

MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN

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Medical Marijuana Gaining Steam Across The Country

By Andrew Wrenbeck

Maine, Vermont, Alaska, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Washington and now Rhode Island.

Rhode Island legalized medical marijuana when the state House overrode a veto by Gov. Don Carcieri (59-13), allowing people to grow up to a dozen marijuana plants or buy 2.5oz of marijuana. Those who do are required to register with the state and get an identification card.

Of course, federal law still prohibits any use of marijuana, but 11 states now allow it to be grown and used for medicinal purposes. The U.S. high court ruled June 6 that people who smoke marijuana because their doctors recommend it can still be prosecuted under federal drug laws, even if their states allow it.

"I'm sure everybody in this room knows at least one person who would have benefited from medical marijuana," Rep. Thomas Slater, who has cancer, told fellow lawmakers before the vote. Slater said he doesn't use marijuana now but it could become part of his treatment in the future.



Michigan Civil Rights Initiative & Libertarian Strategy

By Leonard Schwartz

The Michigan Civil Rights Initiative (MCRI) is on the ballot. Everyone will be talking about equal rights and racial preferences. By using this issue strategically, LPM candidates can get a higher percentage of the votes than ever before.

Michigan Civil Rights Initiative

MCRI's critics and most of MCRI's proponents claim that MCRI will end essentially all state and local government affirmative action programs. Actually, MCRI will have little practical effect.

(a) MCRI won't stop racial preferences for hiring and promotions. The MCRI proposal says, "This section does not prohibit action that must be taken to establish or maintain eligibility for any federal programs, if ineligibility would result in a loss of federal funds" Federal funding rules require racial goals or quotas. So MCRI's nominal prohibition of racial preferences for employment will be significant only if the federal government eliminates this requirement.

(b) MCRI won't change minority set-aside programs. The US Supreme Court has already ruled that minority set-aside programs are almost always unconstitutional. No minority set-aside program in Michigan has passed the narrow exceptions. So MCRI's prohibition of minority set-aside programs will be significant only if the US Supreme Court changes its interpretation of the Constitution.

(c) MCRI will prohibit racial preferences in admissions at state colleges. But in practice, the effect is unclear.

First, constitutions and statutes are merely words on paper. Whether they have any effect depends on the persons who enforce them. Federal and state civil rights laws already prohibit racial preferences regarding admissions and employment. But the Democrats and Republicans refuse to enforce existing law. Why expect that they will enforce revised laws?

Second, state colleges will find a way of using racial preferences without violating the letter of the law. This occurred in California, where a similar constitutional amendment was made in 1996. The law was effective for a few years. Then state colleges started basing admissions on race-

substitute factors such as being poor, living in a one-parent household, and living in a neighborhood with a high crime rate.

Furthermore, racial preferences are important for admissions only at the University of Michigan and some graduate programs at some other state universities.

Libertarian Strategy

Most voters think that racial preferences were started by Congress or the Supreme Court. Actually, federal racial preferences were created by President Nixon. His executive orders created (1) minority set-aside programs, (2) racial goals or quotas for the federal civil service, and (3) racial goals or quotas for employers who receive more than \$10,000 a year from the federal government.

In their 1980 campaign, Ronald Reagan and George Bush promised to eliminate racial preferences. They reneged on that promise. George W. Bush continued his father's hypocrisy. He criticized racial preferences, but didn't cancel Nixon's executive orders.

John Engler was Michigan's governor for 12 years. During most of that time, his fellow Republicans controlled both houses of the legislature. Republicans could have threatened to cut funds to state colleges that use racial preferences. But they didn't.

Although polls show that over 60% of voters support MCRI, leaders of the Republican and Democratic parties oppose MCRI.

MCRI gives Libertarians a good opportunity to publicize that only the Libertarian Party supports equal rights and opposes racial preferences. It gives Libertarians a good opportunity to publicize Republican support for racial preferences.

