

Republican Liberty

Free Enterprise, Individual Freedom & Limited Government

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Election Results Mixed in Federal Races

by Eric J. Rütberg

In U.S. Senate and House races, election results were mixed for libertarian and libertarian-leaning Republicans.

In a surprise win, Republican candidate Paul Coverdell of Georgia beat incumbent U.S. Senator Wyche Fowler. The race turned out to be one of the most closely watched Senate races.

On Nov. 3, the Libertarian Party candidate for Fowler's seat, Jim Hudson, polled 3 percent. Fowler finished with 49 percent and Coverdell pulled 48 percent. According to Georgia law, a 50 percent plus 1 majority must be obtained to avoid a runoff. The day after the election, Hudson formally endorsed Coverdell. Coverdell graciously accepted the endorsement.

Fowler responded by blasting Coverdell for accepting the endorsement of the Libertarians, who were described as free market extremists. Meanwhile, the GOP pulled out all the stops, and launched a massive get-out-the-vote effort. Surprisingly, the Religious Right forces in the state threw their weight behind the pro-choice Coverdell. On Nov. 24, Coverdell prevailed with 51 percent.

Coverdell's victory was a major victory for the Republican Party. It preserved the GOP's current number of 43 in the Senate and was viewed as a rebuke to President-elect Clinton who campaigned for Fowler in the last days before the runoff.

For libertarians, the win was just as significant. For the Libertarian Party, it marked the first time a candidate endorsed by one of its candidates won a major office. Also, Libertarians in Georgia received a great deal of press, and were perceived by many as providing the crucial margin of victory. For libertarian Republicans the win was even more significant. Although he shied away from the label, Coverdell campaigned on many libertarian themes, such as privatization, deregulation, educational choice and social tolerance while opposing gun control and tax increases.

Coverdell was enthusiastically supported by the Republican Liberty Caucus. The Republican Liberty Federal Campaign Fund also contributed to his effort, and local RLCers made individual contributions and volunteered for his campaign.

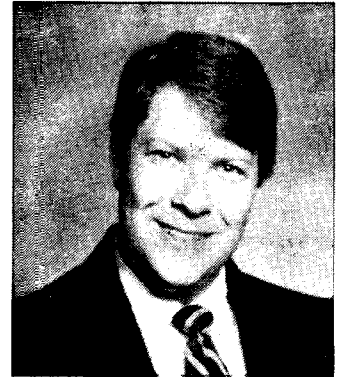
For the House, the outlook was more grim. Of five races targeted by the RLC, only one prevailed. In a heartbreaking loss, California Assemblyman Tom McClintock lost in his bid to unseat Tony Beilenson (Dist. 24), 56 to 40 percent. Both candidates had a serious debate of the issues, participating jointly in forums throughout the Northwest Los Angeles/San Fernando Valley area.

In the end, Beilenson's name ID in the heavily populated Los Angeles County portion of the district proved insurmountable. The RLFCF also contributed to McClintock's effort.

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New Mexico State Sen.
Duncan Scott



Colorado State Rep.
Penn Pfiffner

GOP Libertarians Win State Legislative Races

by Mike Holmes

Despite what proved to be a tough year for Republicans, five of six libertarian and libertarian-leaning Republicans with special ties to the RLC overcame the odds in their state legislative races.

Greg Kaza of suburban Detroit, Penn Pfiffner of suburban Denver, Duncan Scott of Albuquerque, Bradford Gorham of west central Rhode Island and Mark Foley of South Florida won significant state house and senate victories on Nov. 3. Only Massachusetts State Sen. Bob Hedlund, an RLC Advisory Board member, was overcome by the Clinton-inspired Democratic tide.

Greg Kaza

Michigan's Greg Kaza trounced his opponent with 65 percent of the vote, well ahead of Bush's 52 percent in the 42nd House district. He expects to play a pivotal role in the State House, which is deadlocked 55 to 55 between parties (See related story, page 3).

Bradford Gorham

Bradford Gorham of Foster won election to Rhode Island's Senate Dist. 41. Gorham is an ex-Marine and a Dartmouth- and Harvard-educated lawyer in private practice who served as a state representative from 1977-1990. His campaign concentrated on improving literacy in schools and cutting taxes. Gorham urged that government "should concentrate on the essentials" such as protec-

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Feedback

Feedback runs in every other issue of Republican Liberty. Letters should be short and concise and are subject to editing for space reasons. Dues paying members always will be given priority in the selection of letters for publication.

Correction, please!

Editor:

What are you guys smoking?

"David Hobbs is running an extremely tight race against incumbent Congressman Pete Geren of Dist. 12 (Ft. Worth)." So you say on page 5 of the special election issue.

