



Liberty for All

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Libertarians WILL be on the November ballot!

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WE DID IT!!!!!!

Pats on the back, pop one open, smoke 'em if you've got 'em, kick your heels together, or whatever you do to celebrate success without harming others, please FEEL FREE.

On Monday, June 21st, after a grueling 90-day petitioning period, the Libertarian Party of Illinois turned in well over the required 25,000 valid signatures needed to place our candidates on the ballot for President, Vice President, and US Senate. Monday the 28th at 5:00 pm was the last minute to file objections to our petitions, and no objections were filed. In fact, no one even bothered to view or copy our petitions, due to the Libertarian Party being so strong in Illinois.

Michael Badnarik now becomes the FIRST Presidential candidate officially on the ballot in Illinois. The Libertarian Vice President candidate is Richard Campagna from Iowa. The Republican and Democrat candidates will not be officially on the ballot until after their publicly funded National Convention, assuming President Bush does not have further problems with the rule of election law in Illinois. Independent Ralph Nader is being challenged by the Democrats, as is Green candidate Peter Camejo.

Jerry Kohn joins Democrat Barack Obama, and independent Albert Franzen on the ballot. Illinois Republicans will try to replace Jack Ryan on the ballot, even though it doesn't appear there is any provision in Illinois statutes that allows them to switch US Senate candidates.

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LP Illinois 2004 Candidates

President—Michael Badnarik
Vice President—Richard Campagna
U.S. Senate—Jerry Kohn

U.S. House 2nd—Stephanie Sailor
U.S. House 4th—Jake Witmer
U.S. House 12th—Walter Steele

IL House 11th—Jason Briggeman
IL House 53rd—R. Scott Blutorn
IL House 64th—Jim Young
IL House 85th—Austin Hough
IL House 95th—Steve Dubovic

McHenry County Board—Bill Baruth
Jackson County Board—William Wolf

The below candidates filed but were removed from the ballot.

IL House 13th—Derek Hanson
IL House 57th—Lyn Tinsley
IL House 73rd—Jeff Trigg
IL House 115th—Jennifer Caudell
Jackson County Board—Jim Syler
Jackson County Board—John Brooks
Jackson County Board—Adam Buker

Libertarians WILL be on the November ballot! *(From page 1)*

Michael Badnarik, a Texan, became the Libertarian nominee at our National Convention in Atlanta, Georgia on May 30th, 2004. Badnarik was elected by a majority of the delegates on the third ballot. Michael Badnarik was in Hammond, IN, where he grew up, on Wednesday evening, June 30th.

Jerry Kohn, of Oak Forest, announced his candidacy in October of 2003, and was selected unanimously at the Libertarian Party of Illinois convention on March 21st, 2004. In his 2002 run for State Representative, Jerry Kohn was endorsed by the Chicago Tribune and the Chicago Sun-Times ahead of both his Democrat and Republican opponents.

Jerry is an elected library board trustee in Cook County and teaches government and economics at Harold L. Richards High School in Oak Lawn, IL. Jerry Kohn personally collected more than 5,200 petition signatures, which is more than the Republicans and Democrats are required to file.

Press conferences were held Tuesday, June 29th, at 11:00 a.m. in the Press Room at the Capitol Building, 2:30 p.m. at the Gateway Building in Peoria, 200 NE Water St, and 11:00 a.m. Wednesday, June 30th at 407 S. Dearborn, Suite 1170 in downtown Chicago.

The Illinois Radio Network ran a news segment on their network of radio stations across Illinois, and Jerry Kohn was interviewed in the studios of WEEK-TV in Peoria, LIVE on the their 5 pm broadcast. Also covering our story was WBEZ radio, the State Journal-Register, Copley News Service, WMBD radio, and WHOI-TV in Peoria.

Badnarik supportive of the Hinchey-Rohrabacher Amendment

Huntsville, AL - Last week, the U.S. Supreme Court announced that it will hear the Ashcroft v. Raich case. This case may establish the final judicial ruling that federal force may not be used to undermine state medical marijuana laws.

Later this week, the Hinchey-Rohrabacher Amendment will probably be proposed during consideration of the Commerce-Justice-State Appropriations bill. Essentially, it would prevent the federal government from spending funds to interfere with state medical marijuana laws. Last year, this amendment received 152 votes, and it requires 66 more to pass this year.

