



# Massachusetts Liberty

The Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts

November/December 2002

## State Legislature Candidates Excel in November Races R. Dennis Corrigan

In the last six years I have been involved with the LP in Massachusetts, we have had wonderful candidates representing the Libertarian Party. But we owe a vote of gratitude to this year's crop of candidates that may exceed even the prior champions of liberty. Simply put, our state rep candidates and Carol McMahon (the LP's only State Senate candidate this year) proved to be a formidable force for liberty in their communities. Veterans and novices alike staged brilliant campaigns, garnering wonderful press coverage, engaging local voters and emphatically raising the standard of liberty, making us proud to be associated with such distinguished patriots.

We owe special thanks to those running for state legislature who also represented us in 2000: Al Wilcox and Rich Yampell

(and to Ilana Freedman and Kamal Jain, who ran for State Senate in 2000 and contested higher profile races this year). But every one of our 2002 candidates diligently discharged the responsibilities they took on, responding enthusiastically to all opportunities to promote the Libertarian program.

I hesitate to catalog the respective contributions each of these people has made, tempting though it is, for fear of inadvertently slighting anyone's particular initiative. Let me just emphasize two things: all the state legislative candidates who announced that they would run this summer have followed through on their commitments, and, most importantly, many of them had so much fun and positive feedback that they are already committed to run again in two year's time!

Hats off to the 2002 team of Libertarian candidates:

### The Sons and Daughters of Liberty

<i>Candidate for State Senator:</i>	Eryk Boston 636 (7%) <i>17th Middlesex</i>	Raymond Leary 1109 (15%) <i>7th Bristol</i>	John Roderick 2111 (19%) <i>27th Middlesex</i>
Carol McMahon 8451 (17.5%) <i>Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire, and Franklin</i>	Gregory Doherty 2699 (23%) <i>7th Middlesex</i>	Steve Olson 606 (4%) <i>7th Plymouth</i>	Mark Testagrossa 561 (4%) <i>4th Middlesex</i>
<i>Candidates for State Representative</i>	Danny Fain 2722 (18%) <i>11th Middlesex</i>	Skip Pacheco 2768 (20%) <i>12th Worcester</i>	Al Wilcox 582 (4%) <i>2nd Hampden</i>
George Berdos 2476 (21%) <i>8th Plymouth</i>	Elias Israel 564 (4%) <i>21st Middlesex</i>	James Pillsbury 3209 (25%) <i>6th Middlesex</i>	Rich Yampell 335 (2%) <i>6th Norfolk</i>

## Roll Call of Freedom: 101 Towns for Question 1!

Looking for a town in Massachusetts where your neighbors believe in freedom? Try one of the 101 towns that voted Yes on Question One on Election Day:

Alford	Danvers	Harwich	Middleborough	Plympton	Tewksbury
Amesbury	Dennis	Haverhill	Middleton	Rehoboth	Tolland
Avon	Douglas	Holland	Milford	Revere	Topsfield
Ayer	Dover	Hopkinton	Millville	Rochester	Townsend
Barnstable	Dracut	Hubbardston	Monroe	Rowley	Tyngsborough
Bellingham	Dudley	Kingston	Nantucket	Royalston	Uxbridge
Billerica	Dunstable	Lakeville	Norfolk	Salisbury	Wales
Blackstone	Duxbury	Lancaster	North Andover	Sandwich	Wareham
Boxford	East Brookfield	Leicester	North Attleborough	Saugus	Warren
Brimfield	Freetown	Lunenburg	Northampton	Seekonk	Webster
Brookfield	Georgetown	Lynnfield	Oak Bluffs	Shirley	West Bridgewater
Carver	Gosnol	Manchester	Peabody	Southborough	Westminster
Charlton	Granville	Marion	Pembroke	Southwick	Whitman
Chatham	Groveland	Marshfield	Pepperell	Spencer	Winchendon
Chester	Halifax	Mashpee	Peru	Sterling	Winthrop
Clinton	Hanover	Mendon	Phillipston	Sutton	Yarmouth
Cohasset	Hanson	Methuen	Plymouth	Swansea	



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November/December  
2002

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### Next Deadline

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## Letter from the chair

### Predictions

*"I confidently predict the collapse of capitalism and the beginning of history. Something will go wrong in the machinery that converts money into money, the banking system will collapse totally, and we will be left having to barter to stay alive. Those who can dig in their garden will have a better chance than the rest. I'll be all right; I've got a few veg."*

**Margaret Drabble, British Novelist  
Quoted in *The Guardian*  
January 2, 1993**



**Elias Israel**

I was thinking about the difficulty of prediction when I found the quotation above, which I think underscores it neatly.

Of course, as you'll probably agree with me that watching Osama bin Laden throw out the first pitch at Fenway Park next summer is more likely than the "collapse of capitalism," maybe all this quotation proves is the danger of making predictions without the benefit of a working cerebrum.

Before Election Day, all of the media pundits and talking heads "confidently predicted" that Question 1 would be soundly defeated. They said it would get trounced two to one. Some said it would get smashed by as much as three to one. They had charts, and statistics, and polls and surveys to back them up. After all, how could anyone in their right mind want to live in a state without an income tax! Horrors!