Voting results in this election:

Pete Geren 125,492 62.8 percent

David Hobbs 74,432 37.2 percent

I recall the definition of "landslide" to be 60 percent or more of the vote.

You are right about Jim Broyles "waging an uphill battle against Democratic incumbent Chet Edwards." Broyles accomplished 33 percent.

Why no mention of libertarian Republican Steve Masterson, who ran against Martin Frost in Dist. 24? Masterson did better than Hobbs - 40 percent.

You reporting is rather suspect.

**Chris Hrivnak
Garland, TX**

Ed. Note - Thanks for the info. We rely heavily on reports from activists on the scene, such as yourself. Our sources indicated that Hobbs had a good shot. We're happy to learn of Masterson, but sorry he lost.

Editor:

As a Libertarian Party member since 1972 and a constituent of Washington's 8th Congressional District since its inception, I was astounded to see Rep. Rod Chandler listed among "libertarian Republican" candidates in your fall 1992 issue.

Under the most generous interpretation, Chandler is nothing more than a slightly right-of-center Republican who specializes in keeping a low political profile (so as not to offend anyone), never fails to moralize when morality is a trendy topic, sedulously seeks out federal assistance for virtually every special interest group, has never been an ardent defender of the Second Amendment, has never been known to bitterly resist deficit budgets, and is notorious for voting himself an obscene pay raise in a dead-of-night house session.

He is "libertarian leaning" only by comparison to the Kennedy brothers, and not by much at that.

In short, I simply do not understand how you had come by any

basis for concluding that Rod Chandler should be represented as being friendly to libertarian ideas.

**Michael J. Dunn
Auburn, WA**

More on School Vouchers

Editor:

I'm delighted my anti-school voucher article (*Republican Liberty*, Spring 1992) evoked some response in the new Feedback column. Nevertheless, I'm dismayed at the political timidity of those voucher proponents who wrote in, and amazed at their opposition to increased parental responsibility.

Nowhere did I advocate an "abrupt" or "total" end to public school welfare financing. Instead, user fees (tuition payments) could and should be phased in incrementally — say \$250 the first year, \$350 the second year, and so on. Besides being politically possible, this approach has much to recommend it including the virtue of warning prospective parents beforehand that the days of "free" schooling are coming to an end. So much for the fear of "abruptness."

As to "totality," the voters could put any cap on user fees they see fit - let's say \$1,000 per pupil. (This idea makes such good sense that even one of my neighbors, a Democrat who's also a parent, saw its wisdom immediately. He calls it "free market birth control" and says it's the greatest anti-welfare innovation since the condom!)

Next, one voucher apologist was especially naive when he wrote that most people who can afford private schools already use them. That simply is not true. Millions of well-off parents take advantage of public school welfare just because it's so available. Conversely a couple million other parents resist that welfare temptation by either homeschooling or sending their kids to low-cost private schools.

In 1990, the average per capita private school cost was only \$1,900 — a sum well within the affordability range of the many parents who play golf, buy themselves expensive VCRs, take their kids to Disneyland and buy them \$80 sneakers.

The point is that the vast majority of parents can afford to pay at least part of their schooling costs directly and they should be required to do so. The real problem here is one of accountability rather than affordability. So why should the luxury of expanded choice take precedence over free market-type accountability?

Finally, let's not kid ourselves. While it's true the public schools are a disaster, it's also true they've gotten to be that way largely because of the way they are financed. Over time, every welfare program breaks down because of the abuses inherent in it. And you can't correct the abuses in any such program by feeding it more money or making its clients more comfortable.

Vouchers do both. So why should any RLCer in his right mind swallow the voucher myth?

**John M. Simons
Sheffield, VT**

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14 out of 14: Voters Demand Real Change

by Philip Blumel

The American voters in November did indeed send a clear message for change, but it wasn't reflected in the half-hearted victory given Bill Clinton.

The real mandate for change was the victory - in every state they were offered - of term limits.

Fourteen states, including California and Florida, approved measures to limit the terms of their elected representatives. Term limits received more votes than Clinton in each of these states, with the exception of Arkansas.

Part of the credit for this victory goes to U.S. Term Limits, an organization created in January 1992 by New York businessman Howard Rich, onetime owner of Laissez Faire Books and a board member of the libertarian CATO Institute. Rich, U.S. Term Limits president, hired Paul Jacob - best known for his active opposition to draft registration - to be the new group's executive director.

"I was very concerned about what is going on in this country," Rich said after the election. "I saw that there was a need for term limits, and fortunately the American people wanted term limits . . . Our role was as a facilitator for what the people wanted."

