
SHOW ME FREEDOM

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Spring 2000

42 Candidates Running

The tally is in. When the month-long filing period closed on the last Tuesday in March, 37 Libertarians were listed for federal and state office with the Secretary of State in Jefferson City. An additional 3 candidates let us know they had filed locally for county office, while 2 more are running for school board.



Grant Stauffer kicks off his campaign in the St. Patrick's Day parade in KC. Daughter Alexandra riding on top of the car reported 25 favorable comments. "Libertarians rock!" was one.

Not all of those who filed in Jefferson City will make it to the general election in November. The August primaries will determine the Libertarian nominee in contested races for Governor and for the 3rd and 5th district Congressional slots. With few county candidates yet reported, the final total for the year 2000 is expected to meet or beat that for the last presidential election in 1996, when 35 Libertarians ran on the federal and state level and another 8 in county or local races.

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Browne Wins Primary

Harry Browne was his party's clear winner in the first-ever presidential primary in Missouri with about 53% of the Libertarian vote. Browne, a former investment adviser and author of 11 books, hails from Franklin, Tennessee. He was the Libertarian presidential nominee in the 1996 election. Libertarians will make their final choice of a presidential candidate at the National Convention in July.

The other two candidates running in the primary were Larry Hines, who received 11% of the vote, and David Lynn Hollist, who drew 10%. They trailed the "uncommitted" choice, which garnered 25%. Hines is gay rights activist. Hollist ran for Congress in 1998 and believes that the worst abuse of power by most politicians is taxation.

Why is Browne running? "Because it's obvious that no Democrat or Republican is going to stop the relentless growth of the federal government. No one but a Libertarian will reduce your taxes dramatically, allow you to live your life as a free American, and restrict the federal government to its Constitutional limits. I am running for President because the Republican and Democratic candidates argue only about which of them can best run your life. I believe you know best how to run your life."

Over 744,000 Missourians voted in the primary. Of those, about 5,000 voters were bold and enlightened enough to cast a vote in the primary of an alternative party and close to 1,500 Missourians took the Libertarian ballot for about 30% of the alternative party vote. The Reform party drew 60% of alternative voters, probably due to the popularity of Minnesota governor Jesse Ventura and Pat Buchanan's name recognition. The Constitution Party trailed with 10% of the alternative vote.

It's worth noting that the Libertarian Party was the favorite third-party choice of student voters in mock primaries held at 105 Missouri high schools. Of the 21,515 students participating, 1.74% chose libertarian ballots. The Reform and Constitution Parties lagged behind with 1.59% and 1.32% respectively. The message: let's get our year 2000 candidates into the schools and build that constituency! ❖

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“Libertarians in Missouri have proved once again that we can function as a team, coming through in a pinch when needed. We have a full statewide slate. The Reform and Constitution parties could not do that,” stated candidate recruitment chair Jim Higgins.

Heading the ticket is US Senate Candidate Grant Stauffer of Kansas City. A county chair and former candidate for state auditor and congress, Stauffer is best known for his activism on the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) issue. “Eliminate eminent domain and seizures of Americans’ homes and property and stop the corruption of TIF” is the headline on his web page. He kicked off his campaign by riding in the hugely popular St. Patrick’s Day parade in Kansas City.

Likely to top the state government slate is St. Louis businessman Dick Illyes, who is being challenged by non-party member John Swenson. Ilyes, a county chair and state executive committee member who has run for state representative, is noted for his thoughtful position papers on state issues. Education, second amendment rights and abortion head the list. “It’s time for more freedom, more tolerance, and less government,” stated Illyes upon filing.

There’s lots of experience on the Libertarian ticket, with Congressional candidates Tamara Millay, James Higgins, Michael Christ (opposed), Doug Burlison, John Hendricks and Robert Hoffman having previously run for the offices. Statewide candidates Phil Horras and Mitch Moore are veteran campaigners. A number of state legislature candidates have also run before. And all the new talent is extremely welcome. For cyber-savvy Libertarian candidates the web will play a major role. Several have pages up and running. The easiest way to check them out is from the MoLP web site at www.geocities.com~molp.

Print media in Missouri has already been very gracious to Libertarian candidates (see related story on page 4). The year 2000 elections may prove boring for the mainstream. We’re really the only interesting game in town. 2000 could be a banner year for media coverage and for catching the attention and votes of disaffected Missourians.

Show Me Freedom Advertising Rates

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Send check with your ad (payable to Missouri Libertarian Party) to SMF, PO Box 32731, Kansas City, MO 64171. Reach SMF editor Jeanne Bojarski at the same address or e-mail to grant7ss@aol.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ST. CHARLES COUNTY COMMITTEE MEETING

PLACE: JJ’S RESTAURANT ON THE SOUTH SERVICE ROAD IN O’FALLON.

