



Michigan Libertarian

Volume 36, Issue 3

September / October 2007

What Does the Ron Paul Campaign Mean For Us?

by Bill Hall

Congressman Ron Paul of Texas is giving us in the Libertarian Party a valuable gift. Valuable publicity. Valuable lessons. And a valuable opportunity.

Unlike 1988, he's running for the Republican presidential nomination. So his campaign, which even he admits is very unlikely to garner him the Republican nomination, does not directly benefit the LP. Yet so far, I've been absolutely delighted with what his campaign is doing for our

party, and what it promises to do.

He is gaining valuable publicity for the Libertarian message of individual freedom and personal responsibility. And for the idea that a candidate should actually have some principles, and consistently stick to them. So far, he's received unprecedented (for a Libertarian) coverage of his views on national television, the Internet and other media outlets.

Sure, there are some issues where you and I

might disagree with him. However, in the coverage I've seen, his responses have been at least 85% Libertarian. In my experience, I've seen many candidates running as the Libertarian Party nominee, who haven't met that standard. His positions and integrity have struck a chord with many Americans. His campaign promises to continue to gain momentum over the next several months.

Ron Paul's campaign is teaching us in the LP
(cont. on p.2)

Minor Parties form Third Party Coalition

Page 3

Libertarians Run for City Councils Across Michigan

Page 5

Legislative Watch

Page 6

Michigan Constitution ARTICLE I, SECTION 5

Every person may freely speak, write, express and publish his views on all subjects, being responsible for the abuse of such right; and no law shall be enacted to restrain or abridge the liberty of speech or of the press.

Libertarian Party of Michigan

PO Box 27065

Lansing, MI 48909-7065

<http://www.mi.lp.org>

LEC Votes to Unify Membership

by Greg Stempfle

Once upon a time, when you joined the national Libertarian Party you automatically became a member of the Libertarian Party of Michigan, and vice versa. Of the \$35 one spent on membership dues, \$25 went to National and \$10 to the LPM. This "Unified Membership Plan", known as "UMP", worked well enough and made keeping separate national and state party lists obsolete. It avoided the confusion caused by requiring members to separately join both the national LP and the LPM.

However, UMP was discontinued in 2005. Now all state parties, including Michigan, find themselves in a predicament. Roughly half of all LP members are members of either the state or national LP, but not both. State membership has declined since this happened, but not the total (State and National) number of LP members in Michigan. State parties have not had to collect state memberships in over a decade and most members are used to paying for one set of unified dues and not two separate dues. Some national LP members have not been

renewing their LPM memberships and thus are not receiving all LPM mailings.

It is essential for all of our LP activities to be able to maintain a database of as many active and interested supporters as possible. Having half of our LP members out of the picture hampers this significantly.

To address this problem, the LEC voted, effective August 1, to recognize "sustaining members" of the national LP as also being members of the

(cont. on p.4)

Volume 36, Issue 3

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	Eric Larson	lpmlarson@comcast.net
Affiliates	Erin Stahl	vicechair.lec@earthlink.net
Speakers Bureau	Jim Allison	marthos1776@comcast.net
Political Director	Leonard Schwartz	leonard@leonardschwartz.us

Subscribe to **LPM Online**
the weekly email newsletter of the LPM.

Sign up at:
<http://www.mi.lp.org/lpmonline/subscribe.php>

Newsletter Information

The *Michigan Libertarian* is published bimonthly as the official newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Michigan
Phone: (888) FREE-NOW

Submissions: Please email articles and advertising to
MichiganLibertarian@Gmail.org

or mail payment to:
Libertarian Party of Michigan
Newsletter Advertising
PO Box 27065
Lansing, MI 48909-7065

Deadline: The next deadline for submission of articles and advertising is October 5, 2007.

Advertising Rates: Full Pg \$100, Half Pg \$50, Quarter Pg \$25.
25% discount for LPM Candidates, 50% discount for LPM Affiliates. No personal ads.