Although some Republicans truly oppose racial preferences, we can expect that they will (1) falsely claim that MCRI will eliminate essentially all state and local government affirmative action programs and (2) urge people to vote for Republicans.

Libertarians can tell voters the truth -- that MCRI will have little practical effect. MCRI's triviality gives Libertarians an opportunity to publicize that the only way to eliminate racial preferences is by voting for Libertarians.

Continued on Page Seven

Civil Rights Violated Campaign Finance Law

by Tim O'Brien

A letter audit requested by (R-Clinton Twp.) has found that the Michigan Civil Rights Commission and Department of Civil Rights violated state campaign finance law when it adopted and published a resolution opposing a same-sex marriage ban in 2004.

Mr. Drolet, who requested the audit last spring, said that its conclusions show a pattern of gubernatorial appointees misusing their positions to influence ballot initiatives.

He is calling for more hearings on the issue before the House Government Operations Committee, which he chairs, when the chamber reconvenes this year.

A spokesperson for the commission and department said he could not comment on the results of the audit because he had not seen it yet Tuesday.

The letter audit, conducted by Auditor General Thomas McTavish, states that because the commission used the wording "urges voters to resist this effort," in its resolution referring to the 2004 constitutional amendment making marriage between a man and a woman, and the Department of Civil Rights then published the resolution, that "resulted in the expenditure of public funds to influence the outcome of a ballot proposal."

"It is our opinion that the actions of the commission were a violation of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act and were contrary to prior Attorney General Opinions," the audit states.

Estimated cost for the publication is \$150, the audit states.

During hearings last spring,

commission and department representatives stated that they were exempt from the law because the resolution was an "expression of views by an elected or appointed public official."

However, the audit states that the wording provides "direction to the electorate of Michigan on how to vote for the proposal."

Mr. Drolet, who is heavily involved in the campaign to end affirmative action practices but who voted against distinguishing marriage between a man and a woman in the Constitution, also had asked the auditor general to examine any violation of law by the department in its press release referring to the resolution. He also asked whether the Michigan Women's Commission also broke the law when it posted an article titled "Oppose Ban on Affirmative Action" in its winter 2003 newsletter.

The audit found that no violation of campaign finance law existed on those fronts because a public body is allowed to disseminate factual information regarding issues that are relative to that public body and because the content of the women's commission article did not advocate a position on the proposal.

Mr. Drolet said the hearings will not focus on the monetary amount of taxpayer money used to publish the resolution, but said that he would like the commission and department to admit wrong doing and inform the committee on the steps it has taken to correct such action.



A Double Whammy

by Loel Gnadt

This year our candidates for state offices can have two solid campaign themes to protect the voters. First is to promise property protection legislation to protect the family home from a "Kelo style" eminent domain taking and repel Michigan P.A. 123 of 1999.

The second theme is to protect the 'family budget' by supporting "Stop Over Spending", which is meant to close loopholes in the Headlee amendment.

The Kelo U.S. Supreme Court decision allows property to be taken for a developer that can provide higher tax income to a local government. Essentially property is for sale to the highest tax bidder. The Kelo decision is fresh in the minds of property owners and is easily understood.

P.A. 123 of 1999 sped up the taking of tax delinquent property to two years from 5 years and took away the right of the homeowner to retain any portion of their equity built up in their home. To me this is the worst legislation of the last 10 years in Michigan and help spawn fraud in Detroit.

I believe families could get into a financial bind easily lasting two years but most could work their way out of it over five years. The most heinous part is, it kicks them out on the street without their equity to even get downsize to an affordable house. Talk about kicking someone when they're down!

"Stop Over Spending" would help the family budget by limiting taxes. Headlee has done a good job but over the year has been attacked from every angle. "Stop Over Spending" is hoping to clarify and close all the possible openings, real and imaginary.

