



Michigan Libertarian

Volume 32, Issue 5

September/October 2003

Erin Stahl Advances to General Election

By Barbara Goushaw-Collins

Erin Stahl finished in fourth place in the September 9th primary for St. Clair Shores City Council. Besting 4 other candidates, and coming in just behind the 3 incumbents who are running for reelection, Stahl is well positioned to join the ranks of the other elected Libertarians, and win the first city council seat in Macomb County.

"It was so much better this time." Said Stahl, who ran unsuccessfully 2 years ago. "The last two years of attending council meetings, and working in my community really made a difference. I am much better known now."

Stahl has attended council meetings regularly, and speaks out on behalf of over-taxed, over-regulated residents at virtually every meeting. Typically, the current administration has made this easy, giving her plenty of reasons to take them to task. Most recently, the city embarked on a program of house-to-house searches for code

violations, followed by demands for expensive repairs. Erin has made it her mission to get the practice stopped.

"They sent a letter to an 83 year old lady, who's house recently received a beautification award, demanding that she pave over her gravel driveway within 45 days. I

cannot allow that kind of harassment to go unchallenged." She said. "And now, I can't even go to a local restaurant without some one coming up to me and saying, "Keep up the good work!"

While the incumbent's vote totals were a few points higher in the primary, Stahl is perfectly positioned to win the seat, according to campaign co-manager Fred Collins, one of the principles in "The Troika", Libertarian campaign management team. "They should take a lesson from the city council in Troy" He said. "Councils that treat the citizens with such utter contempt deserve to be defeated. It is now our job to make sure that everyone in St. Clair Shores knows exactly what their elected officials are up to, and what they can do about it."

"Having The Troika as my management team is the other big difference" said Stahl. "Last time, I ran my own campaign. This time, I

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Libertarian Party Member and St. Clair Shores Council Candidate Erin Stahl

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Council Candidates on Home Stretch

Attention Libertarian Volunteers! We still have several candidates that will be on the ballot in November. Please contact any of these candidates if you would like to volunteer or work at a poll on Election Day. In Hazel Park, Andy LeCureaux (www.LeCureaux.org)

is seeking re-election the to city council. In Owosso, Mark Owen (www.ElectMarkOwen.org) is seeking another term. Erin Stahl (www.ErinStahl.com) is seeking her first term for Saint Clair Shores council. In Grosse Pointe, John Stempfle will be making his first bid

for a seat in that city.

This November offers a great opportunity for libertarians to increase their clout in the state and help bring about smaller governments across Michigan. Let's get involved and support our candidates!

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Newsletter Information

The *Michigan Libertarian* is published bimonthly as the official newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Michigan, 619 E. Nine Mile Rd., Hazel Park, MI 48030. Phone: (248) 591-FREE

Submissions: Please email articles to newsletter@lpmich.org
Only electronic format will be accepted. Acceptable formats are plain text, Word97, WordPerfect 6.X/5.X, RTE, HTML, Pagemaker 6.5.
Any other formats, please ask first.

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From the Chair

Constructing the Future

by **Bill Gelineau**

With the end of summer, I'll bet a lot of you are looking back over the last couple months with home building or repair projects in the rear view mirror. Having moved to a new home recently, there are more projects around than I can shake a T-square at. I hope that the change of seasons will inspire you to get involved with some of the political projects on the horizon.

Before we focus on the trim and painting of the 2004 election cycle, each of us should look at what we can do to finish the foundation being constructed this November. Please give Mark Owen, Andy LeCureaux, and Erin Stahl any help you can in their efforts for City Council. Mark and Andy give us a chance to re-elect our 5th and 6th city or school official in just the last two years. This is a sizable recognition of the libertarian values these candidates represent. With your help, Erin will help add to a growing number of local offices occupied by LPM members. Thanks from myself and the LEC to all others who made an effort this fall that didn't qualify for the general election.

After November we will begin the process of filling out our candidate list for 2004. Every 12 years, a situation exists in Michigan which provides both a challenge and an opportunity for us. The general election will not include a race for Governor, Senator, or any other high-profile statewide office. We also don't elect State Senators.

As a result, the "big race" will be the Michigan House of Representatives. Greg Stempfle, our project leader on this effort, has identified 17 key races in which our Operation Balance of Power will allow us to influence the future direction of the state. What is interesting is that of the

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New Newsletter Editor Sought

This coming fall, I will be attending graduate school at the University of Michigan. With the additional work load of studying on top of a full time job, the time I can dedicate to editing a quality state party newsletter will be significantly reduced. Therefore I am currently seeking somebody to replace me as newsletter editor. The job of the editor primarily includes layout and editing of articles and content. While I do write a few articles for each issue, most of the work comes from other party members. The editor also makes sure the newsletter gets printed and mailed. These last two activities are currently performed by a printing company and a mailing house.

I will still be available to write articles and assist the new editor with their work as will the previous editor, Greg Dirasian. If interested in this position, please contact Greg Stempfle, or LPM Chair Bill Gelineau.

