



Massachusetts Liberty

The Newsletter of the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts

March 2000

Massachusetts Libertarians To Cast Votes In Presidential Primary

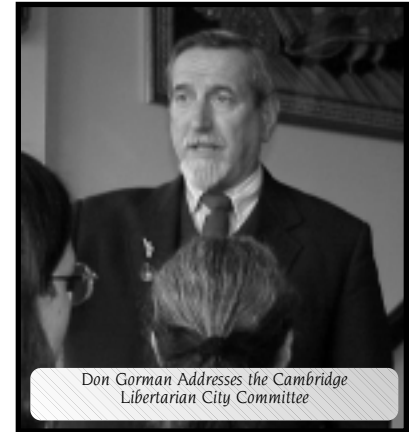
On March 7th, Massachusetts Libertarians will vote for the next Libertarian Presidential candidate and members of the Massachusetts State and Town Committees. More than 12,000 Libertarian and unenrolled voters are expected to cast ballots in this election.

"We are very excited by this Presidential primary," says Elias Israel, Chairman of the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts. "Six candidates for President, and Town Committee candidates from North Adams to Provincetown clearly demonstrate the growth and activity of the Libertarian Party. There's something for everyone on this primary ballot!"

State committee representation is determined according to state senate district of which there are forty within Massachusetts. Under Massachusetts law, each state senate district may elect one male and one female member to

the Libertarian State Committee. This committee sets policy and will lead the party for the next four years. Seven Massachusetts activists collected the necessary signatures and will be listed on the ballot in their respective districts. These are Laura El-Azem of Chelmsford, Sally Howes of Holyoke, Elias Israel of Burlington, David Rizzo of Marblehead, Christine and Peter Schoaff of Westford, and Mark Tuniewicz of Sharon. In addition, write in candidates are expected from other districts as local activists are organizing write in campaigns.

Town Committees which were organized before the November deadline will also have candidates appearing on the primary ballots. Each town may elect three members to its town committee. These elected members will then set the criteria for additional membership in the town committee. Town committees



Don Gorman Addresses the Cambridge Libertarian City Committee

send delegates to the state convention, address local issues, support local, regional and statewide candidates and generally provide a great opportunity for local activists to make a difference. Town committees which did not form before the November deadline may also organize write-in campaigns for their committee members.

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Libertarian Office Holder David Atkinson

Christine Schoaff

This month Massachusetts Liberty interviewed local Libertarian David Atkinson. Elected to the Provincetown Board of Selectmen, David is easily one of the most well recognized Libertarians in Massachusetts. In 1998 he ran as a Libertarian for Secretary of the Commonwealth and received over eighty five thousand votes, almost 5 percent of the votes cast.

ML: What is your history as an officeholder in Massachusetts?

DA: I held office before I found out about the Libertarian Party. I was elected to the board of health in my hometown of Mendon back in the '70s. I also held office in Milford as a town meeting member. I was a Republican then only because my family was. I really didn't know what Republicans stood for, but in those days I used to think it was government's job to fix everything.

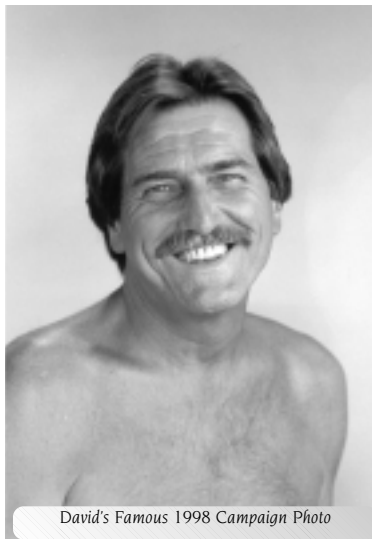
But then in the Spring of 1979 eight bus loads of people left Copley Square to go to Washington for a gay rights march. I guess it was the 10th anniversary of Stonewall. I was

on one of those buses, and boy what a spiritual experience that was for me. I took literature from anybody that was handing it out. When I came back from Washington I read everything, and there was one piece that somebody from the Libertarian Party handed out, it was a big piece of paper that was folded up many times, and when I read that I was hooked. I called the 800 number and I got more information, I joined and the rest is history.

ML: What was it about that handout that hooked you?

DA: It just made so much sense. It was the way I felt about so many things. At the time I didn't agree with their positions on three things. I think one was public education - of course I came from that - one was the environment, and the other one was gun ownership. So when I called for information I said I needed the position papers on those three

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David's Famous 1998 Campaign Photo



Massachusetts Liberty

March 2000

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Next Deadline

March 15, 2000

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letter from the chair

A Few of My Favorite Things

I know what you're thinking. Here he goes again with the three C's: Candidates, Committees, and the Convention. And you're right, I can't get through one of these letters without mentioning all of them, because they are a few of my favorite things.

I also want to mention that an especially favorite thing of mine is **Voting For Libertarians**, something we get to do this month. If you haven't already marked it in your calendar, please be sure to set aside the time on **Tuesday, March 7** to go to the polls and participate in the presidential preference primary, and — in some areas — to vote for members of the Massachusetts Libertarian State Committee and Town and Ward Committees, too.

I never have so much fun voting as when there are Libertarians to vote for, because with the exception of voting for yourself, the best voting experience you can have is when you vote for your friends.