The Washington D.C.-based group helped several state organizations write term limits initiatives and get them on the ballot. The group also provided considerable financial assistance, spreading roughly \$1.7 million between the 14 initiative states - including almost \$700,000 in California.

Even with funds pouring in from enthusiastic contributors and polls showing voter support for limits, Rich said he was not prepared for the extent of the victory.

"I was very scared in the last week," he said, laughing. "You do everything you can, then there is this last week and there's nothing to do but pace."

Of particular concern was Washington State, where House Speaker Thomas Foley and his wife Heather led a strong fight against limits. The Foleys, along with Michigan Rep. John Dingell, recruited the aid of numerous special interests - including General Motors, Upjohn, the United Auto Workers and others - to contribute toward the fight against term limits.

"I would venture to say that I don't think they raised \$100 from anybody but a special interest, or someone who owed somebody a favor," Rich said. "If you traced our money, not one nickle came from anybody who thinks they are going to get a favor. This was really a case of the good guys versus the bad guys."

Rich says the primary role played by U.S. Term Limits in the success of the term limits movement was to provide expertise and media support. "We helped frame it as a national effort, which it was," Rich said. "Now 36 percent of Congress are under term limits."

But the work isn't done. While Rich supports a constitutional amendment mandating term limits, the group isn't waiting for that to happen. In 1993-94, U.S. Term Limits will take the term limits message to eight more initiative states and begin laying the groundwork for future campaigns in other states. The group will also be providing help to defend existing term limits from legal challenges, such as those launched in Florida and Washington State.

Winning in Michigan: Greg Kaza

by Thomas D. Walls

Libertarian Republican Greg Kaza won a landslide victory Nov. 3 in Michigan's 42nd State House District (Troy-Rochester Hills), capturing 65 percent of the vote despite a negative campaign by his Democratic opponent and the Republican incumbent.

Kaza, 32, an author and economist, defeated Rochester Hills

Councilman Jon Buller, 45, by a 24,075-to-13,135 margin. Kaza won 32 of 33 precincts, including the home precincts of Buller and incumbent state Rep. Gordon Sparks (R-Troy), who actively campaigned against Kaza in both the Aug. 4 Republican primary and the general election.

"This is a victory for limited government and individual liberty," Kaza said. He credited his win to voter concern about high taxes and the economy. "The issue wasn't Hilary or the KGB. The issue was whether

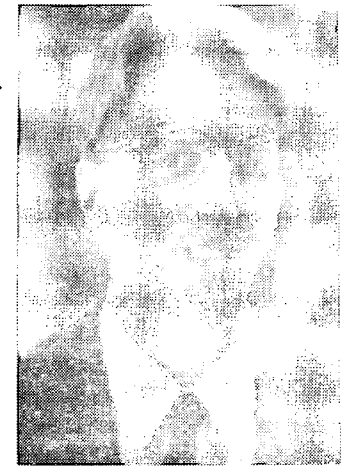
Michigan State Rep. Greg Kaza we will improve Michigan's economy by cutting property taxes, welfare and state government," Kaza said. The race featured negative direct-mail pieces that attacked Kaza as a libertarian. "Greg Kaza, in a press interview, styled himself 'a libertarian,'" one of Buller's mailings read. "The Libertarian Party's national platform calls for, among other things, the dismantling of Social Security and Medicare." Buller's piece was mailed to senior citizens and absentee voters. Buller attacked Kaza in a separate mailing to government employees as a privatization proponent. Sparks, 57, attacked Kaza in a targeted mailing to Republican voters. "Extremists, on either side, don't solve problems, and certainly don't represent the majority of people who are in the center," Sparks wrote.

Kaza defeated Sparks' hand-picked successor and two other Republicans, one of them a former state representative, in the Aug. 4 primary. In the four-way primary, Kaza received 51 percent.

Kaza overcame Sparks' endorsement in the general election with a positive grass-roots campaign. Kaza campaigned for term limits, approved Nov. 3 by Michigan voters, and pledged to limit his own term in the State House. "We stuck to the issues, and left the negative campaigning to our opponents," Kaza said.

Kaza also worked a crossover vote among middle-class Democrats by opposing any increase in the state's gas and income taxes. Seven of Troy's precincts, formerly those of retiring Democratic state Rep. Wilfred Webb, whose district was redrawn under reapportionment, supported Kaza on Nov. 3. "My father worked 43 years in a factory, my mother retired at age 63 and I went to work at age 12. Knocking on doors, those were important issues for many Democrats," he said.

Kaza personally visited 15,000 homes in the primary and general elections. He raised nearly \$30,000, and true to libertarian form, finished with a campaign surplus of \$10,000.