Calendar of Events

- October 5.....Libertarian Executive Committee meeting, LPM HQ 619 E. Nine Mile, Hazel Park 1:00pm
- October 25.....Operation Farm Team Halloween Fundraiser, LPM HQ 619 E. Nine Mile, Hazel Park 7:00 pm
Costume required. Prizes for best costume.
For more info, contact James Hulder (734) 475-9792 aguli@provide.net
- November 4.....General Election. Several LP members are facing (re)election campaigns.
In Hazel Park, Andy LeCureaux will be seeking Re-election to city council.
In Owosso, Mark Owen will be running for re-election to city council.
In St. Clair Shores, Erin Stahl is seeking a position on the city council.
In Grosse Pointe, John Stempfle is running for city council as well.
- November 8.....LibertyFest, hosted by Mid-Michigan Libertarian Party
Media & Third Party Politics panel discussion moderated by Bill Ballenger from 6 - 7:30
Location is the Hampton Inn Suites, just north of I-96 exit 110 (Okemos/Mason).
- November 15.....Sam Adams Dinner, hosted by Washtenaw County
Libertarian Comedy Night with Tim Slagle
Creekside Bar and Grill, 5827 Jackson, Ann Arbor
- December 7.....Libertarian Executive Committee meeting, LPM HQ 619 E. Nine Mile, Hazel Park

Affiliate News

Wayne Libertarians Adopts-A-Road



Wayne County Libertarians and the trash they collected in Dearborn. From Left to Right; Greg Creswell, Kanika Creswell, Greg Stempfle, Bill Detlor, Loel Gnadt, Chuck Kainz, Rick Secula, and Christopher Gonzalez. Photo by Shelly Stempfle

Drivers in Dearborn will be seeing more from the Libertarians these days. The Libertarian Party of Wayne County recently "adopted" a stretch of Hubbard Drive near Fairlane Mall.

Organizations that adopt roads in Michigan are required to perform three clean up sessions per year. In exchange for this work, signs at both ends of the road featuring the groups names are placed by the Highway Department.

This particular stretch of road links Evergreen Drive to Southfield Freeway. Both the University of Michigan's Dearborn campus and Henry Ford Community College are situated on Evergreen. Heavy traffic from Fairlane Mall, AAA headquarters, Ford Motor Company, and a hospital also travel this road.

Wayne County Chair Charles Kainz had made getting the Libertarian name out there one of his top priorities for this year. Rick Secula took the initiative to get the necessary paperwork for the project which turned out to be a great success. The County even had the sign up early.

Adopt-A-Highway programs are an inexpensive way for affiliates to earn publicity as well as an activity for the membership to participate in.

Campaign Finance Complaint Filed Against Pontiac School Board

West Bloomfield, MI—After receiving complaints from Libertarian Party members in Pontiac, the Libertarian Party of Oakland County (LPOC) launched their own investigation into the actions of the Pontiac School Board regarding the board's activities in support of the \$455.4 million school bond ballot proposal scheduled for a vote on September 23rd. The bond issue is the third largest ever in the state of Michigan.

"We investigated newspaper ads, direct-mail advertising, and their web site, then consulted with our attorney," said chair Nathan Allen. "We have determined that there are grounds to request an investigation and civil action from authorities within the state of Michigan, and possibly grounds for criminal action against the school board members themselves."

Libertarians mailed letters to both Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land and Attorney General Mike Cox on September 16th. A copy of the letter can be found on the LPOC web site at <http://www.LpocMi.org/NewsRels/PontiacBond.php>.

Libertarians allege violation of MCL 169.257(1), which says "A public body or an individual acting for a public body shall not use or authorize the use of funds, ... computer hardware or software, ... or other public resources" to support or oppose a ballot question. The material in question goes beyond merely presenting factual material, but also presents opinion and conjecture.

"If school boards cannot be trusted to handle their budgets properly, perhaps they should be prohibited from participating at all in these kinds of campaigns," remarked chair Nathan Allen. "Grassroots organizations have neither the time to form nor raise the funds necessary to demand fiscal accountability from bureaucrats run amuck. It is virtually impossible to compete with the multi-million dollar budgets of the school boards. Who is going to question the illogical arguments that the school board is using in their slick campaign literature?"

Libertarians urge all Pontiac School District residents to perform their own investigation and also send letters to the Secretary of State and Attorney General. Multiple complaints will provide additional support for an investigation.



Andy LeCureaux - Restoring the Right to Sell Cars

By Leonard Schwartz

Andy LeCureaux, a Libertarian on the Hazel Park City Council, has restored residents' right to sell their cars. Hazel Park prohibited anyone from placing a "For Sale" sign on a car, even if it was parked on the owner's driveway.

LeCureaux maintained that this restriction served no proper government interest and was an abuse of personal liberty and property rights. So he proposed changing the ordinance. Some city officials said they would support Andy's proposal only if the amendment also required the owner to get a permit and pay a fee. But LeCureaux considered this likewise improper and abusive. Andy's power of persuasion ultimately prevailed. Anyone can now place a "For Sale" sign on a car parked on the owner's driveway. And the owner doesn't need to get a permit or pay a fee.

Like other Libertarians before him, LeCureaux has shown that even one Libertarian on a city council can have a significant effect. A sole Libertarian not only can stop government from growing bigger, but also can eliminate foolish and unfair laws. Through the power of persuasion, a sole Libertarian can restore liberty — one step at a time.