Candidates: 33 and Climbing

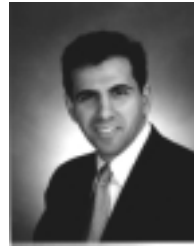
The number of candidates just keeps going up, and shows no sign of stopping. All over Massachusetts, candidates are stepping forward and pledging their sacred honor to the cause of Liberty. Muni is now working full-time just to keep up with their paperwork and nomination papers!

Now is the time for YOU to step forward and run for office or support a candidate who lives near you. There are still plenty of races to run in, including State Representative, State Senate, and US Representative. Plus, I'll tell you a secret: as of right now, there are ZERO Republicans running for US Representative in Massachusetts. We have ONE (David Euchner), but we could have even more. Wouldn't it be fascinating if we ran MORE candidates for Congress than the Republicans did? It could happen if YOU become a candidate.

Committees: Getting Into the Fray

With the convention coming up, don't be surprised if you get a call from your local Libertarian town or city committee members. Volunteers from all around the state are going to be calling their neighbors to make sure that they know about the upcoming convention and how to register.

Last month, another organizing meeting took place in Quincy, led by Scott Coughlin. Scott brought together a bunch of Libertarians who are going to build the ward committees that Quincy needs.



Elias Israel

Convention: "I had to keep reminding myself that it wasn't a national convention..."

That's what Irwin Jungreis said about the 1999 Massachusetts Convention, and that's what you'll be saying too when you see our Year 2000 Convention. If you've never come to our annual convention, you're in for a treat because Massachusetts throws the biggest, the baddest, the most exciting convention of virtually any of the state parties. Our convention routinely draws more people than any other except California, and this year we might even beat their attendance. (In fact, our conventions are so good that the national HQ wants Massachusetts folks to teach other states how to do it in the Success '01 seminars.)

Our speaker list is always top-notch, and this year it includes:

- LP Chairman **David Bergland**
- Presidential candidate **Harry Browne**
- U.S. Senate candidate and past LAMA chair **Carla Howell**
- CORE chairman and CEO **Roy Innis** as the featured dinner speaker
- Libertarian campaign manager **Barbara Goushaw**

We'll also be having our usual fun and games, including the cocktail hour when you can hobnob with the speakers and guests, the annual business session, and a special luncheon, all included in the same low price.

Get your registration in soon, because this event is already filling up quickly. See the flyer in this issue for more details.

The Winter of Our Discontent Made Glorious Summer

Things are definitely picking up here in Massachusetts, and it's not hard to see why. With all of these exciting campaigns, and organization, and a convention that totally rocks, it's getting to be more and more fun to be a Libertarian in Massachusetts.

Thanks to you, I know that this election year will be even better.

Victory!

libertarian events

LAMA Board Meeting

Wednesday, March 1, 7:00 P.M.
At the Marriott Hotel, 5400 Computer Drive, Westborough.
Call (508) 366-5511 for directions.

LPMA Board Meeting

Wednesday, March 1, 7:00 P.M.
At the Marriott Hotel, 5400 Computer Drive, Westborough.
Call (508) 366-5511 for directions.

Carla Howell For Senate Campaign Meetings

Wednesdays, March 1 & 15, 7:00 P.M.
Bickfords, Waltham. You're invited to two exciting campaign meetings for the Carla Howell for U.S. Senate campaign against Ted Kennedy. We have many important and fun - things to do to take this campaign to the next level. This is going to be a terrific race this year. We have high hopes for what can be accomplished.

Provincetown Town Committee Meeting

Wednesday, March 1, 7:00 P.M.
At the Provincetown Inn on the first Wednesday of each month. Coffee and pastries will be on hand and the committee will be working to make an event of each meeting. Everyone is welcome. Contact Dave Atkinson at 508-487-0759 for more information or directions.

Massachusetts Libertarian Presidential Primary

Tuesday, March 7, 7:00 P.M.
Get out and vote for your favorite candidates for President, State Committee, and Town Committee.

Convention Organization Meeting

Wednesday, March 8, 6:30 P.M.
At the home of Eve Maler and Elias Israel. Come out and lend a hand making this year's convention another great success!

Pioneer Valley Libertarian Association Meeting

Wednesday, March 8, 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. This month's speaker is Terry Franklin of Amherst. Franklin organizes the Extravaganja re-legalization rally every year and is a possible candidate for State Rep.

Holyoke Libertarian Town Committee Meeting

Wednesday, March 8, 7:00 P.M.
Bickford's, Springfield. In conjunction with the PVLA meeting.

MassCann Night

Wednesday, March 8, 6:30 P.M.
At Jacob Wirth Restaurant on 33-37 Stuart St. in Boston. MassCann Nights are informal monthly meetings during which people interested in the proper relationship of society to the cannabis plant can have exploratory talks about the organization.

Chelmsford Libertarian Caucus

Thursday, March 9, 7 P.M.
At the Raddison Hotel. All registered Chelmsford Libertarians should have received invitations and are encouraged to attend. Delegates to the State convention will be chosen.

Westford Libertarian Caucus

Thursday, March 9, 7 P.M.
At the J. V. Fletcher Library. All registered Westford Libertarians should have received invitations and are encouraged to attend. Delegates to the State convention will be chosen.

