was nominated for Governor, Lt. Governor, Secretary of State or Attorney General.

**State Supreme Court:**

Michael L. Donohue and Bruce H. Yuille

Tom Jones moved: "Whereas one or more U.S. Representative districts in Michigan for the November 2002 election are in doubt due to a pending case in U.S. District Court; Resolved by the Libertarian Party of Michigan in State Convention Assembled; If any such districts are changed by court action, then the LPM Executive Committee is hereby authorized to do what is necessary to cause LPM U.S. Representative candidates to be chosen in any such changed districts -including, but not limited to, choosing the candidates, if necessary." Passed by voice vote.

Tom Jones moved: "If the Michigan ballot access law for minor parties is ruled unconstitutional, then the Executive Committee is authorized to do what is necessary to cause LPM candidates to be nominated." Passed by voice vote.

Nominations for State Senators, State Representatives and County Commissioners were made by county and district caucus.

Delegates (40) and Alternates (11) to the National Convention were elected. The Chair may appoint others to fill vacancies to reach the maximums of 61 and 50 respectively.

**Delegates:**

Ghazey Aleck, Ben Bachrach, Diane Barnes, Robert Broda, David Buck, Sandra Clampit, Timothy Clampit, Fred Collins, Mike Corliss, Keith Edwards, Richard Gach, Loel Gnad, Brian Goluska, Barbara Goushaw, Bill Hall, Thomas E. Horan, James Hudler, Lawrence Johnson, Tom Jones, Dick Jozwiak, Rae Jozwiak, Ed Karpinski, Andy LeCureaux, Jamie Lewis, Trish Marie, Jim Miller, James Parker, David Raaflaub, Rosemary Racchi, Emily Salvette, Ben Steele III, Violet Steele, Greg Stempfle, Al Titran, Steve Townsend, Stacy Van Oast, Ray Warner, Keith Wesselmann, Will White and Steve Wixom.

**Alternates:**

Jerry Bloom, Greg Dirasian, Bill Gelineau, Andrew Hall, Vicki Hall, Stan Letts, Sara Sjoberg and Bob Van Oast.

Paul Soyk was applauded for his fight against the federal income tax. He was convicted in federal court.

Elections were held for LPM officers (elected \*):

**Chair:**

James Hudler	48*
Ghazey Aleck	41
NOTA	4
Spoiled	1

**Vice Chair:**

Jerry Bloom	46	52*
Diane Barnes	34	39
David Raaflaub	11	
NOTA	3	3
Spoiled	1	3

**Secretary**

Keith Wesselmann	43	46*
Keith Edwards	39	43
David Raaflaub	11	
NOTA	1	2
Spoiled	1	2

**Treasurer:**

Ben Bachrach voice\*

**At-large:**

Paul Hitch	51*				
Erin Stahl	50*				
David Collver	49*				
Diane Barnes	38	38	40*		
Sara Sjoberg	41	33	32	25	36*
Keith Edwards	39	30	29	30	34
Larry Purdy	45	35	30	12	
Jamie Lewis	20	8	4		
David Raaflaub	13	4	3		
Jim Parker	17	2			
Tom Jones	9				
NOTA	8	3	3	2	2
Spoiled	1	3	1	7	2

**Judicial Committee:**

Bill Hall, Jon Coon, Mike Corliss voice\*

Convention adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Keith Edwards, Secretary

# Top-of-Ticket Bill Progresses

by Bill Shotey

On Tuesday, May 21, HB 5237 easing ballot retention requirements for minor parties under Michigan election law was passed unanimously (36-0) by the Michigan senate and sent to the governor.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Leon Drolet (R-Clinton Twp.), changes the definition of "principal candidate" — the one race upon which a party's ballot status rests — from the candidate nearest the top-of-ticket to the candidate receiving the greatest number of votes.

HB 5237 was voted out of the House Redistricting and Elections committee (7-0 with one absent and one abstention) last winter and sent to the floor of the house where on March 6 it also passed unanimously (103-0). It was then referred to the senate Judiciary committee where it was unanimously recommended (7-0) to the full senate.

