



Massachusetts Liberty

The Newsletter of the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts

January 2000

Libertarian Registrations Break 10,000 Voter Mark

Libertarian Registrations Growing at an Accelerating Pace for '99

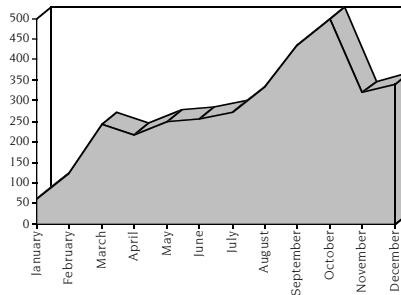
In reviewing the data from the most recent Massachusetts voter registration database supplied by Secretary Galvin's office, several interesting facts have emerged.

We're Coming On Strong...

Possibly the most interesting thing to note is this: during all of 1999, Libertarian registrations grew at an accelerating pace up until the November elections. In almost every month, the number of new registrations was equal to or larger than the month before. By the peak of the accelerating trend, registrations were more than **nine times** higher than in the first month.

This graph shows the number of new Libertarian registrations in each month of 1999. Notice the accelerating trend in Libertarian registrations that runs year-

1999 New Libertarian Registrations



long and only slows down when the holidays arrive (or after the year-end election day, take your pick).

Right now, Libertarian registration stands at 10,604. By the new year, it will be at about 11,000. Libertarian registration is now significantly larger than all of the registrations for all of the minor-party designations combined. The Reform Party has fewer than one third as many registrations as we do.

Looking back further, one could see that we have had accelerating registrations for short periods before, but only during presidential years, and never of this duration.

An accelerating trend is very good news. If it continues, then our party is on the verge of a major breakout.

Another thing to note: In the two years that the Reform Party had major party status (and we didn't), they picked up fewer than 3,000 registrations, compared to our 8,000 for a comparable period. This means that having a check box on the voter registration form is nice, but it isn't everything. We're picking registrations at a faster pace than "luck" alone would suggest.

The other parties are shrinking...

The next table shows the registration trends in comparison to the other major (continued on page ten)

Libertarian Office Holder Brian Thomas

This month Massachusetts Liberty interviewed local Libertarian Brian Thomas. Brian Thomas is a past and future Libertarian officeholder in Massachusetts and was the Keynote speaker at our 1999 State Convention. Before moving to Dartmouth he was a town meeting member in the town of Holbrook.

His experiences as a news reporter are what led him to becoming a Libertarian. It became very obvious covering politics, that the Republicans and Democrats were at least skimming the top of the budgetary battles for themselves and their constituents.

Mr. Thomas' nationally syndicated talk show airs Mon-Fri from 7 to 9 p.m.. You can hear it in Massachusetts on WNSH Danvers, WMSX Brockton, WPEP Taunton, WGAW Gardner, and on the internet at www.libertyworksradio.com. A great network for Libertarians.

ML: What's your history here in Massachusetts and with the Libertarian Party?

BT: My history here dates back to when I was 5 years old. That's when we moved into the state. I've been a member of the party since 1990. I served in Holbrook and resigned when

I moved to Dartmouth in August. I'm going to run again down here.

Holbrook is as bedroom as a bedroom community can be. It's about 15 miles from Boston and has no industry whatsoever, so it takes most of its tax dollars from property tax.

ML: What position did you hold in Holbrook?

BT: I was elected a town meeting member in 1997. I was one of 40 members from my district. There were over 160 town meeting positions in Holbrook, but many went unfilled. There were never enough people to fill all the positions. As far as I know my position is still unfilled.

ML: How long is the term?

BT: Three years. I would have run for re-election in April. I will run for town meeting down here instead.

(continued on page eight)



Massachusetts Liberty

January 2000

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Next Deadline

January 15, 2000

Massachusetts Liberty is the official newsletter of the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts, a state affiliate of the Libertarian Party of the United States.

Massachusetts Liberty is published twelve times a year. Subscriptions are \$15 per year.

Send changes of address, subscription requests, and materials for publication to *Massachusetts Liberty's* e-mail address or mailing address. All submissions are subject to editing. Deadline is the fifteenth day of every month.

letter from the chair

The Three C's for January: Convention, Candidates, and Committees

Welcome to the Libertarian Century! This time is ours, and there's much work to do. Let's get started!

Mark your calendar: April 15, 2000

The Y2K Massachusetts Libertarian Convention is coming and it's going to be the biggest one yet. Speakers include national chairman David Bergland, Presidential candidate Harry Browne, top Libertarian campaign organizer Barbara Goushaw, and presumed Libertarian candidate for NY Governor Roy Innis, a civil rights leader of more than 30 years and head the Congress of Racial Equality.

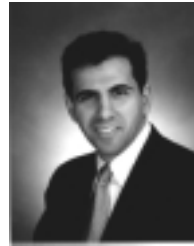
The convention will be held in the Newton Marriott, at the intersection of Route 30 and I-95 in Newton. See the flyer in this issue for more information on how to register and take advantage of early-bird pricing!

