



Michigan Libertarian

Volume 36 Issue 4

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Libertarians in Local Races

by Greg Stempfle

It's crunch time for our libertarian council hopefuls. With just weeks before Election Day,



Council Candidates Mark Owen, Andy LeCureaux, and Dave Nagy

candidates are ringing doorbells, putting up yard signs, and participating in forums.

In Owosso, Mark Owen, currently Mayor Pro-Tem, is the only previously elected incumbent running

and one of 7 candidates seeking 4 positions. In the last year, Owen eliminated a fee for collecting city property taxes. He was able to save taxpayer dollars by pushing for a reduction in

keep taxes down and reduce costs within the city.

In Hazel Park, Andy LeCureaux is one of 4 incumbents and 5 candidates total seeking

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Michigan Constitution ARTICLE I, SECTION 5

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Libertarian Party of Michigan
PO Box 27065
Lansing, MI 48909-7065
<http://www.mi.lp.org>

Taxpayer Anger - Good for LPM

by Bill Hall

On October 1, Governor Granholm and our bipartisan legislature gave a huge boost to the Libertarian Party of Michigan. Since then, I've received many emails and calls from angry Michiganders who are disgusted with their triple-whammy of tax increases (Michigan business tax, 12% income tax increase, new 6% sales tax on services). These people, quite rightly,

blame both Republicans and Democrats for the tax increase, and are looking for a way to fight back.

As I told WOOD News Radio in an interview just after the recent middle-of-the night tax increases, thousands of our fellow citizens are losing their jobs, thousands are losing their homes and thousands are leaving the State. Raising their taxes will only hurt them, and us all more. Michigan is one of the last states in the US

to make the painful transition from a manufacturing to a service economy. Shifting the Michigan business tax much more heavily to services, and burdening services with a sales tax, will only make that transition even more painful, and more likely to fail, resulting in more lost jobs, more lost homes, and more people leaving Michigan.

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LPM Officers and Directors

Chair	Bill Hall	whall@wnj.com
Vice Chair	Erin Stahl	vicechair.lec@earthlink.net
Secretary	Emily Salvette	salvette@umich.edu
Treasurer	Nicole Michalak	lpmtreasurer@gmail.com
At-Large Director	Jim Allison	marthos1776@comcast.net
At-Large Director	Tom Bagwell	lpwcchari@yahoo.com
At-Large Director	Eric Larson	lpmlarson@comcast.net
At-Large Director	Greg Stempfle	stempfle@hotmail.com
At-Large Director	Will Tyler White	whitewi5@msu.edu
Judicial Committee	Scotty Boman	scottyeducation@yahoo.com
Judicial Committee	Jerry Bloom	jerryliberty@hotmail.com
Judicial Committee	Leonard Schwartz	leonard@leonardschwartz.us
Newsletter	Greg Stempfle	stempfle@hotmail.com
Database	Ben Bachrach	BenBachrach@gmail.com
Membership	Tom Bagwell	lpwcchari@yahoo.com
Affiliates	Erin Stahl	vicechair.lec@earthlink.net
Speakers Bureau	Jim Allison	marthos1776@comcast.net
Political Director	Leonard Schwartz	leonard@leonardschwartz.us
Campaigns	Eric Larson	lpmlarson@comcast.net

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Visit: <http://www.mi.lp.org/Newsletters> for more information.

Taxpayer Anger

(cont. from p.1)

This tax increase issue will energize the libertarian and freedom movements in Michigan. In the very near term, I expect many libertarian activists to become involved in recall campaigns against those Republican and Democrat legislators in marginal districts who sold out to special interests and voted for these tax increases. The Libertarian Party of Michigan will publicize these efforts through its website, print newsletter and electronic newsletter. You can check www.mi.lp.org for details. Follow the links for our local affiliate in your part of the State, and contact them and get involved. I recommend that you also visit the website of the Michigan Taxpayers Alliance, www.mitaxpayers.org, a nonprofit social action organization led by libertarian Republican Leon Drolet that has taken the lead educating activists on the legalities of recall petitions and efforts. Because of the technicalities of State campaign finance and election laws, libertarian activists are using a variety of different organizations and committees to pursue these efforts.