Andy was elected to the Hazel Park City Council in 2001. He is running for reelection in November. Andy is 41 years old and has a wife and four children. He is a self-employed appliance installer and technician.

For more information, contact Andy@LeCureaux.org. There are five other Libertarians on nonpartisan city councils in Michigan: Fred Collins in Berkley; Martin Howrylak and David Eisenbacher in Troy, Mark Owen in Owosso, and Bill Bradley in South Haven.

Macomb County

By Todd Andrew Barnett

The Libertarian Party of Macomb County has had some activity brewing for the months of July and August.

LMC Chairman Keith Edwards discussed with the LMC members his American Legion speech that he recently gave. He spoke before a group of 100 students on libertarianism, including the War on Drugs. It seems that the students favored the idea, and the speech was apparently well received. LMC member John Bonnell mentioned that he published one of his op-ed pieces in the Detroit News regarding school censorship. LMC At-Large Representative Jim Allison had also published a piece for the leftist newspaper Metro Times regarding political corruption.

LMC At-Large Representative Jim Miller suggested that we contact civil rights activist and black businessman Ward Connerly, a Republican, to speak at our county affiliate. The idea would be have him speak on race issues, including the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision to uphold the University of Michigan law school's affirmative action policy.

LMC member Erin Stahl mentioned her candidacy for the Saint Clair Shores City Council seat. She said that she collected approximately \$3500 in campaign funds. We wished her good luck on her aggressive run.

LibertyFest 2003

Friends and Patriots:

Please take a few minutes to nominate worthy recipients of this year's Defender of Liberty Awards to be presented at LibertyFest on November 8. Look around at those in your affiliate and your community whose efforts are deserving of recognition.

Your efforts on this are simple. Provide a maximum 100 word nomination and e-mail it to chair@lpmich.org. I will confirm by e-mail that I've received your nomination. The committee needs to have your nominations by Oct. 20, 2003, but the sooner we can begin the review process, the better.

Below are the categories for the awards. Let me know if you have any questions.

Bill Gelineau
616-254-2878

There are three categories in which the Defender of Liberty Awards are made.

- **Spokesperson for Liberty** - a member of the community whose patriotism and conviction have inspired contributions to the cause of liberty.
- **Promoter of Liberty** - a Libertarian whose efforts have done the most to promote the Libertarian Party and Libertarian Principles.
- **Producer of Liberty** - A dedicated behind-the-scenes Libertarian whose quiet labors over the years exemplify the backbone of the Libertarian Party.

The latter two awards are given to members of the LPM only. The spokesman award can go to any Michigan resident, whether a member or not.

Tentative Schedule for 2003 LibertyFest. A mailing will be sent out with official schedule of events and registration form.

Media & Third Party Politics panel discussion moderated by Bill Ballenger from 6 - 7:30 on November 8, 2003. Charge is \$25 per person pre-paid, or \$30 at the door. Registration and cash bar from 5 - 6pm. Mickey Hirten from Lansing State Journal confirmed as a panelist. Possibly Hugh McDiarmid Sr. (retired from the Free Press) and probably a broadcast journalist from Grand Rapids. Beer and wine cash bar from 7:30 - 8, buffet 8 - 9, Liberty awards and et cetera after 9. Credit cards accepted through White Bros., call Will White at (517) 349-3806 or send CC info to our PO box 1402, East Lansing, MI, 48826.

Location is the Hampton Inn Suites, just north of I-96 exit 110 (Okemos/Mason). Banquet cost is \$25 per person pre-paid or \$30 at the door (if space is available!). Rooms at \$74.95. Address is 2200 Hampton Place, Okemos, 517 349-6100. See map on next page.

Wayne County Candidates Fall Short in City Primaries

Two Libertarians running for office in Wayne County came up shy during the September Primary election.

In Dearborn Heights, Christopher Gonzalez finished 5th in the race for city council. The top four candidates made it to the general election. Those that beat Chris were the wife of a State Representative, the wife of a city attorney, a former police captain, and a Democratic County Commission candidate. Turnout was very low in this race and over 70% of the votes cast were absentee ballots. Without absentee votes, the race would have been much closer. Unfortunately it was not ideas, but money that dominated this race. The local paper covered the race during the final week only.

In Allen Park, Libertarian Party member Bob Graham finished a close third in the race to replace the City Clerk. Only the top two candidates advanced.

Tuesday, September 9, was primary day for many municipal candidates. The day closed with both good news and bad news for Libertarians.

Saint Clair Shores-City Council Top six finishers advance

Michael A. Boyle	4,349
William J. Nearon	4,019
Beverly A. McFadyen	3,995
Erin Stahl	3,028 <i>LP member</i>
Mark J. Moffitt	2,736
Geri Hofmann	2,197
Douglas Damm	1,994
Michael A. Lavis	1,429

Allen Park-Clerk Top two finishers advance

John Weiss	1,517
Janine Brown Rossman	678
Bob Graham	602 <i>LP member</i>

Dearborn Heights -City Council Top four finishers advance

Catherine L. Heise	1,962	30.1%
Ann Brown	1,857	28.5%
James Izeluk	1,206	18.5%
Ned Apigian	739	11.3%
Christopher R. Gonzalez	410	6.3% <i>LP member</i>
Stevan M. Djordjevic	338	5.2%

Stahl Advances

(Continued from p. 1)

have Fred, Greg, and Barb to work their winning formula, as they have in the other races."