TIME: FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH, 7 P.M.

Next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 4. Call 922-0570 for meeting topics.

CASS COUNTY COMMITTEE MEETING

PLACE: MARKEY MEADOW TOWNHOUSES CLUBHOUSE, BELTON.

TIME: SECOND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH, 7 P.M.

Next meetings scheduled for April 11 and May 3. Call 816 331-2585 for speakers and directions.

SPRINGFIELD AREA LIBERTARIAN MEETING

PLACE: IMO’S PIZZA

TIME: SECOND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH, 7 P.M.

Next meeting on May 10. Call 882-4229 for details.

JACKSON COUNTY COMMITTEE MEETING

PLACE: TORRE’S PIZZA IN THE WESTPORT SECTION OF KC

TIME: THIRD WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH, 6:30 P.M. FOR DINNER, SPEAKER AT 7

Next meetings on April 19 and May 17. Call 913-383-7777 (24-hour hotline).

ST. LOUIS CITY COMMITTEE MEETING

PLACE: LOCATION VARIES, CALL 997-8585 FOR INFORMATION

TIME: THIRD WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH, 7 P.M.

The next Wednesday meetings are scheduled for April 19 and May 17.

EASTERN MISSOURI LIBERTARIAN CLUB MEETING

PLACE: STRATFORD INN, FENTON

TIME: THIRD FRIDAY OF THE MONTH, 7:30 P.M. (OR ARRIVE EARLIER FOR DINNER & SOCIALIZING)

The club includes Libertarians from St. Louis County, St. Louis City, and Jefferson County. The next meeting on April 21 and in May on the 19th. Call 997-8585 for program details and events in the St. Louis area (24-hour hotline).

STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

PLACE: MONROE PLAZA HOTEL, JEFFERSON CITY

TIME: THIRD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH, 1 PM

The next meeting will take place on April 16. A breakfast buffet is available prior to the meeting. No meeting will be held in May prior to the state convention.

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Victory against TIF

February 8 was the big showdown in Olivette, a suburban city in west central St. Louis county. Last fall angry residents petitioned to put two TIF proposals on the ballot. TIF stands for Tax Increment Financing, but Libertarians dub it “Theft Increment Financing.”

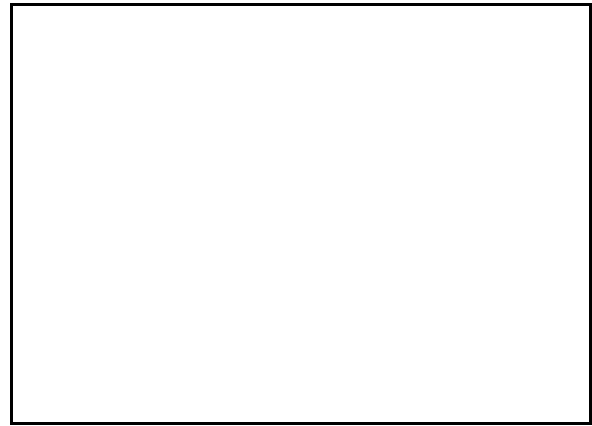
The first question asked citizens to vote on a WalMart mega-complex that threatened to displace hundreds of homes and some businesses and schools. The development was to be backed by a near \$40-million taxpayer subsidy. The good news: this project is now merely a painful memory. 54% voted Yes to stop the developers while 46% voted No. “The Olivette voters blighted this blighting conspiracy and TIF in one fell vote,” quipped Ken Bush, a St. Louis-based libertarian activist.

Note: the “yes” anti-TIF side still has an ongoing complaint against the Olivette city council and election authorities for wording the ballot question in such an anti-intuitive way, where “yes” meant no development and “no” meant no, don't stop the development. Says Bush, “Leave it to government officialdom (or is that 'officialdumb') to come up with these user-*un*friendly rulings.”

Like many Libertarians across the state who have pitched in to thwart property condemnation, eminent domain and TIF, Bush participated by working the polls in Olivette. He gave out copies of the Fall 1999 issue of SMF with its feature article about long-time Libertarian opposition to TIF.

At the victory party that election night a referendum leader thanked Bush and Libertarians for helping out. In particular, he lauded Bush for speaking to the press about some of the philosophical issues involved – the dangers of widespread real-estate and business development of other people's property, and how, if the government weren't so misused, true free enterprise's inherent checks and balances would keep such “over developing” in check.

