

New marketing from National sells sizzle, not steak

by Andrew Wrenbeck

The Libertarian Party National Chairman Michael Dixon announced a new program in May. This program, entitled the "Politician Removal Service," promises to remove career politicians from office, and replace them with true Libertarian statesmen.

The National Party is attacking the Republicans and Democrats with the old adage, "sell the sizzle, not the steak." As opposed to marketing the platform. It is a bold move, but in the current climate of crooked politicians taking over our government it should be effective.

As Chairman Dixon points out, our founding fathers had a vision for America that was solidified by the notions of smaller government, fewer taxes and more freedom for all Americans. Unfortunately, as political insiders have risen to and retained power, we have strayed from our core ideals as a nation.

The Libertarian Party offers voters an alternative. Americans have the opportunity to remove fat cat politicians from office by giving the Libertarian Party power, through their votes.

"Although somewhat tongue-in-cheek, the Politician Removal Service expresses a very basic truth," Dixon stated. "Elected officials in the United States have fallen out of touch both with their constituents' needs, and also with the core values that Americans have long held dear.

"To deal with your politician problem, the Libertarian Party offers a free politician removal service," the ad says. "With your vote, we'll remove your politician and release him into

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Cartoon Dixon

Full Exec. Committee elected at convention

by Scott'y Boman

After struggling through a year with half an LEC, the Libertarian Party of Michigan now has a complete LEC:

- CHAIR: Scott'y Boman
- VICE CHAIR: James Hudler
- SECRETARY: Chris Watson
- TREASURER: Will Tyler White
- DIRECTORS
- MEMBERSHIP: Jim Allison
- DEVELOPMENT: David Raaflaub
- NEWSLETTER: Andrew Wrenbeck
- POLITICAL: Leonard Schwartz
- COMMUNICATION: Tom Bagwell



Chairman Scott'y Boman

Some blamed last years officer shortage on the functional director amendment to the bylaws. For this reason a motion was made to return to at-large directors. The motion failed. This was just as well, since the motion was made on an even convention year, and we got a full LEC anyway.

In sharp contrast to last year, there were more delegates willing to serve the LEC than there were offices to fill.

I have assured all interested activists that their assistance will be welcome anyway. One doesn't need to be an officer in this organization to make a difference. In fact, many successful candidates have never even been on the LEC.

I look forward to a year of membership growth, more strong affiliates, more efficiently working information technology, more timely news reports, more Libertarians in office, and a whole lot less invasive government.

The ACLU chooses racism

by Scott'y Boman

I have been so disgusted with the federal attack on civil rights (like the so-called patriot act) that I decided I should renew my ACLU membership.

The ACLU supports state sponsored discrimination on the basis of race and sex!

Well the first thing I saw when I opened the web page was "Help stop MCRI" The fact that they oppose an initiative that would only remove some state sponsored racial and sexual discrimination, means one thing:

The ACLU supports state sponsored discrimination on the basis of race and sex!

If you are already a member. Call and write them insisting that they return the ACLU to it's roots and denounce bigotry.

If you are not a member. Contact any non-racists who are members and let them know they are supporting a racist front group. Also, contact the ACLU and let them know why you decided not to join.

The ACLU & The MCRI

by Leonard Schwartz

Libertarians have good relations with the American Civil Liberties Union.

The president of ACLU, Nadine Strossen, was the keynote speaker at a Libertarian Party national convention. The current chair of the Libertarian Party of Michigan and at least three former chairs were ACLU members. So are many other Libertarians.

There are two main differences between Libertarians in ACLU and most Democrats in ACLU:

1. Libertarians support the entire Bill of Rights, but most Democrats oppose the right to keep and bear arms.
2. Libertarians say that the 14th Amendment concerns equal rights, but most Democrats say it concerns equal results.

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2006 Michigan Libertarian Candidates for Office

Voters will be able to make the Libertarian choice for a large number of offices in the 2006 General Election. For the first time since Dick Jacobs ran in 1986, they will be able to choose a Libertarian (Gregory Creswell) for Governor.

Governor:

Gregory Creswell

Lieutenant Governor:

Scott'y Boman

Attorney General:

Bill Hall

U S Senator:

Leonard Schwartz

State Board of Education

Erwin J Haas

Ernest A Whiteside

University of Michigan Regent

Eric L Larson

James Lewis Hudler

Michigan State University Trustee

David H Raaflaub

JP Denoyer

Wayne State University Governor

Bob Schubring

Thomas W Jones

Justice of the Supreme Court

Kerry L Morgan

U S Representative in Congress

District 1 Ken Proctor

District 2 Steven VanTil

District 3 Jeff A Steinport

U S Representative in Congress

District 4 AIIitta Hren

District 5 Steve Samoranski II

District 6 Kenneth E Howe

District 7 Robert L Hutchinson

District 8 Dick Gach

District 9 Adam Goodman

District 10 Mark Byrne

District 11 John J Tatar

District 12 Andy LeCureaux

District 15 Gregory Stempfle

State Senator

District 8 Loel Gnadt

District 9 James Allison

District 10 John C Bonnell

District 11 Lauren Zemens

District 12 Brian Kelly

District 14 Christopher Watson

District 15 Nathan Allen

District 28 Jamie Lewis

District 29 Bill Gelineau

District 30 Marcia Ortquist

District 31 Reinhold Ploep

District 33 Devon K Smith

District 35 Thomas Hren

State Representative

District 12 Raymond Warner

District 25 Michael Brylewski

District 26 James Young

District 31 James Miller

District 32 Joseph L Zemens

District 72 Bill Wenzel

District 73 Steve Nickelson

District 74 Tracey D McLaughlin

District 75 Lauren Hillmer

District 76 Matt Friar

District 77 John Stedman

District 86 Pat Steinport

Macomb County Commission

District 5 Nicole Michalak

District 19 Scott Allen

District 20 Keith Edwards

Oakland County Commission

District 18 Jim Young

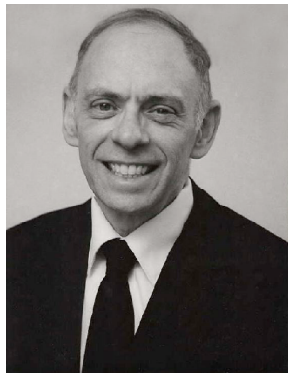
Wayne County Commissioner

District 4 Ed Karpinski

District 14 Rick Secula



Greg Creswell for Governor



Leonard Schwartz for US Senator



James Hudler for U of M Regent



James Alison for State Senator



Bill Gelineau for State Senator

Libertarian Party of Michigan Affiliate Contacts

Affiliate Name	Contact Name	Website/E-mail
Capital Area LP	Bob Broda	www.calparty.org
Kalamazoo Valley LP	Matt Umlor	www.kalamazoolp.org
P of Livingston Co.	David Buck	Not Available
Libertarians of Macomb Co.	Jim Allison	www.macomblp.com
Midwest Michigan LP	Brian Kluesner	www.pecktec.com/lpmwm/
P of Oakland Co.	Leonard Schwartz	www.lpocmi.org
P of South Central MI	James Parker	jamesp@hillsdale.epcorp.com
Joint Clair Co. LP	Mark Byrne	iwantska@hotmail.com
P of Southwest MI	Bill Bradley	wbradley@i2k.com
P of Washtenaw Co.	Lawrence Johnson	www.lpwash.org
Lumb Area LP	Paul Hitch	phitch@intouchmi.com
Reverse Bay LP	Jerry Coon	jtcoon@gtii.com
Tri-City LP	Richard Jozwiak	www.TriCityLibertarianParty.org
P of Wayne Co.	Loel Gnadt	cynical_bob@juno.com
Vest MI LP	Jamie Lewis	www.lpwm.org
Kettering University	Adam Hogan	hoga4008@kettering.edu
Hillsdale College	Heidi Morris	hcmorris@hillsdale.edu
IMU Libertarians	Michael Brown	docbrown_77@yahoo.com
J of M College Libertarians	Andrew Moylan	admoylan@umich.edu
GMU Libertarians Club	Danish 2	daniish2@comcast.net