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

Ron Paul Campaign

(cont. from p.1)

valuable lessons in how to run a campaign. How to leverage the inexpensive tools of the Internet – blogs, websites, social networking sites, list serves, meet-up sites and video sites such as YouTube, to excite and mobilize activists and voters. How volunteer grass roots activists can exploit those same tools of the Internet to sidestep the campaign finance laws that restrict the freedom of speech of our campaigns and political parties. How to raise funds through direct mail and the Internet and efficiently and cheaply run a campaign.

And Ron Paul's campaign offers us a valuable opportunity for expanding the Libertarian Party. He is drawing out thousands of activists with his Libertarian message. Apathetic non-voters who despaired of ever again having a meaningful choice when voting. Burned-out Libertarians re-energized by his campaign. Republicans who have concluded that all the other Republican candidates for President are RINOs, "Republicans in Name Only", who have abandoned the small government principles of Robert Taft and Barry Goldwater. Democrats disgusted with their party's support for the Iraq War and stripping us of our civil liberties to "maintain security." Independent voters disillusioned with the corruption of many career politicians.

Next year, when Ron Paul almost certainly fails in his bid for the Republican nomination, those rebels who have joined the Ron Paul Revolution will find themselves politically homeless. And we will be there to welcome them home to the Libertarian Party.

Now is the time for each of us – Libertarian Party candidates, local affiliates and activists, to plan for that occurrence. To make contacts and build ties, and respect, with Ron Paul's supporters. To put together the infrastructure necessary to garner their interest and participation in our party. So we can convince them that Ron Paul's campaign can live on through the work of the Libertarian Party. Working together, we can seize this wonderful opportunity, and grow the Libertarian Party.

Contact information for the Ron Paul Campaign in Michigan

The Michigan Coordinator for the Ron Paul 2008 Presidential Campaign is a gentleman named Paul Garfield who can be reached at RonPaulMi@gmail.com or (877) RON-PAUL. The group is currently organizing activities such as lit drops and media appearances. Please visit michigan4ronpaul.com for the latest information.

Five of Michigan's Third Parties Form Coalition

by Scotty Boman

LANSING, MI – Five of Michigan's political parties have joined together to establish the Michigan Third Parties Coalition (MTPC). In July, representatives of the Green, US Taxpayers, Reform, Socialist, and Libertarian Parties met at Finley's American Grill, and united to challenge election laws that unfairly favor Democrats and Republicans. Spanning the political spectrum, the Michigan Third Parties Coalition formed to advocate equal rights in Michigan elections for all Political Parties.

The MTPC contends that the present "two-party" system is not simply a product of voter's choices or ideals. Rather, members say, it is an institutional arrangement maintained by major parties and special interests to prevent competition. "Unless you are a Republican or a Democrat, Michigan's elections are neither free, nor fair. Michigan's other political parties hope to change that, by working together to make it easier for all Michigan voters to vote for the candidate they choose" said Libertarian Party of Michigan Chair Bill Hall.

Michigan third party candidates say they face a media blackout. "This lie of omission is perpetrated through circular logic: We're shut out of the debates, nominally because of low polling numbers, then shut out of the polls because we weren't in the debates, then shut out of the next debate because of low poll numbers . . . It's difficult enough for voters to make intelligent decisions when you hear from all sides, let alone only two. Michigan's citizens deserve better..." said Douglas Campbell of the

Green Party, who was arrested, beaten and jailed for attempting to participate in a candidates' debate. Socialist Party of Michigan Chair Matt Erard further argued that, "Living in a democratic society means that voters have a right to make informed decisions. Voters are robbed of that right when third parties are excluded from the coverage and opportunities necessary to equally present their views to the voting public."



Jon Ettinger of the Reform Party said, "Of all of the obstacles to third parties achieving fair and equal access in the Michigan electoral system the greatest are the present state election laws which prevent many third party candidates from getting the opportunity to participate in Michigan's electoral process, at all."

Gerald Van Sickle of the US Taxpayers Party points out that, "Under the present Michigan election law, it is impossible for a new party to nominate any candidates for the ballot without spending tens of thousands of dollars on a statewide ballot access drive; an often impossible task without the corporate financial backing (which the two major parties receive as 'access contributions.')" In each election, third parties with ballot access, face the prospect of losing their ballot access. Furthermore, the present voting system,

which depends on primaries, compels people to vote for one of the major party candidates rather than their first choice, or else "waste" their vote.