There were 8 candidates running in the primary, with the top 6 going on to the general election. The top 3 vote getters in the general election will take the council seats. The campaign will now move into high gear, including direct mail, advertising, signs, and get out the vote effort. As with all campaigns, the amount of voter contact will be limited

by the funds available.

"We have raised about half of what we need," said co-manager Barbara Goushaw-Collins. "So aggressive fundraising will also be a part of the plan. But we are certainly within striking distance, and Libertarians are always most generous when they see the real possibility of a win."

To view the vote totals, volunteer, or contact the campaign, please go to www.ErinStahl.com. Contributions would be very welcome too! Send to: Friends of Erin Stahl, 20113 Avalon St., St. Clair Shores, MI 48080

Affiliate Information

Kalamazoo County (includes St. Joseph, Branch, Calhoun)
Meets the first Monday of every month at 7:00 PM at TGI Friday's Restaurant in Oshtemo, Michigan. Chair, Gerald Phillips, gaphillips@jasnetworks.net, (269) 382-0927

Livingston County
Chair, David Buck, (810) 220-5741, davebarysas@aol.com
We meet the 2nd Monday every month at Mexican Jones restaurant in Brighton, on Grand River. We usually show up at 6:30 to eat, and the business meeting starts around 7:00.

Macomb County
The LMC holds regular monthly meetings on the second Wednesday of every month (excluding December) at Mile's World 17689 Masonic (near Groesbeck), Fraser, MI 48026. Join us for cocktails and/or dinner at 6:00 pm, business begins at 7:00 pm.
Chair, Keith Edwards, (810) 777-7468, keithmarni@aol.com

Mid Michigan (Clinton, Eaton, Ingham, Shiawasee)
Chair William White, 517-349-3806, whitewi5@msu.edu

Mid-West Michigan (Lake, Manistee, Mason, Missaukee, Osceola, Wexford)
General Membership meetings are every second Saturday at 6:00pm at Kountry Kitchen Restaurant, 1920 N. Mitchell in Cadillac.
Chair, Brian Kluesner, (616) 723-7087, chair@lpmwm.org

Oakland County
Meets the 4th Wednesday of every month at Sila's, 4033 W. 12 Mile Rd, Berkley. Sila's is 2 blocks east of Greenfield on the south side of 12 Mile Road. Chair, Nathan Allen (248) 363-3790, knathan_Knows@yahoo.com

LibertyFest 2003, Hampton Inn, Okemos



Oakland University
Contact, Lindsay Stover, lyndsai21@hotmail.com

Saint Clair County
Contact, Mark Byrne, (810) 987-9856, iwantska@hotmail.com

South Central (Hillsdale, Jackson, Lenawee)
Meetings are fourth Tuesday at 7:00 pm. Pirate's Cove Restaurant, Addison, M-127 and Main Street.
Chair, James Parker, (517) 439-0643, james.parker@eaglepicher.com

Thumb Area (Genesee, Huron, Lapeer, Sanilac, Tuscola)
Meets the second Tuesday of every month at Whitey's Restaurant in Davison. Chair, Paul Hitch, phitch@intouchmi.com, 810-667-7218

Traverse Bay (Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau)
Chair, Jerold Coon, (231) 369-2395, jtcoon@gtii.com

Tri-Cities (Bay, Midland, Saginaw, Isabella, Gratiot, Clare, Gladwin)
Meetings are the first Monday of each month at Lone Star Steakhouse on Tittabawassee Road in Saginaw (near I-675). Dinner is followed by the evening's guest speaker at 7:30 and the business meeting shortly afterward. Chair, Carol Dallen, msnixy@tm.net

University of Michigan Libertarians
Chair, Daniel Sheill, dsheill@umich.edu

Upper Peninsula
Chair, John Loosemore, (906) 334-2922, jwl@up.net

Van Buren County
Meets on the third Thursday of the month, and as always; our meetings are open to the public. For the time being, we are meeting at the home of Bill and Barbara Bradley, 746 Lee Street, South Haven at 7:00pm. Chair Bill Bradley 616-637-4525, bbradley@cybersol.com.

Washtenaw County
Meets every Thursday evening at 7:30 p.m. at Cubs AC Restaurant located in the Colonial Lanes Bowling Center, 1950 S Industrial Hwy, Ann Arbor. The first Thursday of every month is a business meeting. Other meetings feature speakers, project work, or social events. Chair, Larry Johnson, (734) 476-7817.

