Julie Fox Tops Ticket with 4.2%

The Campaign for Governor

Analysis by the Skinner campaign

If the gubernatorial campaign had been a novel, we would be applauding the ingenuity of the author. On the last weekend, an out-of-state newspaper published a poll that showed the candidate it endorsed for governor, a Republican, had closed the gap. Media throughout the state picked up the story, stressing that “every vote counted.”

The reader thinks, “Did the newspaper instruct its pollster to ‘doctor’ his results? Did the Republicans bribe the pollster? Did the Democrats bribe the pollster? Did both parties conspire to bribe the pollster to fix the results in order to convince people not to vote for the Libertarian candidate in sufficient numbers to gain ballot access?”

Julie Fox, LPI candidate for State Comptroller, received 144,066 votes, 4.2% of the vote, topping the vote totals for LPI candidates in Illinois this year. Excepting vote totals for University of Illinois Trustee, which used to be an elected position until the LPI, led by Robin Miller, with Kirby Cundiff and Joni Garcia Rubio, got over 5% for that race, Julie’s totals are the largest ever for a Libertarian candidate in our state. Fox’s vote totals were .8% shy of the 5% needed for major-party status for statewide candidates in Illinois. With major party status, the LPI only would have to get the same amount of signatures as the Republicrats do, to get on the ballot for statewide office.

Maggie Kohls received 5.2% of the vote for the Fourth Congressional District, obtaining ballot status in her congressional district in her three-way race. The incumbent, Luis Gutierrez, was the winner.

LPI Gubernatorial candidate, Cal Skinner, received 2.1% of the vote. Although running the most active campaign in LPI history, and getting more news media attention than ever before, unfortunately, Cal was hurt as the voters continued to vote in the traditional two-party fashion, due to a great degree because of a poll that came out three days before the election, commissioned by the St. Louis Post Dispatch and run by pollster John Zogby. All other polls had Blagojevich with a nearly double digit lead or better over Jim Ryan. Zogby had the...
From the Chair

Thank You

by Austin Hough

I wanted to dedicate this space in the newsletter to recognize a few of the people who were instrumental in running the most successful slate of candidates the Libertarian Party of Illinois has ever run. This list is far from complete and I apologize to anyone I may have left off, but the following people were there when it really counted and we all owe them a debt of gratitude.

Thanks to Ted Semon, Matt Beauchamp, Scott Kohlhaas, Mike Ginsberg, Christina Tobin, Jeff Trigg, Mike Dixon, Dan O’Connell, David Simpson, Susan Wells, Jim Haring, Scott Bludorn, Don Parrish, Michael O’Toole, Brian Smith, Joel Portzer, Phil Triscouski, Dorothy Tsatsos, Ron McCartney, Jim Waldron, Greg Simunick, Jerry Kohn, Rose Kohn, Bruce Green, David Barnes, Kent Williams, Dan Johnson Weinberger, Joe Schreiner, Gordon Anderson, Maggie Gautier, John Huve, Vickie Huve, Tim Huve, Matt Lonegran, Bill Passmore, Scott Burgauer, Kathy Kelley, Doug Kelley, Dave Kelley, Frank Gonzalez, Sheree Stevens, Jerry Ray, Joe Specht, Chuck Kelecic, John Nickels, Tim Norton, Aaron Cunningham, Ken Prazak, Marty Pankau, Bill Stephens, Sue Schell, David Hughes, and Andrew Spiegel.

Thank you Cal Skinner and Jim Tobin for heading the most respectable ticket for which the state of Illinois has ever had the opportunity to vote. Thanks to Matt Beauchamp, Rhys Read and Gary Shilts for answering the call to run. Thanks to Steven Burgauer for seeking out our Party’s nomination for U.S. Senate and running an outstanding campaign. Thanks to Julie Fox for recording the highest vote total of any state-wide Libertarian candidate in Illinois, EVER, and for expressing interest in running again in four years. Thanks Maggie Kohls, Eric Ferguson, Steve Dubovik, Chandler Hadraba, John Yackley, John Kasner and Jim Young for achieving ballot access in the districts for which they ran. Thank you to all the candidates who answered the call this year to run, for we are a political party and our sole purpose is to run and elect Libertarian candidates. If we don’t do the former how can we expect to accomplish the latter?

Many, many, many thanks, to all those who posted yard signs; to all those who helped petition; to all those who fought the Republican challenge to our petitions; to all those who sent money; to all those who sent prayers.

And most importantly, thank you to all of the spouses and loved ones who supported us through this incredible journey, because they knew how much this all meant to us. Thank you!

O.K. Now who’s ready to run in 2004???

LPI Annual Convention Announced

Bylaw Submission Notice

The annual Libertarian Party of Illinois convention is on Friday February 28, Saturday March 1, and Sunday March 2. The annual Business Meeting is March 2. The location is Sheraton Four Points, Oak Brook, IL (This is on 22nd street just west of the Oak Brook mall). Any proposed changes to the Bylaws must be submitted to the LPI Secretary no later than 45 days prior to the meeting business.
race too close to call. Many voters who would have voted for Cal jumped back to the Republicans and voted for Jim Ryan believing he had a chance to win. Right before the election, Cal was polling around 6%.

Expectations also were high for Jim Young, LPI candidate for state representative of the 64th District. Jim had knocked on over 20,000 doors. More than 10,000 households were leafleted. Jim had two weak opponents. Then he got endorsed by the Daily Herald. Some envisioned a win, or at least a great showing. Jim Young did end up getting the best percentage any LPI candidate has ever received in a three-way race—7.2%, but below our (maybe unrealistic) expectations. So we now have ballot status in the district and can pick precinct committeemen. Jim has already identified 10 people to fill these important political positions.

Another hopeful candidacy was that of Jerome Kohn for State Representative of the 28th District. He received the endorsement from both the Chicago Tribune and the Chicago Sun Times. Jerome ended up getting 4.2% of the vote in his three-way race.

Other LPI state representative candidates did much better in two-way races. Topping the list is Eric Ferguson with 20.3%. In total, we will have ballot access in 6 state representative districts in 2004 thanks to Steve Dubovik (15%), John Yackley (13%), Chandler Hadraba (11.2%), Jim Young (7.3%), and John Kasner (7.3%).

Matthew Paul Burns had 4%, Michael Mandel received 3.3%, and John Tepley with 3%. John Nickels was out there waging a write-in battle and appears to have well over 500 votes and more than 1%.

Frank Gonzalez came close in US House District 5 with 4.34% of the vote. Stephanie Sailor and Dorothy Tsatsos finished with 3% of the vote, and Martin Pankau held 2% in their respective US House races. All of these were three-way races.

Although vote totals were disappointing, we were very successful in getting our ideas out into the public. Various issues of ours were “stolen.” Blagojevich said in a campaign commercial that he was “anti-tax!”

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Election Results (from pp1)

National Convention Notes
by Kenneth Prazak

National Libertarian Party conventions are always a great time—fun, stimulating and invigorating. This year’s convention in Indianapolis was no exception.

The politics started right away. The main election that was to be voted on was for national party officers, especially national chair. Representatives of the national chair candidates and the candidates themselves were on hand right from the beginning of registration with pamphlets, flyers, campaign buttons, and handshakes. All operated hospitality suites. Three candidates were running: Eli Israel, Geoff Neale and George Phillips.

Israel had the slick brochures, a good organization, Harry Browne’s support and was apparently the odds on favorite with a friendly approach. In my mind he represented the Party hierarchy status quo.

At the other end of the spectrum was George Phillips, the reform candidate, emphasizing libertarian values within the organization, accountability and a “from the ground up” approach to Libertarian strategy. He wasn’t as glib as Israel but came across as very sincere and studious.

Geoff Neale came to the race with a very successful business background presenting an image of a businessman whose expertise is to turn around companies running a deficit into an efficiently run frugal business. He was the money manager with an approach that emphasized the State Parties more so than Israel but less so than Phillips.

In a surprising first ballot, Geoff Neale received a pretty overwhelming plurality (with a majority needed to win the election). Israel took second, automatically dropping Phillips out of the race. In a surprise move to invite unity, Israel dropped out giving his support to Neale, thus Geoff Neale was elected National Chair. The prevalent attitude amongst conventioners was that Neale was the right man for the job at this time of dwindling available funds. It was thought that he continued on next page
would be able to use his expertise to get the most bang for the buck for the LP.

