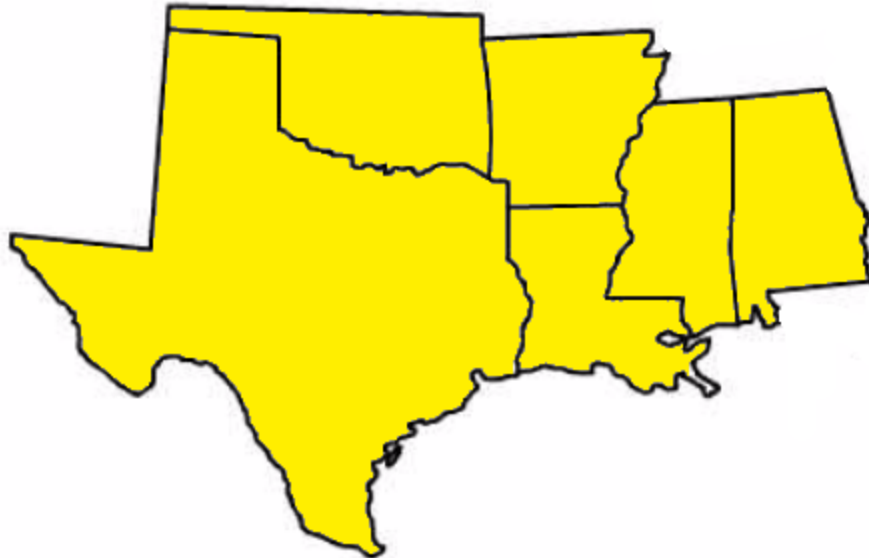


Libertarian National Committee Region 7

Region Representative - Whitney Bilyeu
Region Alternate - Danny Bedwell



DECEMBER 10, 2016

ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

❖ **ALABAMA - Leigh LaChine**

➤ **STATE ORGANIZATION**

- We continue to meet monthly via teleconference.

➤ **STATE LEVEL MEMBERSHIP**

- We have approximately 300 members, where membership is defined as a minimum \$25 donation, or 5 hours of volunteer time.

➤ **COUNTY NEWS**

- We recently chartered our second county affiliate (Baldwin) which gives the LP of Alabama a presence in Mobile and Huntsville, with the State Party operating out of Birmingham. We are in the process of chartering four additional county affiliates that have appointed a temporary Chair.

➤ **ELECTIONS**

- Johnson/Weld garnered 2.1% of the vote with approximately 44,000 votes. Straight party voting continues to dominate. Approximately 180,000 of the 280,000 votes cast in the largest county, Jefferson, were straight R or D, votes.

➤ **BALLOT ACCESS**

- We have begun 2018 petitioning efforts on a county by county level.
<https://lpalabama.org/ballot-access/> State Senator Cam Ward appears to again be sponsoring a bill to reduce petitioning requirements.

➤ **ACTIVITIES/EVENTS**

- We petitioned many events during election cycle.

➤ **FINANCE & FUNDRAISING**

- Keeping FEC Filing

➤ **MEDIA**

➤ **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

- We continue to implement CiviCRM for information requests and membership records.

➤ **OTHER**

- State Convention will be on February 25, 2017.
 - Meadow Creek Farm - 9306 Pulaski Pike - Toney, AL 35773

❖ **ARKANSAS - Michael Pakko**

➤ **STATE ORGANIZATION**

➤ **STATE LEVEL MEMBERSHIP**

- Dues-paying membership has remained stable, but volunteer sign-ups skyrocketed during the election campaign. We are planning a membership/fund drive to convert new activists and volunteers into full-fledged members.

➤ **COUNTY NEWS**

- Newly organized county affiliates were instrumental in supporting our candidates' campaigns. Building from the base we started in this election season, we should have a strong statewide network for the next elections.

➤ **ELECTIONS**

- On all levels of the ballot, our candidates received significantly higher vote totals and percentages than in 2014 and 2012. Gary Johnson received 29,829 votes (2.64%), up from 16,276 (1.52%) in 2012. Our U.S. Senate candidate, Frank

Gilbert, received 3.96%, up from the 1.92% he got running for Governor in 2014, and up from the 2.03% garnered by our U.S. Senate Candidate in 2014.

- In 3 out of the 4 Congressional races, Libertarians were the only opposition faced by incumbents. In those three races combined, our candidates received 23.78%. Percentages for our candidates in state legislative races were even higher in several cases.

➤ BALLOT ACCESS

- Gary Johnson's 2.64% was insufficient to maintain ballot access in Arkansas, falling short of the 3% requirement. We are already in the initial planning stages for a ballot access petition campaign for the 2018 election. The criterion for ballot-access retention in 2018 will be 3% in the Governor's race. We have a strong candidate already planning and organizing for that race, and our party's resources will be concentrated to support that campaign. Meanwhile, we have put together a draft bill that would ease ballot-access retention requirements in Arkansas in the future, and are seeking a legislative sponsor.