With these two campaign goals
continued on Page Seven

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
LP 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/
LP of Oakland Co.	Leonard Schwartz	www.lpocmi.org
LP of South Central MI	James Parker	jamesp@hillsdale.epcorp.com
Saint Clair Co. LP	Mark Byrne	iwantska@hotmail.com
LP of Southwest MI	Bill Bradley	wbradley@i2k.com
LP of Washtenaw Co.	Lawrence Johnson	www.lpwash.org
Thumb Area LP	Paul Hitch	phitch@intouchmi.com
Traverse Bay LP	Jerry Coon	jtcoon@gtii.com
Tri-City LP	Richard Jozwiak	www.TriCityLibertarianParty.org
LP of Wayne Co.	Loel Gnadt	cynical_bob@juno.com
West MI LP	Jamie Lewis	www.lpwm.org
Kettering University	Adam Hogan	hoga4008@kettering.edu
Hillsdale College	Heidi Morris	hcmorris@hillsdale.edu
NMU Libertarians	Michael Brown	docbrown_77@yahoo.com
U of M College Libertarians	Andrew Moylan	admoylan@umich.edu

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 April 15, 2005.

LPM Officers and Directors

Chair:	Nathan Allen	chair@lpmich.org
Vice Chair:	Scotty Boman	vicechair@lpmich.org
Secretary:	James Hudler	secretary@lpmich.org
Treasurer:	Will White	treasurer@lpmich.org
Political Director:	Leonard Schwartz	poldir@lpmich.org
Newsletter Director:	Andrew Wrenbeck	newsdir@lpmich.org
Judicial Committee:	Jerry Bloom	jerryliberty@hotmail.com

Outreach materials: The LPM Has Them, Do You?

By Andrew Wrenbeck

When is the last time you could get something for FREE? The LPM has outreach pamphlets and stickers designed for you, our members, to use as you need them or want them.

Three fold educational pamphlets from The International Society for Individual Liberty (ISIL), from the National Party and from the LPM are waiting at state headquarters for you to pick up.

Being an election year, it is important that the message get's out. Simply walking around your neighborhood, once a week with a few brochures can make a huge difference in the election results.

Just like companies that run weekly newspaper ads to promote thier product, the party needs grassroots promotion of our product "freedom" in order to compete with the television and radio news, opinions and ads people are exposed to every day.

Handing out a few brochures can change the tone of your subdivision, the tone of your neighborhood, and even the results at the local polls.

The best part is that this promotion

can be done in a matter of 20 minutes to a half hour, once or twice a month. Since we already have the brochures, the party cost is zero. How great is that?

Some of the hand outs we have are:

-The Thomas Jefferson "Secure the Blessings - Join the LP" pamphlet. Printed on expensive, glossy paper this looks great and carries the LP message on many topics.

- "Making Your Neighborhood Safe Again." This bi-color pamphlet gives examples of 5 simple Libertarian steps to improving neighborhoods.

There are also the ISIL hand outs. They include: "Banning Pornography Endangers Women"; "Death by Regulation: The Price We Pay for the FDA"; "The Hidden War On Your Privacy" and even a couple Spanish language items.

The LPM also has some new promotional products that are being printed as you read. The LEC has just approved tens of thousands of pamphlets for the election

year.

The new "busibodies" brochure emphasizes the need to get government off of your back, and out of your life.

The new "Small Business" brochure is specifically designed to appeal to the wants and needs of small companies trying to compete in the world while at the same time being pushed down by taxation.

This material has been carefully gone over to ensure all election laws have been met, and that the Libertarian point of view is masterfully stated to the

reader, however they do no good sitting in a office in Lansing.

Rest assured, the LPM has plenty of people ready to help put these hand outs in to the hands of voters, but nothing would be better than running out of what we have and ordering more. Imagine the potential of 25,000 pieces of information in the hands of undecided voters, and fed-up tax payers. It could be a boon for the party.

Getting people in a "Libertarian" state of mind can help local issues too. Constant reminders of how overtaxed we are is a great way to convince people to vote AGAINST an upcoming millage or bond issue.