Waltham Libertarian City Committee Meeting

Thursday, March 9, 6:30 P.M.
Waltham Public Library Lecture Hall, 735 Main St.

Social Nights

Saturday, March 18, 7:00 P.M.
At the home of Lee Nason. 515 Revere Beach Blvd, Revere 781-286-1719.

If you would like to host one of these fun events and socialize with fellow libertarians at your own home please contact social night coordinator Carmen Pepicelli.

Worcester County Libertarian Association

Sunday, March 19, 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.

Greater New Bedford Libertarians

Tuesday, March 28, 7:00 P.M.
At the Wampsutter club in New Bedford. For more info call 508-991-8817.

Brandeis Libertarians Host NRA President Charlton Heston

Tuesday, March 28, 7:00 P.M.
At Rappaport Treasure Hall on the campus of Brandeis University. Mr. Heston will give a general presentation on the Second Amendment and gun ownership in America. He will outline the views of the NRA and talk about opposition to certain proposals by gun control advocates. Admission is free. For directions to Brandeis University, please call (781) 736-2000.

Gun Owners Action League Rallies

Saturday, April 1, Carver
Monday, April 24, Boston
Saturday, April 29, Hudson
Stand up for your second amendment rights. For more information, visit <http://www.goal.org/links.html> or call GOAL at (508) 393-5333.

Convention Preparation

Thursday, April 6, 7:00 P.M.
Bickfords in Waltham. Help prepare delegate materials for the State Convention.

Massachusetts Libertarian State Convention

Saturday, April 15
At the Newton Marriot. Speakers will include Roy Innis and LP Chairman David Bergland. Register today at 800-JOIN-LPM. To volunteer to help run the convention please contact Carol Lapin at 617-889-4768.

30,000 Signatures Needed To Put Carla Howell On Ballot

Libertarian U.S. Senate petition drive underway

We finally have a level playing field.

But the friends of Ted Kennedy are charging us over 30,000 signatures for the right to play.

It's not as bad as it sounds. Ted Kennedy has to collect 20,000 signatures. And the Big Government Republican Senate candidate will have to collect 25,000.

Why the difference in numbers?

Because Ted Kennedy can collect from unenrolled and Democrat voters. And there are over one million Democrat voters.

The Republican can collect from unenrolled and Republican voters. There are over 400,000 Republican voters.

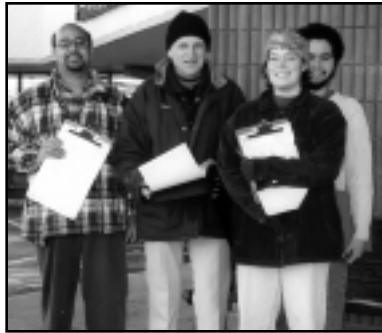
We Libertarians can collect from unenrolled and Libertarian voters. But we have only 11,000 Libertarian voters.

The good news is we proved that we can run a successful statewide ballot drive in 1998.

The better news is we have more members, more money, and more knowledge to do the job faster and better this time. The Carla Howell for U.S. Senate campaign is committed to completing the collection of over 30,000 signatures by our April 15th Massachusetts state convention.

We're already underway with volunteers and fund-raising to pay for a large portion of the signatures needed.

The petitioning firm working with us successfully completed the income tax rollback petition initiative last fall. The firm is headed by a long-time Libertarian who is committed to our



success. This firm will begin its part of the petition drive in early March and will work side-by-side with our volunteer petitioners across the state.

We need your help to achieve this goal. We need your help to maintain major party ballot status for the Libertarian Party. We need your help to get on the playing field with Big Government Ted Kennedy.

If you want to be involved, if you want to be sure we get covered in our U.S. Senate race, please help collect volunteer signatures or donate to this vital Libertarian effort.

You can donate using a credit card by visiting our web site at www.carlahowell.org (your donation goes to our secure web server) or send a check payable to Carla Howell for U.S. Senate to: 297 Boston Post Road Suite 247, Wayland, MA 01778. Please write 'ballot drive' in the memo of the check.

Or you help collect signatures by contacting Dennis Corrigan at dcorrigan@carlahowell.org or (978) 352-4435.

As soon as we get the petitioning done, we begin the real Libertarian campaign for U.S. Senate. ■

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

Secretary of Commonwealth Misleads Voters

Elias Israel

Since the successful elections of 1998, the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts has been recognized by the commonwealth as a major party. As such, we will be holding a Presidential Primary on March 7th.

Unfortunately, a problem at the Secretary of State's office caused some confusion among registered Libertarian voters. For all of 1998 and 1999, a person registering as Libertarian received a notice from the town clerk where they registered that indicated that the Libertarian party would not be holding a primary. This notice was the pre-major-party notice and was incorrect after November 1998.

Through the attention and communications with many Libertarians this problem came to the attention of Elias Israel. He worked with LAMA's General Counsel, Edward McCormick, and with the Secretary of State's office. Secretary Galvin's office promised to correct their error from earlier in the year by sending letters to Libertarians informing them

that they **did** have a primary coming up and they are not in a designation, but a major party.

Those letters were supposed to have gone to all registered Libertarians who initially registered between December '98 and December '99, or who were previously registered and moved or changed their name during that same period.