Of course, by now we know that those pundits were no more sensible than Ms. Drabble.

Here are the facts: 45.4 percent of the voters voted YES on Question 1. Over 882,000 Massachusetts citizens agree with us that we can do without an income tax.

In more than 30 percent of the towns in Massachusetts, yes votes outnumbered no votes on Question 1.

Michael Cloud, candidate for US Senate, raked in 368,423 votes, a 19 percent showing that beats anything done by any previous new party candidate. And he did it in the face of a hostile media that refused to report on his campaign.

Kamal Jain took in more than 133,416 votes in his race for Auditor, another outstanding performance.

Because of the vote totals for Kamal Jain and Michael Cloud, our major party status is secure for another two years.

The Libertarian Party has reached a new plateau here in Massachusetts. We have demonstrated our ability to put our platform on the public agenda.

For the first time anywhere, so far as we can tell, the voters in a state have had the chance to vote on a bold and specific plank from the Libertarian platform.

Our registration totals now exceed 20,758 voters.

Our indefatigable candidate for Governor, Carla Howell, has excelled in televised debates, in campaign appearances, and in press interviews. Her leadership in Question 1 and the Committee for Small Government represent the only real help, care, and compassion that the taxpayers were offered this year.

We have weathered the toughest economic times in more than six years, and managed to get our message out regardless.

We stared down an irresponsible and hostile media, and forced them to cover Libertarian campaigns.

Our candidates pounded the pavement to collect signatures. They held standouts. They talked to voters. They sacrificed days and evenings and weekends to help us all present a better image to the voters.

And we convinced the voters that the Libertarian Party is here to stay.

There's more work to do—much more. But once again, in this election cycle we have taken another big step towards bringing small government to Massachusetts.

With your help, we can bring that day closer.

Victory!

### StateComm Notes

At the October 19th State Committee meeting, Peter Kuntz was elected the new Secretary of the LPMA. Previous Secretary, Laura El-Azem, resigned this summer due to her move to New Hampshire.

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## Libertarian Events

### **Marlborough Libertarian Association**

Sunday, December 8, 7:00 P.M.

Marlborough-area Libertarians gather the second Sunday of each month at the Joy Asia buffet on Route 20 in Marlborough. For more information, contact Jess Bowen at [jbowen@lpma.org](mailto:jbowen@lpma.org) or Stephanie Farrell at [sfarrell@lpma.org](mailto:sfarrell@lpma.org) or (508) 485-3341.

### **Pioneer Valley Libertarians Meeting**

Wednesday, December 11, 7:00 P.M.

Pioneer Valley Libertarians meet the second Wednesday of each month at Bickford's on Boston Road in Springfield. For more information, contact Alvin See at (413) 568-7597 or [asee@lpma.org](mailto:asee@lpma.org).

### **Worcester County Libertarian Association**

Sunday, December 15, 6:00 P.M.

The Worcester County Libertarian Association meets on the third Sunday of each month at Tweed's Pub Restaurant at 231 Grove Street in Worcester. For more information, contact Dean Cook at (508) 765-5011, or [dcook@lpma.org](mailto:dcook@lpma.org), or visit [wcla.tripod.com](http://wcla.tripod.com).

### **State Convention 2003 Planning**

Tuesday, December 17, 7:00 P.M.

Usually the second Tuesday of each month, the State Convention 2003 Planning Meeting for December has been moved to December 17. For more information (or to volunteer) contact Jessica Bowen at [jbowen@lpma.org](mailto:jbowen@lpma.org).

### **Libertarian Social**

Saturday, December 21, 7:00 P.M.

Sue and Jim Poulin will be hosting the December social at their house at 11 Independence Drive in Woburn. For more information, contact them at (781) 935-1509.

#### **Organizing a Libertarian Event?**

Get the word out by submitting event information to *Massachusetts Liberty* via e-mail to [ma-liberty@lpma.org](mailto:ma-liberty@lpma.org) and using our on-line calendar at <http://www.lpma.org/calendar/>.

## Volunteer Opportunities

The end of the election season does not mean the end of volunteer opportunities - now is the time to lay the foundation for the next elections. Help spread Libertarian views to your neighbors with one of these ideas.

### **Operation Politically Homeless**

Operation Politically Homeless is a booth set up at events that draw crowds. Volunteers ask event attendees to take the World's Smallest Political Quiz, hand out Libertarian literature, answer questions, and encourage people to register to vote as Libertarians and join the party.

Many fairs and festivals are candidates for OPH booths. Find out if there's one in your area. Running an OPH booth is easy and fun. We can help you plan the event, recruit help, and supply you with an OPH kit. For more information about OPH

booths, see [www.discoverliberty.org](http://www.discoverliberty.org).

### **Massachusetts Liberty Needs Reporters**

Do you enjoy writing? Want to help make this newsletter even better? *Massachusetts Liberty* is looking for a few good people to cover Libertarian events around the state. Whether you're willing to travel across the state or prefer to stay near home, your help is needed. We will provide you with the when and where of the event and you provide us with an article and photo (digital if possible!) For more information, contact us at [ma-liberty@lpma.org](mailto:ma-liberty@lpma.org).

## Plans for 2003 State Convention are Underway

Jessica Bowen

Now that election day has passed, what will you do with all that libertarian fervor that you've built up? I have good news for you — we have a way to channel it!