We even have "1-800 Elect Us" bumper stickers to help reinforce the message on the road.

The next question is "how do I get my hands on these items?" Well, that's the easy part. Just call up the LPM, e-mail us or visit an LPM event and say "I need some hand outs so I can do my share to make Michigan free again."

The LPM Eye's A Second Michigan Office: Metro Detroit

By Leonard Schwartz

The LPM Executive Committee wants to have a metro Detroit office in addition to the Lansing headquarters.

Instead of a storefront, like our former office in Hazel Park, we are looking for space in an office building.

The ideal office is 200-500 square feet in an office building with a large conference room that tenants can use for special events. But we will consider other arrangements.

The ideal location is within three miles of I-696. But we will consider other locations.

If you have information about a suitable office space with low rent, please contact Leonard Schwartz, by phone at 248-546-3569, or by email at leonard@leonardschwartz.us



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EVENTS CALENDAR



March 09, 2006 - 7:00 PM

LPWM annual convention. Officers for next year will be elected. Additionally, candidates for the 2006 elections will be nominated. Location: Brann's Steakhouse in Cascade. Contact: Eric Larson. Phone: 616-949-2844. Email: secretary@lpwm.org

March 14, 2006 - 7:30 PM

Capital Area Libertarian Party monthly meeting. Candidate recruitment and convention delegates Location: Barley's, 727 E Miller Road, Lansing Contact: Will Tyler White Phone: 517 349-3806 Email: whitewi5@msu.edu

March 26, 2006 - 12:00 AM

Leadership Conference. Candidate and Campaign Manager training will be offered to any interested LPM member. Contact: Nathan Allen. Phone: 248-891-3003 Email: chair@lpmich.org

April 04, 2006 - 7:00 PM

Meet the media candidate session with Gary Allen of WOOD radio. This is an opportunity for all local Libertarian candidates running for office to meet the media and vice versa. Location: Eberhard Center, Downtown Grand. Contact: Eric Larson. Phone: 616-949-2844. Email: secretary@lpwm.org

April 12, 2006 - 7:30 PM

Monthly meeting of the Libertarians of Macomb County. Business starts at 7:30, but feel free to join us at 6:30 for dinner and conversation. The meeting is open to the public, so bring a friend or two.

Location: Cutting Board Restaurant, 28655 Schoenherr Road, Warren, MI 48093

Contact: Jim Allison **Phone:** 586-817-0395

April 13, 2006 - 6:00 PM

We will discuss our progress with the Worlds Smallest Political Quiz and other topics on our agenda.

Location: We will meet at the Benton Harbor IHOP. IHOP is located on Pipestone Rd about 1 block west of I-94.

Contact: Bill Bradley **Phone:** 269 637-4525

Email: wbradley@i2k.com

May 10, 2006 - 7:30 PM

Monthly meeting of the Libertarians of Macomb County. Business starts at 7:30, but feel free to join us at 6:30 for dinner and conversation. The meeting is open to the public, so bring a friend or two.

Location: Cutting Board Restaurant, 28655 Schoenherr Road, Warren, MI 48093.

Contact: Jim Allison **Phone:** 586-817-0395

May 13, 2006

LPM Annual Convention

A Friday night, (5/12), welcome party will precede the Convention. Exact times will be announced soon.

Location: Comfort Inn, Chelsea, MI. **Contact:** Nathan Allen. **Phone:** (248)891-3003 **Email:** Chair@LPMich.org

Chair@LPMich.org

Chelsea is Site for Michigan's May 13 State Convention

By James Hudler

Washtenaw County will be the site of the Libertarian Party of Michigan's upcoming State Convention. It will be held Saturday, May 13, 2006 at the Comfort Inn and Conference Center in the City of Chelsea.

An informal welcome party, hosted by the LP of Washtenaw County, is planned for Friday evening.

Saturday's business session begins in the morning with selection of the LPM's candidates for public office in the November elections. Lunch will include a business-oriented speaker. New LPM officers will be selected in the afternoon session and delegates to the national Libertarian party.