If you or anyone you know should have received this letter from Secretary Galvin and you have not, please send a short e-mail to Elias Israel or to Edward McCormick indicating why you think you should have gotten the letter and the fact that you haven't.

Please do this right away, because if there is any shortcoming that we want the Secretary's office to repair, we'll need to do it well in advance of the presidential primary.

What Does 8th Essex Mean?

Muni Savyon & R. Dennis Corrigan

Welcome to our new candidates: Bob O'Keefe, Patrick El-Azem, Joe Fischetti, Irwin Jungreis and Michael Froimowitz who joined just before the closing of this issue of Massachusetts Liberty. We have yet another candidate who will announce her candidacy at the April 15th convention. This candidate is serious and she is already working to build her volunteer group. All of our candidates are busy collecting signatures on their petitions, and the first ones may be done by the convention.

This is where the real work of the campaign begins. If you haven't already volunteered to help one of the candidates please do so today. They will need volunteer support to collect enough signatures to appear on the ballot in their district. However, it may be a challenge to discover who your closest candidate is.

"What are all these exotic places," you may ask, "I know Dave Rizzo, and I thought he lived in Marblehead. When did he and Kate move to '8th Essex'?"

Here are some simple step-by-step instructions on how to translate the town or city to district and vice versa.

1. Get Internet connected and start your web browser.
2. Go to our web site, WWW.LPMA.ORG .
3. Scroll down a bit, click on "Interesting Links" on the left side of the page.
4. Scroll down to the section "Voter's Information". Click on "Information about elections"
5. Scroll down to the section "Helpful Massachusetts Directories of..." and click on "Representative Districts" or "Senatorial Districts"

In these pages you will be able to learn these interesting facts:

- Vera Meyer, who ran in 1992 in Cambridge, will be on the ballot in parts of Malden and Medford.
- Michael Froimowitz will be on the ballot in 26 towns and one city on the western part of the state.
- Ron Bargoot, who ran in 96 and 98, will run again in parts of Somerville.
- The spooky sounding district "13th Middlesex" is actually three sleepy towns in the Framingham area.

Or just call up Muni or Dennis and they'll tell you who your nearest candidate is and put you in touch with his or her volunteer coordinator.

An exercise for the reader: Find your State Representative and State Senatorial districts. Give your nearest candidate a call and help collect some signatures.

Candidates for U. S. Senate
Carla Howell

District
Massachusetts



Candidates for U. S. Congress
David Euchner

District
4th Massachusetts

Candidates for State Senate:
Michael Froimowitz
Kamal Jain
Marie Katzen
Bob O'Keefe
P. Christopher Schoaff
John Sullivan

Senate District
Hampshire & Franklin
Middlesex & Worcester
1st Essex
Norfolk & Suffolk
1st Middlesex
5th Middlesex

Candidates for State Representative:
Heather Ashcraft
Ron Bargoot
Paul Bello
Jim Condit
Dean Cook
Scott Coughlin
Scott Cousland
Charles C. Cox
Steven R. Drury
Patrick El-Azem
Joe Fischetti
Carl Garfield
Michael Haag
Dale Hogeland
Irwin Jungreis
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
16th Middlesex
2nd Middlesex
7th Middlesex
36th Middlesex
5th Plymouth
13th Middlesex
14th Suffolk
4th Essex
9th Middlesex
11th Norfolk
38th Middlesex
24th Middlesex
6th Middlesex
8th Essex
15th Norfolk
2nd Hampden
6th Norfolk



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.

notes from around the state

National LP Asks LPMA to Fight Civil Forfeiture

The National LP has asked for help from Massachusetts Libertarians to help win support for The Civil Asset Forfeiture Reform Act of 1999. It is currently sitting in the Senate Judiciary Committee which includes our own Ted Kennedy.

With the support of Libertarians from around the country, the House version passed last year by an overwhelming vote of 374-48. Now the Senate version of that bill, S. 1931, is expected to come up for a vote in the Judiciary Committee. The Judiciary Committee vote is crucial because the panel is much more resistant to asset-forfeiture reform than the full Senate. The committee is stacked with former prosecutors and other politicians who are generally anti-civil liberties and pro-drug war, like Sens. Charles Schumer, Strom Thurmond, Teddy Kennedy, and Jeff Sessions.

Our Capitol Hill sources predict that this legislation could sail through the full Senate by a lopsided vote just as in the House — but first it has to get through the Judiciary Committee. That's why it's important to put the pressure on now, using the momentum from the House victory.

And though this legislation is not perfect, it may be our only chance to significantly reform asset forfeiture laws, which police routinely use to confiscate the possessions of thousands of innocent Americans without producing a search warrant, arresting them, or charging them with a crime. Shockingly, these laws force Americans who want their property back to go to court to "prove" they haven't committed a crime, and even to post a bond before they are granted the "right" to contest the seizure.

Call the Congressional switchboard at 202-225-3121 and ask to speak to the office of Ted Kennedy. The switchboard is open 24 hours, and most Senate offices have voice mail. Identify yourself and let him know you are a voter in Massachusetts. Leave your name, address, complete with ZIP code, and phone number. Ask Kennedy to vote YES on S. 1931, The Civil Asset Forfeiture Reform Act, sponsored by Senators Hatch and Leahy.