Candidates! Be one or support one!

We now have around 30 candidates in Massachusetts, our highest total yet. Check them out on our web pages at www.lpma.org! Don't see a candidate in the district you live in? Then why not become one? With a few hours of work and some help from Dennis Corrigan and Muni Savyon, you too can become an official part of the phalanx of candidates we are fielding this year.

And here's something to think about: Many folks may not realize this, but neither Muni nor Dennis is a citizen of the US. Dennis comes to us from Canada, where he ran for Prime Minister as the nominee of the Libertarian Party of Canada. Muni comes to us from the state of Israel, where he saw firsthand the results of government's ultimate expression: war. They are both barred from registering to vote. They are both barred from running for office. Yet because of their efforts, we have 30 candidates for 2000 from all around the Commonwealth.

What about you? You can register Libertarian and you can vote. You can run for office and tell



Elias Israel

the voters about the benefits of freedom, of small government, of personal responsibility. You can hold up the banner of Liberty for everyone to see, and you can become a visible part of the most important political movement of the 21st Century.

Muni is doing his part. Dennis is doing his part. What about you?

Town Committees: 11 and counting...

OK, perhaps running for office isn't for you. Perhaps you'd rather be the voice of the Libertarian Party for your town. In that case, perhaps you'd like to form a town committee. Right now, we have active town committees in Billerica, Boston, Cambridge, Chelmsford, Dartmouth, Framingham, Provincetown, Waltham, Watertown, Westford, and Whitman. Others are organizing in Amherst, Arlington, Belmont, Beverly, Dedham, Holyoke, Lexington, Littleton, Marblehead, Norwood, Revere, and Worcester.

Don't see your town listed? See your town and want to lend a hand? See the contacts page in this issue to find the name of an activist near you who is organizing, or contact me for information on how to organize your own town.

It's the End of Big Government As We Know It, and I Feel Fine...

These are the mechanics of our inevitable victory: building town committees, recruiting candidates, and getting together at conventions to celebrate and plan for the future.

Now that we have entered the Libertarian Century, the question is no longer whether we will see the Libertarian victory in our life times. The question is whether that victory will happen in eight years, in four, in two, or even right now, in 2000.

It's a new century. It's the Libertarian Century. Let's start it off right.

Victory!

Elias Israel



Submissions Welcomed

Liberty Cat asks...

Do you have news to share about a Libertarian event in Massachusetts? Photographs of a freedom rally? Are you looking for volunteers for an outreach booth or a campaign? Why not write a quick article for *Massachusetts Liberty* and submit it by sending e-mail to ma-liberty@la-ma.org, or by USPS to Mass. Liberty Editor, Post Office Box 2610, Boston, MA 02208.

libertarian events

Greater Boston Area Activists Meetings

Thursday, January 7, 7:00 P.M.
Bickford's, Waltham.

Traditionally held once a month at Bickford's Restaurant in Waltham. The format of these meetings comprises one half-hour of very brief reports from committee chairs about activities that have occurred during the last period and that are planned for the upcoming period. The remainder of the meeting is informal where committees can meet, people can discuss cross-committee issues, new activists can join teams, & cet.. Bickford's is on Route 117 in Waltham. Enter the door to the left of the main entrance and go upstairs to the function room.

LAMA Board Meeting

Tuesday, January 4, 7:00 P.M.
At Bickford's in Waltham.

LPMA Board Meeting

Tuesday, January 4, 7:00 P.M.
At Bickford's in Waltham.

Digital Commerce Society of Boston Presents Elias Israel

Tuesday, January 4, 12:00 P.M.

The Downtown Harvard Club of Boston, One Federal Street, Boston. Elias Israel, Chairman of the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts, will discuss how the Libertarian Party, the third-largest and fastest-growing in the US, is positioning itself to be the political arm of the Internet revolution, and how it is using ecommerce techniques to get the word out, to communicate both internally and externally, and to organize for improved success.

Whitman Town Committee Meeting

Tuesday, January 11, 7:00 P.M.

In the "Glass Room" at TJ's Pub. Come early for pizza, soda and a good seat. They go fast! The Whitman Town Committee meets the second Tuesday of each month.

North Shore Town Committee Organizing Meeting

Wednesday, January 12, 7:00 P.M.

Jacob Marley's Restaurant, 9 Atlantic Avenue, Marblehead, MA 01945. Appetizers will be provided. Libertarians from Marblehead, Swampscott, Lynn, Lynnfield, Saugus, Nahant, Beverly, Danvers, Peabody, and Salem are encouraged to attend. Other activists are also welcome. The speakers will be Elias Israel, Chip Ford and Michael Cloud. Contact Dave Rizzo for more information or to volunteer with the organizing effort.

Nashoba Valley Libertarian Town Committees Meeting

Wednesday, January 12, 7 P.M.

At the Fletcher Public Library in Westford. All area libertarians are invited to attend. For information contact Ed Hayes, Kamal Jain, or Brian DeRosa.

Pioneer Valley Libertarian Association Meeting

Wednesday, January 12, 7:00 P.M.