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LEC Dec. Meeting Minutes

LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF MICHIGAN
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING OF DECEMBER 4, 2005

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 1:00 pm at the LPM office in Lansing, the Secretary being present.

Members present were Chair Nathan Allen, Vice Chair Scotty Boman, Secretary James Hudler, Political Director Leonard Schwartz and Newsletter Director Andrew Wrenbeck. Also present were LPM members Emily Salvette and Jerry Bloom. Member David Raaflaub arrived at 3:45 pm.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

A Treasurer's Report was not delivered in the absence of Will White. The LPM has approximately \$30,000 in its accounts.

Political Director Schwartz reported that a brochure is available about the Small Business Initiative.

It was moved by Andrew Wrenbeck that the LPM supply the Chair with a cell phone, paying the monthly fees, for outreach and interparty communications. The motion was seconded and discussed. It was approved unanimously.

Newsletter Director Andrew Wrenbeck reported that the LPM newsletter will be mailed next week. Deadline for the next newsletter is January 15, 2006. There was discussion of a revised membership form for inclusion in the newsletter. There was discussion of the monitoring of newsletters returned by the Postal Service.

It was moved by Scotty Boman to budget \$900.00 to send Nathan Allen and Leonard Schwartz to the 2006 LP State Chairs Conference, supplying transportation and lodging. The motion was seconded. The motion was passed.

A Technology Committee was appointed with duties as listed: Brian Kelly will update the LPM web site; Ben Bachrach will tend NIDUS; Jerry Bloom will work on the LPM membership database; Andrew Wrenbeck will work both on the web site and the database.

Leonard Schwartz presented a motion to increase LPM Affiliate listings of their activities on LPM Online. The motion was

seconded and discussed, but subsequently withdrawn. Chair Allen stated that he will personally contact Affiliate chairs to promote LPM Online activity listings.

James Hudler reported that the Comfort Inn in Chelsea, Michigan has been booked for the LPM State Convention.

Emily Salvette spoke about holding a Small Business Conference in conjunction with the LPM Convention. The sense of this body was that Salvette will help Hudler in establishing the program of the Convention.

Emily Salvette, Alternate to the Libertarian National Committee, delivered a report on the upcoming LP National Convention in Portland, Oregon.

Scotty Boman reported on plans to present a LPM Leadership Conference on March 25 or 26, 2006.

It was moved by Scotty Boman that the LPM explore getting a Metro Detroit LPM office. The motion was seconded, discussed and approved unanimously.

It was moved by Andrew Wrenbeck to hold a Leadership Conference on Sunday, March 26, 2006. The motion was seconded. The motion was seconded, discussed and approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted by
James Hudler, Treasurer

Oakland Libertarian Convention

by Leonard Schwartz

The Libertarian Party of Oakland County elected the following officers at its January 2006 convention:

Chair: Chris Watson

Vice Chair: Adam Goodman

Secretary: Tony Fontana

Treasurer: Dianne Szabla

Development Director: Mike Netski

Membership Director: Nathan Allen

Communications Director: Jim Young

Firing The Senate

A petition drive has begun to change Michigan's legislature into a unicameral form of government.

A unicameral or single-chamber legislature for the State of Michigan would be created by eliminating the 38-member state senate through a statewide vote.

A total of 317,000 valid signatures must be collected by petition during a 180-day period for the proposal to appear on the November, 2006 ballot. The petition deadline is July 4, 2006.

Nebraska is the only state with a unicameral legislature. The single-chamber body went into session in 1937, three years after being approved by Nebraska voters.

A single house, minus the state senate, will save about \$50 million the first year, and approximately \$1 billion over 10 years.

A unicameral legislature would also eliminate the duplicity of the present house-senate system in which both chambers represent the same populations. Their duties and responsibilities are identical. They are redundant!