➤ ACTIVITIES/EVENTS

➤ FINANCE & FUNDRAISING

- Donations were up during the election season, though we used some of our reserves for radio advertising in the final days before the election. Mindful of the possibility that we might fail to achieve ballot-access retention, we left most of our accumulated money intact, and received an election-day donation from an affiliated state PAC that topped-off our bank account to its previous peak, somewhere in the neighborhood of \$10,000. That is where we begin for our 2018 ballot access efforts.

➤ MEDIA

- Media coverage was generally good—and improved over previous years. Our brand is becoming more familiar here in Arkansas. With so many races uncontested by the Democrats, Libertarian candidates were positioned well for coverage. Our candidates were included in all five statewide debates on Arkansas public television. It was disappointing that the only state polling conducted by news organizations failed to cover races where Libertarians were the sole opposition candidates.

➤ INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- Recent improvements in our database functionality has improved our ability to manage contacts with activists, donors and members. Now that the election is over, we will be working on further upgrades to our website and database.
- We appreciate the continuing ongoing support from Andy Burns.

➤ OTHER

- The latest information we have received from our attorneys on our federal lawsuit is that it is being appealed by the state. We prevailed in principle in District court, and generated some publicity from that, but it is yet to be seen it will translate to meaningful ballot access reform.

❖ LOUISIANA - **Rufus Craig**

➤ STATE ORGANIZATION

- Regretfully we announce that our Membership Officer, Wendy Adams has resigned and is moving to Florida. Our loss is Florida's gain.

➤ **STATE LEVEL MEMBERSHIP**

- There are currently 14,158 individuals registered with the LP, which is roughly twice what we had 2 years ago.
- We have approximately 200 dues paying members.

➤ **PARISH NEWS**

- We have 15 active parish organizations.
- Three of those have over 1500 registered LP voters.

➤ **ELECTIONS**

- There were 10 Libertarians on our ballots, and they earned between 1.5% and 4% of the vote.
- Johnson/Weld got 1.9% in Louisiana.

➤ **BALLOT ACCESS**

- With some of the most liberal ballot access laws in the US, we only need to maintain 1000 to remain a minor party and run statewide candidates every four years.
- We are qualified for 4 more years due to two LP candidates who ran for US Senate.

➤ **ACTIVITIES/EVENTS**

- We are looking forward to hosting the 2018 National LP Convention. We continue to engage in outreach events statewide, throughout the year..

➤ **FINANCE & FUNDRAISING**

➤ **MEDIA**

- We are consistently gaining local media coverage, primarily print outlets in the New Orleans and Baton Rouge areas.

➤ **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

- Keith Thompson has our backs. IT has been a priority, and we expect to see continued progress. Keith is working on redesigning our website to have the logos align better with National for consistent appearance.

➤ **OTHER**

❖ **MISSISSIPPI - Aaron Barksdale**

➤ **STATE ORGANIZATION**

- Aaron Barksdale - Chairman
- Denise Cranford - Vice-Chair
- Sheri Bedwell - Treasurer
- Joshua Hardy - Secretary
- Vance Justice - Dist. 1 Rep
- Jack Gannon - Dist. 2 Rep
- Jon Withers - Dist. 3 Rep
- Jeff Mortenson - Dist. 4 Rep
- Regina Brim - At Large Rep

➤ **STATE LEVEL MEMBERSHIP**

- Membership increased 20% since Convention/Debate in Feb. 2016.

➤ **COUNTY NEWS**

- Mississippi is currently courting over 20 candidates to run for municipal office in 2017.

➤ ELECTIONS

- While Mississippi had the lowest turnout out of all the states for the Libertarian Party, they DOUBLED the vote count from 2012. Mississippi had over 14,000 votes cast for Gary Johnson, and over 14,000 cast for Ric McCluskey, who ran against the incumbent Representative for the 4th Congressional District.
- Johnson/Weld got 1.2% in Mississippi.

➤ BALLOT ACCESS

- WIDE OPEN. All that is required, at this time, is a letter of intent to run for office for our party, plus a filing fee. That's it! We are the envy of all the states and have historically had the fewest L's on the ballot.

➤ ACTIVITIES/EVENTS

- We are currently planning on expanding our involvement with a local craft brewery that has been very friendly and hoping to use that as a springboard for several other similar events in the future at different locations.

➤ FINANCE & FUNDRAISING

- We are doing fine financially but we need more to do more. While we are open to ideas, increasing membership is the driving force at this time.

➤ MEDIA

- There have been some friendly media on our side that has helped get us exposure, much of that was pre-election and we have not reached out to them as we should have since the election.

➤ INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- we are working on updating our website but we need to have someone that is capable of doing this on a full-time basis as right now the chairman handles the website by himself.

➤ OTHER

- Nothing else of note except we are looking forward to 2017 and trying to hang on to the momentum that this year's presidential race brought.

