



Gulf Coast Liberty

Defending liberty in southeast Texas in the Spirit of San Jacinto

April 2003

LP in May Congressional Election

Libertarian Richard "Chip" Peterson of Lubbock is running for Congress in the 19th Congressional Special Election on May 4. The race is to replace incumbent Larry Combest who unexpectedly resigned.

Chip is the author of "The Real Social Security Problem: What Everyone Must Know Before it's Too Late." He's also a frequent guest on a local Lubbock area financial television show. Chip formerly was a finance professor at Texas Tech where he held the distinguished I. Wylie and Elizabeth Briscoe Chair in Bank Management. While there he won the Presidential Academic Achievement Award, wrote numerous papers and articles, and pre-

sented a paper "Can Stock Market Investments Save Social Security."

Chip is expected to participate in four debates against major party candidates—since this is an open race without a primary more than one Democrat and Republican will be on the ballot. However, Chip will be the only Libertarian in the race. Two of the debates (Midland/Odessa and Lubbock) will be televised.

For more information on the campaign or to offer support you can contact him at Chippete@aol.com. Contributions to Chip's campaign can be sent to Richard "Chip" Peterson Campaign, PO Box 93417 Lubbock, Texas 79493.

Local Elections

Lubbock County Libertarian Marshall Phillips will run in the May 3 election for City Council in Buffalo Springs Lake. The small town has 90 registered voters. The top three vote getters will win a City Council seat.

For information on Marshall's campaign contact patpolard@door.net.

Libertarian Joey Dauben is running for Place 2 on the Midlothian Independent School District board in Ellis County. Ellis County is just south of Dallas.

Joey is a reporter/photographer for the Ellis County Press, a Christian Conservative/libertarian newspaper. He is 22 and a graduate of Midlothian High School so has recent real life experience with the school district. Joey's platform includes no tax increases (MISD has one of the highest tax rates in the DFW metroplex, Joey reports); concentrating on teaching staff rather than administration in hiring and pay raises; local control; open government; and not offering new tax abatements to corporations.

Joey has been endorsed by Taxpayers Alliance for Good Government, Citizens for Responsible Government, Ellis County Treasurer Ron Lagenheder, Red Oak City Councilwoman Kay Wiggs, Red Oaks I-35 Corridor Association, and other prominent individuals in the community. (He also will be appearing in the LP's 2004 Sons of Liberty calendar.)

Joey has a website at www.joeydauben.com. His campaign can be reached at Joey Dauben for School Board, 1408 Red Oak Creek Road, Ovilla, TX 75154. Phone 972-617-9537. He can be reached by email at Joeydauben@hotmail.com.

Recent Efforts to Grow the Party

Jeff Daiell recently appeared on the Jon Matthew's radio show on KSEV (700 AM). Matthew's show is the number one talk show in Houston for morning drive time.

Thanks to efforts by Drew Parks in lobbying the station, Jeff was able to be on air on a Monday morning for an hour (minus commercial time). He gave out the LP website and took several calls from the audience, which were all favorable to the LP.

Matthew was very sympathetic to the LP position on issues and promised to have Jeff on again. He repeated this promise in a later email.

LP Presidential hopeful Michael Badnarik was mentioned in an article in Gun Week this past month. The article mainly covered the CounterAttack event held in Dallas, but did mention that Michael, a speaker

there, was running for President on the LP ticket. Michael has started his nationwide tour and is busy visiting state LP conventions, local firehouses, and giving his Constitution Class.

Gary Nolan, another LP Presidential candidate, had a 20 minute speech to the California LP aired on CSPAN. Gary was also in Dallas at the end of this month to address students and the public at the University of Texas in Arlington.

The month has been busy for College Libertarians at UH. The group hosted an LP speaker (Daiell), painted a liberty-themed window mural on campus, hosted a carnival booth at the school's three day Frontier Fiesta, and collected lots of names for our database with OPH booths there and at the March 15 Student Organization Fair for new students.