Bickford's, Springfield. The Pioneer Valley Libertarian Association meets the second Wednesday of every month at Bickford's on Boston Road in Springfield.

Holyoke Libertarian Town Committee Meeting

Wednesday, January 12, 7:00 P.M.

Bickford's, Springfield. In conjunction with the PVLA meeting.

Social Nights

Saturday, January 22, 7:00 P.M.

At the home of Carol Lapin, 112 Bellingham Street #3 Chelsea. Call (617) 889-4768 for directions.



Worcester County Libertarian Association

Sunday, January 23, 6:00 P.M.

Tweed's Pub Restaurant, 231 Grove St., Worcester. Anyone is invited and welcome. Interested activists can contact Kevin Haskell at khaskell@lpma.org for more information.

Krick in 2000 Campaign Meeting

Tuesday, January 25, 7:00 P.M.

Come to the first Krick in 2000 Campaign meeting for the year 2000 at the Pleasant Cafe, with the best rated pizza in Boston per our very own Jim Sullivan! 4515 Washington Street, Roslindale, MA. (Or Boston, MA if you prefer). You know you're there when you see the pink neon sign.

Candidates Meeting

Friday, January 28, 6:00 P.M.

At the Eveli Compound, 105 Lexington Street, Burlington. Candidates are encouraged to attend to learn how to fill out the Statement of Financial Interest. This will be followed by Pizza and Movies. RSVP 781-270-9441.

Cambridge Libertarian City Committee Meeting

Sunday, January 30, 1:00 P.M.

Akbar Restaurant, 1250 Cambridge Street, Cambridge. Possible presidential candidate Don Gorman will speak to kick off the 2000 campaign season.

Waltham City Committee Meeting

The Waltham Meeting will be in late January. Please contact Dan MacKenzie for more information.

Boston Libertarian City Committee Meeting

Tuesday, February 29, 7:00 P.M.

Hill House on Beacon Hill in Boston. An RSVP to Rob Chatfield at (617) 867-0373 would be greatly appreciated.

Senate Candidate Howell Addresses Ames Sportsmen

Ames Rifle & Pistol Club Cheers Libertarian US Senate Candidate Carla Howell

"Small government is beautiful... and it leaves your guns alone," Carla Howell said in her speech to 36 gun rights supporters in North Easton on December 13th. Howell showed how and why Big Government infringes on the Right to Keep and Bear Arms — and how our libertarian small government restores and respects the Second Amendment.



The Ames Rifle and Pistol Club was thoughtful and courteous. The members peppered Carla Howell with specific questions — many about non-gun issues. After her speech, several members donated to the campaign and many put "Carla Howell, Libertarian for U.S. Senate" bumper stickers on their cars. Sixteen signed up to receive more information about the campaign. Three offered to volunteer for the campaign. Two took campaign

yard signs for their homes. One member — a Gun Dealer — took a campaign yard sign to put in the front window of his Gun Store.

Much of the support was in response to Ms. Howell's impressive campaign speech. "Here's my promise to you... I will vote to immediately repeal the Assault Weapons Ban. I will vote to immediately repeal the Brady Bill. I will vote to immediately repeal all other federal laws, regulations, restrictions, and policies that infringe on the right to keep and bear arms," she thundered to the appreciative crowd. Howell ended the speech with, "U.S. Senator Carla Howell will always put the Second Amendment First."

Better than a dozen members registered their approval by promising to vote for Carla Howell. A number of club members expressed interest in inviting Carla Howell to speak to other groups. Richard Kramer and Elaine Berchin arranged this campaign appearance. Kay Pirrello, Jessica Stealey, Doug Krick, and Michael Cloud worked the event and met with members of the gun club. ■

If you're interested in joining an exciting campaign that is drawing the attention of Libertarians from across America, the

Carla Howell for U.S. Senate

**campaign, please contact Volunteer Coordinator
Kay Pirrello at kpirrello@lpma.org
(978) 741-2581**

LAMA Salutes Rebecca Shipman and Bill Hurst

Carmen Pepicelli New Social Night Coordinator

We all know about Libertarian gatherings like the annual convention, the monthly activists meeting at Bickford's, different campaigns' meeting and candidates parties, to name a few. One type of gathering the importance of which we sometimes underestimate is the social night.

In the past several years, some of the most important decisions were made at those socials. I still remember the social at Lance Vaughan's, where a new activists agreed just to connect the LPMA server to his internet connection. That person was Elias Israel, our current chair. Or the social at Eve and Eli's, just after the '98 state convention, where a new activist agreed to help with the petition drive. It was, of course, Dave Rizzo who did an excellent job managing the whole effort. Today he is running for State Representative in Marblehead.

I also remember the legendary social at Lee Nason's in July '96, where Mark Censi came from Maine and convinced Carla Howell to organize what turned to be the very successful "Harry Browne in New England" events.

The socials also inspired Jim Sullivan to create his very successful Announce list: its main purpose when he started it was to inform people about the upcoming socials. That's why it goes out at the first week of every month - enough time before the social which is on the third Saturday of every month.