On the first evening of the convention, some of us made it to the hotel bar and discovered that Steve Dasbach, the LP National Director, was going to be on “Crossfire.” Kathleen Polizzi’s teenage daughter, Alii, was with us as we confronted the first Indiana regulation to rub a libertarian the wrong way. Alii had to be at least 30 feet from the bar in order to be legal. The bartender was very cordial but insistent on this regulation fearing the loss of the bar’s license, so Alii watched “Crossfire” at a distance. It was great to see Steve knock one ball after another out of the park as Robert Novak and Paul Begala tried to paint the Libertarian positions as kooky. Whether the questions were on foreign policy, taxes, or the drug war, Dasbach made us proud and Begala/Novak mute, with the throng of LP conventioneers cheering on.

The cheering was even greater during the week with a great speaker lineup that had the convention in stitches, jeers, tears and raucous applause. Bill Masters, Libertarian Sheriff from Telluride, Colorado, gave a great speech on his growing disillusionment with the horrible effects of the War on Drugs, and his philosophical growth which led him to join the Libertarian Party.

Masters has stood up to a hostile establishment in Colorado but nevertheless is leading a charge to a more sane policy vis-a-vis the war on drugs. He believes that legalization is the only answer. Masters stirred the audience with this (nearly) closing comment, “Liberty is a harsh mistress. You cannot pick and choose what you like and dislike about her. Liberty will not change her principles for you, no matter how much you claim to love her. She will stand fast in her demands for total acceptance. If you can’t receive her, she will recognize you as a false lover and leave you. And when you hear that door slam, it will take every tear in your eye, every ounce of blood in your veins, and all the nerve in your heart to win her back.”

Gary Johnson, the Republican governor of New Mexico, addressed issue after issue from a libertarian perspective, especially his focused issue on the insane war on drugs. To see a national Republican leader talk from such a libertarian perspective—especially on the drug issue—was truly heart-warming. Although not willing to join the Libertarian Party at this time, he made it clear that he is one of us and felt truly honored to speak in front of our convention.

Our Libertarian Gubernatorial candidate neighbor to the north, Ed Thompson, of Wisconsin, gave an enthusiastic speech on his possibilities to actually win the Governor’s race in Wisconsin. He was polling over 12%, much more than Jesse Ventura did at this time of the race. Ed Thompson had picked as his running mate a former Democratic state legislator who was so fed up with the corruption in state government that he resigned from office vowing never to run as a Democrat or Republican again. But the Wisconsin Libertarians convinced him to run for Lieutenant Governor as a Libertarian. He signed the pledge and was the candidate. At one point in the campaign, one Madison journalist tried to put down Thompson’s campaign by saying that the only people he would attract in the state of Wisconsin were deer hunters and bar patrons. Thompson quipped, “I guess I am going to win in a landslide then!”

An excellent Bill Clinton impersonator (an LP member) addressed the convention with an amazingly and (chillingly) believable style billing himself as the LP’s new celebrity media spokesman. Just as great was our own Tim Slagle with updated versions of his comedy bits many of us have heard before. Even though I have heard Slagle numerous times, his bits are always just as funny (and sometimes funnier) as the first time I heard them. He also continues to freshen up his act. We need to be writing HBO to get him his own comedy special.

Indianapolis is a beautiful town with many statues, fountains, parks and beautiful flowered landscaped areas that some of us saw as we would walk to local establishments for lunch or dinner. But as we know, Tanstaafl—no free lunch, after getting the hotel bill at the end of the stay, I found out who is paying for those collective niceties—the tax added to the hotel bill was over 20%! Isn’t socialism wonderful?

One peculiarity was that the Indianapolis Convention Center (which held our convention) also at the same time held the World Church of God convention–thousands of born again Christians juxtaposed to the Libertarians (not that there is anything wrong with that—being a born-again Christian). But the result of that was that many of the hospitality-suite parties that would normally go on to the wee hours of the morning were shut down by hotel security by 10:30 PM because of complaints from the World of God conventioneers. Not the best planning on Marriott’s part to have fundamentalists on the same floor with the partying Libertarians.

Speaking of partying, the Libertarian Party of Illinois conventioneers once again were named as the best Libertarian party Party in the country by former Libertarian New Hampshire state representative, Don Gorman, a feat of which I (and others should) take great pride.

Much of the convention floor time was taken up by the Platform Debate, always a contentious but interesting exercise in the finer points of Robert’s Rules of Order—from my point of view, anyhow. Many other delegates spend that time going out to break out sessions which included Mayor Willy “Star” Marshal, the mayor of Big Water, Utah, explaining how he is moving his town in a libertarian direction. Mike Dixon, the LPI’s new Executive Director, spearheaded an effort as the Platform Committee Chairman, to fundamentally change the structure of the platform to include an executive summary of the platform that will be a handy tool to pass out to the press when asked to see the LP platform. The Executive Summary includes the topic sentence of all portions of the platform. The Executive Summary passed.

Other convention events included luncheon and breakfast speakers such as Congressman Ron Paul, Harry Browne and our own Joe Bast. I didn’t attend these events, but I understand they went very well.

The Saturday night banquet featured Libertarian talk show host Neal Boortz who put on a very entertaining presentation. That was followed by a somewhat disappointing fund raiser (we,
at our state convention actually raised almost twice the money than was raised at the National Convention). Entertainment by a great swing band followed.

Always on the lookout for stupid regulations, Julie Fox noticed during the banquet that the bar tenders had their tip jar below, not on the top platform of the bar where patrons could see it. When she asked the bartender why he did it that way—he could be getting more tips if the jar was seen, the bar tender just laughed it off, “Oh, you Libertarians, always on the lookout for some law you disagree with. No, it is just a hotel regulation; I’d lose my job if I put it on top of the bar!”

Our own State Chair, Austin Hough, (nominated by Scott Kohlhaas) was elected as one of six at-large delegates to the National Committee.

A minor league baseball park was just a block away from the convention. Some of us saw a fun and relaxed game of baseball with a pre-game picnic to boot. In mid-game we saw a cadre of fire engines go to our Marriott Hotel. Evidently, the hotel was evacuated. (There were rumors of possible terrorism all Fourth-of-July weekend.) And then two days later, on Saturday night, again, the hotel evacuated because of a possible fire hazard—smoke was found in the heat ducts. A post 911 pattern was emerging. It was quite interesting to see a former Libertarian presidential candidate walking out of the hotel room with a bathroom robe on.

On independence Day, a friend and I decided to drive an hour south to Brown County, an absolutely beautiful area of Indiana. We took in some swimming at Lake Monroe (near Bloomington) and then fireworks in Nashville, Indiana. While driving in this picturesque part of the state it occurred to me why Indiana license plates say, “Wander Indiana.” Many Indiana drivers really don’t drive, don’t pay attention to proper lane usage, they just “wander” all over the place. It took some getting used to. There happened to be a dearth of places to get an adult beverage—I couldn’t figure out why until I discovered all the wandering going on. Can you imagine coupling the wandering with a plethora of bars? What a disaster that would be. So no bars, a lot of wandering, and thank God, no sobriety check points as a result (not that I would have failed a sobriety test—I just hate having to present my paperssss, pleaseee.)

Another great highlight of the convention was the speech by Otto Guevara, Libertarian candidate for president of Costa Rica. The Movimiento Libertario (the Libertarian Party) in Costa Rica holds five national Congressional seats out of 55 seats. Otto is one of them. He described their quick rise in influence in Costa Rica, from virtually out of nowhere. Fighting an entrenched corruption, the Movimiento Libertario has taken the fancy of quite a few people. Guevara presented us, with inspiration, what can be done to promote liberty when the right circumstances present themselves.

Taking an alternate way home via I-74 into Illinois towards the Champaign area and then north on Route 47, our group of travelers came upon one of the “highlights” of a trip on route 47 viewing the sign in front of the Central Soya Factory in Gibson City, which communicates how many “safe days” they have had in a row. I have seen the number up into the thousands having no accidents for years. And then one time, passing by, “2 safe days” . . phew something must have happened (shudder)—well one needs something to keep from falling asleep at the wheel while traveling on Route 47. Anyway, this sign inspired Alli Polizzi to comment, “They should have a sign in front of the Indianapolis Marriott that would say, ‘3 non-evacuation days.’”

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**Notice on LPI E-mail Discussion Lists**

If you have e-mail and are on the LPI database, you’re already subscribed to **LPI Announce**. This list is for official LPI announcements and news. Here are some additional e-mail lists of which you may be interested in subscribing.

**LPI News**—This list will include other Libertarian news related to Illinois and letters-to-the-editor in efforts to keep LPI-Announce traffic minimal.