In the near to medium term, I anticipate that the groundswell of opposition to these tax increases will sharpen libertarian efforts across the state to oppose and defeat new and increased millage requests by local governments. For example, in May the libertarian activists operating through Kent County Families for Fiscal Responsibility unsuccessfully opposed an increased Grand Rapids Area Transit millage, but in August successfully defeated a Grand Rapids Community College millage increase. I'm optimistic that our future efforts will meet with even more success.

And next year is an election year. The Libertarian Party of Michigan is embarking on an ambitious plan to recruit, train and support at least 100 candidates for office in 2008. Unlike their Republican and Democrat opponents, every last one of those Libertarian candidates will be irrevocably committed to the libertarian policy of deep tax and spending cuts. Given the bipartisan nature of this year's tax increases, I anticipate that Libertarian candidates will have the potential for a big impact on the 2008 elections in Michigan.

Libertarians Attend GOP Mackinac Conference

by **Scotty Boman**

At the Mackinac Island Republican Leadership Conference, Congressman Ron Paul placed third (slightly defeating Rudolf Guliani) in the GOP straw poll, clearly positioning him as a first tier candidate. Though he is running as a Republican, Ron Paul was the Libertarian candidate for president in 1988, and has not changed his views much since then. In a Gun Owners of America Poll (also at Mackinac Island) Ron Paul received 75% of the vote.

A number of Libertarians attended the conference. While this may seem paradoxical, the fact is that I have encountered at least 100 Ron Paul supporters who identify themselves as "Libertarian" even though I have not seen them attend LPM functions. Apparently it took a man like Ron Paul to get them motivated. Furthermore the "L-word" was spoken at the Conference. MCRI endorser and co-architect, Ward Connerly described himself as a "libertarian Republican" in a presentation he gave along with MCRI director, Jennifer Gratz.

Paul has made no attempt to

distance himself from his Libertarian roots. Apparently this was just fine with many of the Republicans in New Jersey. Ron Paul won the New Jersey straw poll by a landslide. He was favored by 77% of the participants. He was introduced by 1997 New Jersey Libertarian Gubernatorial candidate, Murray Sabrin.



Former LPM Chair Scotty Boman Meets Ward Connerly on Mackinac Island

Needless to say, the dominant media culture has gone out of their way to avoid conceding Paul's successes. They emphasize any polls that show Ron Paul as hopeless, and ignore any evidence that shows the opposite. The former results have been in Polls that rely on the use of land-lines. Meanwhile, mainstream America is far more likely to use cell phones and the

Internet. The proof of the pudding will be in the primaries. Many news outlets may find themselves in the same boat as the Chicago Daily Tribune (in 1948) when it published the infamous headline: DEWEY DEFEATS TRUMAN.

Council Candidates

(cont. from p.1)

four available seats. LeCureaux who is also chair of the Southeastern Oakland County Resource Recovery Authority is seeking his fourth term in office. LeCureaux has run for Congress as a Libertarian even while a sitting councilman.



In Garden City, Dave Nagy, who missed by a narrow 13 votes in 2005, will make another attempt at his city council. Dave has been a long time party activist and has frequently been a candidate for office. Nagy served as the state party treasurer for several years in the 1990s.

All of these candidates are seeking poll workers for Election Day. Contact information is on page 5 of this newsletter.

Help Save the LPM Money, Receive this Newsletter in Your Email

From the Editor

The single biggest expense the LPM faces is the printing and mailing of the Michigan Libertarian. Now that email is replacing snail mail as the primary way of receiving information, I am launching an effort to reduce costs by making the newsletter available as a pdf attachment for those interested. Not only will it save us money, it will be less money going to the post office!

Please drop an email to MichiganLibertarian@gmail.com if you would rather get your newsletter via email.

Thanks to the over 80 members who have chosen this option!

Affiliate Events and News

Lansing Equal Parenting Rally by Bill Hall

On Wednesday, September 26, I was privileged to address the members and supporters of several family rights groups on the subject of Equal Parenting from the East steps of the State Capitol in Lansing. I received a warm welcome from the leaders of many groups, including Parent: A Child's Right (headed by our own Darrick Scott-Farnsworth, Executive Director), Moms and Dads of Michigan and the Michigan Family Rights Coalition, and was interviewed by a TV 10 reporter.

