

MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN

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May - June, 2006

Harry Browne

By Andrew Wrenbeck

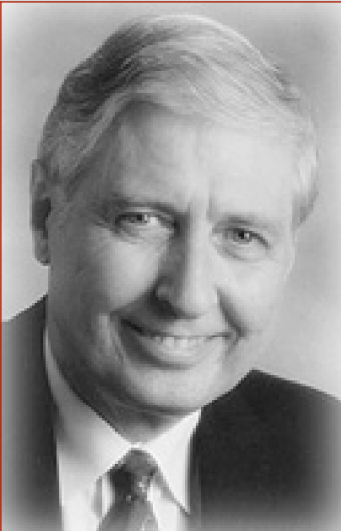
I was saddened by the news that Harry Browne, a long-time spokesman for libertarian causes, died March 1, 2006. He was a man of principle who stood up for liberty even when his position conflicted with mainstream political culture and public opinion. He brought me, and I am sure he brought many other people to the Libertarian movement with his words and actions.

Harry's best selling book foresaw what would result from Nixon's abandonment of the gold standard. In contrast to mainstream economists, he knew that gold prices would not go down but up. Those who followed his advice did very well. In the 1980s his "permanent portfolio" made money during one of the great stock run-ups of American history.

During the 1990s, he worked tirelessly for libertarian causes and in 1996, he threw his hat into the ring as a presidential candidate. In 2000, he was a candidate again. It was during this period that many people in the D & R parties began to fear the Libertarian vote on grounds that it was enough to make a margin of difference in any race.

I won't forget when I saw him as a public speaker at the University of Michigan a few years ago. No matter whether the topic: taxes; education; states rights; war; foreign policy; or

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How Much is a Billion

By Karen Minto

(reprinted from the *Macomb Liberty* newsletter)

The next time you hear someone in government, or big business rather casually use a number that includes the word "billion," think about the actual volume of a "billion."

A billion is a different number to comprehend. One advertizing agency did a rather good job of putting that figure into perspective in one of it's releases:



-A billion seconds ago: it was 1959
-A billion minutes ago: Jesus was alive.

-A billion hours ago: our ancestors were living in the stone age.

-A billion days ago: no creature walked the earth on two feet.

-A billion dollars: lasts only 8 hours and 20 minutes at the rate the government spends it.

LPM State Convention; Don't miss the Early Bird Deadline!

by Emily Salvette

The Libertarian Party of Michigan will hold its state convention on Friday, May 12 and Saturday, May 13 at the Comfort Inn and Conference Center, 1645 Commerce Park Drive, Chelsea MI 48118. The convention will focus on small business. All events are open to the public.

Friday is a pool party fundraiser from 7:30-10 p.m. to benefit the Libertarian Party of Washtenaw County. Cost: \$25, includes barbecue dinner and beverages (beer, wine, soft drinks).

Convention business begins on Saturday at 9 a.m. with nomination of candidates for the November General Election. Noon luncheon speaker will be Craig Welch, CEO, Wexford Homes, "Doing Business In Spite of Government." Party officers and delegates to the national LP convention will be elected beginning at 1:30 p.m. There will be a concurrent breakout session focusing on the Libertarian Party and small business with speaker Jack McHugh of the Mackinac Center for Public Policy,

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Candidate Conference

By Scotty Boman

On March 26 the LPM hosted a conference for training candidates and managers. The conference provided attendees with a unique quality opportunity to learn from the expertise and experience of other Libertarians. We were privileged to hear presentations by successful candidates, managers, activists and specialists.

Former and current officeholders discussed their campaigns and experience as office holders. We heard from Former Berkley City Councilman Fred Collins; Hazel Park City Councilman Andy LeCureaux; and St. Clair Shores Councilwoman Erin Stahl.

Outstanding campaign managers Barbara Goushaw-Collins, and Greg Stempfle offered their wisdom as well. Barb has worked on the Badnarik campaign as well as managing the high profile Jon Coon and Fred Collins campaigns. Greg was able to garner a high number of votes for his candidate Scott'y Boman. The candidate credits Greg with this accomplishment.