The Michigan Libertarian Newsletter

The *Michigan Libertarian* is published bimonthly as the official newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Michigan, 913 W. Holmes Rd., Lansing, MI 48910.
Phone: (888) FREE-NOW
Submissions: Please email articles to newsletter@lpmich.org
 Only electronic submission will be accepted. Acceptable formats are plain text, MS Word, HTML, Freehand.
 Any other formats, please ask first.
Deadline: The next deadline for submission of articles and advertising is June 15, 2006.

LPM Officers and Directors

Chair:	Scotty Boman	scottyeducation@yahoo.com
Vice Chair:	James Hudler	aguli@provide.net
Secretary:	Chris Watcon	c.j.watson@comcast.net
Treasurer:	Will White	treasurer@lpmich.org
Directors:		
Political	Leonard Schwartz	leonard@leonardschwartz.us
Newsletter	Andrew Wrenbeck	libertarian2@mac.com
Membership	Jim Alison	marthos@yahoo.com

Marketing from Pg 1

the wild, unharmed," Libertarian Party Chairman Michael Dixon says, as a politician is netted and carried off in a "politician removal service" car.

The Libertarian Party will remove these politicians from office, with the help, and the votes of Americans. All citizens are invited to take us up on our offer to remove these politicians from office and replace them with true leaders."

Libertarian leaders have said they are going after "dislodged" voters who are fed up with the two-party system.

Polls show a general discontent with current office

holders: A Washington Post-ABC News poll, conducted May 11-15, found that 55 percent of those surveyed said they are inclined to look around for someone new rather than re-elect their current member of Congress in the midterm election.

To view the animated clip for the Politician Removal Service, visit the Libertarian Party's newly redesigned website at www.LP.org.



Libertarian Party of Michigan Membership Change by Andrew Wrenbeck

A better understanding of how the state party is put together, can lead to a better understanding as to why things operate in they way that they do.

Last year the Libertarian National Committee eliminated the Unified Membership Program. This program funded state affiliates through the national party. National membership is now free. But LP News is sent only to persons who contribute at least \$25 a year.

The Libertarian Party of Michigan is now responsible for encouraging members to renew (and recruiting new members). This is the way that the party operated in the past. However, it created administrative problems for The Libertarian Party of Michigan.

To minimize the administrative problems, the Executive Committee made the following decisions in February:

1. In the future, all memberships will expire on December 31.

2. For persons who join or renew after October 1 of any year, their membership will expire at the end of the next calendar year.

3. For persons who join or renew at an time in 2006, their membership will expire at the end of 2007.

These changes will make it easier for the party to maintain its member list, keep organized, and make fundraising less cumbersome.

The Libertarian Party of Michigan affiliates (county or local parties) are independent of the Libertarian Party of Michigan. The reason for this is to conform between the Libertarian Party of Michigan and its affiliates.

Each affiliate can do its own thing. Some affiliates charge dues; others don't. Some affiliates require that members also be members of LPM; others don't.

The Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002 created an additional reason for independence. Unless local affiliates are independent of the state party, the state party and all its affiliates are considered one legal entity under federal campaign finance law.

This would create an administrative nightmare for The Libertarian Party of Michigan, increase conflict between the Libertarian Party of Michigan and its affiliates, and hinder fundraising and campaigning.

Hopefully, this information will provide our members with a better understanding as to why things have been changing in the Michigan Party

Bilbray Set's Speed Record in Breaking Campaign Promises

by Andrew Wrenbeck

Brian Bilbray's victory in the special election to replace felon Ex-Representative Duke Cunningham in California's 50th District was definitely not a victory for taxpayers who thought his election would give them a chance at a break.

Two days into his term and not even a week after being elected, Bilbray broke spending promises. During his recent campaign, the San Diego Union Tribune reported that Bilbray "proposed a ban on earmarks done behind closed doors" because "problems arise when earmarking is done in secret." The promise itself is weak, as problems arise when earmarking is done AT ALL!

That's tough talk for a Republican. Despite these promises to clean up the earmark process, Bilbray promptly voted yes on an appropriations bill that contained over 1500 earmarks, most of which were hidden in committee reports. That's one thousand five hundred earmarks! The former lobbyist also voted no on each of Rep. Jeff Flake's four anti-pork amendments to the bill.

This may be the fastest turn around time in history for breaking a campaign promise, as most offices don't give immediate inauguration, unless you are replacing a convicted criminal.

Bilbray claims to be a fiscal conservative. He just puts pandering above principle - at a speed that is unmatched.

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EVENTS CALENDAR



July 11, 2006 - 7:30 PM

Monthly meeting of the Capital Area Libertarian Party. No agenda, general discussion open to all regardless of member status.

Location: Barley's, 727 E Miller Rd., Lansing
Contact: Will Tyler White
Phone: 517 349-3808
Email: whitewi5@msu.edu

July 12, 2006 - 7:00 PM

The Libertarian Party of West Michigan will be holding its monthly business meeting. All members and their guests are welcome and encouraged to attend. The agenda will include fundraising plans, the liberty banquet, and

Location: IHOP on East Bellline in Grand
Contact: Eric Larson
Phone: 616-949-2844
Email: chair@lpwm.org

July 15, 2006 - 11:00 AM

Fourth St. Fair: Libertarian Information booth, Hosted by the Creswell/Boman campaign. This is an all day Street Fair. An opportunity to reach voters in an informal

Location: Fourth St. Between Antionette and
Contact: Scotty Boman
Phone: 313-247-2052
Email: scottyededucation@yahoo.com

Death Announcement

Daniel "Dan" Ponzetti

PONZETTI, Daniel "Dan" - Age 23, of Flint (originally Fenton) died Monday, June 19, 2006 as a result of injuries sustained from a motorcycle-pickup truck crash. Dan was a 2001 graduate of Fenton High School and assistant manager of Sherwin-Williams in Burton. Dan will be remembered for his love of tattoos, motorcycles, computers, video games and movies. Family and friends will also remember Dan for his fierce independent streak and "teddy bear" personality. An atheist and Libertarian, Daniel was a major third party sympathizer and Libertarian Party supporter/voter, specifically as a motorcyclist adamantly against helmet laws.