Wayne County (includes Monroe)
Monthly meetings are held on the first Thursday of every month at City Tavern Restaurant in Dearborn at 14316 Michigan Ave., between Greenfield and Schaefer. Meeting begin at 7:30 pm, dinner orders are taken at 6:30. Chair, Charles Kainz, (313) 291-5684,

West Michigan (Allegan, Barry, Gratiot, Ionia, Kent, Mecosta, Montcalm, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Ottawa)
Monthly meetings held in Grand Rapids at Club North's Banquet Room at 1359 Plainfield NE, just north of Leonard. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00pm. Chair, Thomas Horan, (616) 887-2428, tomh@lpwm.org

2004 Election Preview

by Greg Stempfle

There is only about half a year until the next LPM convention which means it is now time to start thinking about the 2004 elections. The highlight of 2004 will be the heated battle for the Presidency. While no clear front-runner is emerging from the Democrat field, there are a couple of strong contenders for the LP ticket. Several candidates have announced their intention to seek our nomination, but only two have a strong showing in LP straw polls and have active committees. **Gary Nolan** (www.garynolan.com)

Starting as a local radio host over a decade ago, his show picked up a decent audience. By the time he resigned from radio program to run for President, his "Nolan at Night" show was carried on 65 Radio America network affiliates around the nation. Nolan is realistic about the purpose of his campaign: "My goal is to be able to communicate [to voters] what Libertarians can do for the country, in such a way that people get interested in the party and join the party." Nolan has already made three campaign stops in this state.

Michael Badnarik (www.badnarik.org)

Michael Badnarik — a gun rights activist — is an announced candidate for the Libertarian Presidential nomination. He was a LP candidate for State Representative in 2002. Badnarik, 53, is a chemist by his college training. However, he's spent nearly all his professional career as a software engineer working at various nuclear power plants (and, for a time, with a defense contractor).

[editor's note: biographies taken from www.politics1.com]
Statewide

As for Michigan, 2004 will be unusual because there will be no races for Governor or Senator. This happens every 12 years. Recall we have two senators who serve six year terms. Debbie Stabenow won in 2000 and Carl Levin in 2002. Therefore 2004 is an off year. The only statewide races will be for Supreme Court, State Board of Education, and the three state University Boards.

State and Federal Legislature

All fifteen of Michigan's Congressional delegation will be up as well as all 110 State Representatives. The Republicans control the State House 63-47. Members of the State Senate serve 4 year terms and won't expire until 2006, which is when we have our next gubernatorial election.

County Offices

County Commissioners also serve 2 year terms and will be on the 2004 ballot. The terms of countywide officers such as Sheriff and County Executive, which are four years long, will vary by county.

Operation Balance of Power

Every 12 years in Michigan, there are no major statewide races on the ballot. There will be no race for Governor, Senator, Secretary of State, or Attorney General. Apart from the Presidential election, there will be little happening on a state level in 2004.

The LPM needs to develop a strategy to make the most impact on the

2004 elections as possible given the circumstances. Challenging all of the State House races that were decided by a few percentage points could garner the LPM some much needed publicity as well as a project for the entire state membership to participate in.

In 2002, there were two house seats in Wayne County where the LP candidate earned enough votes to prevent either major party candidate from getting a majority. In both cases, a Democrat was victorious over a Republican. While it can be debated which major party Libertarians are more likely to draw off votes from, the point is that those votes potentially could have cost the Republican the race. There was a Green Party candidate in Macomb County who prevented a majority in that race, possibly tipping the hat to the Republican victor.

If LPM candidates are consistently run in these races, the major party candidates would be pressured to start adopting some libertarian ideas to court potential voters if they do not want to lose these close races. A Republican in a tight race with the Democrat, may have to push tax cuts or gun rights issues a bit more. A Democrat wants to pull ahead in a close race with a Republican may have to address issues personal freedom and civil rights.

Pressuring the older parties to adopt Libertarian Party issues is the next best thing to winning races ourselves. Affiliates in these areas should identify potential LP candidates in these districts. Republicans hold the majority in the House by 63-47 seats. Just 17 of the 110 races were decided by less than 10 %.

These first three were those where no candidate had a majority.

District 17 Wayne Co (Dearborn Heights, Redford)

Democrat Paletko beat Republican Handy 49.6-47.3% while LP candidate Christopher Gonzalez earned 3%.

District 23 Wayne Co (very southern end)

Democrat Law beat Republican Jones 49.5-48.5% while LP candidate Rick Secula earned 2%.

District 51 Genesee Co

Republican Robertson beat Democrat Lockwood 49.9-48.4% while Green Party candidate Ponzetti earned 1.6%.

The rest of these districts were won with less than 55% of the vote.

Dist. 97 Clare, Gladwin, Arenac, Bay Counties

Dist. 106 NE Lower Peninsula

Dist. 91 Muskegon Co

Dist. 108 South Central UP

Dist. 37 Oakland Co, Farmington

Dist. 43 Oakland Co. Waterford

Dist. 55 Monroe Co

Dist. 62 Calhoun Co

Dist. 52 W Washtenaw Co

Dist. 24 Macomb Co, St. Clair Shores

Dist. 21 W Wayne Co

Dist. 75 Grand Rapids

Dist. 101 NW Lower Peninsula

Dist. 84 Huron, Tuscola Counties



Fighting the Land Use Ordinance in Hillsdale County

by James Parker

A remarkable rollback of unconstitutional usurpation of power has passed the turning point in Hillsdale County, and has reached a milestone in changing Michigan law. The arrogance of the County Commissioners who passed this ordinance is leading to their recall, and a previously lacking appreciation of the Constitutions of the U.S. and of Michigan is taking hold; on the part of the citizens, on the part of the Commissioners, and on the part of at least one state legislator.

