

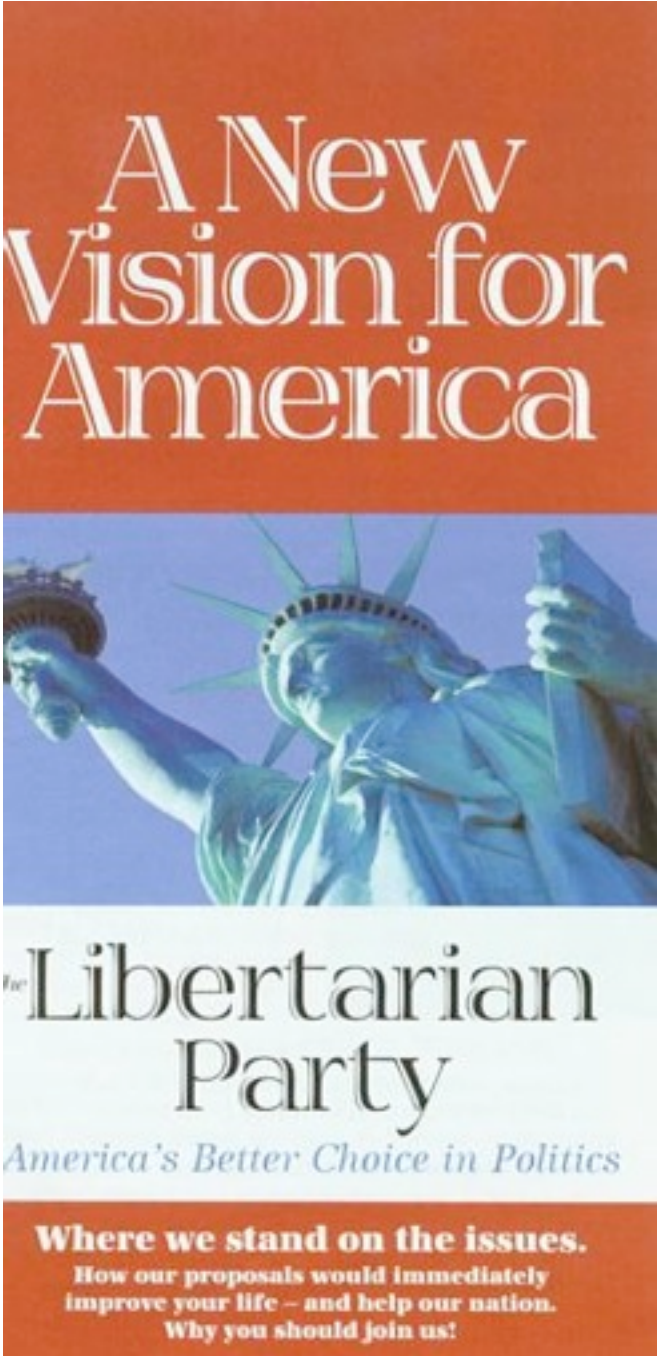
*Libertarian Party of
Texas
2011 Legislative Agenda*

Presented by
Robert Butler, Jon Roland (Legislative Advisors)
Pat Dixon (State Chair)


Libertarian Party

www.LP.org

- Third largest political party
- 39 years old
- On the ballot in more states than any other 3rd party



A New
Vision for
America



the Libertarian
Party

America's Better Choice in Politics

Where we stand on the issues.
How our proposals would immediately
improve your life – and help our nation.
Why you should join us!



Libertarian Party of Texas

- Continuously on the Texas ballot since 1986.
- Run selectively in races sometimes determining the winner.
- Staffing and budget have grown significantly in 2010
- Automatically qualified for Texas ballot through 2014

Texas LP Staff



Amie Parsons
North Regional Director



Rob Lapham
Executive Director



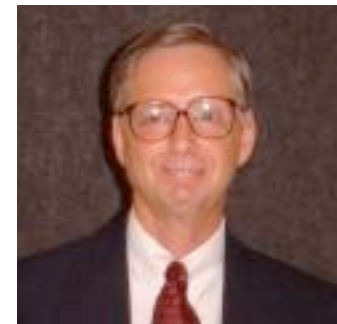
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Book Keeper

Texas LP Officers



Pat Dixon
Chair



Steve Nichols
Vice Chair



Kevin Hutchinson
Treasurer



Gary Johnson
Secretary



Robert Butler
Legislative Advisor



Jon Roland
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Libertarian Party of Texas

2011 Legislative Agenda - Summary

- Election Reform - End spoiler effect, defend voter choice
- Social Tolerance and Individual Liberty - Defend the principles upon which our nation was founded
- Immigration - If you are peaceful and productive, WELCOME!
- State Budget - Shed spending to privatization and local control, no additional tax burden
- Education - Teacher/Parent Autonomy
- Health care - Doctor/Patient Autonomy
- Transportation - Support true free market approaches
- Government Reform - Promote open and transparent government
- State Sovereignty - Regain states rights, oppose further federal government ignorance of 10th amendment