Political Director and Senate candidate Leonard Schwartz spoke on framing libertarian ideas for public consumption. He reminded us that Libertarians could frequently position themselves as more philosophically mainstream than the Democrats and Republicans. Photographer Linda Moore shot candidate portraits. Experienced Media consultant Pat Clawson spoke about ways to get coverage in electronic and print media. He emphasized opening personal channels of communication with the individuals who report the news. Also different ways to catch the interest of news organizations were discussed.

All in all a quality event. My only regret is that more people weren't there.

This election year promises to be an exceptional one for Libertarians: Our ballot access is secure, the party is in financial good shape, we have Libertarians in office, and there is a hot button issue waiting for us to pick it up and run with it.

The major parties have sided against most Michiganders in opposing the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative which would serve to outlaw most state-sponsored racial and sexual discrimination.

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Libertarian Leads Okemos Downtown Development Authority

After five years of effort led by Capital Area Libertarian Will Tyler White, a Downtown Development Authority (DDA) was recently created for the Okemos Village area. This small, unincorporated village is located near the center of Meridian Township, a mostly suburban community ten miles east of Lansing with a population of 43,000. Due to his efforts in creating the authority by organizing local small businesses, he was appointed to one of only two 6-year terms and elected chair by the eight-member board. As chair, he set in motion a 20-year, \$17 million dollar project to improve the run-down downtown.

"Although some people have complained that Tax Increment Financing (TIF - the primary funding source of DDA's) is somewhat akin to corporate favoritism, that is not usually the case", says Mr. White.

"The TIF statute may have been abused by some well-connected big corporations in wealthy downtowns, but that is unlikely to occur in small, declining neighborhoods. The Okemos Village area has had almost no investment in its infrastructure in the thirty years I have been in business there" White maintained.

Consisting mostly of struggling Mom-&-Pops with little capital, the old neighborhood (c.1850) has a difficult task competing with a nearby regional mall and new big-box stores, including a Walmart.

"The way it is set up, TIF captures some of my taxes and requires they be spent only on improving my neighborhood. Although it does not reduce taxes, at least it gives me some say on how they are spent and I know they will be spent locally. That

assurance has not been there before."

Giant malls and big-box stores can afford to build new roads to their destination-shopping-experience, and the local government is usually happy to cooperate with tax incentives or infrastructure improvements in anticipation of future tax revenues.

As White put it, "Small shops in an old neighborhood have little hope of competing with large corporations to get their share of tax-dollar spending". Local governments often operate as a microcosm of the state and federal governments, he points out. The bigger your business, the more lobbyists and lawyers you can hire to persuade those in power to throw some tax-dollar benefits your way. A DDA is one way a small group of individuals can influence that process to steer some attention to their situation.

White notes that although a TIF authority can levy up to 2 mills in additional taxes, the group he coordinated lobbied successfully to get that provision removed. Other funding can be secured through private donations, grants, and real estate management such as parking garages.

Being a property owner in the district, White has had a mixed-use development on the back burner for some time because of difficulties with Township zoning and what

investors perceive as a deteriorating neighborhood. Years of petitions, studies and hearings have finally had an effect, with the Township recognizing the need for change and taking action to implement it.

"When I took my commercial and residential mixed-use project to the planning department five years ago they said it could not legally be built, even though there have been residents above commercial shops downtown for 150 years. Most of the zoning ordinances written since the 1950's focused on subdivisions. It took three years to get a new mixed-use ordinance written that allows this type of project, and the end result included 8 pages of restrictions and procedures. It's better than nothing though." The wheels of government turn slowly, and mercilessly it seems.

White expects his role as an activist for neighborhood improvement will translate into future votes in his next run for office. Name recognition has undoubtedly increased since his past campaigns as a candidate for county commissioner and state representative. He has also garnered some attention for his efforts as vice chair of the Meridian Township Economic Development Corporation. A member of the Free and Accepted Masons and a respected beermeister in a home-brew club, White



Will Tyler White

continued next page

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.	JimAllison	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 June 15, 2006.

