

## **Region 6 report 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2018.**

### **Iowa**

Iowa lost major party status as our governor candidate did not breach the 2% needed to maintain full ballot access. After the final vote canvass, Iowa will revert to a Non-Party Political Organization legal standing, which means we will no longer have the ability to run primary elections or place candidates on ballot via nominating conventions. We have applied to maintain our voter registration privileges as a NPPO and do not anticipate issues with the transition, candidates will still be able to run as Libertarians, but will have increased petitioning requirements akin to independent candidates.

To address this, we are adopting a departmental structure to focus on our largest weakness, county party organization and ground game. We will have a West (CD3,4) and East (CD1,2) County Affiliate Coordinator that will lead efforts in their region. Additionally we are appointing a Political Director and Communications Director so we can build better processes to be more effective in those areas. We are currently gathering interested individuals in non-partisan races and have over twenty prospective candidates that we will be working with in winnable races.

Iowa did have some major successes, despite losing major party status. Unfortunately this status depends on the top of the ticket race which saw 21,000 votes for Porter. Our top statewide vote getter was Marco Battaglia with over 250,000 votes for Attorney General. Iowa increased LPIA voter registration by 40% from January through October from 10,000 to 14,000 and elected our first partisan candidate, Greene County Attorney Thomas Laehn.

### **Wisconsin**

The Libertarian Party of Wisconsin has grown in membership throughout the election season, due to the energy and diligence of our candidates. We are also adding county affiliates in Portage, Waupaca, and Eau Claire counties. We ran 7 candidates for state Assembly, and one each for Governor and Lt. Governor. Our best result was Jason Sellnow in District 82, near Milwaukee- 32% ! Congratulations to Jason, and to all the Libertarian candidates nationwide.

LPWI will be transitioning to the LP-provided CRM platform. Membership Committee Chair Matt Bughman will be coordinating this effort. Thanks to the LNC for making this resource available.

In the last year, LPWI has transitioned from yearly dues to monthly. We have lost a few members, but revenue to the party has increased, and cash flow is much more

predictable. I strongly suggest the LP National to consider a monthly approach, as a way to manage cashflow and budgeting.

The LPWI is still in process of petitioning the Wisconsin Ethic Commission regarding debate exclusion. The campaign filed a complaint in August, but as the actual loss/damage did not occur until the Wisconsin Broadcasters Association debates were held in late October, the Commission wouldn't consider the complaint until its December meeting. We hope to have a decision rendered that positively affects the next election cycle for our candidates.

Another outstanding issue between the LPWI and the WEC is acceptance of cryptocurrency donations. In April, the WEC declined to provide clarification as to its rule, referring the matter back to the State Assembly, which has not yet taken the matter up. It is possible, even likely, that rather than correcting the existing rule, which only allows for cash and tangible assets as donations, new rules will be created by the new legislature in 2019. We will be monitoring this issue closely.

The LPWI 2019 State Convention will take place May 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>, at Stone Harbor Resort in beautiful Sturgeon Bay, WI. If you haven't had the chance to visit Door County, take this opportunity to join us in liberty and fellowship, as well as take in the spectacular beauty of one of Wisconsin's treasures. Tickets will go on sale January 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **South Dakota**

In South Dakota, we're working on backing two great ballot measures for 2020, and throwing around some ideas of possibly coming up with our own Initiated Measure or Amendment. Looking at possibilities of 2019 races, changes in leadership roles for 2019, looking at options for state convention locations and times, and about to start our feeding South Dakota food drive.

## **Nebraska**

The State Central Committee in Nebraska recently held a long-term strategic planning session where we had productive discussions on a number of mid and long term goals and brainstormed ideas for working towards those goals.

Right now, we're especially excited about the candidacy of James Herrold, who is running for Lincoln City Council in 2019. The primary will be in April and the general in May. So far, James has two opponents - both Democrats. He's organized, articulate and a hard-working candidate but, it will take a significant amount of money to compete with his opponents. He will be holding a fundraising event in December.

Other news from Nebraska is that - beginning January 1st - Laura Ebke will be working for the Platte Institute - a local conservative think tank - as senior fellow for job licensing reform. Earlier this year, Sen. Ebke worked to pass landmark occupational licensing reform legislation. That bill didn't actually directly eliminate any particular license

requirements but rather set up a system where each individual license will have a hearing before a legislative committee once every five years where the overseeing board basically must prove the necessity of that license's continued existence. So, we can now start moving towards more free market approaches on a case by case basis.

We were all terribly disappointing by Sen. Ebke's defeat in this year's election but, look forward to her continued advocacy for libertarian policy in this important area. Her title will change come January but, she will remain an important and influential voice in our state capitol and in our party.

## Illinois

After a hard-fought battle in Illinois, Libertarian state wide races were unsuccessful in meeting the 5% threshold needed to obtain major-party status in the state. The closest to receiving 5% in the election was Treasurer candidate Mike Leheney, who received 3.5%. Candidate for Governor Kash Jackson received 2.4% of the votes, Comptroller candidate Claire Ball received 3.1%, Secretary of State candidate Steve Dutner received 2.5%, and Attorney General candidate Bubba Harsy received 2.5%.

In local results, McLean County had several Libertarians running for office: McLean County Board District 1, Michael Suess – 19.4%; District 2, Paul Michael Enerson – 4.8%; District 3, Christopher Howick – 38.9%; District 4, Alexandra Engle – 5.6%; District 8, Steve Suess – 5.5%; District 9, Sol Roberts-Lieb – 4.6%; and District 10, Kevin Woodward – 24.5%. Steve Suess received an endorsement from the McLean County Chamber of Commerce. McLean County Treasurer Lex Green received 26.1% giving McLean County established party status through 2022. Candidate Ian Peak ran for Jefferson County Board, District 6 and received 20% of the vote. John Phillips has not gotten official results from his write in campaign, but preliminary results indicate 30-40%!

While the campaign team members, volunteers, and candidates felt disappointment at the results, the Libertarian candidates accomplished many things this election cycle that were previously never done in Illinois. Kash Jackson was invited to participate in the NBC debates in September. He also received endorsements from Gary Johnson, Republican Illinois State Representative Allen Skillicorn, and the Black Lives Matter Chapter of Lake County, IL. Steve Dutner was the first Libertarian candidate to receive an endorsement from a major news publication, the State Journal-Register in Springfield. Even though statewide access was not achieved, the LPIL gained access in two more counties in Illinois – Kankakee and Perry – because of Mike Leheney and Bubba Harsy receiving over 5% of the votes in those counties.

Campaign Manager Brian Lambrecht assured supporters that those gains would be used to Libertarian advantage in the future.

“Despite not getting statewide ballot access in Illinois, a state with some of the harshest ballot access laws in the nation, we have secured ballot access, so far, in 25 of Illinois’ 102 counties. We plan to use that fully in 2020,” said Lambrecht.

The party is actively preparing for the 2019 municipal elections, with some filing already done, and some having a deadline in 2 weeks.

Minnesota and North Dakota did not reply in time for this report, though hopefully the Minnesota communications issue has been resolved now. Missouri did not give a lot of detail other than they are still pursuing Proportional Representation.