Dan is survived and sorely missed by his parents, Peter Jr. and Gail C. Ponzetti of Fenton; brother, Peter Ponzetti III of Rochester Hills; sisters, Gina Hunt and Julie Ponzetti of Waterford and Fenton respectively; grandmother, Joyce Brown of Berkley, love of his life, Amanda Coleman of Fenton, and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, friends, acquaintances and co-workers across Michigan. He was preceded in death by his grandfathers, William F. Brown and Peter Ponzetti, Sr., and grandmother, Lena (Gionotti) Ponzetti.

Speakers Wanted!

by James Alison

I'd like to thank the delegates at our convention for entrusting me with the position of membership director. Members are the lifeblood of our organization; our success depends on them. In order to compete with the Democrats and Republicans, we need to grow our party, and grow it fast.

There are many places to find new members, and colleges provide one of the best locations. College students will be voting for the next forty years, and their minds are open to new ideas. It is not hard to get a college student to challenge the traditional thinking of their parents. Unfortunately, the Libertarian Party is not making a strong enough presence on campuses. We need to saturate that market with our ideas!

Two years ago, I was asked to speak at Eastern Michigan University, and I enjoyed that experience so much that I went on to speak at Oakland University and Wayne State University. I found that getting speaking engagements was very easy, but the problem was finding enough speakers to fill the time slots. This is why I am organizing the Libertarian Party Speakers Bureau.

I'd like to start booking speaking engagement again, and this time I'd like to have a nice supply of volunteers to assist me. If you're comfortable speaking in front of classes, and would like to join our Speakers Bureau, please contact me:
Email: Marthos1776@comcast.net
Phone: 586-817-0395

I'd like to know where you live, what days and time you are available, and whether or not you have any subject expertise or preference on speech topics.

My goal for this year will be for the Libertarian Party Speakers Bureau to speak at 10 college classes. I think that this goal is obtainable, but I will need help. Please let me know if I can count you in as part of this effort.



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by Leonard Schwartz

LPM Funds

The Libertarian Party of Michigan Federal Fund, the Libertarian Party of Michigan Campaign Fund (the state fund), and the Libertarian Party of Michigan (the Administrative fund) are not merely separate bank accounts. Campaign finance law treats them as separate legal entities.

State law prohibits transfers from the federal fund and the administrative fund to the state fund.

Federal law prohibits transfers from the state fund and the administrative fund to the federal fund. (There is an exception for disbursements that must be paid partly by the federal fund. But it is better to use separate checks.)

Generic Campaign Activity

"Generic campaign activity" is activity that promotes or opposes a political party and does not promote or oppose a clearly-identifiable candidate.

During the period that begins 12 weeks before the primary and ends on election day, the federal fund must pay for part of generic activity (21% in 2006). The

administrative fund can pay for the balance during that period and for all generic activity outside that period.

C. Candidate Support

The federal fund and the state fund must pay for slate cards, slate brochures, and other multi-candidate advertising.

The administrative fund can pay for candidate training and LPM's website, mailings to members, and news releases that promote candidates.

Except for (1) the above activities and (2) support for our top-of-ticket candidate in the bad old days when ballot access depended on the votes received by our top-of-ticket candidate, the LEC has had a policy of not spending money to support candidates.

The primary reason is to avoid disputes. If the LEC spends money for any candidate, the officers will be deluged with (1) requests to support other candidates and (2) complaints.

If any masochists on the LEC want to be deluged with requests and complaints, remember: The federal fund

must pay for support for federal candidates. The state fund must pay for support for other candidates.

Each candidate who wants to spend money should have the committee for her or her election raise it.

D. Transfers to Affiliates

The LEC also has had a policy of not transferring money to affiliates for candidate support.

The primary reason is to avoid disputes. If the LEC transfers money to one affiliate, the officers will be deluged with (1) requests from other affiliates and (2) complaints.

Second, if the affiliate violates campaign finance law, the LPM and its officers could be accused of conspiracy.

Third, revenue sharing creates the risk that an affiliate won't be considered a separate legal entity.

E. Ballot Questions

The state fund must pay for activity that promotes or opposes a ballot question.

Third Party is Needed to Save America

by John Boyle

The Libertarian Party currently has a historic window of opportunity to achieve political prominence in America.

America today is facing a challenge as big as the cold war, and it will force the American people to make a very difficult decision. Either (i) slide slowly but surely to Third-World status or (ii) commence the Second American Revolution by taking on the most powerful interest groups in America and removing the tax-and-spend Democratic leaders and the borrow-and-lend Republican leaders who are guaranteeing an intergenerational war by burdening future generations -- our children and grandchildren -- tax bills that will reduce them to lives of abject poverty.

To understand the inevitability of one of these two scenarios, consider the table on the next page.

As you can see, the "cash" cost of government has increased from 20 % of Gross Domestic Product ("GDP") in 1950 to 27 % of GDP in 1970 to between 29 % and 33 % of GDP from 1990 forward. ("Gross Domestic Product," as used here, is the estimated market value of all goods and services produced in the U.S. during a given year.)

This tax burden, even as it stands today, is not supportable in an increasingly competitive world, as evidenced by the recent trade deficits for the United States reaching a record deficit of \$725.8 billion in 2005.

Today, the United States is literally begging nations. Much of its life-sustaining

and trade deficits -- comes from Japan and countries that America has long considered "Third World" -- most notably, China and India.

The private sector in America is trying to compete with a millstone around its neck -- a millstone in the form of bloated and increasingly-needy out-of-control federal, state, and local governments. And the cost of government is getting ready to skyrocket.

The problem is this. Although the "cash" cost of government has been relatively stable over the last 30 years, the "true" cost of government has been increasing at many times the rate of increase in GDP. This increase manifests itself in the form of unfunded liabilities for Social Security, Medicare, and for pensions and retiree-medical benefits for federal, state, and local government employees. (An "unfunded liability" is a liability that is currently owed but for which no funds set aside to pay the debt.) As shown in the chart, today, these unfunded liabilities total \$43.2 trillion

(\$6.4 trillion for Social Security, \$32.4 trillion for Medicare and \$4.4 trillion for state and local government benefits). To put this into perspective, this \$43.2 trillion in unfunded liabilities is equivalent almost 12X total annual government receipts. (Note : Total government receipts for 2006 equal approximately \$3,736 billion after deducting the estimated \$350 billion federal deficit from total government spending.)

Just like a consumer government

assume this \$43.2 trillion of debt amortized over 75 years at a borrowing rate of 6%. The resulting payment would add a whopping \$2.6 trillion per year to the cost of government -- reflecting the "true" cost of government and adding 65% to the "cash" cost of government. An

this calculation is conservative because it only covers benefits as of today.

Government still must fund additional benefits being earned every year. We now can look at the "true" cost of government. Once we include the \$2 trillion per year required to amortize government's unfunded liabilities, the cost of government in 2006 skyrockets from 31.2% of GDP to 51.2% of GDP.