A small group of remarkable people called the Michigan Coalition for Return to Constitutional Government is causing this reversal. Sounds Libertarian? I will say it is, if spelled with a small "l". The leaders of the group will prefer the term constitutionalist. Roger Keller and Ed Dane, who founded MCRCG, have shown themselves to be level-headed and articulate, while being tough and uncompromising.

The group got its genesis from the Constitutional Study Group called by Peter Cromwell, Friendly Neighborhood Gunsmith in summer of 2002, and joined by Roger Keller, Mark Nichols, Ed Dane, Cary Champion and me. I was running against one of the Commissioners, Alice Britton, on a constitutional and smaller government platform.

The New Ordinance

Shortly after Ms. Britton won re-election, around the Christmas holidays, the Commissioners voted a new "Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Ordinance." Legislative power of county boards is rarely used, and careful examination of the law by Mr. Keller soon revealed that it was a formula for selective enforcement and confiscation of property through a massive fine structure. The more we examined it, the more we found shocking constitutional violations that brought it on, and the more we found the drafting of the law underhanded, with insidious hidden details that were uncovered only by painstaking cross-referencing.

First, the clearest violation was the provision that inspectors could come onto your property without notice. The wording allowed their entry if they even suspected that you *might be planning* to dig any earth. This violation of the Fourth Amendment became key to the recall petitions that were to follow.

Second, as uncovered by the research of North Adams Supervisor Mark Nichols, is the consti-

tutionality of the state rule which is cited by the county officials as the basis for their far more restrictive county ordinance. It turns out that the rules cited under this law, called Part 91, were promulgated, not by the state legislature, but rather by bureaucrats within the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). This violates the principles of separation of powers and authority to legislate under the Michigan Constitution, Article III, Section 2; and Article IV, Section 1.

Third, Part 91 requires local governments to act without providing them funding, a violation of the Michigan state Constitution.

Fourth, the confiscatory levels of the fines, up to \$25,000 a day, essentially abolish private property in Hillsdale County.

Then, the county ordinance was drafted by the agency who would be empowered to enforce it and collect fines, which is a clear conflict of interest, amounting to corruption.

Finally it became clear that the Hillsdale County Commissioners never even READ the law they voted to approve.

Organizing the Battle

MCRCG posted notices, wrote eye-catching flyers carrying their Minuteman logo, founded an elaborate website, www.mcrcg.org, organized monthly meetings, and called for a speaker on property rights. Al McCallum, former chair of LP of South Central Michigan, came to speak to a room packed with about 50 people on the subject of property rights. A petition drive was started to gather signatures to deliver to the commissioners, and over 5300 people signed to give the Commission a "sense of the people."

Our Hillsdale County Commission is chaired by the autocratic Ken Lautzenheiser. When Mr. Keller and others appeared at a commission meeting to inform him of the objections to the law, and of the signatures, his response was, "Well, I'm glad they're interested in it." It took another Commissioners meeting before he would accept the signatures.

The petitions seemed to have fallen on deaf ears, because the only outcome was to turn the ordinance back to the county inspector, Marty Taylor, who had drafted it in the first place with the view to boosting his department revenues and powers. Mr. Taylor made the most miniscule changes, and the Commission voted to adopt it again, with only one of the Commissioners opposed, Maxine Van Berg. (Ms. Van

Berg had defeated Libertarian Brad Benzing in the contest for the open seat. While less known in the county than Benzing, her Republican label proved to be of paramount importance.)

The Hillsdale Daily News aligned itself with the Commissioners, calling the recall an effort "to overthrow a government" in its editorials and painted MCRCG as a radical group. The paper ignored coverage of the MCRCG meetings, and the coverage of MCRCG's achievements was generally negative. They did publish some of the letters to the editor written by members. It became known that the local Republican establishment, headed by Prosecutor Brady, had become highly perturbed at the suggestion of a recall.

The local radio station, WCSR, gave some favorable coverage to the fight against the ordinance.

The Recall

Recall petitions against Alice Britton, the Commission Vice-Chair, were the first to be issued. County Clerk Tom Mohr, Ms. Britton's brother, issued them. He also chaired the Clarity Hearings, which are held to decide if the reason for recall stated on the petitions was understandable to voters. He presided over the hearings impartially, and the language, that the Commissioner had violated her Oath of Office, remained essentially intact. The petitions stood, and circulation proceeded.

Petitions followed immediately against County Commission Chair Ken Lautzenheiser. Subsequently, four more recall petitions were issued for the same reason, encompassing the entire county board.

Mr. Mohr has pledged to schedule special recall elections when the petitions are complete. I spoke with him about the replacement commissioners, and he was unsure whether these could be appointed by the major parties or if he would have to schedule special recall replacement elections. He said that the law on the matter is unclear.

Present Status

MCRCG is collecting petition signatures at the Libertarian table at the Hillsdale County Fair, now in progress through Sept. 27. WCSR has broadcast paid political advertisements which have drawn more voters.