Brandeis Libertarian Heads Freedom Magazine

Michael Sturm, Chairman of the Brandeis Libertarians, is the new Editor-in-Chief of Freedom Magazine, the one and only libertarian/conservative student journal of opinion and open forum debate at Brandeis University. He is also Vice-President of Students for the Second Amendment. Massachusetts Libertarians are invited to learn more about Freedom Magazine at www.freedommagazine.org.

Freedom Magazine works very closely with the other libertarian & conservative groups on campus to sponsor events during the year. They have put together a very impressive list of speakers for the Spring Semester including Nadine Strossen, President of the ACLU and Charlton Heston, President of the NRA. Later this year they hope to sponsor a debate between Ted Kennedy and Libertarian Carla Howell.

Hirschmann Leads Greater New Bedford Libertarian Association

Welcome to Laura Hirschmann as the new interim chair for the Dartmouth area Libertarians. She was active with Mike Conway and has taken over since his move to Maine in February. Laura has also been leading the charge against the smoking bans in this area and has a new web site www.mcff.tripod.com/home.html. It is linked to a much broader site www.smokersclub.org. Laura writes "This is a huge issue in this state. The towns are falling rapidly, one by one."

We also have another hot issue in Dartmouth - Historic District Commission. I can't believe the number of do-gooders who can't seem to mind their own business and continually get public funds to push their agendas on everyone else!"

PVLA Elections

Yes, it is election time again! PVLA members may run for office or vote at the March 8th meeting. There will also be a speaker at this meeting. The Speaker is Terry Franklin of Amherst, Massachusetts. Franklin organizes the Extravaganja re-legalization rally every year. He may also run for State Representative this year.

Waltham City Committee To Sponsor Ron Paul

The Waltham City Committee is working with the Brandeis Libertarians to bring 1988 Libertarian Presidential candidate Ron Paul to Brandeis. They are currently working on a date and hope to sponsor a speaking appearance later this year.

Worcester Hosts Jeremy Cloud

The Worcester Libertarians are rapidly growing and have completed mailings to all Libertarians in Worcester. Jeremy Cloud, the MA state coordinator for the Harry Browne 2000 campaign, will be speaking at the next meeting about the campaign and opportunities for volunteers.

Provincetown Selects Evans as Chairman

The recently formed Provincetown Libertarian Town Committee has selected Jeff Evans as Chairman. The Provincetown group is meeting the first Wednesday of each month at the Provincetown Inn.

Chelmsford Plans for Caucus

Plans are well underway for the March 9th caucus. Also, a scholarship program has been established for Chelmsford High School Seniors. If you'd like information on the scholarship or would like to donate to the scholarship, please contact the Chelmsford Town Committee. The caucus will be advertised through www.Chelmsford.com, local cable access, and the community calendar.

Also, Patrick El-Azem has recently signed up to run for State Representative. He will also be appearing for the second time on Politically Incorrectable on Tuesday February 22. This is a local cable access political talk show.

Littleton Readies Town Committee

"Good news," reports Kamal Jain. "The Libertarian population of Littleton has doubled in the last six months." Kamal expects to be busy contacting the new members and recruiting them for the town committee. ■

Voters To Select Presidential Nominee, State Committee

(continued from page 1)

By far, the most exciting part of this primary is the broad slate of presidential candidates. The Presidential race has a definite California flavor with candidates Kip Lee, David Hollist, and Edison McDaniels, Sr. all hailing from the golden state. Science fiction writer and gun rights advocate L. Neil Smith will appear on the ballot, as will 1996 Libertarian Presidential Candidate Harry Browne. While Larry Hines will appear on the ballot as well, he has withdrawn from contention for the nomination. Although Don Gorman announced his candidacy too late to appear on the ballot, supporters of former New Hampshire Legislator are organizing a write-in campaign for their candidate.

While it is hard to judge the support enjoyed by various candidates without tracking polls, most of the discussion in Massachusetts Libertarian circles has been about Harry Browne and Don Gorman.

Don Gorman was elected as a Libertarian to the New Hampshire State House in 1992 and reelected as a Libertarian in 1994 where he served as the head of the Libertarian Caucus. He continues to serve as Chair of the Deerfield Board of Zoning Adjustment. Mr. Gorman announced his candidacy for President at the California State Convention in February. For more infor-

mation on Mr. Gorman's campaign, a campaign web page may be found at www.Gorman2000.org.

In February, Mr. Gorman was in Cambridge campaigning for the presidential nomination. Invited to speak by Cambridge City Committee chair Jason Solinsky and coordinator Jeff Chase, Mr. Gorman said the theme of his campaign would be putting "More Libertarians in Elective Office." Addressing key federal issues, Gorman emphasized his support for the Second Amendment and discussed the "failed War on Drugs." Gorman explained that the time is right to end unconstitutional asset forfeiture laws and federal opposition to medical marijuana. He called for a reduction of taxes and federal bureaucracy. He proposed to conserve our overextended military forces by ending unconstitutional interventions in the internal affairs of sovereign foreign nations.

Meanwhile, the Harry Browne campaign has also been active in Massachusetts. Led by Jeremy Cloud, the state coordinator for the Harry Browne campaign in Massachusetts, volunteers are being recruited to work on the campaign. Interested volunteers should contact Mr. Cloud at jjcloud@recor.com. Activists are needed to help the campaign in many ways. Some are simple and require no time commitments, such as putting a Harry Browne bumper sticker on your car, or a Harry Browne sign in your front yard. For the more ambitious,

there is a lot of phone and door-to-door voter contact planned.