All these successful socials could not have happened without the dedication and commitment of Rebecca Shipman and Bill Hurst, who were the Social Night coordinators for the past 15 years. "It started as a Bridge night, than a generic Games Night, and after a while people just got together to socialize" remembers Rebecca.

Now, they are stepping down ("It's time for the new generation of Libertarians to take over," says Bill). Bill and Rebecca deserve a big thank you from all of us.

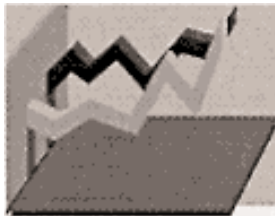
Thank you, Rebecca and Bill, and I'm sure we'll see you at the socials.

Welcome, Carmen!

The new Social Night Coordinator is Carmen Pepicelli. Welcome, Carmen.

Carmen is a research scientist in a biotech company in Cambridge, and she and her husband Trent live in Lowell. They even hosted a social last year - remember?

If you want to host a social (or just want to know more details), you can contact her at: Carmen Pepicelli H: 978-937-1562 W: 617-876-0086 x303 email: CPepicelli@lpma.org. ■



crit·i·cal mass, *n.* a sufficient threshold to catalyze change.

Massachusetts Libertarian Convention April 15, 2000



Harry Browne

The Biggest Massachusetts Convention Ever!
More than 350 people are expected to attend!
Speakers include 2000 Libertarian presidential candidate **Harry Browne** and civil rights leader, CORE Chairman/CEO, and possible NY Libertarian candidate for governor **Roy Innis**.



Roy Innis

This event will fill up quickly,
so register today!

	National LP Chair David Bergland delivers the morning keynote address: Critical Mass.	Barbara Goushaw, top-flight Libertarian campaign manager, talks about (what else?) winning!		Reserve now! Full convention package (all speakers, luncheon, snack breaks, evening cocktail reception, dinner): Just \$79 before March 1
Don't miss the annual business session and 1999 status reports!	Elections of officers and national delegates!	Location: Newton Marriot, 2345 Comm. Ave., Newton, MA (1-95/128 & I-90)	Senate candidate Carla Howell , office holder Craig Mathias , and much more!	

- Yes! Sign me up for the 2000 Convention!
 I can't be there, but here's my donation of _____ to support the Libertarian Party.

Name(s): _____ Payment Method
 Address: _____ Visa
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Mastercard
 Check
 Credit Card #: _____ Expiration Date: _____
 Cardholder Signature: _____
 Email: _____ Phone: _____

Convention registration:
 \$79 if reserved before March 1
 \$89 thereafter
 Walk-ins \$99 (limited availability)
 Make checks payable to: **LAMA**

Event	Price	Attendees	Total
Convention	x	=	

Cancellation policy:
 Full refund before March 15
 50% refund before April 1
 No refunds possible after April 1

Mail To: LAMA, P.O. Box 346, N. Billerica, MA 01862 or Fax To: (781) 634-7786 or Call Toll-Free: (800) JOIN-LPM

notes from around the state

PVLA News

Pioneer Valley Libertarian Association member Al Wilcox of Monson announced that he will run for State Representative next year. His district includes Monson and the Longmeadows. His announcement received the enthusiastic support of PVLA members at their monthly dinner, held the second Wednesday of each month at Bickford's Restaurant, Old Boston Road, Springfield.

Let *Freedom Ring*, the PVLA newsletter, enjoys regular monthly publication, and includes Western and Central Massachusetts Libertarian news, political strategy articles, and other events. Subscriptions may be had for \$10 from its editor, George Phillies, 87-6 Park Avenue, Worcester MA 01605.

Gorman to Speak in Cambridge

Don Gorman, a possible candidate for President of the United States, will speak Sunday, January 30, to help the Cambridge Libertarian City Committee kick-off the 2K campaign season with a bang!

In recent months Mr. Gorman has traveled from Maine to Hawaii speaking at state conventions to motivate local Libertarians to run for office. Don will rally the troops at 1 P.M. at the Akbar Restaurant, 1250 Cambridge Street, Inman Square, Cambridge.

Don Gorman was elected as a Libertarian to the New Hampshire State Legislature serving for several terms. More recently, the Gorman for President Exploratory Committee was formed as a precursor for his possible run for the Libertarian Party nomination for President.

For more information please contact Jeff Chase at (617) 441-0909 x206 or Jeff@CambridgeLP.org.

UMass Amherst Libertarians Organizing

While they are still in the process of becoming an official organization, interested members can contact the UMass Libertarian Society through their president Michael Froimowitz. His e-mail is mfroimow@lpma.umass.edu and his campus phone number is (413)546-0940.

UMass student and Libertarian office holder Ben Rivard-Rapoza reports that an article he wrote on Carla Howell's Senatorial bid and her fundraising suc-

cess was published on the front page of the *Collegian*.

Whitman Libertarian to run for School Committee

George Coffey, Secretary of the Whitman Town Committee reports that their largest benefactor and founding member Jimmy Loring missed his first meeting. Jimmy met & did battle with our Board of Selectmen about a business license issue... and The Libertarian Won!