❖ OKLAHOMA - Tina Kelly

➤ STATE ORGANIZATION

- Leadership Team
 - Tina Kelly, Chair
 - Bailey Betz, Vice Chair
 - Christina Wright, Secretary
 - Ron Phillips, Treasurer
 - Dax Ewbank, Spokesman
 - Larry Kelly, Technology Coordinator
 - Zachary Knight, Legislative Advisor
 - Jenny Lorrach, Volunteer Coordinator
 - Robert Lorrach, Volunteer Coordinator
- We have had a tremendous surge of interest in the state affiliate and have begun the organization and development of affinity based chapters and regional

organizations. We are holding a statewide "Vision" meeting on December 10th to bring everyone together and set goals for the next two years.

➤ STATE LEVEL MEMBERSHIP

➤ COUNTY NEWS

➤ ELECTIONS

- State election results (15 down ticket candidates): Robert Murphy US Senate- 3%, Sevier White US HD4- 4%, Zachary Knight US HD5 6%, Richard Prawdzienski SD41- 4 %, Frank Grove SD35 - 35%, Erin Adams HD33- 5%, Clark Duffe HD39- 23%, Zac Davis HD67- 4%, Tamara Morton HD70 - 6%, Eugene Bell HD78- 6%, Steve Long HD81 - 7%, Shannon Grimes HD86 - 4%, Elle Collins HD87- 7%, Christina Wright HD100 - 6%, Chris Powell OK County Clerk- 36%

➤ BALLOT ACCESS

- 83,334 Oklahomans voted for Governor Gary Johnson giving him 5.74% of the vote in our state. That's more than double the 2.5% needed for the OKLP to maintain official party status for two more years.
- We believe getting 2.5% for governor in 2018 will be easily done.
- We are pursuing sponsors for legislation that will continue to improve our state's ballot access laws.

➤ ACTIVITIES/EVENTS

-
- LP Oklahoma Student Chapters
 - The University of Oklahoma
 - Oklahoma State University
 - Tulsa University
 - The University of Central Oklahoma
 - Oklahoma Baptist University
 - Oklahoma City Community College
 - Rogers State University
- Represented at 30+ events since July
- In the coming months, the Oklahoma legislature will be introducing 2-3,000 bills. The OKLP intends to shine a light on each and every one of them through the "Where's The Freedom?" (WTF?) Project. We'll publically support the good bills and fight the bad ones while educating our members about the process and how to access the legislative system.

➤ FINANCE & FUNDRAISING

➤ MEDIA

➤ INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- We've recently put together a very talented IT committee that is working wonders with our website situation. They are in contact with Andy Burns about our plans. We will be putting together a media team soon to help us be more consistent in our content creation efforts.

➤ OTHER

-

❖ TEXAS - John Wilford

➤ STATE ORGANIZATION

➤ STATE LEVEL MEMBERSHIP

➤ COUNTY NEWS

- LPTexas is expecting a record number of new county affiliates for the 2017 elections. We plan to have half of the 254 counties in Texas organized by the 2018 conventions. We have a great new vetting process for appointing new county chairs, and a clear set of expectations to make our county affiliates stronger and better equipped to advance the cause of liberty.

➤ ELECTIONS

- In this election, our Presidential and Railroad Commissioner vote totals both grew by more than 300%, which means there is a door that is open for us to grow our membership.
- Statewide judicial candidates garnered between 2.9% and 4.1% of the vote.
- Johnson/Weld got 3.2% in Texas.

➤ BALLOT ACCESS

- The Libertarian campaign for Texas Railroad Commission garnered 5.3% of the vote in Texas, nearly half a million votes out of nearly 9 million cast. Though we were obviously running to win, we managed to do well enough to assure ballot access in Texas for 2018. That's a huge victory because it guarantees that the fight for liberty continues without the distraction and cost of a major petition drive.

➤ ACTIVITIES/EVENTS

- SLEC meeting - December 17th - Norris Conference Center in Austin
 - 2525 W. Anderson Lane, Suite 365 - Austin, Texas 78757
- There is a proposal to hold a 2017 Convention.

➤ FINANCE & FUNDRAISING

- On behalf of LPTexas and the Mark Miller for Texas Railroad Campaign, Whitney Bilyeu would like to thank the LNC for the \$20,000 contribution to Mark Miller that made ballot access possible. The LNC's donation helped fund our \$50,000 radio buy in key markets across the state. We are highly confident that this radio buy helped push us over the edge for the 5%, which was critical to retaining ballot access. The markets we targeted with the ads were more Democrat strongholds, and we did better in those areas this time around.

➤ MEDIA

- https://www.texastribune.org/2016/11/09/texas-libertarians-clinch-ballot-access-greens-fal/?utm_content=buffer0e086
- Six (6) Texas newspapers, all of the most prominent ones, endorsed Mark Miller for TRRC. <https://www.miller4tx.com/endorsements>

➤ INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

➤ OTHER

- We are considering a 3-Tiered Legislative Agenda and Action Plan with regard to Election Reform, Health Care Choice, and Property Rights.
- There is interest in organizing a statewide leadership retreat to bring all the County Chairpersons together with LPTexas Officers and Directors.