New polling data released yesterday shows that even in comparatively conservative Alabama, over seventy-five percent of people favor medical marijuana. These data are confirmed nationwide by a recent Rasmussen poll commissioned by noted Hollywood producer Aaron Russo.

To Libertarian presidential hopeful Michael Badnarik, this polling data comes as no surprise. On Monday's telephone strategy session with his communications director, Stephen Gordon, Badnarik stated, "That our congress consistently acts against the will of the people on this issue is certainly no surprise to me."

"That the Hinchey-Rohrabacher Amendment even needs to be offered indicates the disdain that our congress has for the Constitution. Individuals have the right to use whatever medication they see fit."

Gordon, who managed the above referenced Rasmussen poll and serves as the Vice Chair of the Libertarian Party of Alabama, expanded Badnarik's comment with, "That either congressional or judicial action is even being considered shows the utter disrespect that George W. Bush has for his oath of office. That John Kerry suggests that this topic requires further study reveals that he cares neither for the 10th Amendment nor for whether people even live or die.

How many more Loretta Nalls will be arrested, Steve Kubbys exiled, or Peter McWilliamses die at the hands of our government? There will be one choice on the presidential ballot for those who value the individual over the state."

With over 600 elected officials, the Libertarian Party is the third largest party in the country. Badnarik is expected to be on the ballot in all 50 states while Ralph Nader is having ballot access difficulties in many states, including Arizona, Texas, Indiana and Oregon.

Scott Bludorn Campaign Update

We at the Bludorn for State Rep. campaign wish you and yours had a wonderful time celebrating the July 4th holiday. For us, it's back to spreading the ideas of freedom and liberty which Independence Day is all about. Our plan is to celebrate freedom EVERY day by taking the remembrance of Independence Day to Springfield, where it is sorely needed each time they are in session.

If by chance you haven't heard, Scott Bludorn is officially on the ballot for the 53rd State Rep. race. Scott filed his petitions on June 21st in Springfield, and as 5 pm on June 28th rolled by, no one filed an objection to his crystal clean, door-to-door, 2,720 signatures. Of course, Scott's opponent only needed 300 signatures because they think they are better than every other regular Jane and Joe.

That discrepancy in signature requirements was demonstrated brilliantly at our wildly successful Gala and fundraiser on June 18th. Imagine 9 bankers' boxes of petitions next to just one banker box of petitions. We're talking a 7-foot difference between what our campaign accomplished versus what our opponent needed to do. We climbed that 7 foot wall and we're more than ready for the next giant obstacles put in our way.

A big thanks to all of the 50 plus supporters that came out to our June 18th Gala. We passed the \$4,000 fundraising mark and can't express our appreciation enough. Scott showed the creative side of the campaign with compromising renditions of Madonna and Helen Ready to bring in another \$200. As we said, it was wildly successful.

Monday, June 21st was the day Scott made the journey to Springfield to file his petitions at the State Board of Elections office. After exiting I-55 as he was approaching the Capitol area the rain had let up and Scott noticed the huge rainbow that seemed to pointing him in the right direction. A sign?

It was a better sign than the day Scott came home from petitioning, and trying to keep Scott well-groomed, I had to point out a bird thought his left shoulder was a target and hit the mark. In any event, the rare rainbow sighting certainly added to the excitement of that turn-in day which completed the 90-day trudge through the petition drive.

Scott stopped off at the Secretary of State's office across the street from the Capitol Building to turn in his Statement of Economic interests before meeting up with the crew turning in the other Libertarian candidates' petitions. The final touches were put on the stacks of signatures and the last leg was completed when Scott got his receipt from the State Board of Elections.

Then it was a long week of waiting until the deadline passed for "someone" to file an objection to Scott's candidate filing on Monday, June 28th at 5pm. There's no doubt we would have won a challenge, but it was a relief we didn't have to experience the ordeal.

For those not familiar with the process, when Republicans want to snub democracy they challenge opponents petitions to try to get them kicked off the ballot. A team of people end up spending days going through each signature one by one because the Republicans say Jim Doe isn't the same as James Doe, and Arl. Hghts isn't short for Arlington Heights, and whatever other silly arguments they want to make.

Our candidate filing was so good they didn't dare, even though a staff member from the House Republican Organization paid for a copy.