George announced that he is going to run for School Committee. "And it will be made obvious to everyone in Whitman that I am a Libertarian."

The Whitman Town Committee is planning a 1 year anniversary party in January. 50% of proceeds will go to Libertarian candidates, as selected by the Whitman Town Committee.

Whitman activists are also going to contact every Libertarian in Plymouth County and try to establish a Plymouth County Libertarian Club.

Worcester Libertarians Create County Organization

Kevin Haskell reports that the Worcester County Libertarian Association will be meeting once a month. The January meeting will be on the 23rd, 6 P.M., at Tweed's Pub Restaurant, 231 Grove St., Worcester. Anyone is invited and welcome. Interested activists can contact Kevin at khaskell@lpma.org for more information.

North Shore Libertarians Organizing Region

Dave Rizzo, Dean Cook, and others are well on their way to a great event on January 12. Invitations have gone out to all area Libertarians. They hope form a number of town committees at this meeting. All area Libertarians are urged to attend this very important organizational event.

Two New Town Committees Formed

Both Billerica and Provincetown have now formed town committees. David Atkinson called LPMA Chair Elias Israel to share the good news about P-Town, and Simon Bagdigian has just sent in the paperwork for Billerica. That brings us up to 11 active town committees and at least a dozen more in some kind of developmental state.

Waltham Libertarians Garner Votes, Prepare for Elections

Waltham Libertarians running write-in campaigns for the November election garnered a total of 23 votes; better than the 17 they received in the September 14th primary. Dan MacKenzie says "We accomplished our goal because more registered Libertarians contacted me about the City Committee. This was just a way to get noticed. From now on, our names will be on the ballot!"

Dan also reports that there's been an exciting turn of events on the Media and Electoral fronts in Waltham. "My letter introducing the Libertarian City Committee to the people of Waltham was published in the *News Tribune*. Also in the same issue was a story about City Councilor Tom Stanley. He had announced his intention to run for 9th Middlesex State Rep. in a Special and/or General election. The only problem for him is that if a special election is held, he can't run. He's only lived in the district since July."

"About an hour after I read this, Anne Scadding called from the *News Tribune*. She interviewed me over the phone for about 10 minutes. I told her about the City Committee and I announced my candidacy for State Rep.. This makes me the only declared candidate who is eligible to run in a Special election."

"Ms. Scadding called back and told me that the editor wanted to run the story - because the declaration of my candidacy was, as she put it 'big news.' A great day for media attention because it happened at the same time Mr. Stanley's problem was revealed. The general consensus is that there will not be a special election, but nobody knows that for sure. Luck was on our side today. We would **not** have received this kind of attention during the Waltham City election campaign."

Voters Want Third Party Candidates

Finally, a December 23rd Associate Press article reported, "Americans don't have much faith in the two-party system to elect their president, according to a recent poll." Nearly half of all polled said they want a third-party candidate to run as an alternative to the Republican and Democratic candidates, and only 23 percent agreed that, "the two party system works fairly well." The nationwide poll was conducted by the Vanishing Voter Project at Harvard's Joan Shorenstein Center on the Press, Politics and Public Policy. So lets get those candidates on the Ballot! ■

Campaign 2000 Update

R. Dennis Corrigan

SFI Party Planned

We want to welcome Rich Yampell to the ranks of declared candidates. Rich will run in 6th Norfolk as the LP candidate for State Representative. Our overall numbers of candidate remains unchanged (at twenty-nine, counting Carla and David Euchner) because Mike Conway has had to withdraw due to his impending move to Maine. We'll miss you Mike - don't be a stranger!

When Muni started the candidate recruitment project last summer, the election seemed a long way off. But as you read this we are only a month from starting to collect signatures.

Next up on the candidates' agenda is... another party! What a movement! OK, Donald Trump's got a super-model girl friend but I bet he has fewer parties than we do.

We are going to meet at Eve and Eli's house (105 Lexington Street, Burlington) on Friday, January 28 at 6 p.m. to have pizza and watch movies. We'll watch The Matrix on DVD, and if there's interest after that, also Other People's Money. Oh yes, we will also fill out the Statement of Financial Interest (SFI) that's required of candidates.

All candidates and their significant others are cordially invited. Please RSVP to your genial hosts at 781/270-9441 so we know how much pizza to order. Muni will provide instruction on how to fill out the SFI, and will have real-life examples on hand that you can peruse. We'll have all the necessary copies on hand for you.

If you haven't decided to run yet, show up and make a dramatic gesture by telling us there and then.

In other news, our candidate web page is up. I hope you will visit the LPMA web site at www.lpma.org/libcan2000.htm to view how our candidates list is highlighted. Kudos to Moira Ashleigh for a tremendous job. Call Muni or me for details on how you can be listed on this page.

