

Libertarian National Committee

Region 6 Report

Compiled by Rob Oates
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Libertarian Party of Iowa update:

LP Iowa had candidates in 11 races in the 2014 election. All candidates ran good campaigns that were professional and respectable. We provided voters a choice.

Governor: Lee Hieb was 1 of 5 candidates on the ballot for Governor and she came very close to meeting the 2% of votes needed to enable us to obtain major party status. She received 1.8% of the vote, the most ever by a Libertarian running for Governor in Iowa. Lee was a guest on several radio and TV programs, which allowed her to reach voters statewide.

U.S. Senate: We lost U.S. Senate candidate Dr. Doug Butzier in a plane crash a few weeks before the election. Many voters still voted for Doug as a tribute vote. Libertarian Rick Stewart was so passionate about campaigning about liberty that he ran as an independent. Rick covered the state twice and received 26,566 votes for 2.4% of the vote in a 6-person race.

U.S. Congress: In a 4-person race, Ed Wright garnered the most votes and the highest percent of votes (3.2%) ever by a Libertarian running for U.S. Congress in Iowa. Many voters decided to “Choose Freedom”, Ed’s campaign slogan.

Secretary of State: This was Jake Porter’s second bid for the Secretary of State office. Jake received 3.0% of the vote in a 4-way race and used his campaign experience to help other candidates.

Treasurer of State: Keith Laube received 36,804 votes (3.4%) in a 3-way race where the incumbent won a 9th consecutive term. Keith received the most votes ever for an Iowa Libertarian running for Treasurer of State and the 2nd most votes ever by a Libertarian candidate in Iowa.

Iowa General Assembly: Iowa Senate candidate Tom Thompson and Iowa Representative candidate David Overby received 3.5% and 2.9%, respectively, in 3-way races. In 2-way races, Iowa Representative candidates Eric Cooper (District #45), Brian Cook (District #96), Lynne Gentry (District #10) and Joshua Herbert (District

#31) each received more than 20% of the vote in their race. Eric Cooper received the highest percent of votes (24.4%) ever by a Libertarian running for the Iowa House.

Iowa has made significant gains in the number of registered Libertarians in Iowa during the last few years:

spring 2012 - 1,550

spring 2013 - 2,240

spring 2014 - 3,284

November 2014 - 4,775

Our goal is to have 25,000 registered Libertarians, which is approximately 2% of the vote. A party's candidate must obtain 2% of the vote for Governor or President to obtain and keep major party status in Iowa.

We will be having an elections recap/strategy meeting after the holidays. We will discuss where we should put time and effort to grow existing county parties and where to start new county parties.

Keith Laube
Iowa Party Chair