2011 Legislative Agenda

ELECTION REFORM

- End spoiler effect with Approval Voting
- Non-partisan redistricting
- Eliminate straight party ticket voting
- End “Primary Screenout”
- Re-introduce HCR 44 (Denny, 2005) to revise election code
- Paper trail for electronic voting machines
- Allow political parties control of their candidate nominations

ELECTION REFORM

- End Spoiler Effect

Today

Candidate A	X		X		X				X		X		X					6
Candidate B		X		X		X		X		X				X		X		7
Candidate C							X					X			X		X	4

Candidate B wins, C “spoils” A

Approval Voting

Candidate A	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	9
Candidate B		X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X		8
Candidate C							X					X			X		X	4

Candidate A wins, no spoiler

- Approval Voting, candidate with highest approval wins
- No spoiler, no runoff, same ballot
- Widely used, time tested
- IRV (Instant Runoff Voting) is another viable method
- <http://www.austinpst.org/content/a-modest-proposal-approval-voting>

ELECTION REFORM

-Non partisan redistricting

- Texas taxpayers already paid for the solution
- The state has software (TARGET) that can generate compact voting district maps subject to entered criteria
- The gerrymandered districts in place exhibit corruption; instead of voters choosing their elected representatives, we have political parties choosing the voters!
- Only a non-partisan approach offers a fair and ethical way to resolve this problem
- <http://www.constitution.org/reform/us/tx/redistrict/cnpr.htm>

ELECTION REFORM

- End Straight Ticket Voting

- SB-139 (Wentworth)
- Parties advocate straight ticket in order to "hide" their unqualified candidates in hopes of their party will sweep their candidate into office.
- Encourages voters to go race by race through the ballot encourages more thoughtful and informed decisions.
- Nothing in the bill should prohibit voters from casting all their votes with one sole party if they so choose.
- Eliminating the voting with a single mark option would reduce the chance voters would overlook an important bond issue or other nonpartisan issue.

ELECTION REFORM

- End ‘Primary Screenout’

- Current law enforces “Primary Screenout”:
 - Voters who vote in primaries may not sign ballot access petitions.
 - Voters can only sign one party petition.
 - Voters **are not informed** of this restriction when they vote in primaries.
- 8 states have used primary screenout, 6 have dropped it
- Only in Texas does it apply to political parties.
- Is ripe for a potential **court challenge**, 1st amendment.
- This rule causes confusion and anger from Texas voters.
- The current law is difficult and expensive for state to enforce.
- End “Primary Screenout”, save state government expense and burden, empower voters

ELECTION REFORM

- Revise election code

- It is widely recognized that the Texas election code is too complex, contains many contradictions and anachronisms, is confusing, and needs to be simplified.
- Elections committee chair Mary Denny introduced HCR 44 in 2005 session to create a committee to revise the election code
- A simplified election code would save money in the future by avoiding unnecessary work dealing with complexity and confusion

ELECTION REFORM

- Paper Trail for Voting machines

- There is no credible way to verify the results of elections without a paper trail
- The voting machine should produce 2 paper receipts showing how the voter voted
- One copy goes into a ballot box, the other is kept by the voter
- A random sampling of 5% of the precincts would verify their electronic results by counting paper ballots
- Paper ballots would also be used if candidates or voters are awarded a recount

Restore integrity to our elections!

ELECTION REFORM

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ELECTION REFORM

- Party Control of Candidate Nomination

- Open primaries allow outsiders to takeover a political party's nomination process
- The candidate nominated to represent the party may not truly represent the party's beliefs
- While nominal fees are applied to parties, the state government has the vast majority of the financial burden for open primaries
- The Libertarian Party uses its own funds to use a convention process for candidate nomination

2011 Legislative Agenda - SOCIAL TOLERANCE and INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY

- Allow patients and doctors to use of the medication of their choice; legalize medical marijuana
- Respect the rights of all in their private relationships, allow people to make their own life choices; legalize homosexuality
- Allow people to spend their own money on gaming if they chose; legalize gambling for everyone, not just the lottery monopoly
- Allow micro-breweries to sell directly to customers (2009 session HB 1062, SB 754)
- Allow farmers and other vendors to sell raw foods and beverages as long as they are clearly labeled as such. Texas HB 75 is a step in the right direction. It would legalize the sale of raw dairy products by licensed farmers directly to consumers off-the-farm, including at farmers' markets and private drop points.
- Oppose smoking bans on private property
- Defend travelers against random checkpoints and red light cameras
- Defend self-defense; the 2nd amendment is an individual right
 - Support Concealed Carry by adult students and teachers on public campuses.
 - Support the rights of Texans to openly carry firearms without a permit.