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

Lights Of Liberty Awards Announced

By Andrew Wrenbeck

Lights of Liberty is an Advocates program to recognize and reward outstanding libertarian grassroots volunteer work -- and to stimulate much more such vital work. Now in its ninth year, the Lights of Liberty awards program has been endorsed and applauded by local, state and national libertarian leaders. Lights of Liberty winners are helping to change the face of politics in America. Beginning in 1998, they took libertarian ideas to literally millions of Americans -- and met many thousands of people face-to-face.

They're hoping this year will bring forth a record number of winners. And we hope you'll be one of them!

"The Liberty Bell is inscribed with the words 'Proclaim Liberty Throughout All The Land,' and it is in the spirit of this exhortation that I heartily endorse the Lights of Liberty awards! I urge every libertarian candidate, campaign worker, newsletter editor and activist to get the word out about these

Harry Browne from page 1

he drug war, he took the libertarian position and explained it in a way that allowed everyone who listened to see his point of view. He changed minds, and stuck to principle the whole time.

After 9-11, when others acted like a deer in headlights, Harry stuck his neck out and defended personal liberty against

awards -- and qualify, too! Let's use Lights of Liberty to spread the word about the Blessings of Liberty to all America. "I'm going for my second Lights of Liberty award this year. Join me!"

David F. Nolan

"I like the Advocates' 'Lights of Liberty' program. I especially like the attempt to motivate people to use the word 'libertarian' in letters to editors. I feel strongly that we have to build name recognition for the words 'libertarian' and 'libertarianism' -- by attaching the words publicly to specific proposals, analyses, and ideas. Your award incentive is an excellent way to further that goal."

Harry Browne

Unfortunately, the Lights Of Liberty Award was only given to one person in Michigan this year. Here's hoping that we can do a little more in this election year.



the surveillance state, less government, against the homeland-security initiatives of the Bush administration, and peace against the war on terror.

Harry Browne was cyclopean. He was talented, poetic, sincere, and principled. All lovers of liberty should be grateful for him, his life, his writings, and the changes he brought to the economical and political landscape.



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**You can not give
the government
the power to do
good without also
giving it the power
to do bad.
-Harry Browne**

I feel lucky to be the person chosen to write this article as he will always stand as a hero to me.

We will all miss you Mr. Browne.

Okemos DDA from page 2

says that living a Libertarian life is the best way to spread the message of freedom.

"All politics is local" said Tip O'Neil.

Will Tyler White agrees. Getting involved locally allows people to see Libertarians working for the betterment of the community. This has led to success at the polls in several City Council races in Michigan. "Where there's a Will, there's a way" is his campaign slogan - a philosophy the party of Liberty can surely embrace.

EVENTS CALENDAR



April 26, 2006 - 7:30 PM

Libertarian Party of Oakland County monthly meeting. Optional dinner at 6:30.

Location: Sila's Restaurant, 4033 W. 12 Mile.

Contact: Chris Watson

Phone: 586-214-8405

Email: chair@lpocmi.org

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.

Location: Cutting Board Restaurant, 28655

Contact: Jim Allison

Phone: 586-817-0395

May 11, 2006 - 06:00 AM

Monthly Meeting of Libertarian Party of Southwest Michigan Contact: Bill Bradley,

Secretary 269-637-4525 or wbradley@i2k.com

Location: IHOP, 1981 Pipestone Road

Contact: Bill Bradley, Secretary

Phone: 269-637-4525

Email: wbradley@i2k.com

May 13, 2006

LPM Annual Convention A Friday night, (5/12), welcome party will precede the Convention. Exact times will be announced as the details are finalized.

Location: Comfort Inn Chelsea, MI

Contact: Nathan Allen

Phone: (248)891-3003 Email:

Chair@lpmich.org

Drug Platform

By Scotty Boman

Coming into the LPM convention, I will have one platform plank at the top of my agenda: Drug legalization vs. plant legalization.

Those who are familiar with this debate may well ask, "Why not give it up; You already lost twice?" My concise answer: "I am a Libertarian." Even those who don't share our principles know we are the party of persistence.

If you did not know such a controversy existed, you may be wondering, "Doesn't our platform already support relegalizing drugs?" or even "Why would you want us to be pro-drug?" Veteran Libertarians are aware of the vast amount of literature by objectivists as well as small and large "L" libertarians supporting drug legalization as a matter of principle. They may have even read such language in old Michigan Party Platforms as well as the national Platform.