Scott has already gone back to his precinct work and vows to avoid more occupational bird hazards. One thing is for sure, hammering away on our opponents with our full support of property tax caps isn't for the birds as this issue is resonating with the voters.

Those are the ideas of liberty that we need Scott to represent in Springfield not just one day of the year, but every day.

Coming up soon this month will be two radio shows and one public access cable broadcast. Stayed tuned to our website.

<http://www.bludorn2004.com/>

Also, please visit the campaign website and help us with your most generous contribution. Help us to reclaim Illinois!

Contribute to LPI Online @ www.lpillinois.org (*Look to the left for the Contribute*)

Open Letter to Democrat US Senate candidate Barack Obama

Dear State Senator Obama:

I recently read your June 13th open letter to former Republican Party candidate Jack Ryan inviting him to a series of debates. In that letter you state, "We owe [Illinois voters] a serious, thoughtful discussion about where we would lead as their United States Senator." I agree. I also believe the format you suggest would be ideal for accomplishing this.

Though Jack Ryan's recent decision to withdraw from the race has left that party without a candidate, and the legality of the GOP replacing Ryan is questionable, there are still three candidates qualified for the ballot: you, an Independent candidate, and me.

Whether the GOP succeeds or fails in rewriting the laws of this state to allow them access to the ballot, I would hope you would stand by your call for a serious and thoughtful discussion and support the inclusion of all candidates.

Illinois ballot access laws are among the most restrictive in the nation, and any candidate or party that can collect more than the 25,000 signatures required (as my party has done) to gain access to the ballot is deserving of inclusion in any debate. At any rate, the citizens of this state and the democratic principle are not well served by attempts to exclude any candidates, parties, or ideas from the discussion.

I cannot speak for the Independent candidate, but I am a serious candidate proposing serious ideas. The party I represent is also serious. In 2002, over 550,000 votes were cast for Libertarians in Illinois, and over 600 Libertarian Party members currently hold public office around the nation.

If you believe in the strength of your philosophy and your policy proposals as I believe in mine, then you should have nothing to fear from including someone like myself who strongly disagrees with you.

Before we can teach the Iraqis anything about democracy, we must first practice it at home.

The Illinois Libertarian Party's Executive Director Jeff Trigg will contact you soon to arrange the details of our debates along the lines suggested in your earlier letter. I look forward to meeting with you. Our discussion should make for a lively debate, and may the best candidate win.

Sincerely, Jerry Kohn - Libertarian candidate for U.S. Senate

Around the State

LP Northwest Cook County is active in many areas including fighting the smoking ban in Skokie and participating in parades. Website: www.LPCook.org Contact: R. Scott Bludorn, bludorn@attbi.com

LP Lake County continues taking on taxes and county fair outreach. Website: www.lake.il.lp.org Contact: Eric Dubiel, chair@lake.il.lp.org

LP DuPage County has elected precinct committeeman and want more. Website: www.dupagelibertarians.org Contact: dupagelibertarians@yahoo.com

Southern Illinois Libertarians will again work the DuQuoin State Fair and are looking for volunteers. Website: www.il.lp.org/affiliates/sil/ Contact: Jim Syler, calion@mac.com

LP McLean County is just getting started in Bloomington/Normal. Website: www.lpmcleancounty.org Contact: David Lee, lpmc@lpmcleancounty.org

LP Fox Valley doesn't like the new seat belt laws. Contact: Walter Simons, warrior76@comcast.net

College Libertarians have formed the new **Students for Individual Liberty** at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Websites: www2.uiuc.edu/ro/liberty/ and www2.uiuc.edu/ro/sil/ Contact: David Warden, warden@uiuc.edu

Rockford Area Libertarians have gotten three members elected. Contact: liberty@lprockford.8m.com, (815)964-4012

LP Chicago could use you at their next meeting. Website: www.lpchicago.org

LP Will County has ballot access in one state rep. District. Website: www.willcountylp.org Contact: Eric Ferguson, feedback@willcountylp.org

Greater Peoria Area Libertarians are gearing up for the 2005 local elections. Contact: Jeff Trigg, director@lpillinois.org, (309) 693-3402

LPI is glad to welcome another group that will be trying to get off the ground in the **Springfield area**. If you are in the area please contact Jesse Crouch, ioda006@ifakedit.com