The second issue on the Olivette ballot would have forced any future developments that use taxpayer subsidies or that condemn homes to a general-public vote if enough petition signatures were submitted. Unfortunately, it failed 47% to 53%. Soon after the vote in Olivette a bill was introduced in the Missouri legislature that would restrict TIFs to projects in economically depressed inner-city neighborhoods and other communities that have small enclaves in extreme disrepair. Check out the bill in Jeff City: SB-802. ❖



Libertarian Ken Bush is interviewed by KDNL TV-30 in front of the type of sign that generated controversy.

Defenders of freedom

MoDOT and Governor Carnahan say the KKK should be banned from the Adopt-a-Highway program. The courts say a ban violates the first amendment. Ken Bush proposes a novel, libertarian solution: privatize the program and the highways, too, while you're at it.

Bush was featured on ABC affiliate TV-30 news along with Carnahan. He argued that a private program would enforce better cleanup standards and was given plenty of time to make his policy case. “Adapt the highways, don't adopt” Bush said as he explained the rationale for privatization. ❖

JonBenet Ramsey Thief of Hearts

By Grant Stauffer

Read Stauffer's first true crime cyberbook, available at <http://www.jonbenet-thiefofhearts.com>.

The cops tried to shoehorn the Ramseys into a theory but Stauffer found three hearts lining up like an arrow straight into the heart of the killer. A legendary detective, “the old fox,” and the Bill of Rights held firm against the king's minions, fulminating politicians and the varlets of the press.

THE 2000 ELECTIONS: MOLP CANDIDATE LIST

US Senate: Grant Samuel Stauffer
Congress 1: Tamara A. Millay
Congress 2: James Higgins
Congress 3: Michael H. Crist, Jeff Christen-Mitchell
Congress 4: Thomas L. Knapp
Congress 5: Alan Newberry
Congress 6: Jimmy Dykes
Congress 7: Doug Burlison
Congress 8: John B. Hendricks, Jr.
Congress 9: Robert Hoffman
Governor: Dick Illyes, John M. Swenson
Lt. Governor: Phillip W. Horras
Treasurer: Arnold J. Trembley
Secretary of State: Jane Spence Southard
Attorney General: Mitch Moore
State Senate
District 1: Robert S. Werner
District 11: Jeanne Bojarski
District 19: John Dupuy
State Representative
District 15: Dean Scott Hodge (withdrawn)
District 18: Kurt J. Trachte
District 19: Lisa D. Hoffman
District 29: Kevin L. Wisneski
District 38: Brian Loe
District 46: Robert C. Fisher
District 48: Timothy E. Peterman
District 53: Mark W. Kuefel
District 64: Mike Pranka (withdrawn)
District 68: Jim Craig
District 87: John A. Wolf
District 92: Thomas Boehm
District 98: Mike Chesnut
District 120: Wally Dzula
District 137: Beth Chrisp
District 142: Jeff Kenkel

COUNTY OFFICES (AS AVAILABLE AT TIME OF PUBLICATION)

Boone County Northern District Commissioner: Gary Miller
Buchanan County Administrator: Rev. Kindred Cuzzort
Franklin County Commission, 2nd District: Richard Newton



Knapp on front page

When Tom Knapp filed for Congress, it was big news in his hometown. Like, front page news.

The story in the Lebanon Daily Record by Matt Decker entitled "Three File Against Skelton" begins, "US Representative Ike Skelton has managed to hold off challenges to his 4th Congressional District seat for nearly a quarter-century. Now, three political newcomers say it's time for a change."

Tom writes, "It's great favorite son-ism!...Other than identifying the incumbent and naming the candidates, the ENTIRE front-page story is about....The Libertarian candidate. The other candidates (including the R) are stuck on page 8 (but the L candidate is present there, too). There is one picture in the story, and it just happens to be of...the Libertarian candidate. And the coverage attributes the most extensive qualifications to...the Libertarian candidate.

For the record, what are Mr. Knapp's qualifications?

He was born in Memphis, Tennessee in 1966 and grew up in Lebanon. He served in the United States Marine Corps Reserve (including Operation Desert Storm) and worked in Springfield but returned to Lebanon in 1997. Tom has served as vice chair of the Greene County Libertarian Committee, 4th District Representative to the State Executive Committee, and as Committeeman for East Lebanon Township. In 1997, he ran for Springfield City Council, garnering 20% of the vote in a 3-way race. He is a senior editor for the libertarian Free-Market.Net web site.

By the way, Tom is also a candidate for Lebanon school board in the April 4 election. By the time you read this, he may have an electoral victory already under his belt. ❖

Elected Libertarian makes waves

Michael Mothersbaugh is a vocal libertarian. So is his wife Kathy. The couple live in Windsor in Henry County, southwest of Warrensburg. But that's not all: Michael is an elected school board member and going for another term. His goal is to encourage libertarian thought in the governing of the local public school.