While the member parties have diverse, and divergent, political perspectives, they have agreed on these core objectives:

Amending Michigan's ballot access laws to give all state parties a chance to have their candidates listed on the ballot.

Allowing candidates affiliated with non-ballot qualified third parties to list a party label on the ballot once they've qualified to appear on the ballot as independents. Michigan is among a minority of states that does not allow this.

Establishing Instant Run-Off Voting (IRV) in Michigan elections. IRV is a system that would allow voters to rank their preferences and drop the least popular candidates until one candidate has a majority. In addition to being a far more democratic system of voting than the "winner-take-all" system currently in place, IRV could replace primaries, and would eliminate the spoiler effect of voting for third party candidates.

Coverage of all candidates by the media. We jointly advocate the importance of including third party candidates in the media and raising the issue to the media and general public whenever third party candidates are systematically ignored in election coverage and fighting the exclusion of third party candidates from debates.

Furthermore, the MTPC developed a website and are organizing a series of events and campaigns. visit: www.michiganthirdpartiescoalition.org

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 70 members who have chosen this option!

Affiliate Events and News

Council Farewell

Reprinted from "Inside St. Clair Shores" May 2007

by Erin Stahl, Mayor Pro-Tem and LPM Vice-Chair

"All truth passes through three stages.

First, it is ridiculed.

Second, it is violently opposed.

Third, it is accepted as being self-evident."

—Arthur Schopenhauer, German philosopher

My comments exposing the truth at our council meetings have definitely set things in motion—bringing us into the third stage. It is now time for me to move on and not run for re-election. In my 3½ years on council I have had the honor and privilege of meeting so many amazing, courageous, and passionate residents.

Unfortunately, I also learned how government REALLY works; fear, secrecy, power, political manipulation, decisions not based on facts nor economic common sense, pet projects, and just wasteful financial decisions that will put our children in financial jeopardy for years to come. Government also fails at protecting our **freedoms and rights** by adding new costly and unnecessary regulations.

Not running has been a difficult decision. Difficult even with the intimidation by union members, political leaders trying to tell me how to vote, threats about being thrown out of office, proposed censuring for speaking the truth, invasion of my household property rights, my family being targeted by city staff, and dead rodents thrown in my yard and on my car—just to name a few exciting highlights.

Despite all the bad situations, I have grown stronger as a person and in my convictions. I believe God has shown me the REAL side of government so I could make lessening its power over us, my life's mission.

Families sacrifice to pay for tax, fee, and millage increases, yet we don't hold government responsible to make sacrifices—Government employees are guaranteed raises and have more generous pension and healthcare packages than most taxpayers.

We allow politicians (in schools also) to take 52 cents out of every dollar we earn to support **their** projects—even though the free market can do it more effectively and efficiently! We are in survival mode, working hard to make ends meet with the remaining 48 cents. So worn out, we cannot possibly focus on important things—our peace and our family—let alone have time to think about innovations or the future.

Because I love people, I'll be working with groups to reduce government's control over our lives. I see a future where America focuses not on avoiding Big Brother to survive, but on community, family, and prosperity. The truth **will** set us free. www.erin.stahl.com

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

Membership Changes

(cont. from p.1)

LPM, just as was done under UMP. "Sustaining members" are national LP members who are life members, or who contributed at least \$25 to the national LP in the past 12 months. Our state bylaws allow those members whose "dues are current" to vote at a State Convention. Effectively, the LEC is now interpreting this to mean state or national LP dues, much as was done under UMP. Now, national LP members will receive regular state party mailings like the *Michigan Libertarian* newsletter, fundraising letters, membership renewals, and candidate information, and will be permitted to vote at the State convention.

The LEC did this as its first step in aggressively expanding the pool of LPM supporters, and to avoid some of the administrative costs of tracking its members. Effectively, this makes the national LP responsible for tracking and seeking renewals of some LPM memberships, with the national LP then sending the LPM a monthly updated database of these members.