**LPI Discuss**—This list is for open discussion of LPI and liberty-related issues.

**LPI-DuPage**—This list is for DuPage County related libertarian news. Note that if the LPI has your postal address and it is in DuPage County, you’ve already been automatically subscribed to this list.

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The Libertarian Party School Board Can –
John Nickels fighting $30 million increase from Library District

John Nickels, Libertarian from Lake County in the Libertyville area, is running for the Cook Memorial Library District Board. He is a heating and air conditioning mechanic. He now has 83 signatures needing only 50 to get on the ballot. The present library board is proposing a huge bond and operating referendum to build a new 119,000 square foot library. At the present time, the Board has the highest operating budget with the smallest library in Lake County. John is coalescing with others and is trying to get a full slate of candidates to run for the Board in order to stop the profligate spending of the current library board. At this point in time there are three people running for four positions available.

The next regular meeting of the Lake County Libertarians is on Tuesday, January 14, at Duke’s Grill in Wauconda. New officers will be elected.

Will County Report

Club President Eric Ferguson, running in a two-way race in District 85 for state representative, received over 20% of the vote, the top vote getter by percentage in the state for Libertarians this year. He did two 30-minute interviews on the radio and made appearances at candidate-night forums. There was some coverage in the local newspapers of his campaign. Club members helped with the race by putting up 100 signs.

Members also put up about 500 signs for the Skinner campaign, including some 4x4 signs at major intersections. The state slate did relatively well with Julie Fox getting over 5% in Will County.

Cook County Libertarians

Scott Bludorn, president of the newly formed Cook County Libertarian Party, is running for Buffalo Grove Village Trustee. He is running against the three incumbents, one of whom was appointed mid-term. There are three positions available.

Scott and his colleagues have already gathered over 400 signatures, with 330 as the required minimum. Jerry Kohn and Dave Kaufman have helped with the petitioning.

Buffalo Grove is in Lake County (two-thirds) and Cook County (one-third.) At this time, there is no representation for those in Cook County. Scott is running on that issue as well home owner property rights and taxes. “The present village board has a ‘tax now, ask questions later attitude’ concerning taxes,” Scott says. “When I go door-to-door and present these issues, I get an overwhelmingly favorable response.” Mr. Bludorn expects to get elected.

Libertarian Club of DuPage Report

The Libertarian Club of DuPage (LCD) has elected new officers for the coming year at the November meeting. David Hughes is President. Andrew Spiegel is Vice President/Treasurer. Crystal Jurczynski is Secretary. Jim Waldren is the new State Organizing committee representative.

DuPage’s next meeting in January (first Monday) will be a discussion on abortion led by John Spizzirri. DuPage welcomes all to come in and join the fireworks.

LCD is looking for a new DuPac (DuPage Political Action Council) president. Dupac meets on the third Monday of every month at the same location, “Z’s”, as the regular monthly meeting. Dupac is also looking for precinct captains. LCD is also looking for an Adopt a Highway Chair. If anyone is interested in any of these positions, contact President David Hughes, listed on the back of the newsletter.

Chicago Libertarians

To join the Libertarian Party of Chicago, simply send your name and an Email address to votelibertarian@aol.com. You can also join the monthly meetings held on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at the Venice Cafe, 250 S. Wacker, across the street from the west face of the Sears Tower in downtown Chicago. Happy hour begins at 5pm, with free pizza and cheap drinks. The meeting starts at 6pm.

Filing Deadline

The last day for filing petitions for local elections is January 21.
Campaign Analysis: Where Do We Go from Here?

Skinner Campaign (from pp1)

But, it wasn’t a novel. The pollster was wrong. It wasn’t a close vote as he predicted in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch on the weekend before the election. The prediction did leave Cal Skinner’s campaign with the seemingly unanswerable question from voters, “Why should I waste my vote?”

Goal # 1: Winning the Election

When the campaign began, as Cal related in his speech on election night at the Rosemont Hilton, there were several layers of goals. First, of course, was to win. Cal thought he might be able to cobble together a coalition consisting of

- smokers (who had been alienated by both of the power party candidates and comprised 26% of the electorate);
- gun owners (who likewise had been abandoned by both of his power-party opponents);
- tollway users;
- hard-core anti-tax people who did not believe either candidates’ promises not to raise taxes;
- voters fed up with what Skinner knew would be viciously negative campaigning; and
- government reformers who recognized that over-concentration of power in four men in the General Assembly was unhealthy for Illinois and that the power parties are really just two factions of the same party.

The Search for “Free Media”

Despite the record-breaking financial contribution organized by Ted Semon, who also managed Skinner’s campaign, mobilizing this coalition depended on the media’s covering the campaign.

That did not happen, at least as far as issues go in the Chicago metropolitan area. Associated Press’ attitude was that Cal was a “nuisance candidate.” The Chicago Tribune did not mention Cal’s name until the Republicans withdrew their challenge to the Libertarian Party petitions. That was late July. The Chicago Sun-Times refused to cover anything except the process of the campaign.

Hopes were high in early September when an August radio ad campaign got Cal over the 5% independent poll threshold required for inclusion in the League of Women Voters television debate. Unfortunately, two days after the poll’s publication in the Daily Southtown, the two power-party candidates conspired to reject the League’s invitation—the first such rejection in thirty years. With that rejection came the realization that the 1998 Minnesota model could not be replicated.

The lesson learned is that Libertarians will not get coverage of issues in the Chicago media market unless they buy it, Cal believes. The “I’m smokin’ mad”, and “this year I’m voting Libertarian” radio ad aimed at cigarette smokers and the tollway ad are examples of two issues which both Chicago newspapers and TV ignored. Another was the ad challenging Jim Ryan to stop the “fix” to put a casino in Rosemont, plus guaranteeing 20% of the current investors (the so-called “minorities”) ownership rights in the next proposal.

Cal did not really break into Chicago media until “JimRod”, the two-headed yellow chicken appeared the day and night of the first debate in Rockford. Still, there was no newspaper coverage. Strange, because when JimRod was taken to Champaign, Springfield and Peoria later that week, newspapers and television stations ran pictures of JimRod. Included was an explanation that JimRod was not only afraid to debate Cal, but that the symbol was meant to show that Jim Ryan and Rod Blagojevich had the same position on so many issues.

Even Cal’s mid-October “Personal Security Act” radio ad was never mentioned in either the Tribune or the Sun-Times, even though both WLS and WGN-TV ran stories about Cal’s “911” radio ad in which a woman gets shot by her estranged husband after calling 911 three times. It was so realistic that WGN-AM ran a parental advisory before it ran. It irritated the main Tribune political reporter so much that he condemned it in a “think” piece about the campaign on the Sunday before the election without mentioning Cal by name. (That same day, the Tribune’s sister paper, the Los Angeles Times quoted Cal in a magazine article about rape in prison.)

“Purposeful shunning,” is the way one of Cal’s long-time Crystal Lake supporters put it.

Goal # 2: Getting 5% and Ballot Access

5% was the fallback goal. The first round of polls in late August and early September made all optimistic about gaining the
elusive 5%. Indeed, the Daily Southtown, polling 1000 people, did show Cal receiving 5.2% of the likely vote.

The second round in mid- and late September, however, indicated that the campaign was not catching on the way Libertarians had hoped. Being excluded from the debates meant getting significantly over 5% would be difficult. Cal’s radio ads were running unopposed by Jim Ryan in late August and early September. Then, Ryan started playing TV ads. While radio ads are powerful, they are not more powerful than being on television.

Still, the Daily Southtown results were never less than 4.3% and the last poll about two weeks ahead of the election showed Cal at 5.4%. Ryan’s publicists continued to pump the media with “internal tracking polls” that showed Ryan was narrowing the gap, while revealing Ryan’s poll had Cal at 6%. The Libertarian campaign was running as many radio ads as could be purchased on WGN and WBBM-AM, as well as many as could be afforded on the SCORE (a Chicago sports station) and US 99 (the premier Chicago country station), five-a-day on the Illinois Radio Network’s fifty-five stations, the seventeen stations of the WPW Broadcasting Network covering Northwestern Illinois, and super-saturating every station covering LaSalle County, thanks to LaSalle County’s Dr. Dan O’Connell.

Showing the power of saturation radio, Cal got 4% in LaSalle County, while the independent received only 6/10 of 1%. Compare that with the statewide totals of 2% for Cal and 1% for the independent. The radio advertising for Cal seemed to have a beneficial spillover effect for the other statewide candidates. An example is that ticket-leader Julie Fox, the candidate for comptroller, received 5.2% in LaSalle County.