This "cost of government" will virtually destroy any chance America has to compete in the world -- and will turn America into a financial pariah.

It also is worthwhile to distinguish between the "haves" and "have not's." While Social Security and Medicare are the largest unfunded government liabilities, the average monthly Social Security payment is only \$1,002 and the age at which unreduced benefits are available is 65 and 8 months.

By comparison, the average government employee is eligible for unreduced retirement well before age 65 -- many with pension benefits of \$3,000 to \$10,000 per month. Many, if not most government employees can obtain full retirement in their 40s ("25 and out"), and some, with full retirement available after

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MI and Tampa, FL) and can retire with unreduced benefits while still in their 30s. And the vast majority of these retirements are accompanied by gold-plated lifetime retiree-medical benefits for employees, spouses, and dependents. A large percentage of these individual retirement packages are worth more than \$ 2 million.

Consider the contract-guaranteed retirement compensation for Henry Bangser, the superintendent of New Trier Township High School District in Winnetka, IL. Mr. Bangser is expected to retire in 2007 at age 57. His current annual compensation is \$366,000 per year and his minimum annual pension will be \$221,000 per year with an annual 3% cost-of-living increase. (See "The \$366 Billion Outrage", Fortune, May 31, 2004).

Mr. Bangser's pension and retiree-medical benefits are worth over \$5.5 million. Just Mr. Bangser's retirement benefit cost the State of Illinois over \$150,000 for each year he worked. Not surprisingly, the Illinois Governor's Pension Commission determined that the state of Illinois had an unfunded pension liability of \$35.1 billion and a Heartland Institute report (#106) estimates that the state of Illinois has an unfunded retiree health care

liability of \$30.0 billion -- a combined liability of \$65.1 that the state of Illinois is sending to future taxpayers. (Note : This \$65.1 billion is just the unfunded liability for state employees and retirees -- it does not include any unfunded liabilities for employees and retirees of local municipalities.)

It is worth noting that the age old argument that government workers are entitled to gold-plated benefit packages because their salaries are lower than the private sector simply does not hold water.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, those who are or have been employed with state and municipal governments enjoy wages equal to 142% of private sector wages (\$24.52 per hour vs. \$17.23 per hour) and those working for the Federal Government enjoy wages equal to 179% of private-sector wages (\$30.85 per hour vs. \$17.23 per hour).

They also enjoy job security, gold-plated health insurance benefits, and early and well-funded pension and comprehensive retiree health care benefits. Such benefit packages are available nowhere in the private sector. These benefits result in an average benefit cost for local and state employees equal to 164% of average private-sector benefit cost (\$11.64 per

hour vs.\$7.11 per hour) and a benefit cost for federal employees equal to 196% of private-sector benefit cost (\$13.97 per hour vs. \$7.11 per hour). This taxpayer-provided largesse is not sustainable -- but, rest assured, neither Republicans nor Democrats, who are overseeing the downfall of America, will sacrifice the political capital necessary to address the imbalance between public-sector compensation and private-sector compensation.

To further put the magnitude of the cost for these benefits (for state and local government employees) into perspective , consider the following examples, two of which are from my home state of Michigan.

1. The Legislative Analyst's Office for the state of California estimate that "California's unfunded liability for providing health care benefits to retired [state] public workers could be as much as \$70.0 billion." (Note : This \$70.0 billion liability is just the unfunded liability for health care for the state employees and retirees -- it does not include any unfunded liabilities for pensions for state employees and retirees or unfunded liabilities for pensions and health care for employees and retirees of local municipalities.)

2. The Los Angeles Unified School District estimated its unfunded liability for retiree health care "has increased to \$10.0 billion."



3. The City of Detroit, as of 2003, had 18,267 employees and 19,996 retirees with unfunded retirement liabilities of \$8.9 billion (\$1.7 billion for pension benefits and \$7.2 billion for retiree health care benefits). That's an unfunded liability of \$232,600 for each employee and retiree. (Source : "A Challenge Facing the City of Detroit : Funding the City's Retiree Health Care and Pension Benefits"; April 20, 2005; J.L. Boyle International)

Government Spending / Cost of Government * (\$ Billions)						
	Year					
	1950	1970	1990	2000	2003	2006 (est.)
Federal Government Spending	\$ 42.2	\$ 195.8	\$ 1,253.2	\$ 1,788.8	\$ 2,157.6	\$ 2,770.0
State and Local Spending	16.0	87.0	737.8	1,319.5	1,500.9	1,700.0
Less: (Funds from Fed'l Govt.)	--	--	(111.4)	(247.3)	(339.0)	(384.0)
Total Government Spending Before Amortizing Unfunded Liabilities ("Cash" Cost)	\$ 58.2	\$ 282.8	\$ 1,879.6	\$ 2,861.0	\$ 3,319.5	\$ 4,086.0
Cost to Amortizing Unfunded Liabilities Over 75 Years **	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$ 2,625.2
Total Cost of Government ("True" Cost)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$ 6,711.2
Gross Domestic Product ("GDP")	\$ 292.5	\$ 1,035.6	\$ 5,743.8	\$ 9,817.0	\$ 10,988.0	\$ 13,100.0
Cost of Govt. as a % of GDP						
w/o Amortizing Unfunded Liab.	19.9%	27.3%	32.7%	29.1%	30.2%	31.2%
w Amortizing Unfunded Liab.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	51.2%
* Sources: Statistical Abstracts of the United States for 1950 through 2003, Budget for the United States for 2006, Social Security and Medicare Annual Reports for 2006, The Concord Coalition, and J.L. Boyle International						
** Unfunded Liabilities (\$ Billion)	1950	1970	1990	2000	2003	2006
Social Security	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$ 6,400.0
Medicare	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	32,400.0
State and Local Benefits	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	4,400.0
Total						\$ 43,200.0
Note : Prior to 2004, the Social Security Administration did not calculate the 75-year ("closed group") unfunded liabilities for Social Security and Medicare.						

Changes in the Michigan Libertarian Newsletter Advertising

by Andrew Wrenbeck

A vote in the LEC has now handed over the advertising rate policies of this newsletter over to the Newsletter Director.

I have two areas that I thought improvement could be accomplished. First, I think it should be easier for affiliates and candidates to get their message out to Michigan LP members. I have introduced special rates for both.

Second, I have what I think is a rather aggressive goal of getting the newsletter to be self-sufficient. In other words, I want advertising to pay for the newsletter so membership funds can be used in other ways.

The way I am tackling this is by offering a little cheaper rates for larger ads, and by offering a new Classified Advertisement section at a very cheap price. **Attention candidates, businesses and sales professionals, check out our assified rates!**

I will be making adjustments over the next few issues, in an effort to fine-tune these new prices. I also want to

encourage all of our members to support those businesses who support the party.

With that being said, here are the current newsletter rates:
Michigan Libertarian Advertising rates as of June 11, 2006

Business Advertisements:

Full Page: \$175.00 per issue
1/2 Page: \$100.00 per issue
1/4 Page: \$50.00 per issue
Businesses save 25% by purchasing a "recurring" ad. Minimum purchase for a "recurring" is the same advertisement (without change) in at least 4 issues in sequence. 2 color ads are also available.