SOCIAL TOLERANCE and INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY

- Legalize Medical Marijuana

- Allow physicians to make written or oral recommendations in court that in the physician's medical opinion, the potential benefits of marijuana would likely outweigh the health risks for a particular patient.
- If arrested for possession, a patient with a doctor's recommendation would be able to assert an affirmative defense to charges arising from his/her medical use of such product. If the court accepts the affirmative defense it would mean that a patient could avoid jail time and fines.
- More and more states are legalizing medical marijuana
- The public is increasingly opposed to prohibitions on doctors and patients from making these choices

2011 Legislative Agenda

IMMIGRATION

If you are peaceful and productive, WELCOME!

Our state platform:

Libertarians hold that a border secure from invasion is essential to American freedom. However, we also hold that securing our border will be very difficult unless American immigration laws are reformed to remove the incentives to violate border control laws.

Peaceful immigrants should be issued work visas, subject only to vetting to ensure that they are not terrorists or criminals, and reasonable consideration of the economy's ability to employ them. Terrorists and criminals who attempt to enter the U.S. via a port of entry should be denied entry and, where applicable, arrested and detained or extradited. Persons attempting to enter the U.S. at any other point should be regarded as invaders and treated accordingly.

- CATO Institute study on immigration: <http://www.cato.org/pubs/handbook/hb111/hb111-60.pdf>

2011 Legislative Agenda

STATE BUDGET

- Spending must be reduced by privatization and allowing local entities to make decisions with their money
- Do not use taxpayer's money to interfere in free market activity, end socialism and corporate welfare (Enterprise/ Emerging Technology Fund)
- End the business margins tax.
- End sin taxes, do not use taxes to dictate moral behavior
- Replace taxation with user fees wherever applicable
- Oppose introduction of an income tax
- Repeal licensing of occupations and professional practices

STATE BUDGET

- End the business margins tax

- New tax introduced in 2007 session
- Caused massive confusion, deadlines extended numerous times due to complexity
- Even for business owners with no income, process of filing is daunting
- Especially damaging to small business owners
- In the midst of a recession, small business need burdens removed

2011 Legislative Agenda

EDUCATION

- Allow teachers to use their talents, do not allow politicians to micro-manage their classroom
- Allow parents and students to choose the best method of education that meets their individual needs including non-profit organizations, private companies, and homeschooling
- Promote competition in education to reward the best teachers and offer the best choices to parents
- Solutions:
 - Vouchers, time tested and popular
 - Home School Legal Defense Association "Model Education tax credit bill" (<http://www.hslda.org/docs/nche/000010/200308190.asp>)
 - Lancasterian method (<http://constitution.org/lanc/monitorial.htm>)

2011 Legislative Agenda

HEALTH CARE

- Government already controls too much of the medical marketplace, and its growing intervention has not improved the quality or cost. Healthcare has not been a free market!
- Essential needs (food, shelter, clothing, etc) are best provided in the free market. The same goes for healthcare.
- Oppose federal government takeover of health care
- It should not be presumed that only government knows who can provide healthcare and how it can be done.
- “Let Chiropractors be Doctors”: <http://www.austinpost.org/content/a-modest-proposal-let-chiropractors-be-doctors>”

2011 Legislative Agenda

TRANSPORTATION

- Fuel tax money should not be siphoned off for non-transportation purposes. Government should keep its promises
- Uphold right of private enterprise to construct and operate toll roads provided they were not established by coercive government power
- Object to current forms that Texas Regional Mobility Authority Boards and Metropolitan Planning Authorities have taken since they are unelected and not answerable to local authority
- Support legislation forbidding tolls on highway right of way obtained with tax dollars or through eminent domain/condemnation
- Opposed to legislation that allows checkpoints, traffic stops without cause, forced blood withdraws, searches without probable cause, and immediate asset forfeitures.
- Opposed to legislation that complies with the Federal REAL ID, and/or shares information of individuals not suspected in any criminal activity with fusion centers or other intelligence/police agencies.
- In favor of recognizing our privacy rights as listed in the 4th Amendment against unreasonable searches and the establishment of penalties for the TSA or any other government agents who conduct searches without warrants.
- In favor of legislation ending federal participation in security for any airport, airline, or other private entity within the state of Texas.

2011 Legislative Agenda

GOVERNMENT REFORM

- The Texas Open Meetings Act (TOMA) prohibits private “deliberation”, yet cases yield uncertain interpretation involving email:
 - Alpine, Texas city council 2004, challenge constitutionality of TOMA
 - Lago Vista, Texas city council 2005, mayor privately instructs council members to oppose another member’s ordinance
- The language of TOMA needs to be revised to clearly state how it applies to email as well as whether “deliberate” includes privately instructing council members how to vote

2011 Legislative Agenda

STATE SOVEREIGNTY

- The United States Constitution, 10th Amendment:
“The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states, respectively, or to the people”
- If federal government actions are found unconstitutional, nullify them through non-cooperation: <http://constitution.org/reform/us/tx/nullification/nullcomm.htm>

Common Ground

- We are interested in working with you on issues of common interest

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