Then, came the St. Louis Post-Dispatch survey, done by respected pollster John Zogby. On Sunday, Monday and Election Day after it appeared and was reported statewide, you could just hear people thinking, “I really want to punish the Republicans. Maybe I have to vote for Rod, even if I can’t pronounce his last name.” And, “I was going to vote for Cal, but if Ryan really has a chance, I’ll hold my nose and vote for him.” Three percentage points peeled off.

Goal #3: Making the Libertarian Party Respected in Illinois Politics

As he held up a sign on election night saying, “Term Limits for Legislative Leaders,” Cal explained that the third goal of his campaign was to make Libertarians a respected force in Illinois politics. When Cal announced the campaign this spring, three of four legislative leaders had been in office about twenty years; the other, ten. Since then, Republican Lee Daniels has announced his retirement from leadership. (Incidentally, Cal had sent a letter about Lee to the U.S. Attorney before the campaign began.) The other Republican leader, Pate Philip, is retiring in January.

Cal explained that a citizen petition to limit legislative leaders to six years in leadership office would decentralize power. He expressed encouragement that Republicans and some Democrats might join forces in the effort to gather the hundreds of thousands of signatures required to put such a referendum on the ballot. He pointed out that it would be a way to force Mike Madigan out of the House Speakership. “Obviously, the Republicans can’t take control of the House this decade, so they might be motivated to help us. Less obvious, but plausible, is that Mike Madigan’s pressure on behalf of his daughter’s candidacy may motivate some Democrats to help us.

“Whether we can succeed in accomplishing the third goal remains to be seen,” Cal said.
Libertarians Force Democratic Candidate for Governor to Take No-Tax-Hike Pledge

by Jim Tobin

Although we did not win 5 percent of the vote total, there is still reason to celebrate.

First, LPI candidate for Comptroller, Julie Fox, received the largest vote total ever (4.2 percent) for an LPI candidate for statewide constitutional office. Six LPI candidates for state representative did well enough to win ballot access for the 2004 election in their districts, including Eric Ferguson of Lockport, who finished with an impressive 20.3 percent, while Maggie Kohls kept ballot access in US House District 4 with 5.2 percent.

The week before the November 5 election, LPI gubernatorial candidate Cal Skinner and I had garnered 4 percent of the vote in a Chicago Tribune poll, 5 percent in the Daily Southtown and 6 percent in the Chicago Sun-Times. Cal’s 6 percent was the highest percentage of the vote a third-party candidate for Illinois Governor has won in the polls since 1912! We were gaining momentum, and the threat of the Libertarian candidates winning 6 to 10 percent on election day scared the power parties and their media lackeys.

We lost at least half of our votes after the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, which endorsed Republican gubernatorial candidate Jim Ryan, released a Zogby poll on Nov. 3, widely reported in the Illinois news media on Nov. 3 and 4, which falsely showed Blagojevich and Ryan in a dead heat. Every other media poll showed Ryan down by at least 10 percentage points. On Nov. 8, that bogus Zogby poll was the subject of a front-page article in the Wall Street Journal. How does a reputable pollster make such big mistakes at such a crucial time? Pollsters and the politicians sometimes make deals to try and influence the outcome of an election, and that may well be what happened here.

Next time, we must make at least 10 percent in the polls to preclude anyone from pushing us below 5 percent. Secondly, it was our candidates opposition to the proposed 33-percent state personal income-tax hike, and our research on the bloated $54 billion 2003 state budget that forced Democratic gubernatorial candidate Rod Blagojevich to publicly pledge not to raise taxes. It certainly wasn’t Jim Ryan who scared Blagojevich into standing up for the taxpayers. Ryan always supported a so-called “tax swap,” which would permanently raise the state income tax while temporarily reducing property taxes, and publicly supported tax hikes on cigarettes, liquor and gambling. Republican Ryan was the worst gubernatorial candidate on taxes, and Blago was able to win enough taxpayer votes by using our issue to beat his Republican opponent by 7 points on Nov. 5. Now, we need to make Governor-elect Blagojevich keep his promise to the taxpayers of Illinois!

I thank everyone who collected signatures, donated money, worked their precincts, and helped in any other way. It was an honor being your candidate for Lt. Governor of Illinois.
Campaign Analysis: Where Do We Go from Here?

Vive la Revolution!

by Kenneth Prazak

The definition of a fanatic is one who, confronted with the undeniable facts, redoubles his effort in working towards the contrary. After the results of the past election, we need an honest appraisal of our tactics as a political party. We Libertarians pride ourselves in being rational. Rationality is very difficult when it comes to self-evaluation. We all would like to see ourselves in a brighter light than reality allows. It is human nature.

At the beginning of this campaign, it was pretty much agreed—at least with every Libertarian I was in contact, that someone had to get at least 5% of the vote on the state slate, and/or a state representative candidate had to win or nearly win an election in order for our effort to be a success. I ask Illinois Libertarians to search deep into your consciences and recall if you had a similar thought.

Our gubernatorial candidate, Cal Skinner got 2.2% of the vote. Julie Fox, running for Comptroller, got 4.2%, our best showing on the state slate. No candidate for state representative came close to winning.

Before the election, we had Congressional ballot status in five Congressional districts. Now we have ballot status in one, with Maggie Kohls getting over 5% of the vote.

We had ballot status in five state representative districts. We now have ballot status in six.

There was a bit of encouragement concerning Julie Fox’s totals—especially in McHenry County—she got 6.8% of the vote. That was the county in which Jim Young was running for state representative. Over 10,000 sets of literature that included material of Jim’s as well as literature from the state slate were handed out. Jim knocked on over 20,000 doors. He has, with the help of the Fox Valley Libertarian Party, made the Libertarian Party a household word in McHenry County. Eric Ferguson got over 20% in a two-way state representative race in Will County. Again, tens of thousands of campaign pieces were handed out as well as hundreds of libertarian signs put up. Hard work does pay off.

Looking at the results objectively, although the campaign was not a total failure, it certainly was not a rousing success. We gave it our best shot. We met all of our procedural goals. We implemented our campaign plan effectively. Yet we still came up short. May I suggest that we need to change our goals. If you keep on doing what you have always done, you will keep on getting what you always got.

In my opinion, what we need much more of, is hard working activists. Not necessarily members—but activists! Activists who will petition, write letters to the editor, organize and participate in protests, run for local office, activists who will network with tangential organizations. Philosophical libertarians are a dime a dozen in our movement. It is easy to pontificate. It isn’t too hard to ask for money. It is much more difficult to really work for liberty. But that is what it takes. This should be done at the local level. All politics is local.

Over the past decade, our national and state Libertarian Party has emphasized membership growth as a main goal. I believe this has been wrong-headed. Membership may be an indicator of success; it is not a cause of success. Looking on membership as a goal is the dog’s tail wagging the dog. I would rather have 200 activists and three hundred members than 100 activists and 1000 members. One thing I have learned in my twenty-two years of activism in the Libertarian Party is that we need a lot more activists.

How do we do this? I think the best way is for our existing activists to get even more active—working in the trenches—working at the local level—one to one—we will bring more activists into the fold. Recruiting activists is not done by sending out fund raising letters. It isn’t done by running commercials. It isn’t done by issuing press releases. My position is not those things aren’t necessary for a political party to function, but we need to prioritize our activities that will maximize activism.

If we work our butts off in the next few years and attract more activists, and spend our money efficiently—if we do everything right, we may still fail—if we continue with our cerebral approach in campaigns. Don’t get me wrong. I am not advocating that we abandon rationality, but unfortunately, most voters out there aren’t thinkers, they are feelers. Our present historical situation is one where the prototypical “soccer mom” rules, where feelings mean more than rational thought, where “feelings” of security mean more than the concept of freedom. We live in the age of feelings. Our founding fathers had one thing going for them that we don’t have—they fought a revolution during the age of reason. Living in the age of feelings, we need to back up our cold logic with hot passion for our ideals.

Moreover, our culture needs to be inundated with a libertarian flavor. Our principles need to permeate throughout the culture. Among those who do think, we have pretty much won the intellectual battle. The next front is the cultural one. Until we win that battle, the political front will not be won. We need more L. Neil Smiths and Tim Slagles—more Clint Eastwoods and Neal Pearts, more movies like “Shenandoah.”