Browne's campaign has followed a more standard political script. He has worked to bring together an extensive campaign team, worked to raise funds through direct mail appeals and is generally working to bring the Libertarian message to the main-stream press and media. Browne's web site is www.harry-browne2000.org. He recently announced his official candidacy for the Presidency during an appearance on C-Span's "Washington Journal." This was followed by an extensive media tour including appearances on CNN and interviews by CBS and the Associated Press. Browne's focus is on what his campaign team calls "The Great Libertarian Offer." This is a 30 minute commercial for Browne's campaign. Browne wants to air this commercial in every possible venue, from local cable access to national network television. His platform includes a plan to eliminate the federal income tax, end the "insane" war on drugs, and dramatically reduce the size of the federal government.

The Browne and Gorman campaigns have very different style and focus. These differences should provide a good opportunity for discussion among Libertarians in Massachusetts and across the nation. The primary and convention season promises to be an exciting and active time for all Libertarians. ■

Gun Owners' Action League Plans April Rallies

The Gun Owners' Action League is holding a series of April rallies around Massachusetts in order to draw attention to the inequities of the new Massachusetts gun law (Chapter 180). Libertarians are invited to attend and help express our dissatisfaction with many of the anti-liberty aspects of this new law, including the following examples:

- Gun owners are the last remaining group of Massachusetts citizens who must submit their photos and fingerprints and register every change of address with their local police departments and the state Criminal History Systems Board — something not even ex-felons and sex offenders are required to do.
- City and town police chiefs have absolute discretion as to who will or will not be given a license to own or carry a firearm, even if the applicant satisfies all the rigorous, objective statutory criteria. Incidents of outright discrimination have and will continue to happen. Certain police chiefs deny all licenses to carry in their town.
- Gun owners are forced under penalty of law to keep their home-defense firearms locked up in a child-proof manner,

often making their gun unavailable for home defense. The law is applied indiscriminately to childless families and solitary seniors, a number of whom have already been charged with a "criminal safety violation" under this law. Your locked, empty house is not considered "secure storage."

- The new gun law requires different classes of licenses to own different "classes" of rifles and handguns, and possession of the "wrong" gun without the proper license is a crime. However, the class in which a particular model of gun resides is determined by a roster drawn up and periodically changed by unelected state officials. Every new list makes new criminals out of citizens who were properly licensed the day before.

Protest rallies are currently planned in:
Carver, April 1 (10AM-1PM)
Boston, April 24 (10AM-1PM)
Hudson, April 29 (10AM-1PM)

For more information, visit <http://www.goal.org/links.html> or call GOAL at (508) 393-5333. ■

An Interview With David Atkinson

(continued from page 1)

things, and when I read them the logic made so much sense that I said, "Well, I was wrong."

ML: You said that previous to this, you thought it was government's job to fix everything. What do you think is government's job these days?

DA: Now I know that it's strictly to keep people from being victimized by fraud and violence. That's a full time job. If they strictly stuck to that we'd have safer streets, we'd have fewer people stealing from us or misrepresenting themselves or their products, and we'd be much better off.

ML: In Provincetown you are currently a selectman.

DA: I ran three times for selectman. The first time I got seven percent of the vote and the next time I got twenty five percent of the vote. After that election I was at a party and the chairman of the finance committee came up to me and said, "Dave, you did really well in that election. You should get on the finance committee."

I asked, "Well, how do you do that?"

She said, "Just write a letter to the town moderator and ask to be appointed to the finance committee. You'll get more background and be in a much better position to run for selectman again."

So I did that and was appointed to the finance committee. I served two years on the finance committee. That's probably the most important message to leave with the readers of Massachusetts Liberty. There are tons of vacancies on town boards and they really need the help that we can give. Everybody has talents, hobbies, and interests that are needed on various boards. You don't have to run for office to get on these. You just have to go to the town clerk, ask for the list, and volunteer.

ML: It really is that easy?

DA: It is that easy, and they're still nice people too. Basically, everybody in government is a nice person just like you and I. They're just trapped in this situation where they think they can fix things. They try to fix things but we all know about unintended results.

ML: So you served on the finance committee for two years and then you ran for selectman again?

DA: Yes, I ran a third time and this time I was the top vote getter. I got fifty four percent or something like that.

ML: How many selectmen are there in Provincetown. Is Provincetown a city?

DA: No, it's a town. We only have four thousand people. There are five selectmen on the board.

ML: I know in my town they don't have a lot of people running. How many people were running.

DA: There were two seats open and there were six candidates. It was a good race.

ML: So how did you get fifty four percent? What did you have to do to campaign?

DA: What helped me the most was that for several years before I got elected I had my own personal fight with the Cape Cod National Seashore to try to get a clothing optional beach. I had been ticketed for being naked several times - I ended up paying about six hundred dollars in fines - and the last time they put me on probation for a year because I was naked on an empty beach.

Of course I was in the news media while I was doing that because I wanted everybody to know how absurd it was. I think that probably got me a lot of votes because people in this town think the National Seashore is the bully which came in from outside and is trying to run things their way. About ninety percent of the property in Provincetown is owned by the Cape Cod National Seashore. They make their decisions in Washington and in Denver, Colorado. A lot of people in town don't like their bullying.