Muni has also asked me to remind everyone that Mike Rollins, our esteemed colleague from Rhode Island, has an offer on the table that will dissolve any lingering resistance anyone might have about running the dreaded commitment to collect all those signatures. Mike is offering - to the first six people who sign up - to collect sufficient signatures to get a candidate for State representative on the ballot. Guaranteed. Mike's "all included signature gathering" is available for only \$495. Between Mike and Muni, all the requirements for getting petitions are covered except for signing one form. And don't forget, due to the generosity of Irwin Jungreis and the foresight of the LPMA board, every candidate is eligible for \$200 of funding.

It's getting easier all the time. See you at the pizza party!



Candidate Vera Meyer

Euchner Campaign Seeks Volunteers

David Euchner, our candidate for US House, is looking for volunteers for his campaign. He's got a lot of signatures to collect and a lot of voters to contact.

If you're able to help in his campaign, or if you know of someone who can, please contact him at deuchner@lpma.org, 508-376-2786.

The 4th Massachusetts Congressional District includes Acushnet, Berkley, Dighton, Easton, Fairhaven, Fall River, Freetown, Mansfield, New Bedford, Norton, Raynham, Rehoboth, Sherborn, Newton, Brookline, Dover, Foxboro, Millis, Norfolk, Sharon, Wellesley, Bridgewater, Carver, East Bridgewater, Halifax, Hanson, Lakeville, Marion, Mattapoisett, Middleborough, Pembroke, Plympton, Rochester, Rockland, Wareham, and West Bridgewater.

Candidates for U. S. Senate

Carla Howell

District

Massachusetts

Candidates for U. S. Congress

David Euchner

District

4th Massachusetts

Candidates for State Senate:

Kamal Jain
Marie Katzen
P. Christopher Schoaff
John Sullivan

Senate District

Middlesex & Worcester
1st Essex
1st Middlesex
5th Middlesex

Candidates for State Representative:

Heather Ashcraft
Ron Bargoot
Paul Bello
Jim Condit
Dean Cook
Scott Coughlin
Scott Cousland
Charles Christopher Cox
Steven R. Drury
Carl Garfield
James Gill
Michael Haag
Dale Hogeland
Doug Krick
Frank Mackay-Smith
Daniel MacKenzie
John Madfis
Vera Meyer
Jim Mollison
Celeste Parent
Dave Rizzo
Frank Ross
Alan Wilcox
Rich Yampell

District County

9th Suffolk
30th Middlesex
8th Plymouth
27th Middlesex
6th Essex
2nd Norfolk
9th Norfolk
28th Middlesex
1st Worcester
7th Middlesex
12th Plymouth
36th Middlesex
5th Plymouth
14th Suffolk
4th Essex
9th Middlesex
11th Norfolk
38th Middlesex
24th Middlesex
6th Middlesex
8th Essex
15th Norfolk
2nd Hampden
6th Norfolk

An Interview With Brian Thomas

(continued from page 1)

ML: *How were you elected?*

BT: I was indecisive about running and I ended up running a write-in campaign. There were the required number of people running for my particular position, so I had to beat out other candidates with the write-in campaign.

ML: *What did it take to run a successful write-in campaign and beat out people on the ballot?*

BT: I went door to door within my precinct. This was not something unusual, because as a Boston news reporter I would talk to people about the issues in the town and how they felt about it. It got to a particular point where none of the people in my particular area wanted to do anything about them and I decide to run.

I went door to door saying, "I'm running for town meeting. Remember, this is what I stand for. I'm a Libertarian, you know that anyway. Because it was so late in the campaign I didn't make up flyers or stickers, I just went door to door. I gave people my name and address for them to write down.

Holbrook is a small enough town and because of my baseball, soccer, and basketball coaching I knew quite a few people which helped too.

ML: *What do town meeting members do in Holbrook?*

BT: This particular elected body is in charge of disbursing the funds within the town - we write the budget. Within the town we decided if there were going to be any proposition 2 1/2 overrides.

ML: *What was required of you as a town meeting members. People who have never run for office may not be sure they want to run thinking it would be a full time job.*

BT: It's interesting you should say it like that because it required A) keeping up with the issues which in my life-style was easy to do anyway. B) it meant coming to meetings. C) If you had a question, a concern, or a complaint, whatever the case may be, it meant to have enough guts to put your hand up and to be heard.

ML: *How would you recommend people who aren't reporters keep up with the issues?*

BT: In our town there were two major budgets. The first was the educational budget and that I was able to keep up with by going into the schools and talking with the Principal, talking with the teachers, talking to parents, and talking with the kids to find out what was going on. I tried to match that up with what the school officials were trying to do with the budget.

In many cases there were battles - and one thing I can say is that you are going to lose more battles than you are going to win. However, you can certainly make people see the way that they are wrong, so to speak, from a libertarian point of view. When you speak up on an issue you can say they are wasting money by spending it this way.

In the particular case I'm thinking of, there were funds to repair one of the roofs at the school. They knew they were going to have to build a new school. I wanted to know why we were wasting money on repairs when we should have been looking down the road. Of course that went through anyway, but now people are looking at other issues the same way.