Proponents claim this change would create a more transparent and accountable legislature. The present system, for example, allows for bills to eventually be decided by a conference committee of the house and senate, a small number of legislators who often work in secrecy.

Opponents say that the unicameral legislature will eliminate the system of checks and balances. However, the three branches of government (legislative, executive and judicial) will remain intact.

The governor will retain veto power. Within the legislature, several protections are in place, just as in city councils, county commissions and school boards, all of which operate on a one chamber basis.

Opponents also say fewer representatives mean less representation. The smaller unicameral legislature will still give Michigan a large number of representatives. Michigan has 148 legislators for a population of 9 million. California, by comparison, has 120 legislators for 30 million people.

This legislation is a way to physically reduce the size of government. It eliminates high-paid Senators, retirements, health benefits and even more. Right now Unicameral Michigan is collecting petition signatures. To contact Unicameral Michigan at P.O. Box 117, Hastings, MI 49058. Phone: (269) 948-4127. EMail senateBgone@fire-the-senate.com or visit the website at www.fire-the-senate.com.



Promote Libertarianism by Being a Candidate

by Leonard Schwartz

One of the best ways you can promote liberty and the Libertarian Party is by running for partisan office. Even nominal candidates -- those who spend virtually no time or money campaigning -- help promote libertarianism. In Michigan, like other states, the more candidates the Libertarian Party has on the ballot, the more votes each candidate gets.

Why do even nominal candidates promote the Libertarian Party? First, the more candidates we have on the ballot, the more attention the news media gives to the Libertarian Party and its active candidates.

Second, there are many persons who support libertarianism, but who think that the Libertarian Party is too weak to have any effect. By having many candidates, we tell libertarians that the Libertarian Party has many grass root supporters who show their support publicly.

LPM officers expect that LPM candidates will get more newspaper coverage and a higher percentage of the vote in 2006 than ever before. First, for the first time in over a decade, LPM will have active candidates for both governor and US senator.

Second, the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative is on the ballot. LPM has a brochure on this issue. See my "Michigan Civil Rights Initiative and Libertarian Strategy" article in this issue to learn how Libertarian candidates can use this issue to get a higher percentage of vote.

Third, LPM will also have a brochure directed at owners of small businesses. Libertarians in other states have found that small business outreach has been effective.

For what office should you be a candidate? The answer to that question depends mainly on whether you plan to be an active candidate or merely a nominal candidate.

Active Candidates

If you plan to be an active candidate, the most important factor is having fun. Being an active candidate is a lot of fun. Consider whether there is an incumbent whom you will enjoy criticizing. Consider what issues you like to discuss the most and what race those issues will be important.

Another important factor is free news media coverage. Because most active Libertarian candidates have little money to spend campaigning, free news

media coverage is crucial.

1. Reporters give small party candidates more coverage for positions where one major party doesn't even have a nominal candidate. Where there is no Democrat or no Republican on the ballot, you can be the only opposition candidate.

2. Reporters also give small party candidates more coverage where the race between the Democratic and Republican is likely to be close. This is especially true when that candidate is a Libertarian. Reporters know that candidates from ultra-liberal parties take votes primarily away from Democrats and that candidates from ultra-conservative parties take votes primarily away from Republicans. But the Libertarian Party is a middle of the road party. In close races, the Libertarian candidate can be the swing candidate -- getting more votes than the difference between the Democrat and the Republican. Both before and after the election, reporters will discuss whether the Libertarian takes more votes from the Democrat or from the Republican.

Statewide elections in Michigan tend to be close. You can check whether you live where there was a recent election in which either (1) there was no Democrat or no Republican on the ballot or (2) the race between the Democratic and Republican was close. Go to <http://www.michigan.gov/sos> for information on federal and state legislative races. Check with your county clerk or township clerk for information on county and township races, respectively. You probably can also get information from your public library.