Mr. Keller already has enough signatures to recall Alice Britton, and is very confident about

(cont. on p.11)

Speak-Out-Michigan Project Guidelines

by Leonard Schwartz

SpeakOutMichigan.org (SOM) is a special lobbying and outreach project sponsored by the Libertarian Party of Michigan (LPM) as a public service.

Past SOM projects include: supporting the right to carry concealed weapons, opposing the incarceration of parents who cannot afford to pay child support, opposing pay raises for legislators, opposing taxes on internet sales, supporting ballot access for small political parties, and opposing a revenue bill disguised as a traffic safety bill.

Some LPM members have asked: Why isn't LPM sponsoring more SOM projects? How do I get LPM to use SOM to support or oppose a bill in the state legislature?

The answer to both questions is similar. Every SOM project requires a project leader. The reason LPM has not used SOM more often is that members have rarely volunteered to be SOM project leaders.

If you want to be a project leader, this is what you (alone or with the help of others) must do:

1. Find a bill in the state legislature that Libertarians would want to support or oppose.
2. Submit a proposal to the LPM Executive Committee, lec@lpmich.org. The proposal should (1) summarize the bill, (2) state why you think this would be a good SOM project, and (3) include a draft of the proposed letter that SOM would send to legislators.
3. After you get approval for your proposal, you must write the material for the SOM home page and tell-a-friend page.

4. Contact webmaster@SpeakOutMichigan.org to get a password for the administrative area of the website.

5. Load onto www.SpeakOutMichigan.org the material you have written and fill in a few boxes on administrative area of the website.

6. Write a series of articles for LPM Online and the Michigan Libertarian encouraging readers to use SOM and informing readers what happened to the bill in the legislature.

Everything that you write must be well worded. This means more than merely using correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling. Everything should be eloquent and should inspire action. The letter to legislators should persuade them to vote the way we want. The letter to friends should persuade them to contact their state legislators. The material on the SOM home page and the articles in LPM Online and Michigan Libertarian should encourage readers to get involved.

A good source of information on bills in the state legislature is www.MichiganVotes.org. It has a database of bills, searchable by topic or keyword, with a summary of each bill. You can subscribe to its e-mail service, which will send you notices about specific bills, bills on selected topics, or all bills. It notifies you when a legislator introduces a bill, when a committee sends a bill to the House or Senate, and when the House or Senate votes on a bill.

The legislature's official website, www.MichiganLegislature.org, has the full text of each bill. And it has the legislative staff analysis of bills that a committee sent to the House or Senate. It also has the agenda of committee meetings.

State legislators introduce several thousand bills every year. Most bills are never even discussed in committee. Committee chairs rarely allow discussion of bills they oppose. Sometimes even the legislator who sponsored the bill opposes it; he sponsored it only to keep a constituent or campaign contributor happy.

On the other hand, some bills are put on the fast track. For example, SB 509 (the most recent SOM project) was approved by the Senate only two weeks after it was introduced and was approved by the House only four weeks later.

SOM is a great way of influencing legislation. It provides an easy way to send e-mail to state legislators. It provides a prewritten letter, which SOM users can edit. By typing in one's zip code, SOM identifies one's legislators and sends them the letter.

It also provides an easy way to send e-mail to friends, asking them to support SOM projects. SOM thus is a great Libertarian outreach tool. It increases public awareness of the Libertarian Party and increases respect for the Libertarian Party.

SOM's creator and webmaster, Greg Dirasian, recently upgraded SOM. As Greg discussed in an article in the July/August issue of Michigan Libertarian, SOM now sends reminders to SOM users about how their legislators voted. SOM also sends copies of the reminders to legislators.

SOM can be especially important when the vote on a bill is expected to be close. But supporting a bill that has no chance of passing, or opposing a bill that will pass regardless of our opposition, is not a waste of time. Every SOM project helps promote libertarianism and the Libertarian Party.

If you want LPM to support or oppose a bill in the state legislature, you need to volunteer to be a project leader or find someone who will volunteer.

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Legislative Watch

by Greg Stempfle

To coincide with the LPM's very own Speak Out Michigan website, (www.SpeakOutMichigan.org) a dozen pro-liberty bills introduced into the state legislature were listed in the May/June issue. These bills would increase liberty, repeal a law, or cut a government program. Unfortunately, every single one of them is still in committee. However, it is still very early in the legislative season and new bills are still being introduced. This list of bill can also be found at www.lpmich.org/Newsletters/

With the help of the michiganvotes.org, I have compiled a list of some more recently introduced pro-liberty bills and resolutions currently working their way through the system. Michiganvotes.org is a site run by the Mackinac Center for Public Policy that tracks the actions of the State House and Senate.

Another site with good information on the State Legislature is their own site michiganlegislature.org. Not surprisingly, it's more difficult to use, but it does offer more information.

RIGHT TO HUNT MOURNING DOVES HB 5029

Introduced by Rep. Susan Tabor on August 13, 2003, to list the mourning dove as a game species, which would authorize the Natural Resources Commission to establish an open season for hunting.

EASIER ADOPTION RULES SB 702

Introduced by Sen. Beverly Hammerstrom on September 17, 2003, to eliminate a requirement in certain adoption cases that the adoptive parents be Michigan residents.