ML: *So the best way to keep up with issues is to talk to people in the community?*

BT: Yes. One of the things that's missing these days from everybody's life including my own is that general conversation you used to have with your neighbors about what was going on. When you live in a small town what's going on is usually associated with the largest part of your budget, which would be the educational budget and the public safety budget.

ML: *You said that you would raise an issue and then later other people would discuss it the same way. When you first raised the issue were people receptive to your ideas, or was it an uphill battle the whole way?*

BT: At the beginning it was more of an uphill battle. It depends on the issue. I find that a lot of people when they think about state grants for education think about it as a grant. They don't think about it as their tax dollars being recycled and sent back home. A lot of times they don't like to hear that.

ML: *Why do you think that is?*

BT: Seriously, I think it's because they are so entrenched in the Democratic system. Without ever asking the others what their political affiliation was in Holbrook, I would say the majority are definitely Democrats. Many are urban Democrats who left the city to try to spread out, but they want a lot of the old city ways.

ML: *So you ran into an uphill battle with people who bought into the old Democratic machine?*

BT: I wouldn't say it like that. It's more that they didn't want to pay attention to the fact that that's how the system works.

ML: *Can you tell me some things you brought up at town meeting?*

BT: Yes, another of the losing battles was when I was the only one who voted against a ballot initiative to see if we would override prop 2 1/2 so the rest of the town could be outfitted with public sewage. My complaint to the town was, "Why are we paying to have everybody hooked up? I don't see a majority of the people in this room or those I've talked to who are supposed to be hooked up who want to pay the money to be hooked up." They were bringing up the constant horror stories about Title V and how it was costing some people thirty thousand dollars if they wanted to move to get their septic repaired. I said you show me how many people we are talking about who are spending that much to get their septic repaired and we'll multiply it out. We were talking about millions of dollars on that prop 2 1/2 override. My thought was at thirty thousand dollars, even if you were talking about one hundred people, it's less money to take care of the people who really need to be taken care of as opposed to dropping it down into the debt plan for twenty years.

ML: *What are you most proud of from your service on town meeting?*

BT: That I was willing to stand up to say no to an override that I know people will regret down the road. That I was willing as a Libertarian, even though it was a non-partisan election, to let people know that I am a Libertarian running. And just the fact that I ran for the office.

(continued on next page)

An Interview With Brian Thomas

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ML: But it sounds like the debate changed subtly while you were there?

BT: I suppose, and I suspect that if I ran again, or ran for some other office it would help me out. I certainly made a name for myself.

ML: What advice would you give to people running for a similar office to be successful?

BT: My philosophy has been for awhile to look for a race that you can win. Those are small races where often no other person is running. Even if it's running for dog-catcher. Once you become a dog-catcher you can become the best dog-catcher around. Then you've got a victory under your belt and people will say, "Well, maybe it's just a small position but he's the best dog-catcher we've ever had." Then you can move on from there.

I think, and especially for Libertarians, the more ground level positions we have the better chance we have of being able to say no to that state grant or federal grant because it's just your tax dollars being recycled. We could probably do better right here at home.

ML: So the focus would be to get people used to thinking that money that stays local is better than money that is taken away and given back.

BT: Certainly. If locally you decided you want to pave a road with our tax dollars, at least it's our particular tax dollars, majority rules, and we say yes. As opposed to the state saying, "We're paving this road, you're closed off for three or four days whether you like it or not."

ML: So local control makes the town more livable.

BT: I think so. Look at everyone complaining about the schools right now. It's not the local control that they're complaining about. They're complaining about state and federal controls and mandates and "You'll get your money if you do this" or "Let's have character education." I don't care if a teacher wants to teach character education or if a particular school says they students will study Samuel Adams or Karl Marx. But when it's a federal mandate that you're studying these things, well, if you're in the Northwest even though

Samuel Adams may be a great American he doesn't have much to do with the great Northwest.

ML: Is there anything else you'd like to add for our readers who may be thinking of running or volunteering for a campaign?

BT: Yes, go in with the mindset that you are going to win and not anything less. I know we do a lot of things for ballot status and all that, but if you go in planning on winning you'll get the ballot status as part of the coat tails.

Also, speak to as many organizations as possible. We have a lot of people running for State Rep.. Talk to Elks Club meetings, Key Club, Kiwanis, where you will meet a lot of people that do vote. Pitch the message but tailor the message to the audience. If you go into the Kiwanis that's great for us talking business or deregulation, but you may not want to go into a Kiwanis meeting talking about an education agenda.

Our primary message is taxes, but we haven't tailored it to the common citizen. They are so used to thinking that that tax dollar is paving our roads, what will we do without paved roads? Who's going to regulate? They are just in that mindset. Tailor the message and speak as often as possible.

ML: I know out in Westford the Town Committee is planning to talk to school groups.

BT: That should be interesting. When talking to school groups, many of them will be looking for money to fund this and to fund that and we're coming in with an opposite message. We need to tailor the message to show how if we go after these grants we won't be able to concentrate on the ABC's and 123's but instead character education or something else.

ML: Or even just paperwork.