Classified Advertisements

2 Lines: \$5.00 for 2 issues
3 Lines: \$8.00 for 2 issues
4 Lines: \$10.00 for 2 issues
Bold Type: add \$2.00 for 2 issues
Classified ads are in-line type and will be on the inside back cover. This ad space can sell out, and is on a 1st come first serve basis. Classified ads are available to LPM MEMBERS ONLY. They

can be used for candidacy, business or private sales.

Candidate Advertisements:

Full Page: \$150.00 per issue
1/2 Page: \$75.00 per issue
1/4 Page: \$40.00 per issue
SUPER SAVER 1/8 Page: \$15.00 per issue
Candidate advertisements are for Libertarian candidates running for office in Michigan who have been nominated at a convention or non-partisan candidates who are active LPM members running a campaign for office in Michigan.

Affiliate Advertisements:

1/2 Page: \$15.00 per issue
1/4 Page: \$10.00 per issue
1/8 Page: \$5.00 per issue
Affiliate advertisements are for LPM Affiliates ONLY. The advertisement CAN NOT be used to promote any candidate(s) or ballot issue. The ads are designed to allow affiliates to gain momentum, dollars, or volunteers for event booths, and meetings.

Libertarian Party of MI: Minutes of '06 State Convention

The State Convention of the Libertarian Party of Michigan (LPM) was held at the Comfort Inn and Executive Center, Chelsea, Michigan on May 13, 2006. LPM Chair Nathan Allen presided and the Secretary was present. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 am. Present were 37 voting members.

LPM candidates for state-wide elected office were selected:

Greg Creswell was nominated for candidate for Governor by Tim O'Brien and the nomination was seconded. Creswell was selected unopposed.

Scotty Boman was nominated for candidate for Lieutenant Governor by Greg Stempfle and the nomination was seconded. Boman was selected unopposed.

James Parker was nominated for candidate for Secretary of State by Bill Gelineau and the nomination was seconded. After a ballot, Parker withdrew as candidate.

Bill Hall was nominated for candidate for Attorney General by Leonard Schwartz and the nomination was seconded. Hall was selected unopposed.

Leonard Schwartz was nominated for candidate for US Senator by Adam Goodman and the nomination was seconded. Schwartz was selected unopposed.

Ernest Whiteside and Erwin Haas were nominated as the candidates for State Board of Education and were selected unopposed.

Nominated and selected unopposed were the following candidates for educational institution governing boards: Eric Larson and James Hudler for University of Michigan; J.P. Denoyer and David Raaflaub for Michigan State University; and Tom Jones and Bob Schubring for Wayne State University.

Kerry Morgan was nominated as candidate for Michigan Supreme Court Justice and was selected unopposed.

After a recess, Scotty Boman moved to amend the LPM Platform to substitute the word drug in place of the

motion was seconded and approved.

Jim Allison moved to amend the Bylaws to remove functional designations for the Directors on the LPM Executive Committee. The motion failed.

LPM officers, Directors and Judicial Committee were elected:

Scotty Boman was nominated for Chair and the nomination was seconded. Boman was elected unopposed.

James Hudler was nominated for Vice Chair and the nomination was seconded. Hudler was elected unopposed.

Chris Watson was nominated for Secretary and the nomination was seconded. Watson was elected unopposed.

Will White was nominated for Treasurer and the nomination was seconded. White was elected unopposed.

Andrew Wrenbeck was nominated for Newsletter Director and the nomination was seconded. Wrenbeck was elected unopposed.

Tom Bagwell and Leonard Schwartz were both nominated for the office of Political Director; each nomination being seconded. Schwartz was elected.

David Raaflaub was nominated for Development Director and the nomination was seconded. Raaflaub was elected unopposed.

Jim Allison was nominated for Membership Director and the nomination was seconded. Allison was elected unopposed.

Tom Bagwell and Steve Samoranski were both nominated for the office of Communications Director, each nomination being seconded. Bagwell was elected.

Jerry Bloom, Mike Corliss and Bill Hall were nominated for the three positions on the LPM Judicial Committee, each nomination being seconded. Bloom, Corliss and Hall were elected.

James L. Hudler

Approved by LEC June 11, 2006

ACLU from Page 1

The ACLU of Michigan opposes the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative. This is an abuse of power by the Democrats who control the ACLU of Michigan.

If you are an ACLU member, please contact your staff and tell them that you are upset that the ACLU of Michigan opposes MCR. Please tell them why the ACLU of Michigan should support MCRI or at least be neutral. Be sure to mention that you are a member. **Here is e-mail and snail mail contact information**

Executive director: Kary Moss, kmoss@aclumich.org

Legal director: Michael Steinberg, msteinberg@aclumich.org

Legislative director: Shell Weisberg, sweisberg@aclumich.org

Affirmative action coordinator: Khaled Beydoun, kbeydoun@aclumich.org

ACLU of Michigan 60 W. Hancock Detroit, MI 48201 1343

Distinguish the LP in 100 Words or Less

by Leonard Schwartz

To encourage people to join the Libertarian Party or support LP candidates, we need to distinguish the LP from the other parties, especially the Democratic and Republican parties. The explanation should be easy to understand even by people who pay little attention to politics. The explanation should be one that the majority (or at least a large minority) of people will consider favorable to Libertarians. It should put Democrats and Republicans on the defensive.

Most Libertarians can give a decent explanation to people who are willing to listen for an hour. But one rarely finds people who will listen for an hour or even 30 minutes. One needs to distinguish the LP in one minute or less.

Below are several ways of distinguishing the LP in 100 words or less. The first is what I consider the most effective; and I gradually proceed to the next as effective.

Libertarians Aren't Busybodies

Democratic and Republican politicians don't respect you. They think they can spend your money and manage your life better than you can. Libertarians aren't busybodies. We don't want to spend your money or manage your life." Everyone understands what "busybody" means. It has a bad connotation. Even busybodies don't like being harassed by other busybodies. This explanation puts Democrats and Republicans on the defensive; they have to rationalize their intrusive policies.

Summary of the LP Platform Planks.

Libertarians support . . . and oppose" This explanation is easy to understand. In 100 words one can summarize only a few planks. The effectiveness of a summary depends on the extent to which people agree with the planks summarized.

Libertarians Support Individual Liberty

All political parties claim that they support individual liberty. To distinguish the LP, this must be an opening statement to a summary of LP platform planks about individual liberty. In effect, this method is a variation of the previous method.

Libertarians Support Efficiency or Oppose Government Waste

All political parties claim that they support efficiency and oppose government waste. To distinguish the LP, this must be an opening statement to a summary of LP platform planks about efficiency and waste. In effect, this method is another variation of the second method. Another problem with this method is that it is based on cost/benefit analysis. Because many of the costs and benefits of government policies have no market value, estimates of costs

and benefits. Voters are more likely to believe the large number of Democrats and Republicans who claim that the benefits of their policies exceed the costs rather than the small number of Libertarians who disagree.