The convention committee is now planning the upcoming convention. Please mark the date on your calendar: April 12, 2003. The convention will be held at the Sheraton Tara in Framingham, conveniently located in Central Mass, near Route 9 and the Mass Pike. Watch for details about how and when to register coming soon. The convention is a great place to come for new Libertarians and for long-time party activists as well. We will offer great speakers to inspire you and workshops to teach you how to put philosophy into practice. It's also a good place to bring friends and family who may have an interest but need to learn more. Official party business should be very short this year because it is an odd-numbered

year and therefore no internal elections that need to be carried out.

It is not too late to join the convention committee — we still have a few slots that need to be filled. The committee meets the second Tuesday of every month at Jessica Bowen's house in Marlborough. We have worked hard to break down jobs into manageable tasks so we can find a task that suits your talents and interests as well as respects your participation limits. In other words, we have jobs that are fun and won't overwhelm you! It's a great way to get involved on a fairly short-term basis (the convention is only five months away!).

We hope to see you at our next meeting on December 17th. If you need more information, including directions, call Jessica Bowen at (508) 787-0895 or email [jbowen@lpma.org](mailto:jbowen@lpma.org).

# 2002 Election Wrap-Up

## The Party of the Year: The Libertarian Statewide Election Night Celebration

Libertarian election night celebrations are always fun. But for perhaps the first time in Libertarian Party of Massachusetts history, an election night celebration featured high drama, suspense and anticipation.

As Election Day dawned, Carla Howell's Small Government Act to End the State Income Tax was becoming a category 4 hurricane, while Republican Mitt Romney and Democrat Tom Finneran were battering down their big-government hatches. Both men staunchly oppose tax cuts. Both publicly support a \$23,000,000,000+ state budget.

Everyone attending the election night celebration had sensed the growing buzz for Carla Howell's End the Income Tax platform. They had seen the satisfied, happy looks on the faces of voters as they emerged from voting booths across Massachusetts.

Their friends, family and co-workers told them they voted for Carla Howell's Question 1. So this crowd of 223 Libertarians wondered: Could this be a close vote, despite what the experts at the Boston Herald and Boston Globe had predicted?

"Regardless of the outcome, this is a defining year for Libertarians," said Libertarian Lt. Governor candidate Rich Aucoin. "Because of Question 1's bold and unmistakable nature, Massachusetts voters will never again need to ask what Libertarians stand for. Thanks to Carla Howell and Question 1, they'll know it's small government and low taxes that we're offering, pure and simple."

The news media converged on Carla Howell the moment she entered the celebration hall. They remained for the entire night, as preliminary election results indicated that a major Libertarian victory was becoming a very real possibility.

"The media didn't stay this late in 2000," said campaign business manager Kay Pirrello. "It's terrific that they finally need to cover a Libertarian election event late into the night."

As Carla Howell took to the stage to address the crowded hall, the excitement spilled over. "This is a stunning result for Ballot Question 1," said Ms. Howell. "The people have spoken and they agree with Libertarians that government is too big and taxes are too high."

Ms. Howell went on to thank the many volunteers who helped her put small government on the ballot for the forgotten taxpayers of Massachusetts. "We couldn't have done this without you," she said. "I thank you all from the bottom of my heart."

Libertarian U.S. Senate Candidate Michael Cloud, who won nearly 20% of the vote despite being blacked out by the major news media, emceed the event.

"The Boston Globe and the Boston Herald can ignore us all they want," said Mr. Cloud. "Our Libertarian message of individual liberty, personal responsibility and small government is breaking through the McCarthy-style, anti-Libertarian bias of Boston's big media. Even they can't un-ring the bell of Question 1."

Ms. Howell and Mr. Cloud ended the high-spirited evening by recognizing the other Libertarian candidates who supported Question 1, several key campaign volunteers and their campaign staff: Kay Pirrello, Celeste Parent and Libertarian State Rep candidate Skip Pacheco.



Candidates: (back row) Mark Testagrossa, Carol McMahon, Rich Aucoin, Greg Doherty, Al Wilcox (front row) Danny Fain, Skip Pacheco, Carla Howell, Michael Cloud, Steve Olson, Rich Yampell, Eli Israel

### Ballot Question 1 Shocks Massachusetts Establishment

The Boston Globe's last pre-election poll on Ballot Question 1 claimed that the Yes vote would be 34%. WHDH-TV News/Suffolk University showed the Ballot Question 1 Yes vote at 34%. The Boston Herald's showed the Ballot Question 1 Yes vote polling at 25%. All three pollsters claimed to be accurate to within 5%.

*continued on page 5*

#### Thank You from Carla Howell and Michael Cloud

Dear Friends,

Your help has made our campaigns possible.

Without your support, there would have been NO Michael Cloud, Libertarian for U.S. Senate campaign.

Without your support, there would have been NO Carla Howell, Libertarian for Governor campaign.

Without your support, there would have been NO Committee for Small Government Ballot Question 1 to End the Income Tax in Massachusetts campaign.

We've received so many email thanks and congratulations - we still haven't had time to read them all. Within the next few days, we'll read every one of them.