Another factor is whether you can get elected as a Libertarian. Some townships elect a parks commission on which few

people want to serve. Sometimes there are not enough Democratic and Republican candidates for all positions. (Some townships also elect a nonpartisan

library commission on which few people want to serve.) But don't be a candidate unless you are willing to serve. Ask the township clerk about when the commission traditionally meets.



Nominal Candidates

If you plan to be a nominal candidate, you can promote the Libertarian Party best by running for whatever position will be on the most ballots, but for which no LPM member wants to be an active candidate. This increases LPM's apparent importance, which increases news media coverage and votes for all Libertarians.

Some Libertarians enter a race with the intent of being merely a nominal candidate, then become active. So everyone who plans to be a candidate is invited to attend the candidate training class on March 26.

If you don't plan to attend the LPM convention on May 13, please contact the chair of your local LPM affiliate so that you can be nominated at a local caucus before the convention.

To minimize the problem that two persons want to be candidates for the same office, please contact the chair of your local LPM affiliate and me before the convention. Leonard@LeonardSchwartz.us . Phone: 248-546-3569.

The "Candidate Issue" Is Coming In March

by Andrew Wrenbeck

It is hard to forget that this is a major election year. With all of the new election laws, and to offer help to LPM candidates in 2006, the *Michigan Libertarian* newsletter in March will be a special edition.

We are putting together some articles to help Libertarians in Michigan conform to election laws, run a smoother campaign, and get more votes.

In an effort to maximize the party's results this year, it makes good sense to specifically address items that concern candidates running active, nominal or even paper campaigns.

Articles by the LPM's experts and guest writers will be put together in what will be an abbreviated edition. They will address issues associated with being a candidate.

Because the addition will be specific in topic, and smaller in size, we may not have room to print all submissions. Not to worry, the *Michigan Libertarian* will be back on schedule with a regular issue in late April / early May. Articles submitted for the #2 issue (March) may be bumped to the #3 issue.

The Libertarian Party National Convention

By Emily Salvette

The Libertarian Party's 2006 National Convention will take place June 28 through July 3, 2006 in Portland OR at the Hilton Hotel, 921 SW 6th Avenue (downtown).

Delegates from around the country will meet to receive training, review the Party's bylaws and platform, and to elect a new Chair and Libertarian National Committee.

National Chairman Michael Dixon, former National Chairman Jim Lark, and the Libertarian Party of Oregon Executive Director Richard Burke are overseeing the convention arrangements.

The slate of speakers for the convention has yet to be determined, but visit www.lp.org where details will be posted as they become available.

Delegate allotments will be determined by state membership numbers as of December 31, 2005. Michigan will probably have around 51 delegates. With 641 members, we are currently sixth in membership ranking (Pennsylvania is fifth with 672). Michigan Delegates will be elected at our state convention in May. In addition, Michigan will be able to send a representative to the national platform committee.

MCRI Strategy from Page One

Voters especially dislike racial preferences for hiring and promotions. Federal rules require racial goals or quotas for (1) the federal civil service and (2) all employers who receive more than \$10,000 a year from the federal government.

Federal rules for employers are enforced by the US Department of Labor, DOL. It can declare an employer ineligible for federal funds. Employers cannot appeal such decisions to the courts. Because DOL can enforce these rules arbitrarily, the distinction between "goals" and "quotas" is a distinction without a difference. If an employer wants to continue receiving federal funds, it must do whatever capricious DOL bureaucrats tell it to do.

Racial preferences will be a major issue in my US Senate campaign. I will urge voters to vote for MCRI. But I will point out that MCRI will have little practical effect. I will publicize that the only way to eliminate racial preferences is by voting for Libertarians.

I expect that Libertarian candidates who follow this strategy will get a much higher percentage of the vote than Libertarians who don't use MCRI strategically.

LPM Convention from Page Three

Convention will be chosen. Featured at Saturday evening's banquet will be Mark Rutherford, Chairman of the LP of Indiana, speaking on the Small Business Initiative.