Update: The pertinent part of Section V part 1 now reads: "While not necessarily condoning such activities, we advocate the repeal of all laws criminalizing gambling, possession and sale of plant products, and sexual relations between consenting adults."

If you have picked up a copy of the Michigan Libertarian out of curiosity about this party, let me emphasize the "While not necessarily condoning such activities...c9" part. One core component of Libertarian Principles is the right for individual to have freedom of choice on decisions that effect themselves. This includes the possibility of making bad choices. The alternative is a government that has made all of the choices for us. Since the government is full of individuals who are from, and chosen by,

continued next page



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**Candidate
photos were
taken at the
State Leadership
Conference**



LEC April Meeting Minutes

LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF MICHIGAN
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING OF MARCH 26, 2006

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 1:00 pm at the LPM office in Lansing, the Secretary was absent, minutes were recorded by Newsletter Director Andrew Wrenbeck.

Members present were Chair Nathan Allen, Vice Chair Scotty Boman, Treasurer Will Tyler White, Political Director Leonard Schwartz and Newsletter Director Andrew Wrenbeck. Also present were LPM members from across the state as the Leadership Conference was being held in the LPM offices March 26.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

A Treasurer's Report was delivered by of Will White. No major changes in the treasury accounts since the last meeting. Will reported that he had already began to receive convention sign-ups.

Political Director Schwartz reported that the LPM is running very low on "Racial Preference" brochures.

It was moved by Leonard Schwartz that the LPM budget \$500.00 to purchase 10,000 more "Racial Preference" brochures. The motion was seconded by Scotty Bowman and discussed. It was approved unanimously.

It was moved by Leonard Schwartz that the LPM budget \$1000.00 to mail lapsed members reminders about re-joining the LPM. The motion was seconded by Scotty Bowman and discussed. It was approved unanimously.

Newsletter Director Andrew Wrenbeck reported that the LPM newsletter was mailed last week. The March-April Newsletter was niched towards candidates for the November elections and was handed out at the Leadership Conference.

Deadline for the next newsletter is April 15, 2006. The next newsletter issue is targeted to be in homes before convention. There was discussion of the monitoring of newsletters returned by the Postal Service.

It was recommended by Andrew Wrenbeck that the LPM offer a remembrance ceremony at the state convention and in the next newsletter acknowledging the recent death of Harry Browne, and that

the LPM should officially recognize the importance his involvement in the Libertarian movement. The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Andrew Wrenbeck, Newsletter Director.

Drug Platform from page 4

the population they govern, it stands to reason that they can make bad choices too, but if put into law, such bad choices are forced on everyone.

This is what is at the core of the Drug legalization position. When libertarians forget their core principles, the debate shifts from a discussion of right and wrong, to a recruiting tool at the Annual Ann Arbor Hash Bash. It isn't a matter of some drugs, such as Marijuana and "Plant Products" being more benign or popular (than say Nitrous-oxide, LSD or Psilocyben) it's a matter of respecting peoples choices regarding their own life.

Furthermore, our position can reach non-libertarians (in addition to hemp activists) once we point out the various adverse consequences that have resulted from prohibition. Concerns about the effect of drugs on crime, public health, social cost, children's safety and the economy. Are all excellent opportunities to link the most negative aspects of drugs with drug laws. This is a way to reach people who don't care about abstractions like freedom, rights, civil liberties, and choice.

How about simply adding "fungi, molds and minerals" to "plant products"? Well one problem with the current platform is that it is not only too narrow in regard to drugs, but it is also far to broad in other areas. "Plant products" includes a variety of hazardous substances that do not lend themselves to voluntary personal use.

There is no limit to the creativity of terrorists and weapon designers when it comes to designing chemical agents that can harm large numbers of people. Many such chemicals are "plant products." This would also be a problem with the blanket deregulation of anything, in some way, derived from fungi, molds and minerals.

I urge all Michigan Libertarians to attend the platform debates and vote to replace the phrase "plant products" with "drugs."

The Pain At The Pump

How to save 46¢ a Gallon

By Andrew Wrenbeck

As a typical Governor Granholm is blaming the oil business, and has actually begun a petition to force a cap on oil business profits, the cause of current high gas prices is right under her nose. Her office, along with federal government has completely and intentionally been quiet about the profits from gasoline sales they take a share of.