It's hard to think of words to express how grateful we feel. Please accept two words straight from our hearts: Thank you.

small government is possible,

Carla Howell

Michael Cloud

# 2002 Election Wrap-Up

*continued from page 4*

Then WHY did we get 45.4% of the vote? Why did we come within 4.7% of winning on Ballot Question 1?

Boston Globe, the Boston Herald, WHDH-TV News, and Suffolk University voter polling were way outside the margin of error. How do we explain 3 Major News Media Polls – conducted just days before the voting – coming in so inaccurate, so unreliable, so far from the truth?

All three Independent Polling Organizations claimed that support for Ballot Question was between 11% and 20% LOWER than the Election Day vote. All three radically UNDERSTATED voter support for Ending the Income Tax.

Were all three polls flawed? Were all three polling organizations incompetent? Were all three polling organizations misinformed by the people they called? We don't know the answers to these questions, but we do know that their polling was unreliable.

Here's how the vote went with 2,155 out of 2,157 precincts reporting:

881,738 people voted Yes on 1: 45.4%

1,060,525 people voted No on 1: 54.6%

45.4% of Massachusetts voters voted to End the Income Tax.

Our Libertarian Ballot Question 1 to End the Income tax won in 30% of the cities and towns of Massachusetts. This was a huge step toward making Massachusetts government small.

## Carla Howell's Courage — The Governor's Race

Some Democratic and Republican politicians run Ballot Initiatives to promote their campaigns for Governor or Senator. They use a ballot Initiative as a tactic to advance their personal goals or political career. Carla Howell did something extraordinary in Massachusetts: she ran for Governor to advance the cause of small government; to advance the cause of personal responsibility and individual liberty. Carla Howell used her campaign for Governor to advance our Ballot Initiative to End the Income Tax in Massachusetts.

Carla Howell championed a historic proposition: to dramatically cut government spending and give back huge savings to working taxpayers. To stimulate the economy and create hundreds of thousands of desperately needed new jobs. To chal-

lenge the status quo like it's never been challenged before with a simple message: End the Income Tax — small government is beautifulsm.

But taking \$9 billion out of the Massachusetts state budget was a severe threat to the Massachusetts media, their easy-to-manipulate two-party campaign choices, and their cherished Big Government and High Tax policies. They responded by subjecting Carla Howell to a media blackout.

Carla Howell persisted. Throughout her campaign for Governor, Carla Howell continually promoted and publicized Ballot Question 1. Carla Howell never once compromised her principles; never once sold out hard-working taxpayers, gun owners, home schoolers, civil libertarians, and every other group who's been betrayed by their political leadership. With her team of dedicated supporters, Carla Howell worked day and night to deliver the cleanest, simplest small government message she could: Small government. Every issue. Every time. No exceptions. No excuses.

During the last weeks of the campaign, the Carla Howell for Governor Team was able to break through the Boston Globe blackout. She insisted on and received media coverage for the Newspapers, TV Newsrooms, and a few Talk Radio Stations. But the media was stingy with coverage. They gave just enough to prove they were giving some, but nowhere near what Carla Howell had earned.

Carla Howell, her Campaign Team, and her supporters did everything in their power to arrange speaking engagements and news coverage. Meanwhile, news coverage was lavished on the Democratic and Republican candidates for Governor. On top of their media coverage, the campaigns of Shannon O'Brien and Mitt Romney are reputed to have spent \$50 million to promote

their races for Governor – shattering previous records for campaign spending in Massachusetts. Carla Howell's brave but under-financed campaign was overwhelmed by \$50 million. "We were only able to afford \$25,000 in Radio advertising for my Governor's campaign," said Carla Howell. "This is 10% of what we had for advertising when I ran for U.S. Senate against Ted Kennedy 2 years ago."

The media pursued with their tricks – convincing voters that Question 1 can't win anyway and that the Democrat and Republican were so close that any other vote was a wasted



Key Campaign Volunteers: Peter Kuntz, Kasia Sokalla, Jim Marshall, Steve Olson, Carla Howell, Dan Winkler, Kay Pirrello, Rob Kilburn, Eve Maler, Dennis Corrigan, Celeste Parent, Eli Israel, Bob French

*continued on page 6*

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# 2002 Election Wrap-Up

*continued from page 5*

vote, but behind all the rhetoric, support for Carla Howell's End the Income Tax platform was remarkably strong. Fiscally conservative Republicans supporting Mitt Romney and working class Democrats supporting Shannon O'Brien favored Question 1.

In spite of it all, the Carla Howell for Governor campaign team ran hard and never stopped. For twenty months, Carla Howell gave everything she had to give for freedom. For small government. For twenty months, Carla Howell delivered her message to millions that Big Government harms people, small government works. Ending the Income Tax is feasible, desirable, and long overdue.

"It was worth every minute, every drop of sweat and blood. Massachusetts 2002 was the most significant election in recent American history," said Ms. Howell. "We demonstrated beyond a shadow of a doubt: bold proposals for small government work. Even in Big Government Taxachusetts, when given a chance to vote their conscience, voters choose small government."

## **Michael Cloud Shines Despite Boston Globe Blackout**

For 14 months, the Boston Globe refused to assign reporters to Michael Cloud's U.S. Senate campaign. Not one single

Boston Globe reporter has written so much as one single article about Michael Cloud's campaign issues or Michael Cloud's U.S. Senate campaign. Michael Cloud was the ONLY candidate on the Ballot against John Kerry. Yet the Boston Globe refused to report on his campaign or issues.