1992 Libertarian Republican Candidates

Arizona			
John McCain (LL) U.S. Senate	56% w		
Arkansas			
Jim Keets (LL) State Senate	53% w		
Frank Gilbert (LR) Grant County Coroner	93% w		
California			
Frank Riggs (LL) U.S. House (Dist. 1)	45% l		
Bill Richardson (LL) U.S. House (Dist. 4)	40% l		
Mark Wolin (LL) U.S. House (Dist. 6)	11% l		
Ted Bundesen (LL) U.S. House (Dist. 13)	32% l		
Robert Wick (LL) U.S. House (Dist. 15)	31% l		
Tal Cloud (LL) U.S. House (Dist. 19)	47% l		
Michael Huffington (LL) U.S. House (Dist. 22)	52% w		
Tom McClintock (LR) U.S. House (Dist. 24)	40% l		
Moory Wacksburg (LL) U.S. House (Dist. 31)	23% l		
Ed Royce (LL) U.S. House (Dist. 39)	57% w		
Dick Rutan (LR) U.S. House (Dist. 42)	44% l		
Dana Rhorabacher (LL) U.S. House (Dist. 45)	54% w		
Chris Cox (LL) U.S. House (Dist. 47)	64% w		
Mike Iddings (LR) State Senate (Dist. 13)	31% l		
Kitty Hederick (LL) State House	26% l		
Bill Hoge (LL) State House (Dist. 44)	51% w		
Steve Hall (LL) State House (Dist. 62)	35% l		
Tricia Hunter (LL) State House (Dist. 80)	49% l		
Colorado			
Terry Considine (LL) U.S. Senate	45% l		
Scott McInnes (LL) U.S. House (Dist. 3)	56% w		
Wayne Allard (LL) U.S. House (Dist. 4)	58% w		
Penn Pfiffner (LR) State House (Dist. 23)	50.6% w		
Connecticut			
Gary Franks (LL) U.S. House (Dist. 5)	45% w		
Delaware			
Michael Castle (LL) U.S. House (Dist. 1)	57% w		
Florida			
Locke Burt (LL) State Senate (Dist. 16)	54% w		
Mark Foley (LR) State Senate (Dist. 36)	60% w		
Mike Birdsong (LR) State House (Dist. 38)	43% l		
Tom Feeney (LL) State House	72% w		
Georgia			
Paul Coverdell (LL) U.S. Senate	51% w		
Illinois			
Rich Williamson (LL) U.S. Senate	45% l		
Phil Crane (LR) U.S. House (Dist. 12)	58% w		
Maryland			
Alan Keyes (LL) U.S. Senate	29% l		
Larry Hogan (LL) U.S. House (Dist. 5)	45% l		
Massachusetts			
Paul Cronin (LL) U.S. House (Dist. 5)	42% l		
Bob Hedlund (LR) State Senate	1		
Michigan			
Greg Kaza (LR) State House (Dist. 42)	64% w		
Minnesota			
Chris McDonald (LL) State House	36% l		
Mississippi			
Rita Martinson (LL) State House	w		
Missouri			
John Carley (LR) U.S. House (Dist. 4)	30% l		
Montana			
Gary Marbut (LR) State House (Dist. 54)	36% l		
Roger Coopman (LL) State House (Dist. 80)	38% l		
New Hampshire			
Judd Gregg (LL) U.S. Senate	50% w		
*Calvin Warburton (LR) State House	24% w		
*Finlay Rolthaus (LR) State House	9.1% w		
*Andy Borsa (LR) State House	19% w		
New Jersey			
Bob Franks (LL) U.S. House (Dist. 7)	55% w		
Dick Zimmer (LR) U.S. House (Dist. 12)	67% w		
Brett Schundler (LL) Mayor of Jersey City	w		
New Mexico			
Duncan Scott (LR) State Senate (Dist. 19)	61% w		
North Carolina			
Art Pope (LL) Lt. Governor	1		
Richard Miller (LR) State House (Dist. 18)	20% l		
Winslow Hoffman (LR) State House	39% l		
Ohio			
Martin Hoke (LL) U.S. House (Dist. 10)	57% w		
Charles Byrne (LR) State House	18% l		
*David Sams (LR) Madison County Prosecutor	w		
Pennsylvania			
Jim Greenwood (LL) U.S. House (Dist. 8)	53% w		
Rhode Island			
Bradford Gorham (LL) State Senate	w		
Texas			
Jim Broyles (LR) U.S. House (Dist. 11)	33% l		
David Hobbs (LL) U.S. House (Dist. 12)	37% l		
Steve Masterson (LL) U.S. House (Dist. 24)	40% l		
Dick Arney (LL) U.S. House (Dist. 26)	73% w		
Florence Shapiro (LL) State House	w		
Vermont			
John McLaughry (LR) Governor	23% l		
Jim Douglas (LL) U.S. Senate	45% l		
Susan Sweetzer (LL) State House	w		
John LaBarge (LL) State House	66% w		
Virginia			
Henry Butler (LR) U.S. House (Dist. 11)	48% l		
Washington			
Rod Chandler (LL) U.S. Senate	45% l		
West Virginia			
Bob Gould (LR) State Attorney	1		