ML: There's no representation of the local citizenry on the boards?

DA: They have what they call the Cape Code Advisory Commission, and theoretically local citizens are on that commission, but they don't have any power other than just to advise.

ML: So as a Libertarian that must drive you up a wall.

DA: It's a challenge. It's something we have to pay attention to and we have to

be aware of what they're planning and make sure they don't plan things without our involvement or at least our scrutiny.

ML: So what else did you do to run a successful campaign. What are the practical aspects of running a successful local campaign?

DA: I've always offered my advice in letters to the editor. I've done that as far back as I can remember. When things get really riled up I'll fire off a letter to the editor and I always try to use as few words as possible. I went to school for broadcasting and I used to write a pretty mean radio commercial. I got experience in putting things together concisely. So my letters have been useful.

ML: So you've been published regularly in the local papers.

DA: I have been. I think what people like about me is my candidness and honesty. I say what I think and sometimes it's shocking, sometimes the truth does shock people, but it cuts through all the fog. People know where I'm standing when I say something.

ML: What is actually required of a selectman in Provincetown? How does it compare to the finance committee?

DA: Most committees only meet once a month or once every two weeks, but the board of selectmen is pretty intense. I really didn't understand that completely. They meet twice a month, however those are just regularly scheduled meetings. During budget session we've met six times during the week. There are afternoon meetings and site visits. It's fascinating though. You are always on top of new things that are happening, it's not boring at all.

You can put into it pretty much what you want. I've always felt if I have a job to do I'm going to do it the best I can do it.

ML: I know selectmen are primarily responsible for the budget. What else do they do?

DA: They call us town fathers and you can think of it that way. Anything your father would have done that's what we're involved in. We know pretty much everything that is going on. Some things we vote on. We vote on policy.

(continued on next page)

An Interview With David Atkinson

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ML: How do you make trade-offs when all the different departments come to you for the budget.

DA: It's really hard being a Libertarian and being a selectman because a lot of things which are in the works wouldn't be in the works if we had our way. But because they are already going on you pretty much have to go along with it because people have been getting this service all along.

For instance picking up garbage. In Provincetown everybody gets their garbage picked up by the town. My belief is you would be much better if people had to pay according to the amount they threw away. There is a program called pay as you throw where you pay per bag. It tends to make people more conservative on the things they buy which they have to throw away. It also makes them recycle more since recycling is free. There's currently no incentive in this town to be thrifty and conservative with your garbage because it's picked up at no cost.

Sometimes you vote in favor of things which you wouldn't vote for if they were just starting out.

ML: So being a Libertarian in office is a long term process of changing small things over time until the whole is more Libertarian.

DA: I find myself often asking the question that no one else will ask. Why are we doing this? Does the state require us to do this? If you are consistent with your free market questioning sometimes even if you aren't there someone else will say "What would Dave ask?"

So you have an affect just by asking free market questions even though it may not sink in the first five or six times. I do get thanks for the questions I ask. People tell me "I'm glad you asked that." Because, often people take it for granted that things have to be this way but I make them look at it the other way.

ML: So it sounds like the people you work with at the local level are just normal people trying to do their best.

DA: Yes, they all mean well. There might be someone there to feather their own nest, but as a rule they are people like you and I just trying to help out the situation they are in.

ML: What does it take to be successful as a selectman?

DA: I think honesty. Speaking from the heart. Being accessible. The last time I ran I said I'm as close as the phone. I have an answering machine but I make sure I call back with the answer or tell them I don't have the answer or tell them where they can get the answer.

ML: Do you get many calls?

DA: Each week about three calls or stops on the street, at the supermarket, at the bank, whatever. A lot of people will pull you aside and say "Gee, Dave, how come we're doing this." It helps to be sociable and accessible. You have to be a good listener.

ML: What are you most proud of in your tenure?

DA: We have a sewer treatment plant being planned for the town. When I was first running I was against the idea, but after learning all the background information, learning how many properties in town have inadequate septic disposal systems now I realize that we have to have one. My involvement has been to make it as painless as possible for people.

When this all started the thought was if the pipe ran by your house you would be required to tie in. Now we've gotten it to the point that only the properties that absolutely have no room to have a title five compliant system have to tie in. We are making it more user friendly and everyone in town won't have to pay for it. Only the people that use it will have to pay for it. We are fine tuning it so that it is more free market where the user pays. That I can hang my hat on.

ML: What resources did you have to use to learn all the technical details?

DA: I didn't have to research it myself. The information comes to the members of the board from the consultants and engineers we have to hire, the planners, the state agencies. There's involvement even from the federal government supplying information on how you have to manage your waste. There is plenty of material out there it's must a matter of reading it all and listening to the testimony.

ML: Was it fairly straightforward to someone without a technical background. It sounds daunting.

DA: When I hear something I don't understand I'm not ashamed to say, "I don't understand. Could you clarify that and make it simpler." They do.

When I was in high school I always made the class laugh because I would ask the stupid questions. When something wasn't clear to me I wouldn't let the teacher go any further. Sometimes they thought I was just doing it to be a jokester, but I was really interested in not moving on until I understood what she meant.