Michael Cloud's campaign collected 19,487 signatures to put his name on the Ballot. The campaign put 7,027 Yard Signs in front of the homes of supporters and 6,281 Bumper Stickers on cars of supporters. The campaign had 632 volunteers and Michael Cloud had over 100 speaking events and News Releases. Michael Cloud aggressively campaigned for 14 months.

To draw attention to this injustice to voters, Michael Cloud engaged in a six day Hunger Strike against the Boston Globe's McCarthy-style blacklisting of his U.S. Senate campaign.

The Boston Globe crippled Michael Cloud's campaign, but they did NOT kill it.

During the campaign, Michael Cloud spoke to over 100,000 people in small audiences and big.

The results? With 2155 of 2157 precincts reporting:

John F. Kerry (Dem): 1,596,350 - 81%

Michael Cloud (Lib): 368,304 - 19%

Richard Winger, Third Party authority and Editor of Ballot Access News, said the following:

"This was the best U.S. Senate result for a Libertarian in Party history, and the best by any nationally-organized Third Party candidate in a U.S. Senate race since 1932."

Michael Cloud said, "Without the Boston Globe's McCarthy-style blacklisting of my U.S. Senate campaign and our Liber-

6 Massachusetts Liberty

tarian issues, I could have gotten 30% to 35% of the vote in my U.S. Senate race. Carolyn Ryan, Martin Baron, and Richard Gilman's dishonest and dishonorable journalism cheated the voters of Massachusetts out of vital electoral information. They should surrender their prestigious press awards and beg the forgiveness of every voter in Massachusetts. They are a disgrace to journalism."

"When I think of all the people who volunteered for and donated to my U.S. Senate campaign, I feel tears of joy welling up," said Michael Cloud. "With virtually no major TV or newspaper attention, they stood by me. I will never forget them."

One example of journalistic accountability: Joe Bonni acknowledges his oversight in neglecting to cover Michael Cloud for U.S. Senate. He has the integrity to say so in his article published November 6th in Boston's Weekly Dig.

## **Ilana Freedman**

Ilana Freedman had a busy election season with a Channel 56 debate and Candidate forums in Acton, Concord, and Groton. Ilana Freedman's presence, reputation, and viability made it inconceivable to have a Congressional debate forum without her. Ilana appeared at town fairs, Town Meetings, and on main streets throughout her district in her campaign RV.

## **Greg Doherty**

Framingham State Representative candidate Greg Doherty appeared in an October 16th MetroWest News article by John Gregg about the sniper shootings in Washington. Doherty argued the case against a bill sponsored by state Senator Cheryl Jacques (D-Needham), and State Representative David Linsky (D-Natick) which would create a bullet "registry" by requiring gun manufacturers to provide both a discharged bullet and spent-shell casing from every new gun sold in Massachusetts.

## **Forever and a Day — Skip Pacheco**

At the time it was happening it seemed like forever, but now it seems like it could have been just a day. I started my campaign for State Rep early this year and now it's over.

It's been full of fun and interesting encounters. I've had a chance to polish my experience in interviews for newspapers, and even had a talk radio appearance on the GOAL Line on WORC.

While out petitioning I got a wide spectrum of responses. One day I came home and had a message on my machine. I'd been petitioning the day before and somebody had called me up to tell me how he hadn't read my flier while he was there, but later did and agreed with everything on it and that he was voting for me.

I did my standard pitch to a lady coming out of Shaws, "Hi, my name's Skip Pacheco. I'm running for State Rep and I'm collecting signatures to get my name on the ballot. Are you willing to help me out?" She kept walking, turned her head and said, "My husband will chew you up and spit you out! State

*continued on page 7*

November/December 2002

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# 2002 Election Wrap-Up

*continued from page 6*

Rep., huh?" That was my first and only meeting with my opponent's wife. When I met Mr. Naughton, thankfully he was a lot more personable than she was. He even offered me coffee and donuts while campaigning at the polls on Election Day.

After Tuesday night, I feel neither chewed up nor spit out. In fact, when I learned of my vote totals I was quite pleased. I got 20.3% in my first race against an entrenched incumbent who has lived in town all his life and knows everyone!

I will be back in 2004 with lessons learned, experience gained, and hopefully more time to dedicate to my campaign. The bar has been raised. I want to beat 20.3%. With my plans to try and mobilize grassroots Libertarian activity in my area between now and then, I'm sure I'll be up to the task and will have even more help along with way.

If you'd like to be involved in the Clinton area, please email me at [skip@SkipPacheco.com](mailto:skip@SkipPacheco.com).

## **John Alan Roderick**

Former candidate John Alan Roderick says, "I would MUCH rather be chastised for my Libertarian views than labeled a progressive whose been side-lined by the house leadership." The Somerville Journal encouraged John to stay involved in local politics despite their contention that "[h]is Libertarian views... make him a difficult choice for the Journal" in the recent election. Read the entire article at: [http://www.townonline.com/somerville/news/opinion/sj\\_edisjcandidates-gr10312002.htm](http://www.townonline.com/somerville/news/opinion/sj_edisjcandidates-gr10312002.htm).