Libertarian Republican (LR) - A Republican candidate who has demonstrated or espoused strong support for libertarian principles, and/or has used the term to describe his or her beliefs, and/or is formally associated with the libertarian wing of the GOP.

Libertarian Leaning (LL) - A Republican candidate who has demonstrated or espoused strong fiscal conservatism, and is generally moderate on social issues.

*Member of the Libertarian Party running as a Republican.

Pete Du Pont for RNC Chair

On Dec. 16, the Republican Liberty Caucus National Committee met in Washington, D.C., and resolved unanimously to endorse Pierre S. du Pont for chairman of the Republican National Committee.

Du Pont has a long and distinguished career in Republican Party politics. An heir to the great Delaware du Ponts, he began his political career representing the state in Congress from 1971-77. In 1977, he left Congress and was elected governor. As governor he became an adamant supply-sider, balancing budgets through spending cuts and reducing income taxes. In 1988, he launched his long shot presidential campaign.

As a candidate, he ran on hardcore free market themes, even being criticized by opponent Jack Kemp for his "libertarian views." These included phasing out agricultural subsidies, privatizing social security and replacing welfare with work. On social matters he seemed to take a tolerant stance, with one glaring exception: drugs.

Du Pont's suggestion to require drug testing for all high school students drew fire from many, and caused great heartache for his libertarian supporters. In the end, most libertarian Republicans overcame this shortcoming, and backed his candidacy. Still, du Pont did not make it much past the New Hampshire primary.

He is now an all-but-declared candidate for party chairman. In fact, during the fall campaign he was criticized by current GOP head Rich Bond for actively campaigning for the post. His elevation to the post would be a clear signal that the party's libertarian wing has come of age. Additionally, he has know-how, stature and is exceptionally articulate.

There are other qualified candidates. Labor Secretary Lynn Martin is quick-witted. Her well-known pro-choice views would send a signal that the party is moderating its stance. Spencer Abraham has proven ability, having helped to bring about a literal Republican revolution in Michigan. Vin Weber has gumption and is well-respected by the liberal media. All three would be acceptable to the libertarian wing. But it's Pete du Pont who is one of our own, and is clearly our first choice.

It's Time for Direct LP-GOP Cooperation

by Eric Rittberg

Overall, the Libertarian Party experienced a disappointing election year. The LP's presidential vote total dropped from 435,000 votes in 1988, to 282,000. Only a handful of LP members won election to public office. Of these, the most significant gains came in New Hampshire where four Libertarians won election to the State Legislature.

However, the four Libertarian legislators won election with cross endorsements from the LP and a major party (three as Republican-Libertarians, the other as a Democratic-Libertarian).

New Hampshire, similar to New York, allows candidates to seek dual party and even tri-party endorsements.

After each of the four won the LP nomination and secured their ballot position under "Libertarian," they had their names submitted as write-ins for the major party nominations. Having won the nominations unopposed, their names then appeared on the ballot in two columns. Each of the four received far more votes as major party nominees than as Libertarians.

In Pennsylvania, prominent Libertarian and former LP congressional candidate Don Ernsberger formally endorsed Republican Jim Greenwood in his bid to unseat incumbent Congressman Peter Kostmayer. In a flyer handed out by Ernsberger and other LPers throughout the district, Ernsberger wrote of Greenwood, "he knows how important the votes of thousands of Bucks County voters who have voted Libertarian in the past four years can be to him. Jim Greenwood in the U.S. House will result in far more votes in favor of free market, limited government and individual liberty that we could ever expect from Peter Kostmayer." Greenwood won with 53 percent.

In the Georgia U.S. Senate race, Libertarian Party candidate Jim Hudson received an enormous amount of publicity both in Georgia and nationwide, after he endorsed Republican Paul Coverdell in the runoff election. Many political pundits regarded Hudson's endorsement of the Republican as providing the crucial margin of victory over incumbent Wyche Fowler. Not only did Georgia Libertarians gain publicity, but they gained an increased amount of credibility, particularly among Georgia Republicans.