One day the smartest girl in the class, the one who always got As came up to me and said, "Dave, I'm really glad you asked that question because I didn't know it either." That reinforced my belief that I was going the right thing. When I don't understand something I say so and it turns out other people don't understand it either but they don't have the courage to say so.

ML: So part of being a good selectman is asking these hard questions.

DA: A lot of the time we have people speaking legalese or technical jargon and I ask them to put it in street language for me. They do that and I think they appreciate the fact that I say that.

ML: Is there anything you would do differently?

DA: I'd run for a job that pays. [laughs] Selectman doesn't pay and it does take quite a bit of time away from my work. Luckily I work for myself so I'm flexible but the bills still keep coming in. So it would be nice to hold a position that pays like Governor or something.

ML: That's in two years.

DA: You can only do this so long and then you need a recharging.

ML: What are your goals for yourself and your position?

DA: My goal is to finish my term and still have people say hi to me on the street. That doesn't sound like anything earth shaking but that's basically it. I want to do the job the voters want me to do as best I can; to be as libertarian as possible in a system that isn't.

(continued on next page)

volunteer opportunities

Rizzo Campaign Seeks Volunteers

Dave Rizzo's campaign is actively seeking volunteers in the North Shore area to do all the things campaigns do: write press releases, develop a web site, write position papers, get bumper stickers, yard signs and letterhead, collect nomination paper signatures, fund raise, contact the media, and walk the district door-to-door (in the nice weather later on). Please contact Mr. Rizzo at 781-990-1300.

Wilcox Campaign Seeks Volunteers

The Alan Wilcox campaign in the 2nd Hampden district is also looking for volunteers. This district covers Hampden, Longmeadow, Wales, and pieces of other towns in the area. To volunteer please contact Mr. Wilcox at 413-596-8587.

Carla Howell campaign wants your help

Want to help spread the words "small government is beautiful"? Arrange to have Carla Howell, Libertarian candidate for U.S. Senate speak to your church, civic organization, classroom, or club anywhere in Massachusetts. Or just send a contact name and phone number to Kay Pirrello at kpirrello@carlahowell.org or call (978) 741-2581.

Massachusetts Liberty Needs Writers

Massachusetts Liberty is looking for a few people to write our regular articles and cover interesting Libertarian events. Most notably we need someone to contact the town committees each month and write up the one page "Notes From Around the State." The time commitment would be about 2 hours a month. If you're interested, please contact ma-liberty@la-ma.org.

Harry Browne Campaign Seeks Volunteers

The Harry Browne 2000 campaign has produced a high-quality, 30 minute video titled "The Great Libertarian Offer." The Browne campaign is currently working on getting the video

broadcasted on nation cable channels, and on network TV later on.

We also want the video to be broadcasted on every local access channel that will allow it. Jeremy Cloud is currently looking for people who are willing to contact the local access channels in their area, and try to get the video shown. If you don't want to contact your local access channels, but can get the contact information for the stations in your area, then please at least forward the contact information to him. Please contact Mr. Cloud at 617-623-1167.

Help at Massachusetts Convention

Donate a few hours of your time to help stuff convention kits, work the registration desk and convention floor. Contact Carol Lapin at clapin@lpma.org or 617-889-4768.

Graphic Artist Needed

Create and format a simple brochure prototype to be used by candidates in their campaigns. Please contact dcorrigan@lpma.org.

Avid Reader Wanted

We could use volunteers who read a number of newspapers to document the progress of the incumbents that our active candidates are running against by organizing news clippings and other media attention. For more information, contact Carol Lapin at clapin@lpma.org

Operation Politically Homeless

Volunteers are needed to staff Libertarian outreach booths at conventions, fairs, gun shows, and similar events around the state. For more information please contact Elias Israel at 888-627-2725. ■

An Interview With David Atkinson

(continued from previous page)

ML: Do you feel that Provincetown and the board of selectmen has become more accessible to libertarian and free market ideas?

DA: I'm not sure if they are more accessible to it but I think they understand it more. Sometimes the chairman will say something like, "Well, Dave won't like this." They know where my mind is at. Once in awhile I'll get the two other votes I need to get something to stick, but usually I'm a single vote.

ML: At least the debate has changed to include a libertarian point of view.

DA: I think so.

ML: Is there anything else you'd like to say to our readers?

DA: Yes, take a walk down to your town clerk and ask for a list of the vacancies on the town boards for the town you live in. I'm sure there is a board in your town that needs you which you could have an interest in. Don't worry about running for office, just hold an office. If you choose to have fun you will.

It would be nice to someday know who it was that handed me that piece of paper in Washington that changed my life, but I probably never will know. I'd like to thank him.

ML: I'm sure your service has been more than thanks enough.

DA: One other thing I'm proud of. I was involved in the Advocates for Self Government's Seminar One. I don't

think they do it anymore but you would get a bunch of people together once a week and read several chapters in David Bergland's book "Libertarianism in One Lesson." You would just be the facilitator and wouldn't answer any questions but the next week they would come in and discuss those chapters. I created three libertarians that way. One of them is the chairman of the Vermont Libertarian Party. That's something I'm proud of.

ML: You guys just started a town committee. Are you excited about that?

DA: I'm amazed because when I first got on the board we had three Libertarians in town. Now we have, I think, twenty six. That's just in two years which is encouraging. ■

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