## **Deep (Candidate) Thoughts — Mark Testagrossa**

After being a member of the LP for the past few years, I decided to take the plunge and try running for office. I went into it knowing that the odds of me winning were about the same as the Red Sox winning the World Series... for the next 10 years.

Unlike the Red Sox, there was no pressure on me to win. I was running to increase the visibility of our party's ideas and talk to people about the benefits of ending the income tax. I was also running to see what it's like to be a candidate. After years of talking about how great it would be to have more Libertarian candidates on every level, I decided to go for it. Like most people, I always seem to have a million things going on in my life. I didn't want to commit to running a big campaign and didn't feel right asking for people's money if I wasn't going to give it my all. I also wanted to make sure that I represented the party well.

I started by attending a "potential candidates" meeting. There, I spoke with Dennis Corrigan and Muni Savyon. They told all of us "potentials" that the party would be happy if we could just get our names on the ballot. They said that anything beyond that would be great, but they never pressured me to do more. I think our party is very lucky to have these two guys. As a first-timer, I had lots of questions. They were always there to provide helpful advice right away.

During the campaign, I was never sure what to expect. The media contacted me several times. The first couple times I

spoke with them, I was nervous. Who the hell am I? I was surprised that they cared what little old me thought about the issues. Dealing with the media was like anything else; the more experience you get, the better off you'll be. I started to relax and my answers started to make more sense.

I was given the opportunity to write small columns in a couple local papers discussing issues that were important to me. I was able to speak about things like Question 1, gun rights, medical marijuana, and public schools. With the help of my friend, RJ Barstch, we were able to maximize the impact of each column.

The biggest event of my very small campaign was a debate between the Democrat incumbent, the Republican challenger, and me. The format was simple: we'd each be asked the same question and have one minute to respond. We'd each get a one minute opening and closing statement. I prepared all weekend for the big event. I practiced answering questions in the one minute time frame. This turned out to be a great exercise. It taught me to be clear and to the point about the various issues.

When the big day came, I was nervous. Knowing that I had very little chance of victory, my biggest goal was to give people a better understanding of the party. I wanted to come across as polite and decided not to directly attack my opponents.

Having watched the tape of the debate a couple times, I think I did ok. My opening and closing statements were the most polished. I looked at the crowd the entire time and didn't read any statements (like my opponents). I didn't hide and restate the questions. I gave honest small government solutions instead of using wimpy, political tricks such as restating the questions, or saying, "I will look into it."

I was disappointed that several topics never came up. No one asked about Question 1, gun rights, or medical marijuana. Luckily, one reporter asked the open ended "What are your top 3 objectives?" Bang! I think I sent that one out of the park (again with the Red Sox analogy J) I got to bring up all 3 of the above issues. Of all the questions asked, I think I answered that one the best.

Afterwards, people commented that I was the best public speaker in the debate, but questioned my views. Talking with the audience afterwards, I received the standard questions. "Can we really get by without an income tax?" "What about the poor?"

After all was said and done, I received 561 votes (4%). I was able to run just about my entire campaign on \$250 from the LPMA. The campaign helped me personally with my speaking and writing skills. It gave me a new perspective on the political process and strengthened my belief in small government solutions.

Just before the debate began, a friend of the Republican introduced himself to me. He said that he enjoyed the columns that I had written because they sounded so conservative. He said, "Hey, why don't you join a real party?" I replied, "I'm already in a real party." Being a Libertarian candidate rules! I might even do it again!

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## No New Taxes

### **In the wake of a shocking anti-tax vote, Massachusetts legislators quietly scrap plans for new tax hikes**

Massachusetts Democrats had their game plan all worked out. With Shannon O'Brien expected to take the Governor's office, they figured that fat times had come again at last. Finally, a governor they could work with. Finally, a woman who says she wants to keep taxes "as low as possible," when what she means is "as high as we can get away with."

What Massachusetts Democrats had planned to do was to call the Massachusetts House and Senate back into a special lame-duck session, specifically for the purpose of what might be called "revenue enhancement." Their plan to hike taxes and hijack the issue of casino gambling to make it yet another big-government feeding frenzy was also specifically timed to keep O'Brien's hands clean. By forcing tax hikes and expanded state-monopoly gambling past the now nearly toothless Jane Swift, they hoped to save their new Governor from taking any real heat for raising taxes early in her new term.

But that was then, and this is now.

Question 1 has changed all of that. Even though it was defeated by the voters, the narrowness of that defeat and the depth of feeling among the voters against new taxes that it demonstrates have sent a shock wave through the Beacon Hill establishment. Suddenly, new taxes are no longer on the menu.

Lawmakers have gotten the message. According to the Boston Globe (Voters' antitax sentiments seen altering agendas, 11/07/02), Democratic legislators have quietly scrapped their plan to bring the House and Senate back into session.

"This is an outstanding achievement for the Committee for

Small Government, and for the Libertarian Party," said Eli Israel, state party chair. "Through this close vote and the message that it sends, we have probably saved Massachusetts taxpayers millions of dollars, if not billions, in new taxes."