Despite the triumphs for LP-GOP cooperation in '92 there were some damaging examples of LP-GOP non-cooperation. In California, LP candidate Fritz Ward remained on the ballot, although Ward had expressed his support for Dick Rutan. He received 5.3 percent. Incumbent Congressman George Brown beat Rutan 51 percent to 44 percent. Rutan might have been able to pull it off with Libertarian support. Also in California, LPer Jack Dean ran against libertarian-leaning Ed Royce for Congress. Although Royce prevailed with 57 percent, Dean polled 4.5 percent - most of which could be viewed as coming from the Royce column.

But the biggest absurdity came in New Jersey where the Libertarian Party actually fielded a candidate against Dick Zimmer, Congress' most libertarian member. Why would a Zimmer or a Royce feel any obligations to libertarians in Congress, when the Libertarians in their districts actively opposed their candidacies?!

The message from the '92 elections for Libertarians is crystal clear. The party had its greatest electoral success and is most influential when it works with a major party - in most cases the Republicans. The experiments with LP-GOP cooperation worked, while the examples of non-cooperation were counterproductive.

The party might want to take a cue from the Conservative and Liberal parties of New York State. The LP could make endorsements in future elections and support candidates in GOP primaries. If a libertarian-Republican were to triumph in the primaries, then the LP might want to avoid running an opposition candidate in the general election and instead make an official endorsement of the Republican.

This strategy could even work in the '96 presidential race.

Libertarians in and out of the Libertarian Party have the same ultimate goals and should be working together to achieve them. To do this, the LP should continue along the path it took in the '92 elections - cooperating and assisting the Republican Party.

Federal Races...from 1

In San Bernardino, another RLC-backed candidate, Voyager pilot Dick Rutan, lost in his bid to unseat incumbent Democrat George Brown, 51 to 44 percent. Barry Goldwater campaigned for Rutan in the district, which borders Arizona. However, Voyager co-pilot Jeanne Yeager endorsed Brown, claiming his seniority would be a benefit to the district. The controversy - along with the benefit of Brown's incumbency - may have cost Rutan the election.

Libertarian Republicans suffered another defeat in Virginia. Henry Butler lost to Leslie Byrne (Dist. 11) in a nasty race, 48 percent to 51 percent. Byrne attacked Butler for youthful indiscretions, questioned his business dealings and labeled him "an extremist." Butler responded by producing a TV ad depicting Byrne as literally running away from her record (a giant record album chased a Byrne look-a-like down a street). Many Republicans actively campaigned for Butler including Dan Quayle, Tom Clancy, Oliver North, James Miller III and former President Gerald Ford. Butler is not ruling out another try in '94.

In Texas, David Hobbs lost to Democratic incumbent Pete Geren in the Ft. Worth area with 37 percent. Geren successfully portrayed himself as having brought home the bacon.

On the upside, first-term incumbent Congressman Dick Zimmer of New Jersey easily won re-election in the 12th District with 67 percent. Zimmer was opposed by Town Councilman Frank Abate and four third party candidates. Zimmer and his staff took nothing for granted in a state where Bush trailed in the polls and eventually lost. As he did in 1990, he sent constituents a certificate pledging that he would not seek re-election if he voted for any "broad-based taxes" such as on income, sales or gasoline. The *Newark Star-Ledger* called him "one of the GOP's leading libertarians."

In addition to the five congressional candidates directly supported by the RLC, there were a number of other libertarian and libertarian-leaning Republican candidates of note. Of these, those who prevailed included: Michael Huffington (CA Dist. 22), Ed Royce (CA Dist. 39), Dana Rhorabacher (CA Dist. 45), Chris Cox (CA Dist. 45), Scott McInnes (CO Dist. 4), Martin Hoke (OH Dist. 10), Jim Greenwood (PA Dist. 8), Bob Franks (NJ Dist. 7), Phil Crane (IL Dist. 12), and Michael Castle (DE Dist. 1).

State Races...from 1

tion of citizens and basic services, and not waste money on extraneous programs.

Penn Pfiffner

38-year-old Lakewood Colorado resident Penn Pfiffner squeaked to a narrow 171-vote victory for a two-year state house term in a district which wraps around the western and southern end of Denver. The energetic father of three, Pfiffner is a consulting economist to the local construction industry and teaches economics at Webster College. His thin victory margin, out of more than 22,000 votes cast, represents a major success nonetheless, since the Jefferson County suburbs saw the defeat of the GOP State House candidate, state senator and two incumbent county commissioners.

Pfiffner was active in the Libertarian Party during the 1980s, serving on its state board and editing its state newspaper. He was also active several organizations, including the local housing authority, his homeowners' association, the Colorado Union of Taxpayers and the Colorado Conservative Union. Pfiffner was appointed to the state's Utility Consumer Advisory Board by Gail Norton, the state's attorney general and a former LP member.