The Michigan child custody system currently awards primary physical custody to one parent in almost of 90% of cases. In large part, this is because that result garners large Federal subsidies for Michigan's bloated "Friend of Court" child support bureaucracy, consisting of more than 2,000 state employees. In my speech, I decried the inaction of Republicans and Democrats on HB4564, the "Equal Parenting" bill, which would create a rebuttable presumption that both divorcing parents retain not only legal, but also substantially equal physical, custody of their kids. Incidentally, enactment of that bill would dramatically reduce the Federal subsidies received, the size and power of the "Friend of Court," and the state budget.

I characterized the fight for Equal Parenting rights as an issue implicating the libertarian themes of freedom, responsibility and justice. I told the crowd "When the general election comes around next year, look for the Libertarian Party candidates on your ballot. Vote for all of them. Because I can assure you, they are the only ones you can be sure truly share your values. And putting Libertarians in this building is the only way we will ever actually get the reforms our State so desperately needs."

National Platform Committee Delegate Chosen

At the October 7th meeting, the LEC named Dan Grow, the Chair of the Libertarian Party of Southwest Michigan, as Michigan's delegate to the Platform Committee at the 2008 Libertarian Party National Convention. Dan is an attorney from St. Joseph, Michigan, and has volunteered to attend the State Chairs' conference in Las Vegas in February and the National Convention in Denver next May, in order to discharge his duties as Michigan's delegate. The Platform Committee will have much work to do, as many Platform planks were deleted at the last national convention, and thus a substantial re-write of the Platform may now occur.

Aaron Russo 1943-2007

Libertarians across the United States mourn the passing of producer and longtime Libertarian party activist Aaron Russo. Mr. Russo succumbed on August 24 after a long battle with cancer. He was 64.



Producer of several documentaries, recordings and Academy Award nominated films including "The Rose" starring Bette Midler, Mr. Russo is also credited with bringing Led Zeppelin to the United States in 1968.

"Mr. Russo was an enthusiastic supporter of liberty and a great Libertarian," said Libertarian Presidential candidate George Phillies. "It was my great privilege to work with his 2004 Presidential campaign as his national volunteer mobilizer. His wonderful energy and enthusiasm inspired and encouraged so many loyal Libertarians, fine people who worked vigorously for his nomination."

After the 2004 nominating convention, Russo put his considerable talents as a producer to work to promote awareness of the Libertarian party and Michael Badnarik. The television commercials he produced brought the Badnarik 2004 campaign to millions of Americans from Maine to Hawaii.

http://phillies2008.org/in_memoriam_aaron_russo

New Webmaster on Board

Former LPM Chair Brian Wright has signed on to serve as the LPM's Webmaster. He will coordinate the work of volunteers in upgrading and posting relevant, interesting content on the LPM website. In addition, he will work with Affiliates and activists to get the most out of the LPM's website. You can reach Brian at brian_r_wright@yahoo.com

Media Coordinator Named

West Michigan activist Mark Norrod has been appointed the Media Coordinator for the LPM. He will maintain the LPM's media list, and prepare and send regular news releases to the media. Mark welcomes suggestions for newsworthy items from LPM activists. He can be reached at norrod@yahoo.com

Affiliate Events and News

Upcoming Events

November 6, 2007 General Election

There are several Libertarians running for office in Michigan

Andy LeCureaux
Hazel Park City Council
alecureaux@yahoo.com

Dave Nagy
Garden City City Council
lpmnagy@juno.com

Mark Owen
Owosso City Council
mark_owen@charter.net

November 21, 2007

Deadline for submitting signatures for the Michigan Coalition for Compassionate Care.

December 2, 2007

Meeting of the Libertarian Executive Committee (LEC)
Teleconference meeting, 2pm.

Any member of the party wishing to attend the teleconference can listen in at either the office of Bill Hall in Grand Rapids or the LPM office in Lansing (contact Will White).