Interestingly, Jane Swift is now seen pushing for a lame-duck session, perhaps thinking that the current anti-tax mood will

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## Suddenly, new taxes are no longer on the menu.

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leave legislature will little choice but to reduce spending. Conversely, Democrats want to delay until the new session, perhaps hoping that the fear of new taxes will have abated by then.

Meanwhile, House Speaker Tom Finneran has quickly shifted his rhetoric to fit the public mood. "In a time of continuing economic difficulty, to go back to it again and take another bite on taxes I think is unwise economically and I think it's unwise politically," said the Speaker. Taking a page from the Libertarian playbook, the Speaker is now proposing tax cuts to spur job creation. Saying he would support a cut in the capital gains tax, the Speaker chided his own party for its antipathy towards the private sector: "I'm worried about the direction of the party. I'm worried about the economic ignorance that seems to be almost woven into our platform and our party planks."

Libertarians remain vigilant. "Neither Democrats nor Republicans can be trusted to put the interests of the taxpayer ahead of their own," said Israel. "The Libertarian Party is the only party that speaks for the forgotten taxpayer."

## How Do We Respond to Ignorance About Libertarianism? Brian Chapman

I've often had the chance to discuss my Libertarian beliefs with those who know little or nothing about our party or what we stand for. People who are ignorant of any cause will seldom if ever give that cause the benefit of doubt. While knowing hardly anything about us, these people have already concluded that we are extremist (left-wing or right-wing) crackpots or anarchists who hate the government and, by extension, the United States of America. I've also had several people tell me that they believe Lyndon LaRouche is something akin to the flag bearer of our party.

How do we respond to this nonsense? My approach is to be patient and not argue too forcefully. I realize that I can't convince a person all at once, but by expressing myself carefully and persuasively, I can perhaps plant a seed for thought in their mind. I'll pick on a point or two and give examples of the Libertarian perspective on that topic. If the person seems to be liberal, I'll use examples like the war on drugs and the abortion issue. If the person seems conservative, then I'll use

welfare, gun laws, and high taxes. I'll look for a few things that the person can agree with me on, but then of course I'll let them know that Libertarians favor smaller government on each and every issue.

Does this mean that we hate the government? No! I feel strongly that any Libertarian who makes such a claim is doing our cause a disservice. In fact, we love our system of government as established by our founding fathers — each and every one of whom was a Libertarian at heart. We love America and we care deeply about the kind of government we have. That's why we strive to make it better. We are by far the most patriotic party because we are the only party that adheres to the principals set forth in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. We are the people who are not led like sheep by bureaucrats and politicians. We are the people who understand our history and keep to the noble ideals that America

*continued on page 9*

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# Ignorance About Libertarianism

*continued from page 8*

was founded upon.

Is being a proud, flag-waving American who adheres to these noble ideas extreme? Does that make us nuts? Hardly. If anything is nutty it's that we've strayed so far from what has made us great and set us apart... and that we are in danger of straying further.

We are neither extreme left nor extreme right. Nor are we anarchists. We believe in the need for just laws, and we obey the laws of our land (even the bad ones). We are middle America, who always has and always will favor small government. And we are not in any way associated with Lyndon LaRouche or any other crackpot. I have had to set several folks straight on that, including a man with a master's degree in chemical engineering. In many cases, the most you can do

is gently but firmly dispel these myths that many people still believe, and give them a little basic background on what we're all about. Never press too hard. After an initial discussion, it's better to let them raise the subject again, if they're so inclined. Then if they want to know more about us, it is a good idea to give them some introductory reading and let them take the World's Smallest Political Quiz. In addition to our standard primers (such as *The Libertarian Reader* and *Libertarianism: A Primer* by David Boaz and *Why Government Doesn't Work* and *The Great Libertarian Offer* by Harry Browne), I have found two books by Richard Maybury to be highly informative, *Whatever Happened to Justice?* and *Are You Liberal, Conservative or Confused?* These two books led me and several of my family and friends to discover Libertarianism.

## Party Animals

Those who have spoken with me at a lunch or meeting over the last month or two are aware that I have been working on my pet project: to name a mascot for the state party as a counterpoint to the Republican's elephant, the Democrat's donkey and the Green Party's watermelon. In keeping with Michael Cloud's advice to "define or be defined," I'd like for us to name our own animal before the press does it for us. To this end, I've asked quite a few Libertarians to name their choice and here are the nominee's:

**Owl:** The most popular so far, and my personal favorite. The owl has the advantages of being a symbol of wisdom and a free-flying creature. It also serves as a midpoint between the "hawks" and the "doves".

**Wolf:** The second most popular. Able to exist in a pack or alone, the wolf is a symbol of American strength and freedom.

**Eagle:** At first this one seemed great, but many dictators have used the golden eagle and any eagle carries the risk of being confused with the bald eagle.

**Dolphin:** Another symbol of freedom and the only fully aquatic suggestion.

Eryk Boston

**House cat:** At first it seems like a great symbol of independence but am I the only one who sees that it's the "purrfect" example of a welfare recipient? How many house cats could catch a mouse if their life depended on it? For the record: those who have seen my cat know that he's a huge hunter/killer.

**Penguin:** I know the national party has used this one and no one seems to know why. If anyone knows, could you tell me?