Some on the LEC suggest we stop offering LPM memberships entirely, and require everyone to join the national LP in order to become an LPM member. Yet contributions labeled as membership "dues" currently provide the largest portion of the LPM's income. Some argue that these changes will and would make LPM membership "free" if one joins the national LP, and "free" members may not make other contributions to the LPM. Should the LPM continue to offer State memberships, or drop State membership dues entirely and pursue more aggressive fundraising efforts? What do you think? Please contact an LEC member, and express your views.

Affiliate Events and News

Upcoming Events

October 7, 2007

Meeting of the LEC, 2pm, LPM Headquarters, Lansing

November 6, 2007 General Election

There are several Libertarians running for office in Michigan

Andy LeCureaux

Hazel Park City Council

andrew-7@comcast.net

David Eisenbacher

Troy City Council

david@eisenbacher.org

Mark Owen

Owosso City Council

mark_owen@charter.net

Dave Nagy

Garden City City Council

lpmnagy@juno.com

November 11, 2007

LibertyFest

January or February 2008

Democrat and Republican Presidential Primaries

THE **IMPECCABLE SERVICE.**
COMMODITY **WORLD-CLASS RESEARCH. PASSION.**
ADVISORS **YOUR PREMIER COMMODITY FUTURES &**
FOREX BROKERAGE.

Control Business Costs. Hedge Your Position.
Diversify Your Personal Portfolio.

2820 W. Maple Rd., #227, Troy, MI 48064; (248) 822-8080
www.thecommodityadvisors.com

Ann Arbor



Washtenaw County Libertarians James Hudler and Larry Johnson man an outreach booth at the Ann Arbor Art Fair

Owosso

Libertarian Party member and former Libertarian Party of Michigan Vice Chair Mark Owen announced that he will run for re-election to the Owosso City Council. Mark currently serves as the City's Mayor Pro-tem. He recently pushed an ordinance through the City Council repealing the City's property tax collection fee, thus lowering taxes for all the City's property taxpayers.

Garden City

LPM member Dave Nagy will not have to face a Primary Election in Garden City. There are 8 candidates seeking 4 seats on the council. In 2005, Nagy missed being elected by only 13 votes.

Kent County

The Kent County Families for Fiscal Responsibility (KCFFR) helped to successfully defeat the second request by Grand Rapids Community College for a millage increase. The final margin of victory was 361 votes for those opposing the tax hike. KCFFR is a ballot question committee formed by the activists in our Libertarian Party of West Michigan affiliate to oppose millage requests.

Despite August traditionally having low voter turnout in outlying Kent County areas, voters came to the polls to reject GRCC's second request. Although the city of Grand Rapids had much higher voter turn out than in May due to their mayoral race, their yes votes were overwhelmed by a larger opposition to the millage request in Wyoming, Walker, and the outlying townships.

Said KCFFR spokesman, Dr. Eric Larson, "We were a small band of volunteers with a very limited budget but we persevered. Despite being outspent by over \$100,000 we focused on the smaller townships and prevailed because of their boosted voter turnout. This is a great day for taxpayers in Kent County as they will now have \$9.8 million more to feed into the local economy."

Legislative Watch

by Greg Stempfle

Following bills through the legislative process can seem like a daunting process. For the most part, local papers, radio, and media rarely cover legislative issues unless it's a high profile bill. There are easy to use websites that provide step by step coverage of the Michigan Legislature. The first is the Legislature's very own website, www.michiganlegislature.org and the other is the Mackinaw Center for Public Policy's Michigan Votes site www.michiganvotes.org.

Both of these sites allow the user to track legislation, provide a summary of the legislation, and a schedule for when it will be before committees and the full House or Senate. You will also get different bill summary interpretations between the legislature and Mackinac Center sites, no doubt a difference of opinion between the state itself and the free market think tank.

Included in this article are bills of interest for Libertarians. Please visit these sites from time to time to see what the legislature is up to. You'll never know if you watch the news! Bill summaries mainly come from the Mackinac Center.

SB 624, 625

Revise presidential primary procedures; require declaration of party.

- Introduced by Sen. Michelle McManus on June 27, 2007, to set January 29 as the date for the 2008 presidential primary in Michigan, and require presidential primary voters to declare their party on the record. Also, to establish date ranges for future presidential primaries (sometime between the second Tuesday in January and the fourth Tuesday in February); establish procedures by which

Democratic and Republican party chairs would determine the date; and prohibit either party from canceling a primary after Sept. 15 of the previous year, or without the agreement of the other party.