Furthermore, arguments are effective only if they arouse voters' emotions. Few people are inspired by utilitarian arguments. As Richard Ebeling said, and Jacob Hornberger often repeats, "No one has ever gone to the barricades for the sake of a cost/benefit analysis."

5. Libertarians Oppose the Initiation of Force

"Libertarians do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving social or political goals." This LP membership pledge was never intended to be a summary of Libertarian principles. It was intended (1) to discourage violent persons from joining the party and (2) to protect the LP from accusations that it encourages violence. The LP has always had a problem with violent members and accusations that it advocates violence.

The LP pledge is not a good summary of Libertarian principles. "Initiation of force" is vague. Here are a few examples of why this explanation doesn't clearly distinguish Libertarians.

- (a) People who want to prohibit birth control oppose the initiation of force against fetuses, sperm, and egg cells.
- (b) People who want to prohibit the use of meat, leather, eggs, milk, and other animal products oppose the initiation of force against animals.

6. Libertarians Support Natural Rights

"Natural rights" is vague. Which rights are natural? Why should natural rights be considered better than rights that are not natural? Won't people who consider "natural food" fanatics silly also consider Libertarians silly?

7. Libertarians Support Natural Law

The above criticisms of "natural rights" also apply to "natural law." Moreover, there is a Natural Law Party. It was started by followers of the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi. Socialists took control of the Natural Law Party of Michigan in 2004.

8. Libertarians Support the Constitution

All political parties claim that they support the Constitution. To distinguish the LP, this is at best an opening statement to a long discussion of the proper interpretation of the Constitution. Moreover, there is a Constitution Party, which is ultra-conservative. Why should anyone support the current federal and state constitutions? Does support of the current constitutions imply opposition to amendments? If not, how should they be amended, and why?

The LPM Campaign Fund and Why We Need To Fill It

by Scotty Boman

Well last time I asked for money it was for the Federal Fund. That fund is doing well, now it turns out, there needs to be money in the Libertarian Party of Michigan Campaign Fund.

Why? Because the government says so of course. What will we use this money for? To tell the voters about our candidates.

Campaign finance laws require that any promotional materials the party distributes (such as a slate list of our candidates) must be paid for out of the LPM Campaign Fund.

The bad news is that the LPM campaign fund is empty. The good news is that the LPM has thousands of dollars in its Federal and General Fund. It is illegal to move money between funds. There is only one way for the LPM to promote its slate of candidates statewide...Donate today.

Checks must be made out to the "LPM Campaign Fund" **Checks that don't include the suffix "Campaign Fund" will go into our general fund**

Donations can be sent to:
The Libertarian Party of Michigan
Campaign Fund
P.O. Box 27065, Lansing, MI 48924-7065

Candidate Web Sites

by Leonard Schwartz

Attention candidates:

A list of LPM candidates is at www.lpmich.org/campaigns/. This web page has links to candidate web sites. Please check to make sure that you are listed correctly. Report errors to webmaster@lpmich.org.

Candidate web sites are an inexpensive way to promote your campaign, the Libertarian Party, and libertarianism. See my article "How to Look Like an Important Candidate for only \$20" in the previous issue of the Michigan Libertarian.

But having a website doesn't do much good unless voters know about it. A free and effective way of advertising your candidate website is by having a link from www.lpmich.org/campaigns/.

As soon as the home page of your candidate website is up, send the URL to webmaster@lpmich.org.

Metro Times. Shot Down on The Farm

by Andrew Wrenbeck

In the 6/21 issue of the Metro Times, the weekly magazine's W. Kim Heron investigates the book Burning Rainbow arm: How a Stoner Utopia Went Up in smoke (Bloomsbury, \$24.95, 340 pp.), Journalist Dean Kuipers explores the 001 tragedy that ensued when a zealous county prosecutor brought Michigan's drug laws to a head against Tom Crosslin and ollie Rohm's dream.

Crosslin and Rohm operated the campground and concert venue established in western Michigan known as the Rainbow arm, as a "company town" for hemp festivals and endless festivities, plus as a base for pushing a referendum to change state marijuana laws.

The pair torched much of the farm rather than see it seized. Then, armed and outfitted in camouflage, they holed up under siege and died days later in separate confrontations with FBI and State Police snipers. (Details of those shootings are in dispute, and Rohm's death is the focus of a civil suit yet to be resolved.)

The review can be seen at www.metrotimes.com/. It is a good opportunity to write to the Metro Times on the topic of prohibition, and to keep the discussions of government violence and the drug war in the press.

Campaign Website Assistance

by Eric Larson

The LP of West Michigan has recently switched to a new software for its website. Because of this change, they are able to host multiple website subdomains at no additional cost except elbow grease which the webmaster, Steve Van Til has graciously offered to supply.

In the interest of helping all candidates who are running statewide or federal races either active or educational, the affiliate would like to offer a free subdomain to all interested candidates. There is a general template which could be completed in only a few hours yet has the flexibility (for those more technically savvy) to be modified into something much more.

For a sample of what the website would look like, visit Bill Hall's Attorney General site at billhall.lpwm.org.

Each site would be individualized to have your name and office over the flag banner and your picture.

Please contact Eric Larson, chair of the LPWM, at chair@lpwm.org if you are interested or have any questions.

Again, this is an offer to all candidates running on a statewide or federal level (we don't have the manpower for more at this time). Give the LPWM a jingle, they'd love to help.

Eric Larson is the Chair of Libertarian Party of Western Michigan

LWV Contact Info by Scotty Boman

The League of Women Voters is one of the few organizations that distribute candidate questionnaires and hosts forum in which alternative political parties get equal treatment. One of the reasons they no longer host presidential debates, was because they wouldn't promise to exclude third parties.

Libertarians have been invited to speak at some of their forums. So I was surprised not to get a candidate questionnaire in the last election. I was even more surprised when their vote guide listed me as not responding to the questionnaire.

I think they simply made an error with my address, and they have assured me they will be in touch this year. They have the statewide list of candidates that we delivered in Lansing, but if you registered locally you may wish to forward your contact information to them to make sure:

League of Women Voters of Michigan
200 Museum Drive
Lansing, MI 48933-1997
Telephone: (517) 484-5383 Fax:
(517) 484-3086
e-mail: info@lwvmi.org

Don't bother sending them promotional information. They aren't interested in it. Just contact information. Apparently they have taken some non-libertarian positions on some issues, but save your arguments for their questionnaires and the candidate forums.

How to Distribute Libertarian Literature

by Leonard Schwartz

To promote the Libertarian Party and its candidates, you should distribute handbills and brochures that are designed for outreach.

The state party has three new outreach brochures publicizing that the Libertarian Party is the only political party (1) that supports equal rights and opposes racial preferences, (2) that supports small business, and (3) that wants to get government busybodies off your back. Some of our candidates will have handbills or brochures.

Other outreach material is available from the national party and other libertarian organizations, such as The Advocates for Self-Government, www.theadvocates.org, and the International Society for Individual Liberty, www.isil.org.

money distributing the Libertarian Party News, the Michigan Libertarian, and other party newsletters. They are designed for members, not for recruiting voters or new members. Distributing party newsletters to nonmembers also creates campaign finance problems.