The bill is expected to reach the governor's desk by the end of May. The governor will then have 14 days to either sign it into law or veto it. If he does nothing, the bill will become law automatically.

Had this definition of "principal candidate" been in effect in 2000, the LPM would have easily retained ballot status and avoided having to spend six months and \$30,000 last year petitioning to get back on the ballot in time for the 2002 election.

Many (if not most) of the delegates at the just concluded LPM nominating convention voted against contesting any race higher up the ballot than State Board of Education because that is the highest statewide race that history demonstrates can be safely assumed will garner enough votes to assure ballot retention under the current "top-of-ticket" definition.

Should HB 5237 not be enacted in the interim, a hotly contested race farther up the ballot could once again cause a low vote total for the LP candidate in that race — even though that result is manifestly unrepresentative of the party's true, overall strength of support. This in turn could mean lost ballot status and the prospects of once again spending thousands of dollars and hundreds of volunteer hours petitioning to get back on.

The LPM lobbying committee has worked for over a year to convince legislators that this change in Michigan election law is both fair and necessary. The governor has indicated that he will sign the bill.

# Judge Blocks Detroit Medical Marijuana Vote

by Tim O'Brien

DETROIT. Wayne County Circuit Judge Timothy Kenny dismissed a complaint by the Detroit Coalition for Compassionate Care against the Detroit city clerk and denied a request for a Writ of Mandamus to put the group's medical marijuana initiative on the August 6 ballot.

Early this year Detroit city clerk Jackie Currie notified the DCCC, organized by Wayne County LP member Tim Beck, that they had submitted more than the necessary 6,141 signatures of registered voters to put the proposal on the next election ballot. However, a February 26 follow-up letter from the clerk stated that the Detroit Law Department considered the proposed ordinance "illegal" and that it would, therefore, not be put to the voters after all.

The proposed ordinance would not actually affect the legal status of marijuana since the city charter specifically precludes enacting any ordinances that are contrary to state or federal law. The measure would merely set enforcement of marijuana prohibition laws against those with a medical need (e.g., glaucoma, chemotherapy patients, etc.) as the city's lowest law enforcement priority.

City officials offered three reasons why they believed the initiative should, nevertheless, be kept off the ballot.

First, such a mandate would interfere with the mayor's authority to control city departments. Second, it would impact the budget. Third, the petitions themselves were defective because they included only the language of the amendment being proposed and did not recite the language of the full section of the charter to be amended along with the language to be added.

Judge Kenny ruled against the city on the first argument, stating that the measure was a statement of policy and not an interference with city operations. However, he ruled in the city's favor on both of the other two points. He noted that eliminating expenditures for prosecution of medical marijuana users would affect the budget (the fact that it actually saves rather than spends money was, apparently, beside the point). He further stated that, while it was true that the city charter only required that the lan-

guage of the proposed amendment be included on the petition, state law required the inclusion of the full section to be amended. In order to apply the tougher state standard in this case he ruled that the Detroit city clerk did not represent or work on behalf of the city of Detroit and its citizens but, rather, for the Secretary of State's office in Lansing. Therefore, state law instead of the city charter controlled.

DCCC attorney Rudy Serra called Judge Kenny's ruling "bizarre." But committee chair Tim Beck, who has from the initial petition-gathering funded the entire project almost entirely out of his own pocket, said he could no longer bear the financial burden of continuing the fight. He simply did not have the additional thousands of dollars needed for an appeal.

Just when it looked like the unlimited resources of government would grind the citizen initiative into dust, other deeper pockets took notice of the situation.

Beck and fellow Wayne county LP member Tim O'Brien had simultaneously been working to support the Campaign for New Drug Policies statewide constitutional amendment petition drive (modeled on the successful Prop 36 in California two years ago to scale back some of the more draconian aspects of the Drug War). Although the Michigan-based effort, called the Prison Priorities Project, is independent and self-funded, the CNDP drug reform group that launched the drive is backed by billionaire George Soros. Because of the cross-connection the Soros people were also aware of the DCCC medical marijuana effort in Detroit.