What We Need Now for LP Ballot Access in 2004

This month's issue of LP News has some great news. In 2002 we ran 1,711 candidates for elective office—the largest slate of third party candidates since World War II. We got 58 Libertarians elected—more than three times the number elected in 1998. In fact, in the last three years we've gotten more people elected than in the previous 27 years combined. We now have 562 Libertarians in office, 340 of them elected.

However, party membership is down. In Texas as of December 2002 we had 196 fewer National Party members than in December 2001. Donations to National are down as well. Dona-

tions to the State Party are down and donations to HCLP are down. National has made some cuts and reports they will be out of the deficit soon. Neither the State or local party went into debt—but we do critically need money. At HCLP donations for both January and February were less than the \$300 needed to fund the newsletter printing and mailing. Fortunately, we have some reserves, but without funds this month we will be forced to cut back GCL to an online version only.

Part of the problem is the economy. Another part is the nature of building a political party when everything favors the status quo. It's like we're pushing a boulder up a steep mountain—if we can just get it to the top we'll start to really roll and win. But the boulder is big and the mountain tall (and the government likes to raise it whenever possible) and progress is slow.

We've got some momentum—1,711 candidates, 562 Libertarians in office, 1,075 individuals getting Gulf Coast Liberty, current campaigns and already we have announced candidates for 2004. What we need now is to start pushing again.

The LP is already on the ballot for 2004 in 26 states—more than any other third party. But we're not on the ballot in Texas yet.

By law we can not collect signatures on our petitions for ballot access until March 10, 2004—the day following the primary and precinct conventions. To get on the ballot we must show support equal to one percent of the votes cast in the last Governor's race. We need support from 45,271 individuals—all of whom must be registered voters and must not participate in the primary or convention of another political party.

Participants at the precinct conventions count. Petitions are used to supplement these numbers. History says we must collect twice as many signatures as we need—so we're look-

ing at a goal of around 90,000. We must have a signature, complete printed name (that exactly matches the voter's registration) address, age, and the voter registration number for a valid signing. Each page of 10 signatures must be notarized.

Most of these signatures will have to come from Houston, Dallas, and Austin. We don't have the members or potential signers in rural areas. This means HCLP will have a lead role in the drive—and will face the costs of the drive.

To do this—in the 75 days allowed—we will need to print petitions and get them to crowds of potential signers. We will then need to have them notarized. We will have expenses such as renting tables at events, paying entry fees for our people to work crowds, and we may need to hire and pay people to collect signatures. We will want to do whatever we can to draw supporters to our precinct conventions—thus cutting down the required signers—so we may want to advertise.

If we want to grow, attract viable candidates, and maintain our organization we must keep our doors open. To do this we need money. We have a 75 day window, but we will need to recruit candidates before then. They will want to know we will be on the ballot. We can't get signatures—but we can be ready—we can print petitions, we can locate notaries, we can get outreach materials. We can keep you informed with the newsletter.

But not without money. Please use our enclosed envelope—send a check or money-order today. Fill out our survey—let us know what your priority is for your donation. Let us know how you can help. Thank you—**the HCLP Executive Committee**

Anthony Garcia
Jeff Daiell
Kristin Thompson
John Kormylo
Laura Coker-Garcia
Monica Granger



Gulf Coast Liberty

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Visit us on the web at
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Online discussion group:
to join send email to HCLP-
subscribe@yahoogroups.com

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Thanks!

Harris County LP would like to thank the following recent donors:

J.P. Blondeaux
Richard Condon
Kimberly Cox
Jeremy Davis
J.P. Friedman
Charles Fuller
Gary Moore
Paul Morris

Your Donation is Needed Today to Fund the LP Petition Drive and Continue Gulf Coast Liberty.

1. We must collect 90,000 signatures in just 75 days from March 10 to May 24, 2004.

2. Every person who attends the Precinct Conventions held Tuesday, March 9 cuts the number of petitions we will need.

3. Last election we had 1,711 candidates—58 elected— a total of 562 Libertarians are in office—but donations are down. We have no money for the petition drive.

4. Donations to HCLP in January and February—usually strong months—brought in less than the cost of the newsletter. Without significant donations this month our outreach, growth, and even our newsletter will end.

Please do what you can today to help work for liberty in our lifetime!