If and when the libertarian philosophy takes over our American culture to become a libertarian culture, only then will the American people be ready to elect Libertarian candidates en masse. But in order for voters to recognize them as libertarians, Libertarian candidates must differentiate themselves from warmed-over Republicanism. Otherwise, the people will think that they should vote for the real thing—the Republicans. We have nothing to be ashamed of with our positions on education, guns, drugs, or taxes. Hell, that to a great extent is what makes us libertarians. What we need to do is convince people how all of those issues are related to the one important one—freedom.
Campaign Analysis: Where Do We Go from Here?

Smart Nose to the Grindstone

By Eric Ferguson

The Whigs and Torries, Asses and Elephants, have had over 200 years to get where they are. I don’t think the problem is with the people, our positions, our presentation, or even if we run a Republican for Governor. The problem is out there—lack of voter awareness, lack of media attention and so on.

A nice versus revolutionary campaign isn’t an issue. We are all individuals. The Libertarian Party itself is an oxymoron. Look at what we had in this election. We had candidates running revolutionary campaigns. We had a candidate with “vs. the machine” right on the ballot. We had humorous and satirical campaigns. 15orfree.org for example. Straight forward such as Burgauer, and quite frankly, at times silly campaigns. My campaign was a mixture of all of the above. We have all tried different approaches—as different as people are different. And they all produce the same results, good numbers here, bad numbers there, but not enough.

We need to look at each individual campaign and see what needs to be done. I think most of us will agree what we need is more. Just more—more money, more people, more press, more leg work, and less of one thing...less fear. How many of you heard statements like these...“Libertarians will keep your taxes low but let somebody sell drugs to your kids.” Or (like I got from my boss just 2 days ago) “so you don’t believe in taxes?” “But you’re not for abortion laws”, “but you aren’t pro-choice on abortion” “There’s too many guns in the streets now.” “You can never win on a libertarian ticket.” and so on... insert your own stuff here.

People are terrified of us, and mostly the asses and elephants. I have some ideas on how to address that fear, as you may have as well; lets work together on it. There’s only one way to overcome that, do more of what we do. But we have to be smart about it. Going to jail in Chicago for carrying a firearm for example isn’t supporting firearms in the eyes of others.

While we would be cheering that person, the press would be jeering them.

Let’s Focus on Local Races

by Guy Finley

I haven’t been in the Party for all too long and until I moved I suppose I was the highest elected Libertarian in Lake County (School Board Vice-President), but despite the results I was certainly encouraged by what happened.

To Cal Skinner, Jim Tobin, Steve Burgauer, and the rest of the state slate, I think you did a great job and we came close to our goal of 5%. You all ran great campaigns and worked hard to get our message out despite the long odds.

To my Lake County brethren, Chuck Kelecic, John Nickels, and Matt Burns, you also led very valiant campaigns in highly infested GOP waters. My hats are off to you. I have verifiable proof that I voted for you since there was only one write-in in Lake Villa Township Precinct 162 and I know how to follow instructions!! You both worked your tails off with your write-in campaigns and my hat is off to you both.

With that out of the way, I need to address what I feel is the inadequate way we use our meager, albeit growing, resources. This comes from someone who has held elective office, ran a hard and successful campaign, and gone through the strain of getting the bums out — we defeated two of them and I got the other two to resign within 9 months of taking office. One fly in the ointment can do a lot of damage. Not to blow my own horn but I’ve been there and done that.

I found myself as a Libertarian with a very limited pocketbook and with my elected office, a 5-year-old with special needs, a move, and a wife I wish to stay married to, someone who couldn’t have participated as much as he would have liked. So, not being able to figure out who to give money to, or help out, I found myself stagnant and ended up giving what I could to LPLC. This is the same dilemma we face as a party in Illinois.

Revolution (from previous page)

When a significant number of people see this connection, a paradigm shift will occur, and we better be ready to govern.

Yes, the socialists won by gradualism. But they did so because it was historically logical for them to do so. Societies always tend towards more government, not less. It usually happens almost imperceptibly over time. The few instances where freedom has won has been through a revolutionary shift. I have no idea whether a libertarian paradigm shift will happen in my lifetime, but I am convinced it will never happen if we try to downplay our differences.

In summary, cultivate local activism. Win the culture with a libertarian spirit. And stick to our principles; don’t water down the principled strength of our Party as the Party of Principle.

Vive la difference. The change we seek as perceived by most Americans is revolutionary. It’s time we become active and act that way.
While ballot access is certainly a noble effort it is a step much further up the ladder than we are at right now. If you want case in point of what I’m talking about, then take a look at the Reform Party. All this money and support was poured into one presidential campaign and where did it get them? Exactly nowhere; they’re dust now.

Another example is with the LP nationwide. Many states have much easier ballot access laws than we do, and the LP fields many candidates in those states, and yet very few of them can muster any ballot support. Those that do get any more than the typical 2-3% are usually in a two-way race in a lopsided electorate where one of the two power parties (thanks Cal, I love that) choose not even to waste their resources. Even those two behemoths look at their resources and pick their battles. Instead, we throw a bunch of spaghetti against the wall, spend all of our money getting signatures with little left for the campaign, ending up with the same 2-3% those in states with easy ballot access get.

Please don’t mistake my intentions. I think we worked extremely hard and I wish I could have been in Rosemont at the election night party to thank all of you who did that on behalf of those like me who could have done more. I would never cheapen what you did. But we have some cold hard facts to face. We can continue to spend all of our resources fielding slews of candidates that have no chance of winning or we can work on a smaller scale, pick only a few small local battles and try to pick up the recognition only elective office receives.

In this past election the LP, NATIONWIDE, had but 3 people win a partisan elected office (bless you Bill Masters et al!). NATIONWIDE. This is shocking; it shows us, as a national party, don’t focus. It is even more shocking yet when you look at my own IL House District (61), where just under 27,000 votes were cast. That’s it, the GOP incumbent walked away with convincing less than 17,000 people to vote for him and an 18-year-old kid the Democrats slated got 10,000 votes!! In my school board campaign I ran unopposed (my fellow slate members were not) and I got 2,000 votes in an April General Election.

We need to pick a few races to focus on that we can sink our time, our effort, and our money into to win. We should not pride ourselves on “look at all the candidates we ran!!” when that doesn’t produce a single victory. Do I think running for School Board or a trustee is a waste of time? Certainly not. Check the Daily Herald with my name and see how many times I was quoted and how many times I was espousing Libertarian beliefs. They just didn’t tag “Libertarian” along with my name. We need to build grass roots support for our party and that means running in local races that nobody seems to care about and getting your face, your name, and your ideas out in your community. Building from there I think STATEWIDE we should pick no more than 3-4 STATE HOUSE seats to focus our efforts on. $200,000 doesn’t do squat for a gubernatorial campaign and even once on the ballot you get shut out of the debates anyway. If you put $200,000 of political capital into a race where less than 30,000 people vote you CAN make a difference, especially if it’s one of those people who already holds or held a lesser local office, you will get respect from the news media. Funneling more and more funds into State Senate, US House, US Senate, and Statewide races to me is a waste of our precious resources. To paraphrase Tom Hanks playing Jim Lovell in “Apollo 13”, to do so is like worrying about step 965 when we are on step 3. Until we realize that, we will always be seen as that party that fields 2-3% of the vote each year and is never taken seriously.

Imagine how they would treat us if we had a state representative or two carrying our banner. Imagine the looks on their faces when our people take office and bring their Libertarian staffs in. I can see it now, the stir we would cause by pulling that off. Springfield would never be the same and debates would never be the same. No longer could we be blown off as that meaningless third party by the news media; we would have elected representation in the state capitol. Think of it, all that from a lousy 20,000 votes in one race. I think we can do that.
Campaigning on Limited Resources

by Julie Fox

When I was asked to run as the Libertarian candidate for State Comptroller, I explained to LPI members that I would be running little more than a paper campaign, considering that my company’s fiscal year end was September 30. I also had responsibilities as Treasurer to the LPI and as an officer of the Fox Valley Libertarian Party. I did not start working on my campaign until last August, after the Republicans had dropped their challenge of our ballot status and there was no doubt that the state slate would have a place on the ballot in November’s elections.

Although I usually pride myself in being a person of my word, in this case I tried my best to make a liar of myself. Several members of the SOC thought that the Comptroller had the best chance of any candidate on the state slate to achieve ballot status. If I sat back and did nothing, and got 4.5% of the vote, I would have felt very bad. So I decided to do what I could with the limited resources I had, and run as active a campaign as possible.

As Treasurer of the LPI, I knew first, foremost, how much it cost the LPI to get on the ballot and also defend that position. Given that, and the fact that the economy was taking a downturn, I wasn’t expecting much in the way of funding. I certainly did not have the time or money to put forth any serious type of fundraising effort. So I put as much of my own money as possible into my campaign, and did the most I could with that.