**Other/NOTA:** If you'd rather vote for another creature or you'd rather not have one at all. If NOTA gets a majority then my little pet project will be put in mothballs.

OK, those are the choices. To vote you must be a registered Massachusetts Libertarian or party member.

E-mail your vote to **Eryk.Boston@lpma.org**. I'll post a running tally of votes and comments on my web page at **www.ErykBoston.org** — look for the "Vote Totals" link at the very bottom.

### Submissions Welcomed!

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@lpma.org**, or by USPS to Mass. Liberty Editor, Post Office Box 2610, Boston, Massachusetts 02208.

**Submission deadline for articles and information is the seventh of each month.**

All submissions are subject to editing.

## Be Heard, Be Represented

**Ballistic Fingerprinting:** Ballistic Fingerprinting has become the new catch phrase in the debate over the right to keep and bear arms. The proposed legislation would require all firearm manufacturers to provide a spent cartridge to the state for every firearm sold at legal retail, along with the name, address and Social Security number of the person purchasing that firearm. The goal of this system would be to give police a tool to link bullets found at crime scenes to the suspect.

Although this sounds reasonable enough at first glance, little evidence exists to prove that this is an effective or useful method of crime prevention. According to Doug Krick of the Pink Pistols, "Maryland and New York have already deployed this mandatory 'ballistic fingerprinting' scheme, with terrible results. Those systems have cost tens of millions of dollars, swallow more money every year, and haven't solved a single crime."

Even more worrisome is the fact that the California Department of Justice put Ballistic Fingerprinting to the test, using various brands of ammunition with the same pistol, they found that 63% of the time the computer did not correctly identify the gun in the top 15 suggested matches. This means that 63% of the time, the Ballistic Fingerprinting system would identify 15 innocent people as potential suspects.

House Bill 1460 and Senate Bill 1193 are aimed to implement Ballistic Fingerprinting in Massachusetts. Please call or write your local representatives and let them know you oppose this legislation being passed in Massachusetts. Contact information for the appropriate representative can be found at [www.mass.gov](http://www.mass.gov).

## Other Events of Libertarian Interest

Join the Pink Pistols for a shoot at the Manchester Firing Range in Manchester, NH. Directions and more information is available at <http://boston.pinkpistols.org>.

A new website has been launched dedicated to, what else, Libertarians! Check out [www.elibertarian.com](http://www.elibertarian.com) for jobs, jokes, news, and even a list of other libertarians across the country who will even let you sleep on their couch if you're passing through town.

The Independent Institute is accepting essays from college students or junior faculty members aged 35 years or younger on the topic: "The progress of freedom depends more upon the maintenance of peace and the spread of commerce and the diffusion of education than upon the labor of Cabinets or Foreign Offices." For complete entry details, call **510-632-1366** or visit [www.independent.org](http://www.independent.org).

## This Month in Libertarian History

Melanie Mork

### November — The Fall of the Berlin Wall

At an international press conference on June 15th, 1961, the president of the East German communist party said, "There are people in West Germany who want us to mobilize the construction workers of the GDR to build a wall. I am not aware of any such plans....No one has the intention of constructing a wall."

Two months later, his statement was proven false as barbed wire, tanks, and barricades were used to block off East Berlin and the GDR from West Berlin. Public transportation between the two regions was halted, and the construction of the Berlin Wall began. Many commuters were trapped on the opposite side of the wall from which their families lived. In the decades to follow, hundreds of people tried to escape from communist East Berlin to free West Berlin by tunnels, climbing over the wall, and in some cases, flying over the wall.

The government of East Berlin tried to stop the escapes by outlawing the sale of twine and rope and destroying the tunnels that were often located in cemeteries. Many people were shot to death when caught trying to escape.

In 1989, massive flows of citizens emigrated out of the GDR when the Hungarian border was opened. Pressure also mounted when weekly demonstrations against the Wall were held in Leipzig. On November 9th of 1989, the leader of East Berlin's communist party, Gunter Schabowski, announced that the border would be open for "private trips abroad." As the rush of people headed towards West Berlin, celebrations were held on both sides of the divide and people started physically tearing down the Wall. It was at that moment, on

November 9th, 1989, that what was once a symbol of repression became a symbol of freedom.

### December — The Libertarian Party

December is a particularly significant month in Libertarian History! The Libertarian Party was founded on December 11th, 1971 in Colorado at the home of David Nolan. (Nolan also created the "Nolan Chart," more commonly known as the "World's Smallest Political Quiz.") The first Libertarian national convention was held the following June. It was at this convention that John Hospers, a philosophy professor at the University of Southern California, was nominated to be the first Libertarian presidential candidate. The vice presidential candidate Tonie Nathan became the first woman in U.S. history to receive an electoral vote.

The impact of the Libertarian Party in American politics began to snowball. In 1978, Ed Clark received 5% of the vote in his race for Governor of California, and Dick Randolph of Alaska becomes the first elected Libertarian state legislator.

Today, the Libertarian Party is the third largest political party in the United States. Libertarians believe the answer to America's political problems is the same commitment to freedom that earned America its greatness: a free-market economy and the abundance and prosperity it brings; a dedication to civil liberties and personal freedom that marks this country above all others; and a foreign policy of non-intervention, peace, and free trade as prescribed by America's founders.

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