BT: Yeah. And why are we getting rid of teachers. If this Principal knows that this teacher is a great teacher but for some reason scored terribly on some test; in this particular case we should be sticking up for the local Principal who knows

better as opposed to the bureaucrat in Malden. That's the kind of message.

ML: And after you've won?

BT: Get to the podium as much as possible. Especially as a State Rep. because you're on TV all the time. Expect to get shouted down, expect to get lousy committee assignments, but the more our numbers grow... That's where I see our party right now, we're growing exponentially right now and the more people we get into office the faster the party will grow. That's part of the coat tails.

People love what we have to say, or hate what we have to say. It's just a matter of taking our message and adapting it to the everyday life of the citizens, the people that we represent. The more we bring that message into their living room and show how it affects their wallet or how it affects their social standing

the more they're going to listen. It's the same ingredient we use in broadcasting. If we put out messages the people don't want to hear, they don't listen.

ML: So how did you tailor your message to appeal to the broadest audience given that you started out in a difficult situation. How did you present the libertarian messages?

BT: Let me use an example from an educational issue where I was able to sway at least a few parents against MCAS. The parents were a little puzzled about the test, and they heard a lot of things they didn't quite understand. I would say, "Here's the deal. When you and I used to take these tests they were made up by our teachers or within a particular school. Now they are made up by people whom if you look at their credentials don't even have education written down here." Then I would ask, "Did your teacher do that when you were in fifth grade?" Then I would say, "Well, according to the law, this test is going to be mandatory for your kid to graduate." If they said they had their kids going to Catholic school I would say, "Watch out, because if the Catholic schools start taking money like they are interested in

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Libertarian Growth Outpaces Opponents

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parties. Overall, only 0.27% of the registrants are currently Libertarians. However, if you review what's been happening in just the last year, a very different picture emerges.

During the last year, the only groups that have gotten larger are Libertarians and Unenrolled. The others are stagnant or shrinking. In the last three months, the picture is even more stark: Fully 1.3% of new registrations in the last three months have been Libertarians. That's **four times** the overall number of Libertarians.

Party	all registered voters	registered in the past year	registered in the past 3 months
D	36.86%	31.39%	32.06%
R	12.89%	12.43%	11.77%
L	0.27%	0.94%	1.31%
U	49.79%	54.79%	54.50%

And they're not getting any younger...

If you want a picture of demographic changes taking place, take a look at the average age of registered Democrats, Republicans, and Libertarians:

Party	Average DOB	Average Age
All	April 23, 1951	48.66
D	June 29, 1947	52.50
R	January 25, 1949	51.00
U	August 6, 1954	45.33
L	August 5, 1964	35.33

That's more than a **fifteen year age gap**. As the Baby Boomer generation is increasingly making way for the GenX'ers, Libertarian registration is sure to rise.

It's A Good Start...

This is only a simple snapshot, and much more sophisticated analysis would reveal even more. However, a quick view of the voter registration trends in Massachusetts shows much reason for optimism in the Libertarian Party. ■

libertarians in office

An Interview With Brian Thomas

(continued from previous page)

now with voucher plans then you are going to be under the same system." Then I would show them a little passage to show them I'm not making something up.

I would do that sometimes at the end of a ball game. On particular parent I'm talking about, I coached the son in baseball. We were having this conversation and the guy happened to read an article that I wrote and I said, "Oh yeah. Here's the passage by the way." He started talking to some other people, eventually the word got around and he pulled his kid out of the town school.

ML: So you can be effective getting the right information to the right people?

BT: The Libertarian message is right, if you want to think constitutionally. But a lot of people don't want to so you have to tailor the message to the audience.

ML: So did you do many press releases while in office?

BT: I wrote for the town newspaper. I was already elected at that time so it

didn't help to get me elected. But it helped to spread the message and people knew I knew what I was talking about. That's another thing, don't try to BS. Especially the higher up you go. We have candidates that are running for State Rep. right now against some entrenched State Reps. When the incumbents start feeling the heat then they will look for dirt and character assassination, so don't BS because they'll find it out.

ML: How did you start writing for the town paper?

BT: I called them up because I wanted to know if there was another way to make some money. They were just a town weekly so they didn't pay anything, but it helped publicize my talk show a little bit. I would submit articles of one hundred to seven hundred and fifty words. They were happy to get it as it filled column inches for them.

ML: So it's a good way to get the message out?

BT: More so than letters to the editor. It's more likely to be printed. If you write a letter to the editor it's just a letter to

the editor. It's just how John Q. Citizen feels. When you write a column you're given more of an edge of expertise.

ML: I know you're planning to run again in Dartmouth. What are your goals as a Libertarian?

BT: That's an interesting question. I've never thought about running for, say, selectman, mayor, or city council. I think, if anything, I've always liked the term representative. If I were ever to move up as far as running for an elected office it would be something along the lines of State Rep.

ML: As State Rep, what do you think Libertarians can bring to the election process and, if elected, to the commonwealth?

BT: Sanity. Fiscal and social sanity. Without a doubt. Look at the lack of common sense. How many people do you know of who can over charge you and then get away with calling it a surplus. Only the Great and General Court itself. ■

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