My first decision I had to make was to determine how to make the most efficient use of my resources. I attended the August Illinois Forum meeting, and there heard Jack Koenig, Chairman of Impact Voters of Illinois, talk about how to get the most out of one’s money in running a campaign. He explained that literature didn’t have to be pretty to be effective. Jack makes a very good point. If nothing else, the two things a candidate needs for their campaign, in my opinion, is literature and a presence on the Internet. With Jack Koenig’s advice in mind, I decided to produce palm cards on as thin of paper stock as I could get by with, and using only black and white print. Given the fact that I had always maintained a good working relationship with Big Timber Graphics as Treasurer of the FVLP, CAPE (Coalition for Accountability in Public Education), and also the LPI, owner Craig Martin was willing to reduce the price down as far as possible for me. Ken Prazak produced my literature, which also helped keep the cost down.

I had taken care of the printing of literature; now I had to figure out how to get a website up and running. Through word of mouth I found out that John Teschky created websites professionally. When I talked to John, he explained that he had some extra time on his hands, so was willing to put together a website for me at no charge. We started working on the website immediately.

I needed a platform, and without me asking, Mike Ginsberg, former LPI State Chair and Comptroller candidate in 1994, became instrumental in developing it.. He put together a list of issues that would be important to my race. Mike helped me with my press release of March 29, where I challenged the current State Comptroller, Dan Hynes, to stop payments on member initiatives. (Hynes acted as though it was his idea when he came up with the same thing in his own press release in May.) I took Mike’s ideas and built on them to create a platform that was concise and convincing to every voter who was exposed to it.

I also have Jim Tobin and Jeffrey Babbitt of NTUI to thank for helping me with my platform. One of my main planks was a proposal to cut the state budget over five percent without eliminating key services. Jim Tobin had made the same assertion last spring, and had put together a list of completely unnecessary funds, positions, etc., in the current state budget. From that list I chose several that I thought would ring true with voters, focusing mainly on eliminating member initiatives and consolidating the offices of Treasurer and Comptroller.

By mid-September, as our company was gearing up for year end, being the Controller for my company, I was going to have to put campaigning on the back burner for at least a couple weeks. I had 20,000 pieces of campaign literature pro-

Continued on next page
produced, had an excellent website up and running, and had responded to almost all of the surveys that had come my way.

In addition to getting literature produced and distributed, and getting establishing a website, I had also been making my best effort to appear at events that took place in the evenings and on weekends when I could promote my campaign. I attended three “Friends of the NRA” dinners, gun shows in Lake, Kane, and DuPage counties, the Mind, Body, and Spirit Expo in Rosemont, and a VFW pig roast in Carpentersville. I put as much information as possible on candidate forms that appeared on the Internet. I also took advantage of the “Candidate Free Time” offered by WTTW television, where all candidates on the ballot for statewide and congressional offices were allowed two minutes to promote their campaigns.

John Teschky included information on how to contribute to my campaign on my website. I also asked for money when I spoke to a few Libertarian groups. Based on this effort alone, I received $1800 in contributions. This income allowed me to produce another 20,000 pieces of literature, pay for advertising on WRMN radio and in the local Daily Herald newspaper, and recoup some of the other expenses that had come out of my pocket. Two individuals whom I had just met at events I appeared, each gave me $100 without my asking, because they thought my platform made a lot of sense. That was very encouraging, to say the least!

For distribution purposes, I contacted the head of every local Libertarian affiliate, contacted Libertarians whom I knew were active downstate, and held four literature stuffing parties at my home to get my literature, along with that of Jim Young’s and LPI office, our landlord, and my car mechanic all received my literature. When I attended the Mind, Body, and Spirit Expo, I visited a number of booths. When the vendors handed me their literature. When I attended the Mind, Body, and Spirit Expo, I visited a number of booths. When the vendors handed me their literature, I reciprocated with mine.

Although very disappointed that I could not win ballot status for the LPI, I was encouraged by the high percentage of the vote I received (4.2%), given the little time and money that I was able to put into my campaign. What my election results indicated to me was that a qualified third-party candidate running for Comptroller, with a good message and running against unqualified or otherwise weak opponents, can do well enough at the polls to receive at least the five percent of the vote needed for ballot status in Illinois, if they have sufficient resources at their disposal to run an active campaign. Of course, my gender and simple name, no doubt, also contributed to the vote totals I received.

If the LPI decides to focus its efforts on a statewide race in the future, it’s efforts would be best served by focusing on the Comptroller’s or the Treasurer’s race. Although five percent of the vote in those races only gives us ballot status in statewide races, versus five percent of the vote in the Governor’s race, which would give us ballot status in all races in the state, we have a real chance of getting five percent in one of those races if we put resources behind one of them. Until we can get at least one state representative elected in Illinois, and start being taken more seriously by the voters and the news media, the chances of the LPI getting five percent in a race as pivotal as the Governor’s is next to nil. If we are going to focus our efforts on a statewide race, then it would be best to pick one of the financial positions, where not nearly as many issues come into play, and determine which one of those races we have a better chance at winning in a particular election.

Once again, I would like to thank those people who contributed in some way to my campaign. Thank you to Mike Ginsberg, for helping me put together my platform. Thank you to Jim Tobin and Jeffrey Babbitt, for contributing valuable information necessary for my platform. Thank you to John Teschky, for putting together a great website. Thank you to Ken Prazak, for producing my campaign literature. Thank you to Cal Skinner for his advice and answers to my many questions. And thank you to everyone who helped distribute my literature and contributed money towards my campaign.

If the circumstances are right, I will certainly consider being the LPI’s State Comptroller candidate in the future. In the meantime, I plan on being active in local politics and my community, becoming involved with groups that would agree with Libertarians on at least one issue. We need to continue to spread the word, through our involvement in activities such as state and local fairs and gun shows, through letters-to-the-editor, and by running candidates. By getting involved in our communities it tells others that Libertarians are caring people, not just a bunch of radicals. By serving on local boards and committees, we not only send the same message, but can also prove that smaller government is not only a viable solution, but one that will make our communities better places to live. It is critical to the advancement of the Libertarian Party that we work on these types of things at all times, not just during election seasons. It is likely I will be running for a local political office in the near future. If I don’t run my own campaign, I will certainly use the knowledge that I have gained from running my past campaigns to contribute to someone else’s in the future.
Campaign Analysis: Where Do We Go from Here?

The Jim Young Campaign

by Jim Young

I ran in a three-way race with two weak opponents, a Democrat and the Republican incumbent, who might as well be a Democrat. Because of this, those of us working on the campaign thought we had a chance of winning, considering all the effort put in. The election results were disappointing because our expectations were so high. There were no polls by us (no money) or by our newspaper (Northwest Herald) and I was thinking that I would receive 20% up to 40%. A local newspaper reporter thought so, too. The result of 7.35% was therefore, shockingly low.

If our expectations had been more reasonable, the result would have been more satisfying. We achieved established party status. This means that we have the same requirements as the Republicrats. It means that we can have a primary and slate candidates and that we can have precinct committeemen. I have 82 precincts and have already come up with 10 committeemen.

As for learning from our efforts, I kept some statistics from the race. In my district I had 75 precincts before they split into 82 because of rampant growth last summer. Of these, I walked 14 during my petitioning period, most of which we leafleted later. I knocked on doors in 35 precincts and kept results of who answered the door, etc. Using the 82 that reported, we leafleted 26, I walked 36, we mailed 1, and we did nothing in 19.

We had the following results:

- Leafleting 6.9%
- Jim door-to-door 8.2%
- Mail 7.1%
- Nothing 6.2%

This means that my effort increased the results at least 2%. I say at least because when one goes door-to-door, the people who become excited about the campaign may have friends or relatives in the district that were not otherwise contacted by us, thus raising our door-to-door influence. I can give you an example of a fellow in Lake-in-the-Hills who had a brother in an adjacent precinct where we did nothing. My guess is that the door-to-door activity raised the results by 3%.

When we were leafleting, we included all candidates literature that was available. The most literature that we had was of Julie Fox. In this race the precincts that we leafleted showed 6.7% vs. 6.0% where there was nothing. I conclude that the leafleting produced a 1% increase in results. If we had had more organized leafleting, we could have achieved the 5% that was our objective for the state slate.