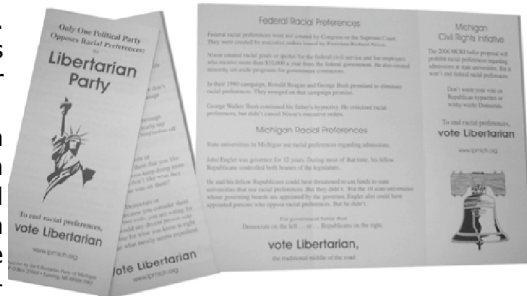
Distributing outreach literature to friends is most effective. Because they like and respect you, friends are more likely to read the literature.

But LPM has only a few hundred members, each with a limited number of friends, who probably have heard our promotions for the Libertarian Party. Therefore, outreach to strangers is essential.

walk door-to-door leaving a packet of information. Don't put outreach material in mail boxes; it is a federal crime. To protect the material from rain and wind try to leave the material between the door and screen door.

Many libertarians find it more fun to hand out outreach material at parades, arts and crafts festivals, concerts in the park, and other outdoor events where people are sitting or strolling. If you are a candidate for a statewide office (or if you think that most people at the event live in your district), say something like "I'm a candidate for [name of office]." If you are not a candidate (or if you think that most people don't live in your district) say something like "Please consider voting Libertarian."

You can distribute several outreach items simultaneously. You should have everything assembled before hand in packets. Place one brochure inside another, with the brochure that you think



An inexpensive way to distribute

The Michigan Public School Retirement System has unfunded retirement liabilities of \$21.7 billion (\$6.0 billion for pension benefits and \$15.7 billion for retiree health care benefits). With 282,324 retirees and vested employees, that's an unfunded liability of \$76,900 for each employee and retiree. Source : "Financing Michigan Retired Teacher Pension and Health Care Benefits"; September 2004; Citizen Research Council of Michigan (Report 337))

These are just four of thousands of underfunded state and local retirement systems which have an estimated \$4.4 billion in unfunded liabilities – to be paid by future generations of taxpayers. More and more, state and local governments are seeking tax increases to support the legal pay and benefit structures for employees and not to support the needs of taxpayers.

The bottom line is that most government employees have the option of spending most of their adult lives in taxpayer-provided retirement and enjoying retirement benefits vastly exceeding those of the private sector. Again, these benefit levels are not sustainable – and the underfunding of pension and retiree-medical plans will wreak havoc on many states and municipalities long before the more widely discussed bankruptcy of Social Security and Medicare.

The ability of office seekers for state and local government to identify and quantify the underfunding of benefits staggering liabilities that Republican and Democratic politicians have heretofore not disclosed to the public) will dramatically increase over the next several years because of recent financial reporting requirements mandated by the Government Accounting Standards Board ("GASB"). ASB Statement 45 requires all state and local governments, including public schools, public universities, and other government entities to determine the present value of postemployment benefits other than pensions (Other Post Employment Benefits - "OPEB") -- the largest, by far, being retiree health care – but including life

benefits.

All states require state and local government entities to report the present value of pension liabilities and to accumulate funds to pay off these liabilities – although most of these funds are underfunded (e.g., 93% of state retirement systems were underfunded as of 2004 (see 2004 Wilshire Associates' Report on State Funding Systems)). However, very few states and local government entities have accumulated any funds to pay for OPEB. For many, if not most, states and local government entities, the liability for OPEB rivals the liability for pensions. However, again, in the vast majority of cases, there are no funds set aside to pay for OPEB.

"We [Americans] used to say the system is broken because it won't respond until there is a crisis" said David Rothkopf, author of "Running the World." Now, it's really broken, "because the system can't even respond to a crisis!"

When the unfunded liabilities for OPEB are revealed and combined the underfunding for pensions, the numbers will be staggering. Many states and local municipal entities will be forced to either significantly raise taxes or seek receivership and reorganization. This will be the legacy of the Democratic and Republican leadership across America – and it will open the door for a Third Party to reduce the cost of government and to restore fiscal sanity.

With regard to the unaffordable unfunded liability for Social Security and Medicare, make no mistake, this debt cannot be paid without destroying America. This problem cannot be addressed without either (i) significantly raising the retirement age for benefit eligibility, (ii) significantly reducing benefits, or (iii) some combination of the two. To understand the need to raise the retirement age, you need only consider the fact that, when the Social Security Act was passed in 1936, normal retirement age was 65 and life expectancy in America was 58.5 – so the normal retirement age was 6.5 years beyond life expectancy. Today, normal retirement age is 65 and 8 months and life expectancy is 77.9 years – so the normal retirement age

Again, the Republicans and Democrats are helpless to address this issue because they lack the courage to call for sacrifices that would incur the ire of their constituencies – constituencies that lavishly fund their candidates and that are against any increase in retirement ages or other meaningful cost-reducing adjustments.

To tackle these issues, America needs need leaders who are (i) independent funded and powerful interest groups such as the AARP, the teachers' unions, and unions representing municipal workers and (ii) willing to tell voters the truth. Both the Republican Party and the Democratic Party are incapable of separating themselves from these powerful interest groups. Further, to properly advocate for the needed reductions in the cost of government, the Republicans and Democrats would have to admit the error of their ways over the last 75 years. They created the problem of unaffordable government, they are beholden to the beneficiaries of unaffordable government, they are addicted to the perks of big government, and they cannot now change course and have any hope of getting elected.

That leaves an opening for true leadership to those not affiliated with the Democrats or Republicans. To quote Michael Sifry, author of "Spoiling for a Fight: Third Party Politics in America" – "There is an opportunity here for someone who will seize it." To save America from financial ruin, the American voter must install new bold leaders who are not tied to the decisions of the past which put this great country on the path to bankruptcy.

Now is the time for the Libertarian Party to fill that void. We must get this message out in a manner that can be clearly understood by the average American. We must offer solutions that will give America hope and faith that there is a responsible way to reduce the cost of government at all levels and reign in the unaffordable promises made by our fiscally irresponsible representatives.

continued next page

HELP US MAKE HISTORY!

Help Make
Greg Creswell
THE FIRST

Endorsed by: **Scotty Boman** (Lt. Governor Candidate)

Send Your contribution to:
The Committee to Elect Gregory Creswell
4717 Dudley St, Dearborn Heights, MI, 48125-2632

Volunteer at: i.am4_gcreswell@yahoo.com

Same-Sex Marriage Amendment Fails In the US Senate

by Andrew Wrenbeck

The good news is that it failed, the bad news is that the proposed constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage failed in the Senate in June by only a few votes!

The proposed "protection of marriage" amendment died with a procedural vote.

The 49-48 vote on a motion to end debate on the proposal pushed on us by Republicans and President Bush was 1 short of the number required under Senate rules. It also was 18 votes short of the two-thirds majority in both houses required for proposed amendments to the Constitution.

However, the Congress is not done wasting time with neocon pet issues. House Majority Leader John Boehner told reporters that the House is scheduling a vote on the proposed amendment next month.