His interest in the race began in 1991, when several legislators asked him to run against four-term incumbent Marlene Fish, who ended up dead last in ratings of the Colorado Union of Taxpayers.

With help from experienced GOP politicians Frank Defilippo and Cliff Nolte, Pfiffner walked precincts using computerized precinct lists which targeted active GOP voters, noting their interests and the time he visited them. Each received follow-up letters. Pfiffner edged out the incumbent by 53 to 47 percent in the primary and went on to face perennial Democratic candidate Lance Wright..

Pfiffner told *Republican Liberty* that he received important help from longtime LP activist Dwight Filly and support from David Atkins, the state's LP chair, but that overall he "was disappointed with LP help in my campaign." Nevertheless, Pfiffner worked full-time for six months, raising and spending over \$25,000 in both the primary and general election. He was aided during the final weeks by a state GOP-funded phone bank operation.

His opponent launched a last-minute smear campaign claiming Pfiffner was a onetime LP member who "favored drugs, wanted no environmental laws and opposed public schools." Pfiffner ignored these hysterical charges, noting that "Coloradoans are pretty libertarian anyway and people in the district knew who I was and weren't buying these big bad wolf images being put out."

In contrast to the unsuccessful neighboring GOP candidates, Pfiffner didn't hammer on the moralistic arguments of the religious right, but instead on fiscal conservative issues, such as tax limitation measures, opposition to a 1 percent sales tax increase, privatization and transportation deregulation. He also favored the measure (which lost) favoring educational vouchers and also supported the measure to prohibit municipalities from extending civil rights laws to homosexuals. His moderate abortion position (for parental notification, against state funding, pro-choice) didn't draw much fire and overall, he said, "taxes were the overriding issue."

Pfiffner reports "a great deal of acceptance" by the other legislators, with "absolutely no one going haywire at the mention of the word 'libertarian.'" He is seeking seats on the Finance and Judiciary Committees and would like to start a Liberty Caucus with other libertarian-leaning legislators.

Duncan Scott

Five hundred miles south of Denver, former Montana LP State Chair Duncan Scott was crushing his opponent 61 to 39 percent in the northeastern Albuquerque, N.M., State Senate District 19. After ousting the incumbent GOP senate minority leader in the hard-fought primary, Scott continued to campaign very hard, following through on his door-to-door precinct walking and his targeted mailing strategy which worked successfully in the primary. Scott focused on term limits, which passed as a state constitutional amendment, and for choice in education.

Since Scott will be the only GOP state senator who is an attorney, he is seeking a Judiciary committee assignment and hopes also for a seat on the taxation committee.

Mark Foley

RLC Advisory Board member and State Rep. Mark Foley won a state senate seat in Florida from incumbent Eleanor Weinstock, insuring the Senate was tied at 20 Republicans to 20 Democrats. Since the senate presidency was awarded to the Republicans, Florida is the first southern legislature to go Republican since Reconstruction. The new district is a result of reapportionment and stretches from Palm Beach to Fort Meyers - a long thin corridor from the east to the west coast of the state.

Activist News

RLC Leaders Visit LP National Committee

by Mike Holmes

Three RLC leaders visited the Libertarian Party's National Committee at their Dec. 12-13 post-election meeting in Las Vegas.

RLC President Roger MacBride, Vice Chair Clifford Thies and treasurer Mike Holmes attended to discuss how the two groups can work together to further libertarian objectives.

MacBride began his address to the LP's executive body by outlining his background as a libertarian in both the Republican and Libertarian parties. He said his objective has always been to work to implement libertarian policies, and that libertarians should place their common objectives above partisanship. He noted the recent electoral success of former LP leaders and members. He said the LP serves a vital educational role by introducing undiluted libertarian ideas into the political process, but recent data indicates that election of libertarians is best accomplished by running as Republicans.

I followed up by suggesting specific ways in which the RLC and the LP could work together: appointment of organizational liaisons, candidate cross-endorsements, cooperation on referenda and initiatives, work on state-level legislation, cooperation on projects such as conferences, and opposition to likely Clinton policies, such as mandatory national service.

The reaction to these ideas was a mixture of curiosity and suspicion. LP committee questioners focused on past RLC relations with the LP and its recent presidential candidate, the criteria used in evaluating libertarian Republican candidates and officeholders, and the means by which the RLC would assist with ballot access reform.

Clifford Thies was chosen as RLC liaison to the LP. On the LP side, Maggie Kohls of Illinois was chosen LP liaison to the RLC.