Michael is also a columnist for the Windsor Review, a weekly with a circulation of 1500. He told executive director Greg Tlapek that he's been too busy to attend party functions but does his best to spread the word through his column. We appreciate it, Michael.

News Briefs

Barnhart appointed to commission

Larry Barnhart is a card-carrying Libertarian – and now a public servant. Along with 4 Republicans, 3 Democrats and one Independent, he was recently appointed by the governor to the Missouri Citizen's Commission on Compensation for Elected Officials. The Monitor-Index of Moberly reported the story released by Secretary of State Cook's office. Barnhart lives in Dallas County, north of Springfield.

Chestnut says vote them out

Mike Chestnut is running for state representative in District 98. His letter published in the South Side Journal states in part: "It amazes me when people wonder why things are the way they are when they keep electing the same officials in all levels of government. The incumbents get re-elected 96 to 98 percent of the time. How sad."

"People also wonder why, when an official retires from office, that there's a great number of people stepping forward for the job. Most people say, 'It's because the job is such a great paying job.' That's partially true, but most people run because they know they couldn't have beaten the previous official there."...

"Just remember, regardless if someone's been in office one year or 100, if you don't like the way things are going, or about to go, there is a solution; and that is vote them out."

Oglesby calls for income tax repeal

J. Mark Oglesby, former Libertarian candidate for US Senate, recently published a letter in the Springfield News-Leader. He argued that even a flat tax would require an expensive army of tax collectors "to monitor the behavior of every human being in the country so they can be sure we don't do any work without paying taxes on it."

"The only answer...is to do away with individual income taxes completely. Sales taxes, tariffs and excise taxes are collected from corporations – not from human beings. These types of taxes require much less in the way of government force to collect, and corporations have to keep lawyers and accountants on the payroll anyway, so they are more prepared to deal with coercive tax collectors."

"I just don't think the average guy should have to deal with the government on a personal basis. Maybe I could agree with a 10 percent income tax on interest and dividend income with a \$1,000 annual exclusion, but I don't think anyone should be



Cass County held their first local meeting, organized by Mike Ferguson. Former state chair Mike Hurley spoke. Several attendees said they would file for county committee and the group plans to meet regularly.

taxed because they worked. If we could simply repeal the individual income tax laws that are currently on the books, we ...[could] set all of those tax collectors free so they could pursue jobs in private industry."

Hodge addresses college class

Dean Scott Hodge is running for State Rep in District 15. He recently spoke to a "Political Parties" class at Culver-Stockton College. The report in the Canton Press-News Journal states: "Hodge addressed the issues of tax reduction, moving education from the public to the private sector, placing responsibility for restricting pharmaceuticals on physicians and patients, eliminating welfare, and restoring the opportunity for each individual to decide what is best for herself or himself. Hodge also gave a brief synopsis of the development of the Libertarian Party... members of the Libertarian Party make a difference whether they are serving on water boards or county councils or as mayors."

Mike Gardner leaves the Cape

Mike Gardner is leaving Cape Girardeau to move to Illinois. He had served as committee man and Treasurer for the Cape County LP since 1996. He was active in the youth outreach program and did everything Libertarian there was to do in the county, from walking in parades, to working the LP booth at the District Fair to putting up a yard sign in his apartment window to contributing money to writing letters to the editor mentioning the L word to working on the local newsletter to participating in April 15th tax protests.

Mike has an extraordinary talent for communicating Libertarian ideas in a thoughtful and non-provoking manner, says Cape county chair Greg Tlappek. He is sorely missed.



Don't Miss This! **June**
convention to feature great
speakers and candidates

It's the Libertarian event of the year in Missouri. Meet personalities and authors such as Doug Bandow of the CATO Institute and Dr. Mary Ruwart, whose *Healing Our World* presents the freedom philosophy in the positive, life-enhancing light it deserves. Find out how our colleagues are fighting state socialism in Europe.

Enjoy an evening banquet with remarks by the always engaging and humorous Dick Boddie. Network with Libertarian candidates and activists from around the state.

A full agenda of events and registration form for the convention are provided inside this issue. Don't miss it! ❖

1-877-VOTE-4-US

*Want more information? Ready to sign up? A free MoLP membership option is now available!
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MISSOURI LIBERTARIAN PARTY STATE CONVENTION

PLACE: HOLIDAY INN ST. CHARLES/ST. PETERS

TIME: JUNE 2-4, 2000