- Referred to the Senate Campaign & Election Oversight Committee on June 27, 2007.

- Reported in the Senate on July 19, 2007, with the recommendation that the bill pass.

Senate Bill 605

Increase income tax to 4.6 percent.

- Introduced by Sen. Mark Schauer on June 21, 2007, to increase the personal income tax from 3.9 percent to 4.6 percent, raise the personal exemption from \$2,500 to \$3,360, and index the latter to inflation.

- Referred to the Senate Finance Committee on June 21, 2007.

HB 4967

Place 10-year maximum on millages

- Introduced by Rep. John Garfield on June 21, 2007, to prohibit local government and school millage authorizations with a duration of more than 10 years. This would require that voters reauthorize all local and school property taxes at least once every 10 years.

- Referred to the House Tax Policy Committee on June 21, 2007.

HB 5059

Allow local gas and diesel taxes.

- Introduced by Rep. Coleman Young on July 24, 2007, to allow local governments to impose their own motor fuel tax (gasoline and diesel tax).

- Referred to the House Transportation Committee on July 24, 2007.

HB 4505

Repeal motorcycle helmet mandate.

- Introduced by Rep. Tom Casperson on

March 16, 2005, to repeal the mandatory motorcycle helmet requirement for persons at least 21 years old who have held a motorcycle license for two years and successfully completed a motorcycle safety course.

- Referred to the House Transportation Committee on March 16, 2005.

HB 4869

Authorize and regulate "ultimate fighting championships"

- Introduced by Rep. Barbara Farrah on May 30, 2007, to allow "ultimate fighting championships" or "mixed martial arts" events, which are defined as unarmed combat involving a combination of techniques from different disciplines of the martial arts including grappling, kicking, jujitsu, and striking. The bill revises the existing fees, licensure standards and regulations on boxing matches to incorporate ones for these events.

- Passed in the House (94 to 14) on July 25, 2007.

- Received in the Senate on August 1, 2007.

HB 4191

Revise driving under influence of marijuana standard

- Introduced by Rep. LaMar Lemmons, Jr. on February 1, 2007, to redefine the standard by which a person is deemed to be driving while intoxicated by marijuana. A recent Supreme Court case determined that under the current legal definition, a person who has residual byproducts of past marijuana use in their body is deemed to be intoxicated, even though these byproducts are weeks or months old, and the subject would not be considered by objective standards to be actually impaired. The bill would create a new legal standard that more accurately reflects whether a person is actually impaired.

What if every post-it note[®], paper clip and piece of paper your business used could help support the Libertarian Party of Michigan?

OfficeStar is proud to give up to 5% of every office supply and printing order back to the LPM!*

OfficeStar is Michigan's first independently owned office products company to compare its prices to the national superstores (Staples, Office Depot, Quill and Office Max). We offer free, next-day, nationwide delivery with no small order charges.

If your business is interested in participating in this exclusive new program, then give me a call today.

Greg Newton

Greg Newton, Owner
866.845.7827 or 734.595.0040

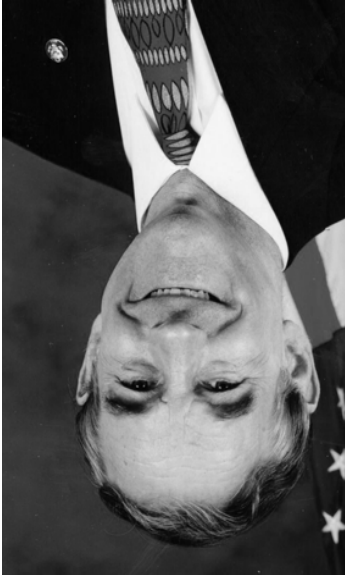


OfficeStar247.com - We Compare, You Save!
As heard on Magic 105.1 FM

*Up to 5% back offer excludes USPS postage charges for mailings.

Michigan Libertarian

Could Ron Paul
Be Our Next
President?



Libertarian Party of Michigan
PO Box 27065
Lansing, MI 48909-7065