The federal gasoline tax alone is responsible for 18.4 cents of the price of every gallon of gasoline sold in the United States. When the federal gasoline tax was initially levied in 1932, it was labeled a "temporary" tax of one cent per gallon of gasoline. This tax, however, remained intact, and has increased over the decades.

"Before pointing guilty fingers at Corporate America, policymakers need to take a good introspective look at what role they have played in creating the current energy crisis that American consumers are experiencing," stated Michael Dixon, National Chair of the Libertarian Party.

The aggregation of local, state, and federal gas taxes are responsible for, on average, 45.9 cents of the final cost of every gallon of gasoline.

"In typical bureaucratic fashion, Members of Congress and current administration are looking for scapegoats to blame for America's problems," Dixon said. "If our lawmakers were truly concerned with the gas-price burden that is shouldered by American motorists, then they would stop placing the blame solely

local, state, and federal gas taxes are responsible for, on average, 45.9 cents of the final cost of every gallon of gasoline

on oil companies, and work to repeal the harmful gas taxes that we have in our country. The Libertarian Party remains committed to reducing the tax burden for all Americans, in order to foster the development of long-term growth and prosperity."

When debating high gas prices, remember who the real "crooks" are, and how simple a solution is.

How to Look Like an Important Candidate for Only \$20

by Leonard Schwartz

The vast majority of Libertarian Party of Michigan candidates have been nominal candidates, who spend virtually no time or money campaigning. Even nominal candidates help create the image that the Libertarian Party has many grassroots supporters.

But the growth of the Libertarian Party depends on its active candidates. We need to have more candidates running active campaigns or at least look like they are running active campaigns. For only \$20 and a little time, you can look like you are an important candidate. Here's how.

1. Website

To look like an important candidate, you need a website. You can get a website without spending any money.

(a) Your internet service provider may give customers a small free website. Those that offer free websites usually set it up as a folder, with an address like www.YourISP.com/YourSite.

(b) You can get a folder on the LPM website, with an address like www.MI.LP.org/YourSite.

(c) Some LPM affiliates plan to offer candidate websites as a folder or as a subdomain, with an address like www.YourSite.YourAffiliate.org. If you want your own domain, you can register one for less than \$10. If you don't mind an advertising banner on your website, some registrars, such as www.GoDaddy.com and www.1and1.com, will give you a free website.

2. Campaign Literature

To look like an important candidate, you need campaign literature. A tri-fold brochure is best. Use your home computer to print enough copies to send to newspapers in your district.

If you go to candidate forums, print additional copies of your brochure or, to save money, print some half-page flyers.

Use 12-point or larger type for everything on your literature, except perhaps for a contribution form. Your website address should be on both sides of your literature in large type.

I strongly recommend that you use 24-pound paper, rather than 20-pound paper. The main cost of literature is the ink, not the paper. By spending slightly more money, you get literature that looks much more professional. (LPM's brochures and my campaign brochure are printed on 28-pound paper.)

3. Photograph

A campaign photo, showing your head and shoulders on a plain background, is highly desirable. The photo should be on your website and your campaign literature. Also, many newspapers and online news sites want your photo.

A photographer will be at the LPM convention on May 13. She will take 4 photos for only \$10. Wear your candidate clothes. For men, that means a plain suit or blazer, a conservative tie, and a white or light blue or gray shirt.

4. Publicity

If you look like you are running an active campaign, newspapers will give you free coverage. It won't be nearly as much coverage as they give to the Democrats and Republicans. But it is free.

After your website is up, send press packets to newspapers in your district. Send them to editors and political reporters. Your press packet should include (a) your campaign brochure, (b) a news release, and (c) a cover letter. You might also want to include an essay written by you. You might want to send additional news releases and essays later.

Printed voter guides sponsored by the League of Women Voters and newspapers provide free publicity for candidates for many offices. Provide timely answers. Don't go over the word limits. Include your website address. In the past, the League of Women Voters deleted website addresses in candidate biographies. You can get around that problem by burying your website in an answer. For example, you could write, "As I explain in greater detail in [www.YourSite.com/page ...](http://www.YourSite.com/page...)"