Meanwhile, the national Marijuana Policy Project has also been following the DCCC effort in order to assess the potential of the "lowest law enforcement priority" as a reform strategy.

The two national groups quickly stepped up and volunteered to split the cost of the appeal from Judge Kenny's ruling.

The Soros CNDP group has already referred the matter to their Michigan law firm, Honnigman, Miller, et al., which drafted the constitutional amendment language. They are also sending a representative here to meet with the LPM activists.

An appeal should be filed shortly.

# The Wasted Vote Issue

by Leonard Schwartz

Do Libertarians who run for partisan office face a wasted vote problem?

A few Libertarians claim that the wasted vote problem is insignificant. Ghazey Aleck, for example, wrote that "party affiliation has very little, if anything to do with getting elected."

The vast majority of Libertarian activists, however, say that the wasted vote perception is a major problem for Libertarian (and other small party) candidates running for partisan office.

The Rasmussen survey says that 16 percent of the public already support libertarian positions on government policies. But Libertarian candidates rarely get more than five percent of the vote in races in which the Democrats and Republicans both have candidates. Libertarians frequently meet persons who support libertarianism, but who say they will not vote Libertarian because "I don't want to waste my vote."

To convince libertarians to vote Libertarian, you need to explain that voting Libertarian is not a waste, even if Libertarians are not elected. Candidates need to put this explanation in their websites, campaign literature, and every speech (even if they are given only a few minutes to speak).

For a good, but long, explanation of why voting Libertarian is not a waste, see the article by Michael Cloud in Libertarian Party News, Sept. 2001, page 23. Below are two versions of explanations I used in 2000. The long version (slightly revised) was on my website. I used the short version at candidate forums where I was given sometimes as little as two minutes to speak. Feel free to use these explanations in your websites, campaign literature, and speeches.

## Long version:

Many persons say that voting Libertarian is a waste of one's vote, because the Libertarians have no chance of getting elected. The truth is that voting Libertarian is never a waste of one's vote.

If you don't like what the Democrats and Republicans are doing, why vote for them? If you vote for Democrats or Republicans, you are telling them that you like what they are doing and please keep doing more of the same. What could be a bigger waste of your vote?

If you vote for Democrats or Republicans

because you consider them the lesser of two evils, you are voting for evil. Why would any decent person vote for evil?

If you vote for Democrats or Republicans whose policies you detest, why should anyone respect you and why should you respect yourself?

By voting Libertarian you will feel good because you will tell the Democrats and Republicans that you don't like what they do.

Therefore, voting Libertarian is never a waste of one's vote, even if Libertarians aren't elected.

But Libertarians can be elected. Libertarians have been elected to city councils in Berkley, Hazel Park, Owosso, and Troy and to several school boards.

Send the Democrats and Republicans a clear message that many persons prefer Libertarian policies.

Tell your friends that you will vote straight Libertarian. Tell them why and ask them to vote Libertarian.

Do yourself a favor. Vote straight Libertarian.

Do your friends a favor. Vote straight Libertarian.

Do your country a favor. Vote straight Libertarian.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Short version:

If you vote for Democrats or Republicans, you are telling them that you like what they are doing and please keep doing more of the same. What could be a bigger waste of your vote?

If you vote for Democrats or Republicans because you consider them the lesser of two evils, you are voting for evil. Why would any decent person vote for evil?

If you vote for Democrats or Republicans whose policies you detest, why should anyone respect you and why should you respect yourself?

By voting Libertarian you will feel good because you will tell the Democrats and Republicans that you don't like what they do.

Therefore, voting Libertarian is never a waste of one's vote, even if Libertarians aren't elected.

# Affiliate Services

by Jerry Bloom, LPM Vice Chair

I'd like to take this space to start off by introducing myself. My name is Jerry Bloom. As the newly elected vice chair of the LPM, I am also the Affiliates Director. At least, that is the title that was given to me. However, I would prefer it if you would think of me as the Affiliates' Services Director.