The Comfort Inn is a non-smoking facility located off I-94 at Exit 159. It's a quick drive to Downtown Chelsea, which features fast food, sandwich shops, fine dining, and half a dozen places to buy a drink. Downtown Chelsea is the home of the Common Grill, a regional destination restaurant, and the Purple Rose Theater, Jeff Daniel's innovative live theater venue.

Whammy from Page Two

a candidate can look positive and strong protecting Michigan families' homes and budgets. A few D's and R's legislators have talked about supporting these issues but done nothing. I think every Libertarian would support these full time.

The LPM Online: Our Weekly News Brief

By Leonard Schwartz

LPM Online is an e-mail newsletter that is distributed to subscribers every Tuesday. It is an inexpensive way for members to receive timely information about LPM and its affiliates.

To start a free subscription, go to and register for LPM Online. You can choose to receive it in HTML or plain text format. It takes only a minute.

If you later want to cancel your subscription, that too is easy.

Text of The MCRI Proposal

The following is the text of the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative Proposal.

INITIATIVE PETITION AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

THE PROPOSAL WOULD AMEND THE STATE CONSTITUTION BY ADDING A SECTION 25 TO ARTICLE I.

ARTICLE I, SECTION 25:

(1) The University of Michigan, Michigan State University, Wayne State University, and any other public college or university, community college, or school district shall not discriminate against, or grant preferential treatment to, any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin in the operation of public employment, public education, or public contracting.

(2) The state shall not discriminate against, or grant preferential treatment to, any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin in the operation of public employment, public education, or public contracting.

(3) For the purposes of this section "state" includes, but is not necessarily limited to, the state itself, any city, county, any public college, university, or community college, school district, or other political subdivision or governmental instrumentality of or within the State of Michigan not included in sub-section 1.

(4) This section does not prohibit action that must be taken to establish or maintain eligibility for any federal program, if ineligibility would result in a loss of federal funds to the state.

(5) Nothing in this section shall be interpreted as prohibiting bona fide qualifications based on sex that are reasonably necessary to the normal operation of public employment, public education, or public contracting.

(6) The remedies available for violations of this section shall be the same, regardless of the injured party's race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin, as are otherwise available for violations of Michigan anti-discrimination law.

(7) This section shall be self-executing. If any part or parts of this section are found to be in conflict with the United States Constitution or federal law, the section shall be implemented to the maximum extent that the United States Constitution and federal law permit. Any provision held invalid shall be severable from the remaining portions of this section.

(8) This section applies only to action taken after the effective date of this section.

(9) This section does not invalidate any court order or consent decree that is in force as of the effective date of this section.



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
A M D
- 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?

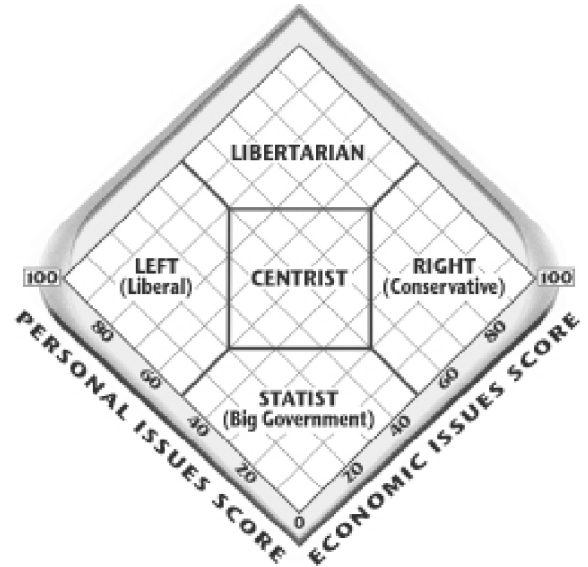
- End "corporate welfare." No government handouts for big business. 20 10 0
A M D
- End government borders on international free trade. A M D
- Let people control their own retirements: privatize Social Security. A M D
- Replace government welfare with private charity. A M D
- Cut taxes and government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