If you miss the deadline, the voter guide will have a blank space after your name. Voters will think that you are lazy, don't care, or don't want voters to know. That is bad publicity.

Online voter guides sponsored by newspapers, radio stations, television stations, the Secretary of State, and civic organizations likewise provide free publicity for candidates for many offices.

You may receive questionnaires from organizations that rate or endorse candidates. Respond promptly if you think it will help your campaign. Don't respond if you think it will hurt your campaign.

Congress tries to keep smaller parties down

- Published in the March 2006 issue of LP News -

On Feb. 1, congressional Democrats led by Rep. David Obey of Wisconsin introduced a bill that, if approved, would end viable third-party competition in races for the U.S. House of Representatives.

The bill, H.R. 4694, ironically known as the "Let the People Decide Clean Campaign Act," would give public funds to candidates for the House and would forbid candidates from taking private funds such as contributions from individual donors.

The bill provides funds only for candidates of the two major parties and would essentially ruin the campaign efforts of independent candidates and those from the smaller parties.

For third-party candidates to be eligible for the same funds that Republicans and Democrats would receive, they would have to obtain petition signatures from a huge number of voters — a number equal to 20 percent of the votes cast in the prior election in their district.

Some candidates could collect that many signatures, assuming they could hire help.

However, under the proposed legislation, third-party and independent candidates would not be allowed to pay petitioners to collect signatures — meaning that all such candidates would be forced either to collect all of the signatures themselves or to raise enough volunteers to help with the job.

It's likely that many hopeful candidates would be unable to fund their campaigns under this legislation.

H.R. 4694 is yet another attempt by politicians in office to shut down Libertarian Party candidates and other competitive third-party and independent campaigns.

"The Republican and Democratic parties exist to maintain power for their own benefit," said Shane Cory, chief of staff for the national Libertarian Party.

H.R. 4694 is yet another attempt by politicians in office to shut down Libertarian Party candidates

"American voters are waking up to this reality, and as they do, the two parties are trying everything within their power to shut us down."

Wasted Vote Problem

by Leonard Schwartz

The biggest problem Libertarians currently face is not convincing people to support libertarianism. Rather, it is convincing libertarians to vote Libertarian.

At the Libertarian Party of Michigan election night party in 2000, one member told me that he hated Al Gore so much that he didn't vote for Harry Browne, the Libertarian candidate for president. Another member told me that he hated the incumbent Republican US senator so much that he didn't vote for Mike Corliss, the Libertarian candidate for US senator. Both members gave the same explanation -- they didn't want to waste their vote. Even dues-paying members sometimes don't vote Libertarian.

Surveys indicate that about 20 percent of the public already support libertarian positions on government policies. But Libertarian candidates rarely get more than four percent of the vote in races in which the Democrats and Republicans both have candidates. Most get less than two percent.

Whenever I told people that I'm a Libertarian Party activist, positive responses greatly outnumbered negative ones. Many people described themselves as libertarians.

But when I asked them whether they voted Libertarian, the response was either "Never" or "Occasionally for some minor offices." When I asked them why they don't vote Libertarian, the typical response was, "Libertarians have no chance of being elected. Therefore voting Libertarian is a waste of my vote. Voting for the lesser of two evils is more expedient."

To defeat the wasted vote problem I formerly tried a utilitarian argument, such as, "Libertarians don't have to win elections to affect government policy. Once Libertarians start getting 5 or 10 percent of the vote, the Democrats and Republicans will start adopting more libertarian policies." But the response usually was, "When Libertarians start getting 5 or 10 percent of the vote, then I might vote Libertarian."

I now understand that utilitarian reasons alone won't motivate people to vote Libertarian. 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."

Indeed, libertarians who don't vote Libertarian give a cost-benefit explanation -- voting for the lesser of two evils is more expedient.

People often ask Libertarian

activists, "Who do you consider the lesser of the two evils." I maintain that the only good response is, "If the only candidates on the ballot were Democrats and Republicans, I wouldn't waste my time voting." If you say anything that indicates who is your second choice, people will consider that an endorsement. And they will vote for the lesser of the two evils.