January 15, 2008

Democrat and Republican Presidential Primaries

May 22-26, 2008

National Libertarian Convention, Denver

Affiliate Contacts

Capital Area	Bob Broda	bob-broda@comcast.net
Kalamazoo	David Yardley	KalamazooValleyLP@gmail.com
Macomb Co.	Dan Flamand	djflamand@netzero.net
Oakland Co.	Adam Goodman	Goodman582@hotmail.com
St. Clair Co.	Mark Byrne	iwantska@hotmail.com
SW Michigan	Bill Bradley	secretary@lpswm.org
Tri-Cities	Clint Foster	Chair@TriCityLibertarianParty.org
Washtenaw Co.	Thomas Bagwell	lpwccchair@yahoo.com
Wayne County	Loel Gnadt	cynicalbob@wowway.com
West Michigan	Ken Howe	chair@lpwm.org

Saint Clair Shores

by Erin Stahl, Saint Clair Shores Mayor Pro-Tem

The Libertarians of Macomb County are supporting COUNT (Citizens Opposing Unfair Needless Taxes). It is a ballot issue committee that will be used within Macomb County to oppose all ballot initiatives that will potentially raise our taxes. COUNT's mantra or battle cry is-Make Your Vote COUNT!

The first project the COUNT team is taking on is opposing the Millage Renewal in St. Clair Shores. The proposal is like all millages in the surrounding cities, government does not want to curb their spending so they come up with scary and convincing schemes to have voters pass these proposals.

Detroit



Wayne County Libertarians Greg Creswell (past candidate for Governor), Scotty Boman (past candidate for Lt. Governor), and Greg Stempfle (past campaign manager) operate an outreach booth at Dally in the Alley, an annual street fair near the campus of Wayne State University.

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2008 Presidential Campaign

by Greg Stempfle

While much of the buzz in libertarian circles centers on Ron Paul and his run for the GOP nomination, the campaign for the Libertarian nomination is already underway. Many have asked if Dr. Paul will seek the LP nomination if he does not win the Republican nomination, as he did in 1988, to which he stated he will not. If he does, under Texas law, he would not be eligible to seek re-election to Congress as a Republican.

The Libertarian Party will hold its National Convention in Denver from May 22-26, 2008, during which the Presidential and Vice-Presidential candidates will be chosen. It's worth noting that because most states have pushed their presidential primaries to January or February, the major party candidates will already be known at this time.

The California LP has asked the California Secretary of State to list the following 12 candidates in the party's presidential primary. I have included them all here with a focus on those regarded as more serious candidates.

George Phillies is a Libertarian Party activist and professor of physics at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. Phillies was the Libertarian Party candidate for Massachusetts' Third Congressional District in 1998. Phillies edits Let Freedom Ring! and the Libertarian Strategy Gazette, two newsletters distributed to Libertarians across the United States. He is the chair of the Worcester County Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts.



Party activist and professor of physics at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. Phillies was the Libertarian Party candidate for Massachusetts' Third Congressional District in 1998. Phillies edits Let Freedom Ring! and the Libertarian Strategy Gazette, two newsletters distributed to Libertarians across the United States. He is the chair of the Worcester County Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts.

Steven Kubby is a Libertarian Party activist who played a key role in the drafting and passage of California Proposition 215. The proposition was a ballot initiative to legalize medical marijuana which was approved by voters in 1996. Kubby himself is well-known as a cancer patient who relies on medical cannabis. He has authored two books on drug policy reform. He was the Libertarian Party candidate for Governor of California in 1998.



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Wayne Allyn Root is a business mogul, television celebrity, TV producer, best-selling author, professional sports handicapper, based in Las Vegas, Nevada. Although a longtime staunch Republican who has been a big contributor to Republican candidates throughout the country, Root has often been described as a Libertarian Republican.



longtime staunch Republican who has been a big contributor to Republican candidates throughout the country, Root has often been described as a Libertarian Republican.

Christine Smith, from Golden, Colorado, is a writer, author, speaker, political activist and humanitarian. She has written numerous articles for state, national and international publications (newspapers, magazines, online publications). She has appeared as a guest on numerous national & international radio shows due to her writing.



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Bob Jackson, Businessman from Michigan, attended the LPM Convention.



Alden Link, Manufacturing executive, and Army veteran from New York, attended the LPM convention.

Barry Hess, investor from Arizona who has run twice for Governor of Arizona.

Dave Hollist, Database manager from California.