Focus with Professional Campaigns

by Rhys Read

We set two goals for this election, to get 5% in the governor’s race (or failing that at least 5% in one of the statewide races), and also to get a state representative elected. We failed in both of our goals. Cal Skinner received only 2% of the vote; we only received close to 5% in one statewide race, and we did not come close to winning a state representative race, despite receiving endorsements for two of our candidates in major elections. The county by county results don’t show any discernible pattern. I did very well in Cook County and Champaign County, but did not receive more than 3.5% or less than 1.5% in any county, including those of which I didn’t come within 100 miles (St. Clair County, 2%).

The only thing we can say we learned is that if we have a female running against two males we do relatively well (Julie Fox, Maggie Kohls), especially if there is a weak Republican candidate. Conversely, if we have a male running against a popular female Republican (myself, perhaps Matt Beauchamp) we do not do as well. Of course, it helps that Julie and Maggie were strong candidates (articulate, knowledgeable, and personable). The biggest lesson I attained from my own efforts is that I need to devote considerably more time to fundraising.

I raised about $7,500 for my campaign. That means I was outspent by each of my opponents by better than 200 to 1. On a votes-per-dollars spent, I won by about a 10-to-1 margin. We were also outspent 100 to 1 for Governor. Based on those expenditures, 2% of the vote is about the right amount. Spending $200,000 will not win a statewide race. We can win a state representative race for $75,000 to $100,000.

We did not devote our full resources to our state representative races. I think it was great that we brought literature to 30,000 households in Jim Young’s district. Imagine what we could have done if instead of just stuffing palm pieces, we put a video tape of Jim Young for people to watch, or a CD that they could stick in their computer and see a live speech, biography and background, or position papers of their choice. Both items can be produced and distributed in bulk for about $2 apiece. How would Jim have done if he had 1,000 yard signs up, and voters in the district would have seen his name at least 10 to 20 times every day?

When Jerome Kohn received the endorsement of both the Tribune and Sun-Times, we should have had excerpts copied onto a mailer with the appropriate persuasive language, and had those items mailed to every voting household in the district. Putting plastic bags on the door gets our literature on a person’s house; a mailer gets in a person’s house.

We also need to get a stronger volunteer effort. I don’t know where everybody else was on election day. I’m pretty sure most of you were working. I spent election day for as long as my tired little

Continued on next page
feet could support my big fat body out in front of my polling place, soliciting votes. I know I picked up 5 or 10 votes that way, if for no other reason than because the voter felt that anybody crazy enough to stand out in the cold and the rain to ask people for their vote is worthy of their vote. Imagine if I could have persevered longer, I might have receive 20 to 40 additional votes. Imagine someone in front of every polling place in a district; it could have been worth maybe 4,000 votes.

We need to devote the last 4 days of the race to serious get-out-the-vote campaigning. We need to have volunteers taking that Monday and Tuesday off, and be prepared to work 12 hour days. Cal said that Jim Young needed at least 80 to 90 precinct workers. Just for perspective, I took a class with a democratic operative from the far North side. For State Senator Art Berman, the Democrats had 1,100 volunteers. We need at least one person for each precinct in the district to take the voting list, a phone book, or whatever, and call everyone in the precinct with a pre-approved script. They need to mark the voters who are going to support Jim Young. We need poll-watchers to check the voting on election day to see if our supporters voted. We need our precinct worker to call those who didn’t show up by 3:00 with a message like, “Jim Young really needs your vote so that we can root out the corruption in state government. Your polling place is at South School, and voting ends at 7:00 p.m. Jim truly appreciates you getting to the polls to vote before then. Thank you for your efforts.”

For 2004, I think we need to focus on the one or two most winnable state representative races and focus our resources there. We need to start raising money now, so we can have the $150,000 to $200,000 we need to win those races. We need to get the 200 or so volunteers that the Party can count on devoted to winning those races. If you think this is all 20-20 hindsight, those who were at the 2001 convention might remember that I said the same thing back then. I think we can get somebody elected as state representative if we follow those steps. I’m not saying that is the only people who should run; I think we need as many candidates as possible to give credibility to the Party. Running in a two-way race is a good way to obtain ballot status. Having ballot status means we have extra resources to devote to winning that race in the future. The National LP will assure we have the statewide race covered for president and U.S. Senate, and we should use those positions to promote our state representative candidates. I would love to see us run more candidates for state representative than either the Republicans or Democrats, but let’s try to win one.

One other thing I want to address, and that is the supposed media blackout. The truth is that most media is for profit, and their profits come from advertising dollars. They are only going to cover players with the means to advertise. Why would a TV station bother with us if we are not going to give them money? I may be over cynical and jaded, and I would welcome somebody to prove me wrong. However, I did place three small ads in three Spanish language papers and what do you know, they also wrote small pieces about my campaign. The bottom line: you have to pay for your media, so there is no point in bitching about it.

I welcome any feedback you may have on my analysis.

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### 200 Club

I have a proposal. Instead of whining about all the petition signatures we have to pay for, why don’t we finally prove to ourselves that we are really worthy of being taken seriously as a political party. I am looking for 200 volunteers to get 200 signatures apiece in the next state-wide race. (That should be enough so that we don’t pay one cent towards ballot access.) And then pledge to work the last weekend before the election and the Monday and Tuesday, campaigning for a state representative race that we can win. One hundred activists each for two state representative races should bring us a long way towards winning those races. Or in the alternative, work the last two weekends of the election.

I am making that pledge. Anyone care to join me? I am reasonably sure I can get nine others from the Fox Valley LP to join me. If nine other affiliates do the same, then we are half way towards the goal. Any takers? “These are the times that try men’s souls . . .”

Ken Prazak
Free Air Time Bill

On Monday, the 18th of November, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale held a forum to discuss “The Case for Free Air Time for Political Candidates.” Speaking were former U.S. Senator Paul Simon, former U.S. Congressman Glenn Poshard, Robert Spellman, a professor at the SIU School of Journalism, and Paul Taylor, the executive director of the Alliance for Better Campaigns. Carbondale Libertarians were there to express our side of this issue.

The Free Air Time Campaign, to quote from the website of the Illinois Campaign for Political Reform (http://ilcampaign.org), “is a nationwide, grassroots effort to build support for proposals to require broadcasters to provide free air time for candidate ads, debates and issue statements in the period before an election.” Essentially, the Free Air Time bill, otherwise known as the McCain-Feingold-Durbin Broadcast Bill, would do two things:

First, it would “as a part of their public interest obligation” require all radio and television broadcast stations to air a minimum of two hours per week of candidate-centered or issue-centered programming for the six weeks preceding an election. Stations would choose exactly what to air during this time.

Second, it would create a political advertisement voucher program, whereby candidates for federal office could obtain vouchers from the U.S. Government that could be spent on radio or broadcast TV ads. The vouchers could also be sold to the candidate’s political party.

To say nothing of the propriety of the arrangement, one catch is that to participate in the voucher program, a candidate for federal office has to first raise money—a lot of money. U.S. House candidates must raise $25,000 in increments of $250 or less. Senate candidates must raise $25,000 times the number of representatives in the state. For Illinois that would mean five hundred thousand dollars. True, the candidate doesn’t have to spend that money in any particular way; he (or she) just has to raise it. But this still would exclude third party candidates in most cases.

The situation is even worse for the national party. To be counted as a “party” by the bill and receive its share of vouchers, a “minor party” must field candidates in 218 House races or 17 Senate races, all of whom have to qualify for vouchers themselves.

The Carbondale Libertarians did speak out. During the question-and-answer session, three people asked questions regarding third-party access to this program. The questions were essentially blown off. For instance, Jim Rayfield (of the Southern Illinois Libertarians) asked why simply being on the ballot wasn’t enough to qualify for vouchers. Mr. Taylor responded that there had to be some restriction on who was eligible for the program, ignoring the notion that getting on the ballot is restriction enough. Dr. Spellman even went so far as to state his dislike for third parties, citing their tendency, as he put it, “to pull the major parties to the extremes” of political ideals.

Contact your elected representatives, the sponsors of this bill (McCain, Feingold and Durbin), and the Alliance for Better Campaigns (http://bettercampaigns.org/) to protest this thoughtless effort to marginalize third party candidates in federal elections.

Why I’m Voting Libertarian

(This appeared a few days before the election in the Kane County Chronicle)

by Mark Smith

Don’t be too concerned about the upcoming election. Even if you vote for the winners, you are likely to lose.

Of course, a few select groups—government employees and contractors come to mind—have an understandable self-interest in the outcome. They’re the folks whose salaries we pay, and they may see a difference in the ability of one or another of the power party candidates to safeguard their paychecks.