Dale Carpenter, an associate professor of law at the University of Minnesota Law School, spells out why it

should not pass in a Cato Institute Policy Analysis:

"First, a constitutional amendment is unnecessary because federal and state laws, combined with the present state of the relevant constitutional doctrines, already make court-ordered nationwide same-sex marriage unlikely for the foreseeable future. An amendment banning same-sex marriage is a solution in search of a problem.

Second, a constitutional amendment defining marriage would be a radical intrusion on the nation's founding commitment to federalism in an area traditionally reserved for state regulation, family law. There has been no showing that federalism has been unworkable in the area of family law.

Third, a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage would be an unprecedented form of amendment, cutting short an ongoing national debate over what privileges and benefits, if any, ought to be conferred

on same-sex couples and preventing democratic processes from recognizing more individual rights.

Fourth, the amendment as proposed is constitutional overkill that reaches well beyond the stated concerns of its proponents, foreclosing not just courts but also state legislatures from recognizing same-sex marriages and perhaps other forms of legal support for same-sex relationships. Whatever one thinks of same-sex marriage as a matter of policy, no person who cares about our Constitution and public policy should support this unnecessary, radical, unprecedented, and overly broad departure from the nation's traditions and history."

The danger is passed for now however we can look for Republicans to use the gay marriage ban as a platform to gain votes come fall.

Third Party from Page 10

The most practical common-sense solution is to (i) tell the truth about the fiscal crisis facing America, (ii) gradually increase the Social Security retirement age to reflect both increased longevity and the country's ability to pay for retirement benefits, and (iii) gradually reduce bloated payrolls and eliminate non core programs from the budgets for state and local governments.

As our dire forecasts inevitably prove reliable and our credibility rises more and more Libertarians will be elected to office and the stranglehold of the two parties currently in power will be broken. *John Boyle is a member of the Libertarian Party who resides in Ann Arbor, Michigan. He is a principal of J.L. Boyle International a strategy consultant, and an actuary*

Getting The Message Out

To paraphrase Malcolm Gladwell's research: To get the message out in large numbers, you do not need an army of people. You need the right combination of people.

Our message will get out exponentially with EVERY letter and EVERY message we get out. Your letter to the press could be the one that gets to the right people and sticks, but only if you write it!

Detroit News

(313) 222 2542 FAX:(313) 222 6417
nfinley@detnews.com
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www.detnews.com

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Detroit MI, 48226-3197
www.metrotimes.com

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Livonia MI, 48150-1299
www.observer-eccentric.com

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editor@thenewsherald.com
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http://www.heritageneews.com/

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www.htnews.com

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cgopinion1@aol.com
13650 E 11 Mile Rd
Warren MI, 48089-1422

• Include Your Contact Information:

Newspapers will only print a letter to the editor after calling the author to verify his or her identity and address. Newspapers will not give out that information, and will usually only print your name and city should your letter be published.

• **Be Clear and Concise:** Keep your letters brief, concise, and to the point. Newspaper editors often edit for length, so try to keep your letter to less than 250 words.

• **State Your Point Early:** Be sure to state your main point in the subject line and in the first sentence of the letter.

• **Keep to One Topic:** Keep your letters



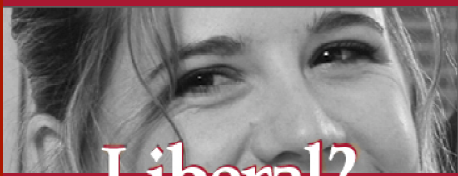
Classifieds

Get your message to hundreds of LPM Members in **two** issues only \$5.00

2 Lines: \$5.00 for 2 issues
3 Lines: \$8.00 for 2 issues
4 Lines: \$10.00 for 2 issues

Bold Type: add \$2.00 for 2 issues

This ad space can sell out, and is on a 1st come first serve basis. Classified ads are available



Liberal?



Conservative?



Uncertain?

Where do you stand politically? To find out, take the World's Smallest Political Quiz!

How do you stand on

PERSONAL ISSUES?

- Government should not censor speech, press, media or Internet. 20 10 0
- Military service should be voluntary. There should be no draft. A M D
- There should be no laws regarding sex between consenting adults. A M D
- Repeal laws prohibiting adult possession and use of drugs. A M D
- There should be no national ID card. A M D

SCORING: 20 for every A, 10 for every M and 0 for every D: _____

How do you stand on

ECONOMIC ISSUES?

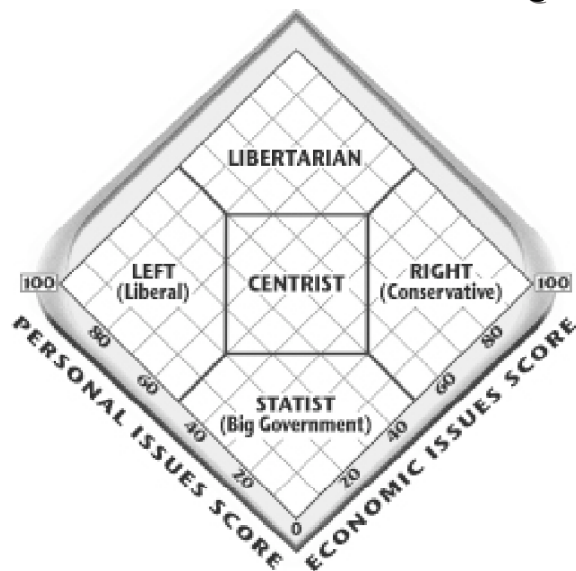
- End "corporate welfare." No government handouts for big business. 20 10 0
- End government borders on international free trade. A M D
- Let people control their own retirements: privatize Social Security. A M D
- Replace government welfare with private charity. A M D
- Cut taxes and government spending by 50% or more. A M D

SCORING: 20 for every A, 10 for every M and 0 for every D: _____

Now find your place on the chart

Mark your PERSONAL score on the lower-left scale; your ECONOMIC score on the lower-right.

Then follow the grid lines until they meet at your political position. The chart shows the political group that you agree with most.



We invite you to join the Libertarian Party of Michigan

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: ___ Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone: _____

Occupation: _____

Employer: _____

Annual dues for the Libertarian Party of Michigan are \$25

- I Prefer email communications over US Mail
- 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 advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving social or political goals

Signature: _____
(signature required for membership)

Please charge my credit card (Visa or M/C only:)

Card Number: _____

Expires / /20

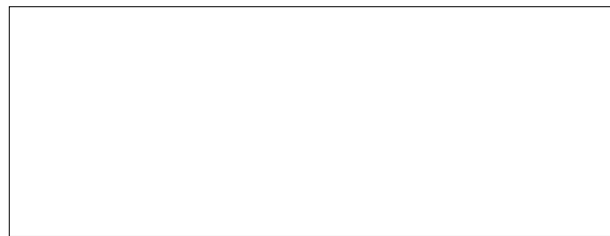
Signature: _____

- I have enclosed a check or money order (Payable to the Libertarian Party Of Michigan)

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Lansing, MI 48909-7065

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