I view the position as primarily providing services to affiliates, not directing the affiliates, but directing the services to affiliates.

Like all organizations, our affiliates experience regular turnover in leadership. The old leadership doesn't always tell the new leadership everything they need to know. The old leadership just assumes that certain things are common knowledge. I am already learning new things from more seasoned volunteers, and some of these things come as a surprise to me. If they are a surprise to me, they may be a surprise to you. That's why one of my first goals will be to get our affiliates manual online. This will be a resource for all affiliate leaders so that they can fill in the gaps in their knowledge.

Over the next few weeks, I will be attempting to call each affiliate chair and make certain that you have what you need. Any feedback you have will be appreciated. In the process of making these calls, I will be collecting information for the new leadership directory. We also plan to make the leadership directory available online.

In keeping with tradition, we are planning two leadership conferences this year. The first will be geared towards campaign training and will be held well before the election. The second will be geared towards affiliate development and will be held some time after the election.

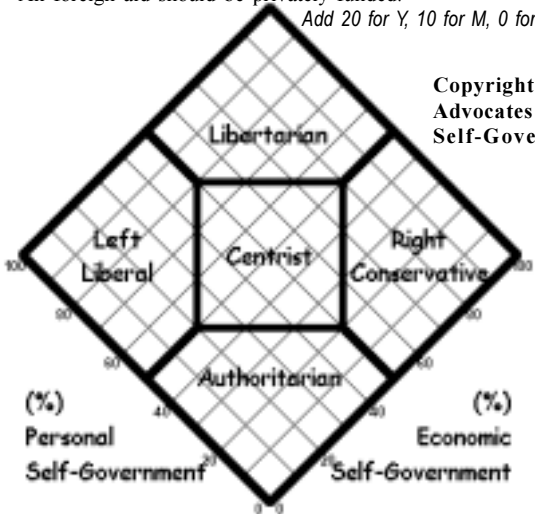
Please keep in mind that, like you, I am a volunteer. I hope that we can provide you with the services and training to make your work easier. After that, it is up to you.

Feel free to contact me at: [vicechair@lpmich.org](mailto:vicechair@lpmich.org) with your opinions and suggestions. I look forward to a productive year, getting to know you, and having fun in the process.

# World's Smallest Political Quiz

Personal Issues	Y	M	N
Military service should be voluntary. (No draft)			
Govt. should not control radio, TV, the press or the Internet			
Repeal regulations on sex for consenting adults			
Drug laws do more harm than good. Repeal them.			
Let peaceful people cross borders freely.			
<i>Add 20 for Y, 10 for M, 0 for N</i>			

Economic Issues	Y	M	N
Businesses and farms should operate without govt subsidies			
People are better off with free trade than with tariffs.			
Minimum wage laws cause unemployment. Repeal them.			
End taxes. Pay for services with user fees.			
All foreign aid should be privately funded.			
<i>Add 20 for Y, 10 for M, 0 for N</i>			



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Take the **WORLD'S SMALLEST POLITICAL QUIZ**. Then, use the Self-Government Compass to find your political position. Mark **Y** when you agree with a statement, **M** for Maybe, Sometimes, or Need-More-Information, or mark **N** for No.

*If you score Libertarian, we invite you to join the Libertarian Party.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\$25 Michigan & National

\$35 Tri-Level (County, Michigan & National)

Occasionally we make our list available to other groups that wish to offer products or services to our members. Check here to be EXCLUDED from additional mailings.

I certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving social or political goals.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Signature required for national membership)*

Please charge this to my credit card (Visa or Mastercard only):

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

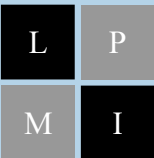
My check or money order (payable to LPM) is enclosed.

Mail to: **Libertarian Party of Michigan**  
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**Hazel Park, Michigan 48030**

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*Hazel Park, MI 48030*  
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**Michigan Libertarian**