As for you and me, no matter who wins, our job is to pick up the tab.

You may say it does make a difference who occupies the seats of power. Depending on what you expect from government, it very well might. But let’s suppose your expectations of government stem from two important ideals that inspired our nation’s founding—individual liberty and personal responsibility. These values are fostered and maintained best through a very small government with a very limited scope of powers.

From this “small government” perspective, the difference in choosing between a Democrat and a Republican candidate is about the same as that in choosing between a navy blue suit with a white shirt and red tie, and a navy blue suit with a light blue shirt and burgundy tie. During election campaigns, the small differences between the two power parties get magnified to grotesque proportions, all for the sake of creating interest in the “horse race” aspect of the election (and, in the case of the media, selling a few extra copies or attracting a few more viewers). When the election-night parties are over, though, we’re stuck not only with paying for all the festivities but with a big-government hangover that never really goes away.

For that’s the result of every election—bigger government than we had before. It doesn’t matter who’s in charge. Government keeps getting bigger, to the continuing diminution of our individual freedom. Can you think of an area of our lives that the government doesn’t control? Can you conceive of the Democrats or Republicans reducing the size of government—not just slowing the rate of growth, but actually cutting budgets, slashing bureaucracy, eliminating programs and departments?

Consider any of the big issues, and you’ll find the usual prescription from the power-party politicians is more government. And if not more government, the
solution is to spend more on the programs already in place.

National defense? A bi-partisan foreign policy sends U.S. forces to dozens of countries around the globe at a cost of hundreds of billions of dollars a year. Bi-partisan “Homeland Security” policy gives us federal security personnel who force us to surrender our civil rights and undergo humiliating, time-wasting and useless screenings at airports. But do you feel any more secure?

The economy? Politicians of both parties contribute to the multi-thousand-page tax code, and agree on regulations and programs that stifle job creation, enterprise, innovation, growth, retirement savings and free trade. Can you expect politicians who’ve never met a regulation they didn’t like to ever take the economy in the direction of greater freedom, and therefore greater prosperity?

Health care? We can thank Democrats and Republicans for everything from Medicare, Medicaid, managed care, compulsory portability of health insurance and myriad other regulations and laws that achieve the dubious dual results of higher costs and diminished availability of health care. There was a time in our not-too-distant past when doctors made house calls. A hospital stay cost less than a week’s pay, new mothers were- n’t forced out of the hospital a day after giving birth, and we all were free to choose our health care providers. But that was before government decided to “solve” all our health care problems. How can more government do anything but make matters even worse?

Crime? Republican and Democrat politicians at every level –local, state and federal– endlessly pander to their constituents with a non-stop War on Drugs. While drug use continues unabated, the number of innocent victims of drug-gang violence grows with numbing regularity. The courts choke on prosecutions of non-violent offenders; the jails overflow with pot smokers; the police and courts fall prey to drug-money corruption. We–all of us–experience an accelerating loss of liberty in the name of fighting a “war” that cannot be won. Do you really trust government prohibition to solve this issue, when its unintended consequences have spawned decades of social wreckage?

What’s the common thread here? Big government always fails to solve big problems, and actually creates new problems along the way. Big government doesn’t work.

Ask yourself if government is too big or just about the right size. (I won’t even bother suggesting you might consider it too small. God help us.) If you agree it’s too big, we then may vote for what it is–a bid in Mencken’s “advance auction” model of elections with a “referendum on the size of government” model. That is, we can use the election to express a strong, unmistakable preference for dramatically smaller government. But how? It’s simple.

Vote Libertarian. A vote for a Libertarian candidate cannot be construed as anything but a call for small government.

Every Libertarian candidate is committed to the idea of restoring the American government prescribed by our nation’s founders–small government that protects individual rights and our nation’s territorial sovereignty; small government that doesn’t meddle in every dispute around the globe; small government that lets you keep what you earn (to spend, save or give away as you see fit); small government that doesn’t prohibit peaceful conduct between individuals acting voluntarily or the peaceful acquisition and ownership of any property; small government that fosters personal responsibility and stewardship.

If you want smaller government, your choice is clear. Vote Libertarian. The Libertarian candidates may not win, but your vote will be an unmistakable affirmation of the values that once made America the miracle among nations—a constitutional republic built on the revolutionary idea of man as self-owner, and the corollary values of individual liberty and personal responsibility.

But if, in this “referendum on the size of government,” you want to express a preference for big government, go ahead and vote for Democrats or Republicans. Either way, you’ll get bigger government, because that’s what you always get from the Democrats and Republicans. Just recognize your vote for what it is—a bid in Mencken’s “advance auction of stolen goods.”

We stopped believing in Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny and the Tooth Fairy—we can stop believing in Big Government.

Consider the words of legendary American journalist and cynic, H.L. Mencken, who wrote, “The government consists of a gang of men (who have) no special talent for the business of government; they have only a talent for getting and holding office. Their principal device to that end is to search out groups who pant and pine for something they can’t get and to promise to give it to them. Nine times out of ten that promise is worth nothing. The tenth time is made good by looting A to satisfy B. In other words, government is a broker in pillage, and every election is sort of an advance auction sale of stolen goods.”

Fortunately, it’s possible to replace Mencken’s “advance auction of stolen goods” model of elections with a “referendum on the size of government” model. That is, we can use the election to express a strong, unmistakable preference for dramatically smaller government. But how? It’s simple.

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Mark Smith is a writer, editor and partner in the public relations firm, StrongForce Group. He is a 21-year resident of St. Charles and a longtime member of the Libertarian Party.
Would you like to **Contribute** to the LPI?

*Just fill out the information below, and mail it!!*

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<td>You may also send a check or money order. Make Checks payable to the Libertarian Party of Illinois and mail to the above address. The LPI thanks you for your support and your voice.</td>
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Would you like to **Join** the Libertarian Party?

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<td>Email Address</td>
<td>You may also send a check or money order. Make Checks payable to the Libertarian Party of Illinois and mail to the above address. The LPI thanks you for your support and your voice.</td>
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**Champaign County Libertarians**—Second Sunday of each month. 3:00 pm at Woodsy’s Gearhead City, 505 N. Neil St. Champaign. IL. Contact Dave Wood, lpi-champco@hushmail.com, (217) 351-1192.

**Chicago Libertarians**—Second Tuesday of the month, at Venice Caféé, 250 South Wacker, Chicago. 5:00 PM, happy hour with free pizza, meeting starts at 6:00 PM. Contact Frank Gonzalez, VoteLibertarian@aol.com or by phone at (312) 382-0300

**Libertarian Club of DuPage County**—First Monday of each month. Dinner at 6:30 or meeting at 7:15. Z’s Restaurant, 339 Roosevelt Road, Glen Ellyn, IL. Contact: David Hughes, hughes4lp@yahoo.com (630) 483-9330

**Fox Valley Libertarian Party**—Last Wednesday of the month 7:00 PM Gasthaus Zur Linde Restaurant, 15 N. Grove, Elgin, IL. Contact: Ken Prazak (847) 426-1974, Ken@freedomrings.net

**Greater Peoria Area Libertarians**—Second Saturday of the month at the Hardees in East Peoria. Contact Jeff Trigg, secretary@il.lp.org or by phone at (309) 693-3402.

**Libertarian Party of Lake County**—second Tuesday of every month, at Dukes Grill- 476 W Liberty St, Wauconda, IL 60084 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm. Call or email Eric Dubiel at libertyforall@mindspring.com for details, 847-438-7776. Join the LPI-Lake email group, send an email to LPI-Lake-subscribe@yahoogroups.com or visit http://groups.yahoo.com/group/LPI-Lake/join

**Libertarian Party of Cook County**—Third Thursday of every month at Giuseppi’s Restaurant, 1062 Lee St., in DesPlaines. Contact Scott Bludorn at bludorn@attbi.com, 847-845-7935.

**Rockford Area Libertarians**—First Thursday of each month. Contact Kathy Kelley (815) 874-6345.

**Southern Illinois Libertarians**—Meet second Sunday of each month at 2:00PM., Carbondale Civic Center, 100 South Illinois Avenue, Carbondale, Illinois 62901, contact: SIL Chair, Tom Menner, 618/282-2437

**Will County Libertarians**—First Wednesday of the month at Adam’s Pub in Lockport, IL. Contact: Eric Ferguson, audiopro@ewc.net or by phone at (815) 838-0772.

The **State Organizing Committee** meets the third Sunday of the month — call (800) 735-1776 for time and location.