Check any that apply:

- I will **host a Precinct Convention** on the evening of Tues. March 9, 2004.
- I am a **notary public** and will volunteer for the petition drive.
- I **will petition** during March, April and May 2004.
- I volunteer to help **call** our members in advance of the Precinct Convention.
- I am a **college student** and will host **one** meeting to help organize an LP club.
- I plan to be a **candidate** in 2004.
- I can volunteer now for **outreach events** on weekends.
- I can provide **room and board** during petitioning to volunteers from out-of-state or from other areas in Texas.
- I want to be more active, please add me to the **email announcement** list.
- I can host or design a **website** for a candidate.
- I am a **printer/copier** and will help with printing petition sheets.

What Libertarian issues do you think the LP should stress? _____

I am enclosing a donation to **fund the petition drive**.

I am enclosing a donation to **support local party activities** (outreach, newsletter, etc.)

My best donation: _____ \$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$75 _____ \$100 _____ Other

Occupation: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Precinct #: _____

County: _____

Please make checks payable to Harris County Libertarian Party. Mail in enclosed envelope or send to : PO Box 27932 , Houston, TX 77227

Libertarian Party of Texas
Gulf Coast Liberty
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Libertarian Activities April 2003

April 8 (Tues.) 7 p.m. Brazoria County Meeting at Golden Corral, Hwy 388 Business, Angleton. Contact George Harper at Gharper@sat.net or 979-964-3693.

April 12 (Sat.) 12:30 p.m. Second Saturday Libertarian Lunch, at Star Pizza, 2111 Norfolk St. off Shepherd Dr. in Montrose, Houston. Join us for an inexpensive lunch—pizza, salads, sandwiches—at an LP friendly restaurant frequently voted "best pizza" in Houston. Contact Laura Coker-Garcia at Laura@LibertyWorks.org or 281-997-8141.

April 15 (Tues.) Tax Day. Interesting in joining the LP for organized outreach on tax day? Contact Laura at Laura@LibertyWorks.org or 281-997-8141.

April 15 (Tues.) 6:30 p.m. Jefferson County Meeting at the LogonC@fe, 3805 Calder Ave., in Beaumont. Contact John Gossage at che_prof@hotmail.com or 409-860-4499.

April 17 (Thurs.) 7 p.m. San Jacinto Supper Club at Top China Buffet, 3630 Spencer Hwy. in Pasadena. Contact Bob Lockhart 713-475-0092.

April 17 (Thurs.) 7 p.m. Montgomery County Meeting at the South County Community Center, 2235 Lake Robbins Drive, The Woodlands. Contact Ron Hard at ronhard54@msn.com or 281-363-9211.

April 24 (Thur.) 7 p.m. Clear Lake Libertarian Caucus Supper Club at Fuddrucker's Restaurant on NASA

Rd 1. Contact Paul 281-280-8660 or Paul.Morris@directvinternet.com to confirm.

April 20 (Sun.) 3 p.m. - Midnight Cannabis Odyssey in Houston. Houston NORML is hosting 48 bands at 6 venues with speakers for only \$8. For more information visit www.houstonnorml.org420fest.htm. Contact Dean Becker at dean@unvarnishedtruth.org or 281-752-9198.

June 28 (Sat.) Libertarian Party of Texas State Conference in San Antonio at the Menger Hotel (the name listed in last month's GCL was wrong, but all other hotel information was correct). Conference featuring former New Mexico Governor Gary Johnson. Tickets will cost \$250 including meals.

June 28 (Sat.) 8:45 p.m. Pride Parade in Houston. 50,000 crowd expected. Combined with the Westheimer Street Festival on same weekend on Westheimer again. Excellent outreach opportunity. Volunteer co-ordinator and donations to pay entry are needed. Contact Laura at Laura@Libertyworks.org or 281-997-8141.

May 3 (Sat.) Local Elections. City Councils, School and College Boards. Check your local newspaper for poll locations and information.

May 4 (Sun.) 2 p.m. Harris County LP Executive Committee meeting at 9614 Oregano Circle (off Corporate Drive). Contact John at elfsoft@mindspring.com or 713-271-1776 for information. All interested Libertarians invited.