John Finan from New York

The following candidates are also seeking the nomination of the Green Party



Daniel Imperato, Businessman from Florida, attended the LPM convention.



Michael Jingoian, Software company founder from Oregon.

Robert Milnes, Progressive activist from New Jersey.

Withdrawn Candidates

Doug Stanhope comedian, had publicly announced his intentions to run, in Early to Mid 2007, for the Libertarian Party Nomination, but withdrew due to FEC regulations.

Candidates Needed for 2008

Being a political party entails several things. To grow the party's base of support; to influence public policy; but the most fundamental function we perform is to run candidates for public office and offer support to these candidates.

At the October meeting of the LEC, the LPM set its goals for the 2008 election. The first goal is to run 100 candidates for public office. As a secondary goal, we hope to give every Michigan voter to opportunity to vote for at least 11 Libertarians on the ballot (President, US Senate, State Board of Education (2), UM Board of Regents (2), MSU Board of Trustees (2), Wayne State Board of Governors (2), and US Representative). Also on the ballot will be all 110 State Representatives and all county commissioners. Now that our bylaws have changed to require us to hold our nominating convention after the major party filing deadline, we can better recruit Libertarian candidates in unopposed races where only one major party candidate is signed up. By achieving these goals, we will clearly establish the Libertarian Party as Michigan's third choice.

To this end, the LPM is planning on holding a couple of candidate training workshops next year, the first one tentatively scheduled for March. The purpose of these will be to inform candidates about campaign basics (surveys, contacting the media, canvassing, debating, fundraising and reporting, etc.) before they get embroiled in a campaign. Running for office can seem daunting at first, even for a paper candidacy, but in the end most find it to be a fun and enlightening experience. Another role of the state party will be working with the media to promote the candidates and the party. The LPM also plans to provide subdomain hosting for all candidates to easily create and manage a website.

Please consider running for office in 2008. More information will be made available in the coming months as the LPM steps up its effort to recruit and support its candidates.

Advertising Space Available

Advertising Rates: Full Pg \$100, Half Pg \$50, Quarter Pg \$25. 25% discount for LPM Candidates, 50% discount for LPM Affiliates.

Libertarians Support Medical Marijuana Initiative

"Given the problems with the State budget, Michigan has better things to do than waste money arresting sick people that use natural products for relief" said Bill Hall, chair of the Libertarian Party of Michigan. The annual cost to taxpayers nationwide is estimated at \$41.8 billion in lost tax revenue and enforcement of marijuana laws.¹

In 1972, President Nixon's National Commission on Marihuana and Drug Abuse concluded that "marihuana use is not such a grave problem that individuals who smoke marihuana, or possess it for that purpose, should be subject to criminal procedures." In the 35 years since, eleven states have passed medical marijuana laws, most by public initiative. A recent Texas A & M study of such states showed "introduction of medical cannabis laws was not associated with an increase in cannabis use."² Other studies have shown "smoked marijuana ... has a clear medical benefit".³

Given the common sense of cost savings and harm reduction, the next logical step is to regulate marijuana similar to alcohol and tobacco. With legislatures gridlocked in partisan bickering though, citizens have increasingly resorted to ballot initiatives to enact changes in the harmful, nonsensical laws governing use of the cannabis plant.

Representatives in Lansing, who have neglected to even bring up the subject, seem badly out of step with the State's population, which in a 2003 poll supported the medical use of marijuana by 59%. Since 2004, voters in five Michigan cities have passed medical marijuana initiatives by an average of 64% (Ann Arbor, Detroit, Flint, Ferndale, and Traverse City).

For those reasons, the Libertarian Party of Michigan strongly supports the medical marijuana initiative as a practical step in reclaiming the right of individuals to use their choice of medicine while under their doctor's supervision.

For more info, please contact Michigan Coalition for
Compassionate Care at
StopArrestingPatients.org

¹"Lost Taxes and Other Costs of Marijuana Laws,"
Jon B. Gettman, www.drugscience.org/bcr/index.html

² Texas A&M Health Science Center, Department of
Epidemiology and Biostatistics, statistical data
published in the International Journal of Drug Policy

³ Columbia University in New York clinical trial data to
be published in the Journal of Acquired Immune
Deficiency Syndromes (JAIDS).



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