RLC National

The Republican Liberty Caucus National Committee met in Washington at the National Press Club on Dec. 16. In addition to NatComm members, guests in attendance included Rick Henderson, Laura Kotelman, Don Carr and Scott Minos. A resolution was passed unanimously endorsing Pete du Pont for RNC chairman. Also, a formal resolution drafted by Clifford Thies was passed opposing military intervention in Somalia. New RLC Advisory Board members include State Legislators Penn Pfiffner of Colorado and Greg Kaza of Michigan and former LP National Chairman Dave Walters of Pennsylvania.

Around the States

A New Jersey RLC meeting was held at Fred Stein's Dayton home on Dec. 17. Guests included RLC National Chairman Eric Rittberg and 1993 State Senate candidate Rich Duprey. A resolution was passed to formally endorse Christine Whittman for governor in the upcoming GOP primaries. In Arkansas, RLCer and former LP State Chair Frank Gilbert won election to the post of state Republican Party Co-Vice Chairman. The vote was taken at the recently held state GOP convention. In November, Gilbert won election as Grant County Coroner becoming the first elected Republican in the county since Reconstruction. LP state chairman Brian Horton of West Virginia and Mike Pierone of New Jersey have joined the RLC. Former LP State Chair Wayne Bartling of Connecticut will be RLC coordinator for the state.

Notable News

Weld in '96: the Watch Begins

by T. Franklin Harris Jr.

It did not take long after the Republican National Convention for Massachusetts Gov. William Weld to be hurled near the top of the Republican contenders list for 1996. The mainstream media seems fascinated by Weld's mix of extreme fiscal conservatism and social tolerance. In the coming battle with the Religious Right and the Bushite moderates, Weld has been appointed the leader of his own wing of the GOP - a distinctly libertarian wing.

It is a rare occasion when the press does not mention Weld's libertarian mindset. *American Caucus* reports that "the most visible potential candidate on the [Republican] party's moderate wing might be . . . Weld, an economic conservative and social libertarian." The *New Republic* (seriously!) practically endorsed the embryonic Weld campaign, stating that "Weld's own record of fiscal draconianism in his state . . . is in tune with the needs of the debt-ridden nation at large." Furthermore, *American Caucus* notes that Weld is in sync with suburban voters who appreciate his promise to get government out of their pocketbooks and their bedrooms.

George Will wrote a column in October, "The GOP's Libertarian Puck." In it, Will noted, Weld "will not say a syllable in dispraise of Bush, but he knows this: Were Bush to win, some Republicans would conclude that the party's platform can say whatever cultural conservatives want, and the party's record (increasing taxes, spending and regulation) need not be noticeably conservative."

Also in October, Weld appeared in an hour-long C-SPAN interview with Brian Lamb where he repeatedly described himself as a libertarian. Other recent favorable press for the governor included a five-page spread in the *New York Times Magazine*, and repeated mentions on the Sunday morning talk shows. In one McGlaughlin Group episode, host John McGlaughlin uttered "I think the most interesting potential candidate is William Weld . . . there's a movement within the party now to move away from the cultural issues and into a more libertarian mode." McGlaughlin then solicited predictions for likely '96 GOP presidential nominees. "The answer? William Weld," he emphatically stated.

However, any Weld candidacy faces an uphill battle. Jack Kemp must be considered the favorite for '96. Kemp's economic conservatism is similar to Weld's own. Also, Kemp shows signs of moderating on social issues (he spoke to both pro-choice and gay Republicans in Houston). Even among GOP libertarians, Weld will face a battle with Kemp, and possibly Pete du Pont if he decides to enter the fray, for support.

Weld will have the almost undivided support of pro-choice Republicans, thanks, in part, to his vocal pro-choice message in Houston. Nevertheless, the anti-abortion forces, led by Phyllis Schafley, have vowed not to allow a pro-choice candidate on the Republican ticket. Weld will have to fight even for the more likely prospect as the GOP's vice-presidential nominee.

If the anti-choice forces are split among several candidates (as seems likely) there may be a big enough crack for Weld to slip through. Already, a fledgling "Draft Weld for '96" committee is in the works. If not Weld in '96, then maybe 2000!

Ed. Note - T. Franklin Harris Jr. is a political science student at Auburn University in Alabama. Norm Singleton also contributed to this article.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

RLC office hours: Administrative office hours are Monday to Friday, 5 to 10 p.m. EST. Questions, comments and requests for updates on RLC activities are welcome during these hours. Fax correspondence is welcome during off hours.

Computer bulletin board: GOP-NET, a bulletin board for libertarian Republicans, is now on line. Log on at request @pro-aasgard.cts.com or call Dave Welliver (612) 478-9533 for more information.

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