I have made the wasted vote issue the most important issue in my campaign for US senator. The only issue that I discuss on the homepage of my website, www.LeonardSchwartz.us, is the wasted vote issue. It also is the only issue I discuss on the outside back panel of my campaign brochure.

Likewise, the outside back panel of the three new Libertarian Party of Michigan outreach brochures is devoted to the wasted vote issue.

There still are many people who know little or nothing about the Libertarian Party. Therefore, the message also briefly explains that the main difference between the Libertarian Party and other parties is that Libertarians are not busybodies. This explanation is easy to understand and is intended to inspire passion against Democrats and Republicans.

Our target audience is not Democratic or Republican loyalists. Our target audience is (1) libertarians; (2) independent voters; (3) people who vote straight Democratic or Republican merely because they consider that party the lesser of two evils; and (4) people who are fed up with the Democrats and Republicans, but who rarely vote.

Motivating people to vote Libertarian doesn't require that we first convince them to support libertarianism. That is especially true for people who are fed up with the Democrats and Republicans. To motivate people to vote Libertarian, we need to arouse their emotions, not just their intellect. We need to inspire a passion that voting for Democrats or Republicans is a waste of their votes.

Here is the wasted vote message on the LPM brochures:

Don't Waste Your Vote on Democrats or Republicans
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.

When you vote, you send a message.

By voting Libertarian you clearly say that you want government busybodies off your back.

If you vote for Democrats or Republicans, you tell them that you like what they do and please do more of the same. If you don't like what they do, why vote for them? If you vote for Democrats or Republicans because you consider them the lesser of two evils, you vote for evil. Why would any decent person vote for evil? Vote for what you know is right rather than what merely seems expedient.

Convention from page 1

"Legislative Mischief in Store for Business Owners." There will be a social time (cash bar) at 5:00 p.m. followed by a banquet at 6:30 p.m. Featured speaker will be LP of Indiana State Chair, Libertarian National Committeeman, and attorney Mark Rutherford, who will speak about the LP's Small Business Initiative.

Cost is \$25 for the Friday pool party, \$15 registration for Saturday meetings (\$10 by 4/25) and the Small Business Session, \$30 for lunch (\$20 by 4/25), \$50 for the banquet (\$40 by 4/25). Registration by 5/5/06 is encouraged. Registration and more information at www.mi.lp.org or call James Hudler, 734-475-9792.

Conference from page 1

The media is giving free press to them, while not offering an opposing point of view. Libertarians can stand up and tell the quiet majority: "Here I am. I oppose discrimination and support MCRI. I am a Libertarian."

One thing is missing. A solid slate of candidates. If we are to be credible, we should give the people who agree with us to vote straight ticket Libertarian. If you do one thing this year for the LPMI, I hope you come to the convention, reaffirm your membership, and seek political office.



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

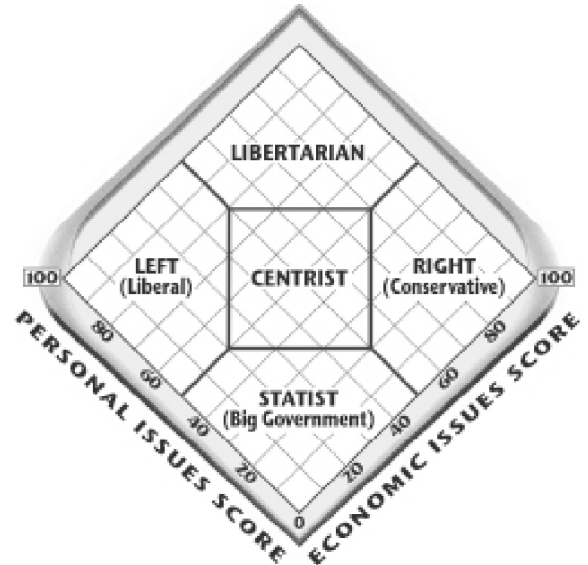
SCORING: 20 for every A, 10 for every M and 0 for every D: _____

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
(Payable to the Libertarian Party Of Michigan)
Mail To:

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PO Box 27065, Lansing, MI 48909-7065
Political contributions are not tax deductible.

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