EASING ANTIQUE FIREARM RULES HB 4604

Introduced by Rep. Daniel Acciavatti on April 30, 2003, to clarify that a person does not need a permit to sell antique firearms or ammunition for an antique firearm, including percussion caps, black gunpowder, or a product substantially equivalent to black gunpowder, through the internet, newspaper, magazine, or other print media.

REPEAL OF ARCHAIC LAWS

HB 4616

Introduced by Rep. Steve Tobocman on May 1, 2003, to repeal the crimes of cohabitation by divorced parties, cohabitation by unmarried couples, blasphemy, profane cursing, or using immoral, obscene, vulgar or insulting language in the presence or hearing of any woman or child. The bill is part of a legislative package comprised of House Bills 4614 to 4617, which repeal several archaic laws.

HB 4615

Introduced by Rep. Steve Tobocman on May 1, 2003, to repeal the sentencing guidelines associated with the crime of gross indecency. The bill is part of a legislative package comprised of House Bills 4614 to 4617, which repeal several archaic laws.

HB 4614

Introduced by Rep. Steve Tobocman on May 1, 2003, to repeal the crime of "gross indecency" committed in public or private between two men, two women, or a man and a woman, which is a felony punishable by up to five-years in prison. The bill is part of a legislative package comprised of House Bills 4614 to 4617, which repeal several archaic laws.

ELIMINATE TAX ON MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

HB 4911

Introduced by Rep. Paul Condino on July 1, 2003, to exempt diabetic testing supplies from sales tax.

EASING REGULATIONS ON BARBERS

HB 5054

Introduced by Rep. Chris Ward on September 23, 2003, to allow barbers to render off-premises services to an individual whose personal circumstances make it impractical to leave his or her residence to go to a barbershop. Under current law, barbers are prohibited from barbering away from a barbershop, except in a hospital, nursing home, home for the aged, or similar facility.

SUPPORTING SELF DEFENSE

HB 4918

Introduced by Rep. Tom Casperson on July 2, 2003, to establish in law that a person who uses deadly force for self defense in their home or contiguous private property need not first flee from a threatening attacker.

ELIMINATION OF SODOMY LAWS

HB 4906

Introduced by Rep. Leon Drolet on July 1, 2003, to repeal the sentencing guidelines for the crime of sodomy between consenting adults. See House Bill 4905.

HB 4905

Introduced by Rep. Leon Drolet on July 1, 2003, to eliminate from statute the crime of sodomy between consenting adults. "Sodomy" is defined in statute only as "the abominable and detestable crime against nature."

ALLOW MINORS TO VOLUNTEER

HB 4786

Introduced by Rep. Jerry Kooiman on May 28, 2003, to allow minors to volunteer to work in nonprofit charitable housing construction or renovation projects (like Habitat for Humanity), notwithstanding state child labor laws.

Land Use

(cont. from p.9)

several of the others.

This has caught the attention of some of the state legislators, and State Rep. Bruce Caswell has stopped by our table, and promised to initiate state legislation that will remove the language found in Part 91 that is in violation of the Fourth Amendment.

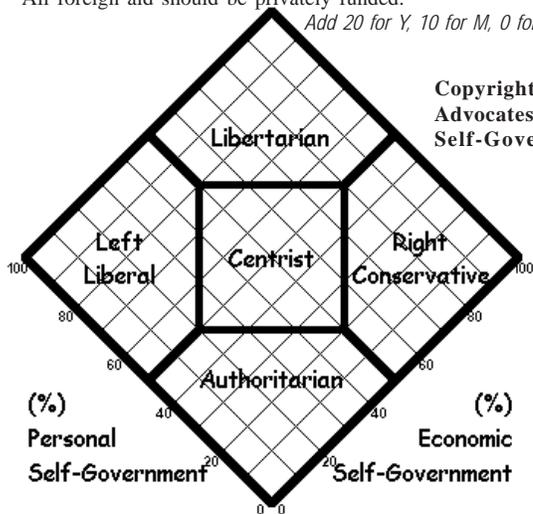
And the Hillsdale Daily News has changed its tune.

The voices of Mark Nichols, Township Supervisor of Adams Township, and Peter Cromwell, Friendly Neighborhood Gunsmith, have been critical to the struggle. Mr. Nichols has done most of the background research, while Mr. Cromwell has had a hand in several of the letters to the editor. The author has supported MCRCG, writing a letter to the editor, joining the group, and providing the County Fair table.

World's Smallest Political Quiz

Personal Issues	Y	M	N
Military service should be voluntary. (No draft)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Govt. should not control radio, TV, the press or the Internet	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Repeal regulations on sex for consenting adults	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Drug laws do more harm than good. Repeal them.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Let peaceful people cross borders freely.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<i>Add 20 for Y, 10 for M, 0 for N</i>			

Economic Issues	Y	M	N
Businesses and farms should operate without govt subsidies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
People are better off with free trade than with tariffs.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Minimum wage laws cause unemployment. Repeal them.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
End taxes. Pay for services with user fees.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
All foreign aid should be privately funded.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<i>Add 20 for Y, 10 for M, 0 for N</i>			



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Signature: _____
(Signature required for national membership)

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Signature: _____

My check or money order (payable to LPM) is enclosed.

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